



School news

Page 7



New zoo director

Page 11



Cougar sports

Page 16

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November 2025

St. Paul Public Schools seek referendum OK

By Jane McClure

An operating levy for St. Paul Public Schools is on the Nov. 4 ballot, the first such levy sought since 2018.

School district leaders say the increase is needed in the face of rising inflation, state funding that hasn't kept up and uncertainty about what is happening with program funding at the federal level.

If approved, the \$37 million operating levy for schools would add about \$307 annually to the property tax bill for a \$275,300 median-value home. The actual amount would vary depending on a home's value.

The levy would add \$1,037 revenue per pupil unit. The district has more than 33,000 students.

School district leaders and school groups are campaigning for the levy, including the St. Paul Federation of Educators. School Board Chair Halla Henderson and Federation President Leah VanDassor had an op-ed published in the Minnesota Star Tribune, urging levy support.

St. Paul steps up for its schools, and "we are grateful for that," they said. "Now we're asking voters to do it again. Vote yes this fall to protect public education, because our kids are worth it."

If the levy isn't approved, the school district would be forced to make \$37 million in budget cuts for the 2026-2027 academic year. Cuts could include college and career readiness programs as well as sports, music and the arts programs.

A "vote yes for kids" campaign is advocating for the levy. The city's two top mayoral candidates, incumbent Melvin Carter and Kaohly Her, have expressed support.

No organized opposition to the levy has emerged. But the proposed operating levy has generated pointed debate on social media. Some homeowners contend that as property taxes increase, they can no longer afford to stay in St. Paul.

Under pressure

School Board members discussed the annual levy and ballot question with City Council and County Board members in September while meeting as the Joint Property Tax Advisory Committee. They and Tom Sager, the school district's chief of financial services, explained the set of pressures the school district is under:

More than 20 years ago, state officials stepped in to have more of a say in education funding. The Minnesota Department of Education has much more of a say in statewide school funding and supplies calculations for all of the state's districts to set levies.

But that funding hasn't kept up



St. Paul Public Schools video on the district's upcoming referendum: youtu.be/Tlqx7hw0FmQ.

with inflation, district officials said. One estimate is that the district would have received an additional \$50 million had inflation kept up with the state aid formula.

Along with inflationary increases, the future of the U.S. Department of Education is uncertain. President Trump wants to eliminate the department and spin off or end its various initiatives. That has generated concerns across the nation about potential loss of federal dollars.

St. Paul has a proposed 5.3% property tax levy increase. Ramsey County proposes increasing

property taxes 9.75%. The school district's annual levy for 2026 is set to decrease by 1.98%.

State truth-in-taxation law requires maximum levies to be set by Sept. 30. After that date levies can decrease but not increase.

The levy funds about 20% of the school district's budget, Sager said.

The district levied \$220.8 million in 2025; the proposed 2026 levy is \$216.4 million, \$4.3 million less. ■

Jane McClure is a Twin Cities freelance writer and writes for the Bugle.

At Luther Seminary, wither Old Muskego?

By Sarah CR Clark

Tucked into the northwest corner of Luther Seminary's campus stands a hand-hewn log building called Old Muskego Church.

The building was placed on Minnesota's State Historical Sites list in 1935 and added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1975.

As the seminary prepares to sell its upper campus, the future of Old Muskego is very much uncertain.

According to the St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission (SPHPC), Old Muskego earned its historic designations for being "the first place of worship of an organized congregation of Norwegian immigrants in America" and for being "an excellent example of pioneer craftsmanship."

Rachel Farris, director of public relations for Luther Seminary, said in an early October email to the Bugle, "Regarding the future of Old Muskego Church, the seminary is working with a real estate broker to market the Upper Campus, a process that will take some time — potentially a full year or more. While there are still many unknowns to be worked out, at this



Old Muskego was the country's first Norwegian-American church and is on both the national and state historic registries. Photo by Norah Clark.

time, Old Muskego Church will be included in the prospective sale."

Retired Luther Seminary board member Roger Eggen feels close to Old Muskego. "Oftentimes, as a board member, I'd get the key and take interested people up to see the old church," said Eggen, a resident of the Zvago housing cooperative next to Luther Seminary. "There were people from all over the world who wanted to see Old Muskego."

There still are. Caleb Rollins, current archivist and curator for Luther Seminary, was giving a tour of Old Muskego just a few months ago to an interna-

tional student whose family was visiting from India. While inside the church, the student's mother was so moved by the historical significance of the building that she grabbed the nearest broom and began the work of sweeping, caring for the building.

Eggen sees Old Muskego as a symbol of freedom, as many Norwegian immigrants came to the U.S. seeking religious freedoms. And many of those Norwegian immigrants' descendants are neighbors to Eggen.

"What good has that church been for this community?" Engen asked.

Old Muskego to p. 3

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CITY FILES

St. Anthony Park and Como community councils news

District 12
Community Council

Annual meeting, elections

The District 12 Community Council annual meeting and elections are just around the corner.

The meeting will be held from 6:30 to 9 p.m. on Thursday, November 13, at the Zvago Cooperative Housing Community Room, 2265 W. Luther Place.

The evening will celebrate 50 years of community leadership, marking the anniversary of both St. Anthony Park Community Council and the St. Paul District Community Council system.

Neighbors will hear updates from District 12's four committees and local elected officials, including St. Paul Ward 4 Council member Molly Coleman and Ramsey County Commissioner Garrison McMurtrey, before the launch of District 12's board election.

Voting begins that evening and runs through Dec. 3. All residents, renters, homeowners and business owners in District 12 are encouraged to participate. Ballots are available online only, with special assistance available for neighbors who need help accessing the ballot.

"The annual meeting is where our neighborhood comes together," said Melissa Pappas, District 12 executive committee co-chairperson. "It's always a time to reflect on what we've accomplished."

Learn more and cast your ballot at sapcc.org/vote.

Joyful finale at
Westgate Commons Park

The Summer at Westgate Commons Park program wrapped up in late September with a celebration that brought together more than 200 neighbors for one last afternoon of art, bikes and community connection.

Families, elders and many new immigrant neighbors came out to enjoy the day, far exceeding the 120 neighbors originally expected.

From May through September, District 12 partnered with Joy of the People to host Pop-Up Play Days and Park Activity Saturdays.

The final event featured a community bike giveaway, youth-led activities, ice cream and special guests from the Towerside Innovation District, including Executive Director Stephen Klimek.

"You could feel the sense of community in every corner of the park," Klimek said. "It's exciting to see so many neighbors coming together and sharing ideas for the future of the Westgate area of St. Anthony Park and Towerside."

Guests were also invited to share their ideas by taking the new Towerside Neighborhood Pulse Survey, now open at bit.ly/Tower25.

"We saw new faces every week, and by the end, people from across the neighborhood were coming regularly," said Lucid Thomas, District 12 tenant outreach coordinator. "The park became a true community space. We're so thankful to everyone who helped make that happen."



District 10 Como Lake Cleanup — Gordy Wrobel and unknown kayaker. Photo by Jonathan Herum.

Hampden Park's 4th
annual Ice Cream Social

It was all smiles and plenty of sprinkles at the fourth annual Ice Cream Social at Hampden Park on Sept. 13. More than 300 neighbors came out to enjoy sunshine, live music, and free Ben & Jerry's ice cream served by the District 12 Community Council.

Partners included the Hampden Park Co-op, Bright Side Produce, Minnesota Department of Transportation, St. Paul Parks and Recreation, St. Anthony Park Area Seniors, Como Community Seed Library, St. Paul Public Works, St. Paul Public Library and Moms Demand Action.

"This started as a simple way to connect with neighbors," said John Maurer, former Equity Committee chair and current SAPCC treasurer. "Now it's something people really look forward to every year."

To get involved, email info@sapcc.org

Upcoming District 12 meetings

District 12 encourages neighbors to attend monthly committee meetings, available in-person and online. Learn more at sapcc.org.

- **Land Use Committee:**
7 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 6
- **District 12 Board:**
7 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 13
- **Equity Committee:**
7 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 20
- **Transportation Committee:**
7 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 25
- **Environment Committee:**
7 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 26

Submitted by District 12 executive director Zev Radziwill.

District 10
Community Council

Como curb cleanup this fall

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

Join your neighbors in sweeping your curb weekly through November to help keep Lake Como clean.

You can learn more and register as an "official" participant, which helps us track our effectiveness, here on the D10 website: District10ComoPark.org/Cleanup#curb.

Tracking results helps District 10 plan future cleanup efforts. Once we've collected the data, we'll share the results in the D10 newsletter as well on the D10 website.

If you participate in curb-cleaning, even if you didn't register with District 10, you can report your efforts before Dec. 15.

The cleanup program helps to reduce algae overgrowth in the lake.

Como Lake cleanup report

District 10's fall Como Lake Cleanups came to an end on Sept. 20. The four cleanup events drew 106 volunteers who racked up 246 volunteer hours, cleaning 214 pounds of trash from around the lake.

Since the cleanups began in 2019, 634 volunteers have contributed 1,454 hours, removing 1,923 pounds of trash.

Kudos to volunteer lead coordinator Mike Ireland and thanks to Gordy Wrobel, Lauren and Ryan McCabe, Robin Gall, Dan Edgerton, Abby Gold and Matt Kleist for helping distribute the workload!

Monthly socials

For two years now, the District 12 Community Council has been setting aside the gavel once a month for a social gathering.

This agenda-free meet-up happens between District 10's two monthly meetings on the second Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. at Half-Time Rec, 1013 Front Ave. All are welcome to join.

These events provide an opportunity for District 10 regulars, veterans and newcomers to get to know one another outside our formal meetings.

For more details, check District 10's weekly newsletter or visit District10ComoPark.org/D10Social.

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, Nov. 5
- 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 19

All District 10 community meetings are open to the public.

Submitted by District 10 executive director Shevek McKee.

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SCAN FOR MORE

Lauderdale hears Breck Woods proposal

By Anne Holzman

The Lauderdale City Council recently viewed a preliminary plan for a housing development on Luther Seminary's lower campus, which sits in the Lauderdale Nature Area, also known as Breck Woods.

Edina-based Lifestyle Communities is proposing to buy the land from Luther Seminary, contingent on gaining approval to build

housing. Lifestyle recently built the Zvago retirement complex at 2265 Luther Place in St. Paul and is in negotiations with St. Paul and is in negotiations with St. Paul to develop other parts of the Luther Seminary campus.

The proposal drew general council interest in September. A previous attempt at developing the area fell through back in 2019-20 and resulted in the city's rezoning the Nature Area as "high-density resi-

dential — conservation district," allowing higher density if developers meet conservation standards. The plan also includes a small lot zoned for single-family homes.

Lifestyle proposes a cooperative apartment building at the north end of the parcel, which is steeply sloped and close to a ravine. The developers told the council that would be the best way to leave the ravine untouched and still build

in housing density. South of the co-op would be a mix of smaller condominium buildings and single-family homes.

All of the homes would be for sale as opposed to rental. The developers said they will explore options for affordability but have not yet worked that into their plans.

There would be some new private streets and utilities to serve the new buildings. The large co-op building would have underground parking for residents and an area near the main entrance for visitor parking.

Council members, at their Sept. 23 meeting, expressed reservations about the height of the proposed co-op building and asked for more details about the design.

Lauderdale's planning consultant, Jennifer Haskamp, explained at the meeting that the city has environmental studies from previous sale negotiations. Those would have to be updated in the course of reviewing the latest proposal.

Haskamp reminded the council that the development will need approval from the Metropolitan Council in light of the city's current long-range comprehensive plan. The next step will be for the developers to document to the city how they intend to meet those requirements. ■

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

Old Muskego from p. 1

"Its symbolic meaning is really big. Old Muskego really does enrich this neighborhood. I think people would miss it if it disappeared."

The exterior of Old Muskego is made from red oak logs and the interior is furnished with black walnut. Its two-story sanctuary includes a U-shaped balcony and a large chancel featuring a centered, seven-foot-high pulpit with an altar tucked underneath. Hardanger embroidery displayed in a rose-måled frame is the centerpiece of the altar. The center aisle is defined by six tall, turned walnut columns.

The first group of Norwegians to settle near Muskego, Wisconsin, arrived in the late 1830s, according to the seminary's website. The community organized a congregation in 1843 when Claus Lauritz Clausen (from Denmark) was ordained as its first pastor.

An SPHPC updated designation study from 2017 reported that the congregation raised \$430 to cover the church's construction costs and "members were highly engaged in the construction process, contributing to much volunteer labor to help reduce costs."

Original construction of the building was completed in 1844 near Muskego, at the top of "Indian Hill," a place that was sacred to Potawatomi people, who had by then been displaced.

The congregation outgrew its building in 1869 and built a second one out of brick. The original log church was disassembled and relocated to a nearby farm, where it housed pigs until 1904. At that time it was disassembled again, shipped to St. Paul and restored at its current location.

Today, Norway Lutheran Church, a vibrant congregation in Wind Lake, Wisconsin, traces



The interior of Old Muskego includes an elevated pulpit and a five-sided altar. Photo by Sarah Clark.

its origin to Old Muskego. According to their website, "Members of Norway Lutheran Church have made three pilgrimages [to Old Muskego] in recent years to work on preservation efforts and also to worship and commune in the church of our founders."

Beyond those three pilgrimages, the seminary has been caring for the historic building since its arrival in 1904. (Though, it should be noted that in 1904 Luther Seminary didn't yet exist. The seminary's name at that time was United Church Seminary. It was renamed Luther Seminary in 1917 after the merger of three large Norwegian Lutheran groups.)

SPHPC documents note restoration work including removing harmful exterior cladding (1970), a major 1994 campaign that replaced chinking, repaired rotten logs and added rain gutters and sealant and roof repairs and re-chinking in the last 20 years.

Old Muskego has been used as a chapel for seminary students, a practice site for preaching and worship classes, a site for weddings and baptisms, a celebration location for Syttende Mai (Norway's Independence Day).

Luther Seminary professor of church history, Mark Granquist, brings his classes into Old Muskego. "It's a historic artifact and I bring

students there so that they can get something of the vibe of what it must have been like to have been in a pioneer church in the 1840s," Granquist said.

But with the upcoming sale of Luther Seminary's campus, what will happen with Old Muskego?

According to Farris, the seminary will convene targeted working groups in the areas of strategic, educational and space-related issues related to the sale of the campus.

"These groups will develop recommendations to help us thoughtfully and carefully steward the seminary's archives, collections and historic assets through this season of transition," she said.

At Bugle press time, neither Granquist nor Rollins knew if these working groups had begun meeting or who might be included.

"I don't know the future for Old Muskego," Granquist said. "But I hope we figure something out. It could be with Luther Seminary. I don't know if it could go back to Wisconsin where it was from, or maybe a historical society or something like that. I just want it to be taken care of; some sort of place that would look after it and make sure that it's accessible." ■

Sarah CR Clark is a regular freelance writer for the Bugle.



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Park Bugle

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

Managing Editor

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

Freelance writers

Sarah CR Clark, Eric Erickson,
Anne Holzman,
Kathy Henderson and Janet Wight

Freelance photographers

Sarah CR Clark, Eric Erickson,
Janet Wight and Jenni Wolf.

Obituaries Editor

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

Subscriptions & billing

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

Event submissions

calendar@parkbugle.org

Copy editor

Bill Brady

Proofreader

Mary Hegge

Social Media Specialist

Laura Adrian

Webmaster

Jenny Plott

Graphics/Layout/Design

EH Design

Advertising Sales Representatives

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

Roald Sateren

651-468-4040

roald.sateren@parkbugle.org

Classified advertising

classifieds@parkbugle.org

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EDITORIAL

From the desk of the editor

By Scott Carlson

The breadth of Bugleland

As the Bugle's fall fundraising campaign begins to gather steam, we want to reiterate the importance that all of our supporters, where ever they may live, make to our annual campaign.

In the October issue of the Bugle, one reader told us she was "stopped in my tracks" by Steve Plagens' commentary touting the latest campaign "on which he somewhat smugly praised the homegrown attributes of St. Anthony Park" but "never mentioned the three other communities that are listed on the Park Bugle's masthead.

"I literally felt a sense of exclusion," the upset reader said. "Does the Bugle not include me and my neighborhood in its thinking? Has the newspaper reverted to a time 30 years ago when the newspaper was called the St. Anthony Park Bugle and served only that community?"

Well, let the record show that Steve never intended to minimize

the support of donors from Falcon Heights, Lauderdale or Como Park.

"I am sorry if my failure to mention by name the other communities we serve implied we weren't interested in their support." Steve wrote to our concerned reader. "That was the last thing I wanted to convey in a plea for readers to contribute to our annual fund drive. Please attribute this oversight to my personal tendency of lumping Lauderdale, Falcon Heights and Como Park into my perception of the "neighborhood" rather than inherent smugness on my part."

Steve said he, in his fundraising appeal, tried to give some examples of inclusive venues and events that draw folks from all of our communities. Those include "everything from the Events calendar to regular coverage of District 10 and 12 Community Councils to the upcoming elections in Falcon Heights to the monthly focus on Como High School," he said. "All are of interest to our readers regardless of where they reside."

I can vouch for that. In the last year, we have tried to ramp up more coverage of our non-St. Anthony Park neighborhoods and cities. In the last year, we have run more than 50 stories that have focused on the people, businesses, events and activities in Como Park and the cities of Falcon Heights and Lauderdale. That's an average of 3 to 5 stories a month.

Examples include "Falcon Heights moving on a climate plan," the arrival of Karol Coffee in Falcon Heights, "Lauderdale exploring municipal cannabis business" and the Eustis Street project. We'll also continue covering developments at the U of Minnesota's golf course property in Falcon Heights.

Meanwhile, we always welcome story tips from readers about events, issues, people and activities across Bugleland.

Thanks for reading us and for being our supporters. ■

Scott Carlson is the managing editor of the Bugle.

Thank You Readers!

One month into our 2025 Fall Fund Drive and we have already raised \$13,200!

In the coming weeks, we expect to receive many more donations.

Your donations — big and small — keep trusted local journalism alive and help the Bugle tell the stories that connect our neighborhoods.

Donate today by mail to P.O. Box 8126, St. Paul, MN 55108 or at parkbugle.org.

EVERY GIFT MATTERS.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

They support Her for mayor

We support Kaohly Her for St. Paul mayor.

She has a clear grasp of what St. Paul needs to improve services, expand the city's small-business economy and address the housing shortage.

Her will focus on the basics, such as maintaining smooth streets, keeping parks clean, ensuring outstanding public safety and promoting exceptional housing development.

She will also foster a "customer service" approach for licenses and permits by streamlining the regulatory process and reducing the time to obtain a license or permit, while eliminating outdated and burdensome regulations that make it difficult to open a business in St. Paul.

As an experienced budget analyst, public school administrator, St. Paul policy leader, and four-term state legislator for House District 64B (Macalester Grove-land, Merriam Park and Cathedral Hill), Kaohly Her has brought together all levels of government to develop collaborative solutions to address the root causes of our critical problems.

Among those critical problems are: homelessness, addiction, business closures and an aging and deteriorating infrastructure.

It's time for new leadership in the Mayor's Office, and Kaohly Her has the experience, passion and vision to engage the City Council, the business community and the broad range of stakeholders to move St. Paul forward through this difficult and tumultuous time.

We urge you to select Kaohly Her as your first choice for mayor on Nov. 4.

Bob Kessler, retired director, St. Paul Department of Safety and Inspections; Jay Weiner, retired journalist and author; and Ann Wynia, former state legislator. All three are residents of the Zvago residential cooperative in SAP.

Vote yes for administrative citations

As a 10-year resident of the Como Park neighborhood, a state employee and a union member, I was surprised to learn that St. Paul lacks a basic enforcement mechanism in use in all the other 25 largest cities in Minnesota: the ability to use administrative citations when ordinances or laws are violated.

Instead, the city must choose between issuing a letter with no authority behind it or charging the violator with a criminal offense — a heavy-handed, costly and lengthy approach that can drag on through years of appeals.

An administrative citation is essentially a civil fine — a simple and widely used method for correcting violations such as failure to maintain a rental property or to grant workers earned sick and safe time (a case from 2022 is still held up in the courts). The lack of this authority has led to long-running legal disputes over properties like the Lowry Apartments in downtown St. Paul, where code violations ultimately led to condemnation, forcing all residents to move out.

Surprisingly, the Charter Commission already recommended and the City Council approved an ordinance change in January 2025 to allow administrative citations. However, a small group of opponents petitioned to place this

question on the November ballot, where it could easily be misunderstood as just another type of "fine."

If we want a city that's fair and equitable for everyone, we need fair, equitable and cost-effective methods for ensuring that our laws and ordinances are followed, regardless of income or status. I urge readers to vote "yes" in favor of the administrative citations charter amendment this November.

Suzanne S. Rhees
Como Park

Also supports administrative citations

I have lived in St Paul for over 40 years and I love my city.

St Paul's strength comes from our ability to be there for each other, knitting people together from different places and of different races into a community. I saw this in all the St Paul neighborhoods I worked in as a public health nurse. I see it in my local church community and on my block where I live.

You can see this in the historic ordinances we've passed together over the last few years, like a \$15 minimum wage, rent stabilization and earned sick time.

A few loud voices want to protect a status quo where corporate landlords and employers act like they're above the law and keep profiting off our neighbors.

By giving the ordinances we pass together real teeth, we can create faster resolution to the health, safety and wellbeing concerns of every worker, renter and family in our city, and make sure businesses and property owners are accountable to our communities.

That's why I'm encouraging every St Paul voter on Nov. 4th to

say YES to the referendum on the ballot voting for Administrative Citations.

Let's vote Yes for a fairer St. Paul so we can enforce city ordinances equitably and make St Paul a city that works for all of us, not just the wealthy few.

Deb Avenido
Como Park

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.

One additional note: Paper deliveries in November and December may be slightly delayed due to the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

December Holiday guide

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January 2026:

Copy/ad deadline: Dec. 10
Publication: Dec. 23

February:

Copy/ad deadline: Jan. 14
Publication: Jan. 27

COMMENTARY

Keeping our focus local

By Teresa McCormick

(Editor's note: Teresa McCormick wrote this column as an email message to followers of The Good Acre)

October marked the arrival of National Farm to School Month!

Unfortunately, Oct. 1 also marked the beginning of the federal government shutdown. The impacts were and are being felt differently across our communities, and for nonprofit organizations, federal grants, contracts, and reimbursements may be delayed or suspended.

If the shutdown drags on, ripples will turn into waves as things like SNAP benefits and essential services are impacted.

For now, The Good Acre is on stable footing, in part because of our diversified funding sources and partner contracts.

If you're looking to buoy us, you can purchase a Late Season CSA share (if you haven't already) or make a donation at thegoodacre.org/donate.

Federal government negotiations aside, October is still National Farm to School Month. And that observance is of special significance to The Good Acre, because K-12 school nutrition contracts were our first wholesale market, and helped lay the foundation for what we are today: Minnesota's largest nonprofit food hub.

Because of those early relationships, we now connect more than 150 local farmers — family farms, immigrant farmers, farmers of color — to schools, hunger relief organizations, retailers and institutions throughout our region. This is farm-to-school in action: fresh, healthy, locally grown food nourishing kids and communities while creating stable markets for farmers.

During turbulent times like these, we're doubling down on what works by building resilient partnerships, strengthening our food system and making sure local food is the easy choice for schools, families and communities. ■



Late season CSA share. Photo from The Good Acre.

Teresa McCormick is the executive director of The Good Acre, Minnesota's largest nonprofit food hub, based in Falcon Heights.

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COMMENTARY

The public life of private lands: What's ahead for Luther Seminary campus and the University of Minnesota Golf Course?

By Eliza L. Swedenborg
and Ann Juergens

A huge swath of land in our neighborhoods — nearly 167 acres — is for sale or under contract for development.

Luther Seminary and the University of Minnesota hold title to those lands, seeking to sell the bundle of rights that is “land title” to purchasers who almost certainly will not be public entities.

A key question for sellers, officials, new owners and the community is: How much of this precious land will remain available for the public's continued use?

The future of these lands demands reflection on their not-so-distant past. The ground that holds the golf course and the seminary is the traditional homeland of the Dakota people. The Dakota, like many Indigenous peoples, consider the earth a living entity. No person can claim “ownership.”

Yet with settlement, mostly white, European-American migrants brought a new concept: private land ownership. In this region, land rights and access were wrested from the Dakota through two

treaties in 1851 that promised the Dakota pennies per acre — much of it never paid — and declared the land open for privatized white settlement.

Land titles were transferred to Luther Seminary and the university not long after. The university was founded in 1851 and opened its St. Paul campus golf course in 1916. Luther Seminary was founded in 1869 and moved to its home in St. Paul in 1900.

Though privately and semi-privately (in the case of the university) held, the lands of both have enjoyed significant public access. This public habit of entry can perhaps be attributed to the nature of the two institutions. The university's land grant charter and the seminary's stated Lutheran mission — on top of its property tax exemptions that are rooted in legislative recognition of these missions — have meant that each school has a duty to the public good. They have been living up to that duty for more than a century.

Today, we walk, play and gather on the seminary and university lands. Anyone can then amble the university's trolley track trail all the way to the golf course. The public

plays golf on that course and many of us run and ski on it.

Nonhuman creatures follow these same paths, and migrating birds rely on the many trees in these green spaces. We enjoy chance encounters of reconnection with neighbors old and new, we anticipate spring's first jack-in-the-pulpit and we find solace in the company of warblers.

Importance of public commons

The importance of public commons to a healthy society is evident. In the context of the loneliness epidemic, political polarization and declining mental health, public commons can provide spaces for people to reconnect with each other and the natural world. They are a buffer and a boon for public health, community culture and resilience.

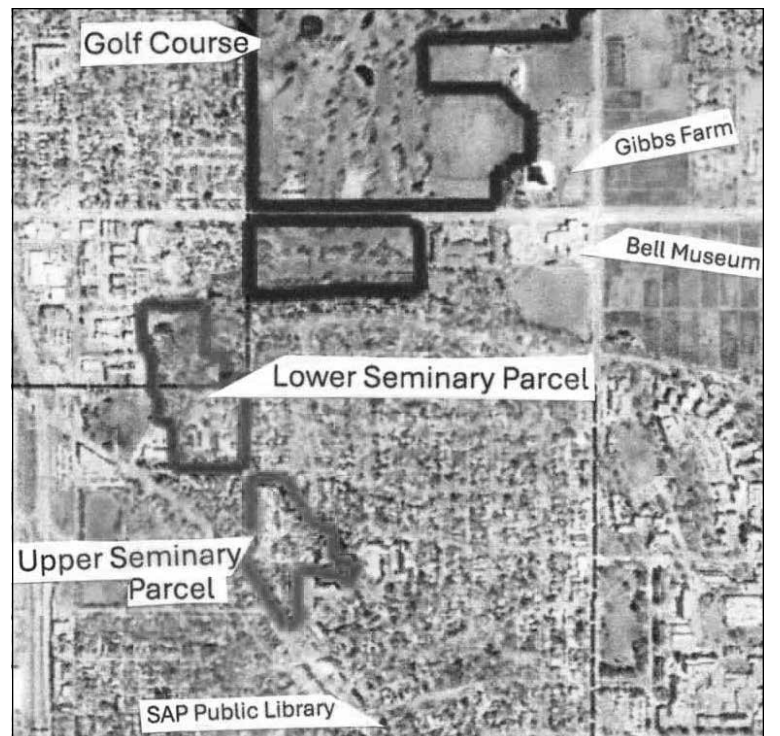
Private buyers of these lands will owe no specific legal duty to the public other than to follow building and watershed regulations. The city of Falcon Heights, Ramsey County and the state has each declined to purchase the golf course land.

So, what public life is on the horizon for these soon-to-be privatized lands? Will future developers and landowners design and maintain public access and use of the land? And if so, how?

Granting “easements”?

One potential tool for “commoning” private land is a grant of easements.

Public access easements secure a



Outlined lands to be acquired by private developers.

Map credit by Ramsey County GIS website, adapted by Ann Juergens.

right for the public to use an identified portion of private property for specific purposes, such as access for pathways and playgrounds.

Conservation easements permanently restrict certain types of development on an owner's land to preserve its conservation value. Public access is only guaranteed when it is specifically written into the easement agreement.

Both types of easements are attached perpetually to the land, not to individuals, and remain in place when the land is sold or inherited. Such easements that “run with the land” are held and enforced by an entity, such as a conservation organization, neighboring owner or government body that is separate from the owner whose land is affected.

Easements can also be a legal tool for restoring access and cultural rights to Indigenous communities, as a step toward making amends for historical wrongs.

Creating easements is voluntary. Public access will not be protected unless local officials and developers step up to that challenge. Developments whose grounds and roads are entirely on private land, as the development plan for the seminary lower campus is proposed to be, can morph over time into gated communities unless the developer agrees to public use conditions that attach to the land itself.

This is a complex and historic opportunity for our communities to exercise their best civic engagement muscles. One way to do that will be to attend forums hosted by our local officials and developers to gather community input.

The St. Anthony Park Community Council Seminary Task Force is planning a public meeting in early to mid-November with Lifestyle Communities Inc., the developer with a purchase agreement for the lower seminary campus. Look for the date on the community listserv or at the SAPCC District 12 website.

Mark your calendars for Thursday, Jan. 8, and plan to attend the St. Anthony Park Branch Library Association Forum (6:30–7:30 p.m.) to learn about — and engage in — “Postcards from the Future,” a community art and dialogue project supported by Friends of Breck Woods and Transition Town–All St. Anthony Park.

Let's roll up our sleeves and get creative! As transactions unfold, let's show up to ensure that the sellers, the new owners and our elected officials are mindful of this land's longstanding contribution to the public good and our need for that to continue. ■

Ann Juergens is director of Friends of Breck Woods and a resident of Zvago SAP Cooperative. Eliza Swedenborg is a board member of Friends of Breck Woods and a member of Transition Town–All St. Anthony Park.

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SCHOOL NEWS

School news around the town

Compiled by Janet Wight

Great River School

Submitted by Communication Coordinator Aja Parham

Located on Energy Park Drive, Great River School is a public charter Montessori school serving students in grades one through 12. It offers an International Baccalaureate program for 11th and 12th grade students.

At Great River students engage in thoughtful discussion, collaborative problem-solving and independent inquiry, connecting ideas across disciplines while building the skills of critical thinking, reflection and global awareness.

Great River prides itself on its Key Experiences, a part of the curriculum where students go on overnight excursions to gain independence, enjoy camaraderie and have the opportunity to reflect while being immersed in nature.

In September, seventh to 12th grade students had the opportunity to canoe on Lake Namekagon, visit Minnesota colleges, tour the Driftless Area in southwestern Wisconsin and spend time at the Philadelphia Community Farm in Osceola, Wisconsin.

In October, fourth to sixth grade students went to YMCA Camp Widjiwagan in Ely. Activities included hiking, cooking in the outdoors, learning about nature and soaking in the sun.

Great River's Harvest Fest, held on Oct. 11, included stone soup, caramel apples, fresh apple cider made on site, family activities, a gear/clothing swap, music and more.



Great River School: Upper elementary students canoeing at Camp Widjiwagan. Photo submitted by Great River School.

Murray Middle School

Submitted by Principal Jamin McKenzie and Stefanie Folkema

Murray science students attended Belwin Outdoor Science in Afton. Belwin is part of the St. Paul Public Schools' science curriculum.

According to the Belwin website, its mission is "to connect children to nature through engaging outdoor science experiences."

A recent fundraiser using the APEX company is now complete. Proceeds will be used to directly support students, teachers and classrooms. Murray also held a fundraiser on Oct. 20 at the Roseville Portillo's restaurant.



Murray Middle School: Belwin Outdoor Science Photo submitted by Murray Middle School.

St. Anthony Park Elementary School

Submitted by Principal Phillip Hutcheson.

St. Anthony Park Elementary is off to a great start this school year.

Returning and new students alike were inspired to follow the "Wolfpack Way," the school's guide to being a positive community member, during assemblies held in early September.

The kindergarten classes traveled to Dodge Nature Center's Shepard Farm in September. The students had the opportunity to pet and feed chickens among other fun activities.

Third grade students put together campaigns, including posters and videos, to choose the name for the class wolf mascot. Nico was the winning entry, which garnered lots of smiles.

The fall festival, which took place on Oct. 10, is a major fundraiser for the school. It included a pumpkin run, haunted house and bake sale along with games, face painting and crafts.

Chelsea Heights Elementary

Submitted by Principal Guillermo Maldonado Perez.

Chelsea Heights Elementary is continuing its commitment to diversity and inclusion by bringing back the BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) Family Support Group for the second consecutive year.

As part of a broader district-wide movement toward equity and belonging, the school is seeing strong engagement from families and staff alike.

The support group, led by PTO Vice President Roxy Hoda, a parent of a third grader, provides a welcoming space for BIPOC families to connect, share experiences and build community. These families are a vital part of Chelsea Heights, and the school is working to ensure their voices are heard and valued.

To promote accessibility, the PTO provides dinner and child care during meetings, allowing families to fully participate. This support reflects the school's belief that inclusion must be intentional and actively supported.

Hoda also helps the broader school community learn about the group's purpose and the insights it offers, fostering greater understanding and unity.

Twin Cities German Immersion School

Submitted by Communications Manager Paige Yurczyk

Twin Cities German Immersion School celebrated its 20th anniversary in September!

Members of the school community and others celebrated this milestone with a carnival on Sept. 20. The event featured bouncy houses, a dunk tank, a DJ, games, food trucks and treats.

School officials also provided tours of the building while the city of St. Paul issued a proclamation designating Sept. 20 as Twin Cities German Immersion School 20th Anniversary Day. ■



TCGIS: Executive Director Elizabeth Zehnpfennig holding city of St. Paul proclamation. Photo submitted by TCGIS.

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

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SCHOOL NEWS

Como Park High School News

By Eric Erickson

A National Merit Scholarship semifinalist

Como Park senior Aleia Lueck has qualified to be a National Merit Scholarship Semifinalist.

Fewer than 1% of high school students across the nation achieve this elite recognition. Lueck will now complete the credentialing that includes recommendations and essays in pursuit of earning a National Merit Scholarship.

Lueck scored a perfect 36 on the ACT. She is an AP Scholar with Distinction, meaning she has passed more than six national Advanced Placement exams (seven so far in Lueck's case) and has earned several more college credits through College in the Schools (CIS) at Como and Postsecondary Enrollment Option (PSEO) classes.

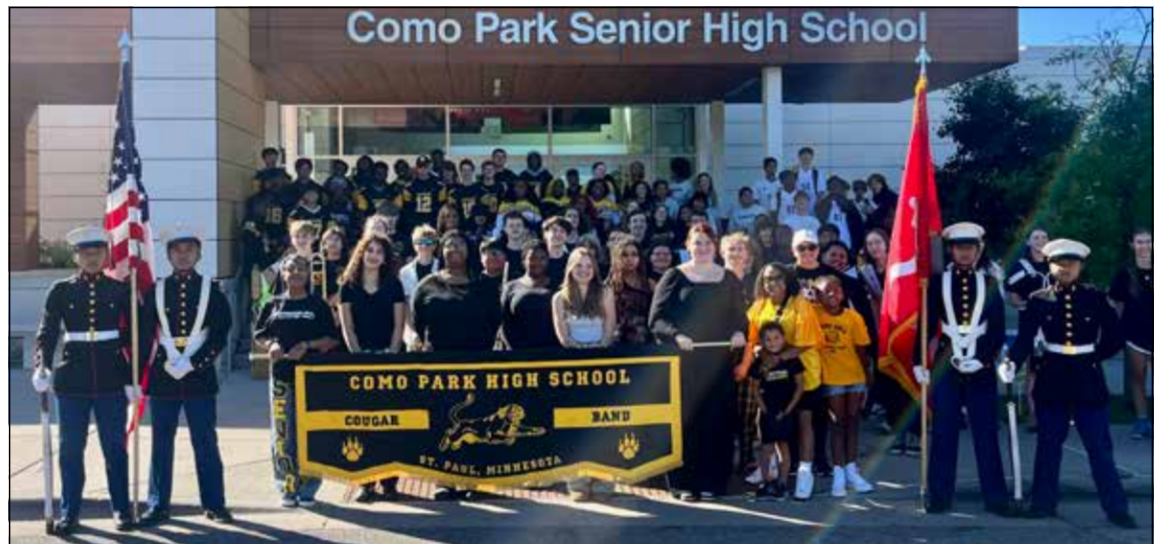
Lueck's extra-curricular passion and focus is centered on swimming. She is an all-state swimmer for the Cougars and has qualified for the state meet in multiple events since her freshman season.

This past summer, Lueck completed an internship at 3M Co. through the Science Encouragement Training Program. She plans to pursue a degree in engineering and is considering several schools for next fall including Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and Williams College, also in Massachusetts.

Homecoming

Como's Spirit Week led up to Homecoming Weekend on Saturday, Sept. 27, adding some flavor to school routines.

Thematic dress-up days allowed students to display creative wardrobes. Friday's pep fest on Sept. 26



Homecoming parade participants gather at Como on Saturday, Sept. 27. Photo by Eric Erickson.

at the end of the school day was full of positive cheers.

The homecoming dance was held in Como's gym on Friday night. Saturday had spectacular weather for the homecoming parade in the morning and football game in the afternoon.

Preparing for Washington, D.C.

Como is offering one subtle change in its academic course roster this year. "Advanced Placement Government" is giving way to The Uni-

versity of Minnesota — College in the Schools (CIS) course "American Democracy in a Changing World."

Student grades from the class are reflected on their college transcript and are transferable to institutions across the state and nation.

One tradition that hasn't changed is the opportunity for those Como seniors studying government at the college level to participate in the Close Up Washington, D.C. trip.

Fundraising efforts are already underway. Students will be bag-

ging groceries at Cub Foods on Larpenteur Avenue on Nov. 13 and Dec. 15.

Many of the seniors will be also serving as student election judges for Ramsey County on Nov. 4. Community members who are interested in providing financial support for the trip are encouraged to contact eric.erickson@spps.org. ■

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

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History of SAP "railroad island" up next

By Mary Mergenthal

In her latest architectural history talk, Augsburg University academic Kristin Anderson will discuss the history of St. Anthony Park's "railroad island."

Anderson's talk is at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 11, at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, 2323 Como Ave. SAPLC hosts these talks the second Tuesday of each month.

St. Anthony Park's early success relied on the railroad lines crossing the middle of the neighborhood. With two stations and a central location, this area between the tracks became a community hub, boasting stores, a post office, housing, a park and two churches.

Most of this architecture is now gone. But Anderson, professor emerita of art & design from Augsburg University, will explore the area's past and see the remaining evidence of St. Anthony Park's "railroad island."

Anyone unable to attend in person can view the presentation live online, with a recording available for one week after Nov. 11 via the SAPLC YouTube channel bit.ly/Sap-history.

You can also access the channel from saplc.org via the worship tab and livestream link.

All are welcome to attend. Presentations are still free, but donations are appreciated to help offset program expenses. ■

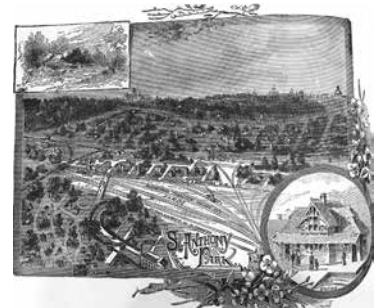


Illustration of St. Anthony Park's "railroad island" train tracks. Submitted image.

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

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TRANSITION TOWN

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

Author appearing at Changing Times Book Group

By Ranae Lenor Hanson

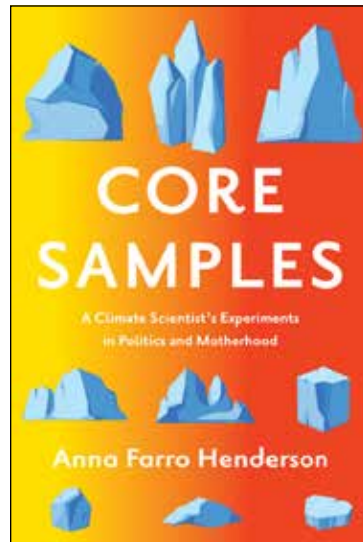
Come discuss “Core Samples” with Anna Farro Henderson at the St. Anthony Park Branch Library on Nov. 22. Read the book ahead of time if you can; show up even if you can’t.

Henderson will help you open your heart and your mind to the world as it is and as it can, with loving attention, become. Quite likely, her group activity will move you along your own creative path.

“Core Samples” subtitle, “A Climate Scientist’s Experiments in Politics and Motherhood,” has truth — but the truth may be squinting. We can’t ask much of a subtitle, but we can question it.

Is Henderson primarily “a climate scientist?” As a researcher, she carved a path brilliantly (without stage lights) through glaciers and desert lakebeds where few women had trodden before. Still, is climate scientist her primary title?

Then consider: Did Henderson *experiment* in politics? She was in the thick of both the Mark Dayton and the Al Franken messes and successes. But would we say



that Dayton and Franken were “experimenting”?

Henderson balanced tender new parenthood with raw political drama, carrying her nursing paraphernalia while wearing a suit and high heels.

After success in science and politics, Henderson began writing, because stories might help the future more than an ice ax or a piece of legislation. She wrote about her varied, intertwining and (some-

times) conflicting roles with heart and clear vision.

Yet. Would a male scientist’s or politician’s parenting role be highlighted on the cover of his book? Maybe it should be in the subtitle of every book written by a person of any gender. Maybe then every book would be as honest as Henderson’s is.

At a time when we each need companions to navigate a damaged physical world and a tumultuous political scene, Henderson has stepped up.

Both through writing and through friendship, Anna’s been such a companion to me. I’m a bit jealous that I can’t be with Anna that day, but I’m happy that you can. Join the Changing Times Book Group to accompany Anna; through her writing, she has reached her hand out to you. ■

Ranae Lenor Hanson, author of “Watershed: Attending to Body and Earth in Distress,” was a long-time neighbor in St. Anthony Park. She now lives near her adult children on the West Coast.

“Funny, moving, and eminently worth reading. Anna Farro Henderson’s deep encounters with Big Science and Big Bureaucracy will help you understand why progress on matters of life and death can be so maddeningly slow; her encounters with herself may help you figure out how to live your own life.”

— Bill McKibben, author and founder of 350.org and Third Act



Anna Farro Henderson is an award-winning writer, Ph.D. scientist, and environmental policy expert. She is a fellow at the UMN Institute on the Environment, teaches at the Loft Literary Center, and works in climate advocacy. Submitted photo.

Changing Times Book Group

Saturday, Nov. 22, 3-4:30 p.m.
St. Anthony Park Branch Library, 2245 Como Ave.

Meet Anna Farro Henderson, author of *Core Samples: A Climate Scientist’s Experiments in Politics and Motherhood*. Co-sponsored by Transition Town — All Saint Anthony Park and the St. Paul Public Library, the book group focuses on environmental and social justice topics. All are welcome, one title at a time. More information at TransitionASAP.org/changing-times.



Experience wonder at the Bell Museum



Collectors Day 2025 November 1, 10 am – 3 pm

Join us at the Bell Museum for our fourth annual Collectors Day, a daylong event where members of the community are invited to share and showcase their own personal collections. Interact with collectors as they share stories about their gathering process and their enthusiasm for their collections.



Spotlight Science: Climate Action and YOU!

November 15, 10 am – 2 pm

The climate is changing, but where do you fit in? Join us to hear from community partners, your neighbors, and more. Learn new resources and tips on how you can make large and small changes to build your climate action footprint.



Secrets from a Forest Returns November 28

Experience the award-winning planetarium show! The Bell Museum original production, led by the artistic vision of renowned photographer Jim Brandenburg, explores the connection between sound and nature while you travel through the Panevoggio Forest, home to the “singing” spruce and source of wood for the Stradivarius Violin.

Embracing food changes with the seasons

By Jenni Wolf

So often in my work I hear of people detesting this time of year for the temptations of rich, traditional dishes, cookies, treats and festive libations.

I hear people saying they've been eating too many "comfort foods" and staying inside too much, making plans to get "back-on-track."

But what if we didn't?

What if, instead, we embraced the dark, chilly days for what they are? A time to stay inside and read more books and watch more movies; a time to make creamy crocks of French onion soup with buttered, cheesy croutons and pull steaming, savory pans of lasagna from the oven.? A time to sip a warm mug of cocoa or delight in a glass of eggnog? A time to sleep more; a time to play games with family and friends; a time to slow down?

While many of us may indeed do these things at some point during the season, do we do them unconditionally? Do we do them with full



Cinnamon rolls: Warm, gooey cinnamon rolls beg for a slow, cozy morning. Photo by Jenni Wolf.

permission, without guilt or that nagging feeling that we should be doing something different?

I ask because I've been there too. I have found myself ignoring my mind's and my body's needs, uncomfortable with the change in them that this time of year might bring, just because it's different, rather than basking in the gifts and opportunities of the season.

For example, I find sleep to be

helpful. Typically I am a morning person — come April through September I am up with the sun. But as the days grow shorter, I crave more sleep, later wake times and earlier bedtimes. I want to honor that, not just get caught up in rationalizing it.

The same thing goes for food. In the summertime I love nothing more than fresh, raw, juicy produce and light, zippy meals.

But come the depths of winter, I want warm, cheesy meals and hearty snacks. I want to bake and enjoy the warm efforts straight



Cozy diner meal: A giant stack of flapjacks is good for the soul. Photo by Jenni Wolf.

from the oven. I want to take pleasure and joy in that, not to doubt it.

And when I notice my body getting softer and cozier, I want to sink into that; knowing I am moving my body in a way that feels good right now, a way that makes sense and is normal. No hour-long strolls in sub-zero temps for me, please. I want to know and remember that less activity is natural come the colder months.

My hope is you remember the normal changes we humans experience with food, movement and body, as life ebbs and flows, as the seasons ebb and flow. When we let ourselves ride that wave, we notice the wave stays relatively steady.

Sure, it dips and dives. But nothing too great that we cannot keep ourselves afloat. ■

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

Baroque flute concert coming to SAP

By Mary Hollerich

A taste of the Baroque is coming to St. Anthony Park on the evening of Sunday, Nov. 16, when flutist Barthold Kuijken makes a return trip to the Twin Cities for a recital at St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ.

Kuijken will be joined by University of Minnesota flute professor Immanuel Davis on traverso flute and keyboardist Donald Livingston on harpsichord.

The trio will perform a program of the works of Johann Sebastian Bach and his sons, Carl Phillip Emanuel Bach and Wilhelm Frie-

demann Bach. Kuijken will perform the Partita in A minor for solo flute by J.S. Bach.

Kuijken, artistic director of the Indianapolis Baroque Orchestra, is familiar to many in the Twin Cities from his previous Schubert Club concerts and for masterclasses he has taught around town. In 2017, he collaborated with Davis and Livingston to record a CD, "La Magnifique — Flute Music for the Court of Louis XIV."

The Nov. 16 recital begins at 7 p.m. at 2129 Commonwealth Ave. Tickets are \$30 for the general public, \$20 for Upper Midwest Flute Association members, and \$10 for students, available at the door.

The Sunday evening recital is the first of two events scheduled for Kuijken's visit.

On Monday, Nov. 17, he will conduct a masterclass for students at the University of Minnesota. That 6 p.m. session at the Ultan Recital Hall on the U of M West Bank campus is free to the public. ■

Mary Hollerich lives in the Como Park neighborhood. She is an amateur flutist and now serves as president of the Upper Midwest Flute Association.

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MINNESOTA NATIVE PLANT OF THE MONTH: Partridge Pea

By Dawn Lamm

**Partridge Pea,
Showy Partridge Pea,
Sensitive Pea, Dwarf Cassia,
and Prairie Senna**

Latin name:
Chamaecrista fasciculata

Partridge pea is a favorite of native plant enthusiasts and gardeners for so many reasons. This member of the pea family, with its bright yellow flowers and red anthers, is an annual found in prairie restoration sites and in pocket prairie gardens all around Minnesota. As a member of the pea family, it can fix nitrogen in the soil, improving growing conditions for perennial native plants by holding weeds at bay. For these reasons alone, it makes the perfect native cover crop.

In South Como, partridge pea is part of the plantings at the Jam-Co prairie garden. This two-stage garden, designed by Jan Ehlert of Metro Blooms and planted with a team of neighbors, is specifically de-

signed to accommodate the capped contaminated soils of this former superfund site. Partridge pea, with its adaptability, provides forage for bees, ants, beetles and other wildlife while improving the soil in this visionary use of land that was once just a mowed patch of non-native invasives.

You'll also find this plant in other Lawns to Legumes Demonstration Neighborhood public gardens like those at Orchard Recreation Center in Como and in private container gardens because this plant is typically somewhere between 12" and 30" tall.

Partridge pea demonstrates the principles of what Robin Wall Kimmerer, author of "Braiding Sweetgrass," calls "the gift economy of abundance and reciprocity in the natural world."

Along with supporting the microbial life in the soil by fixing nitrogen, this delicate plant with fronds of leaves that will sometimes close when touched or as the day draws to a close also offers a nutritious snack of pollen to

bees and butterflies in exchange for sharing that pollen plant to plant. The sweetness of nectar is not only offered by the blossoms but also in disc-shaped glands at the base of the leaf stalks, attracting ants that in return patrol for other insects who would feed on the plant.

At the University of Minnesota Bee Lab 1 garden, the small, black diamond-shaped seeds are scattered along the paths and pavers at the edges of the beds, offering a tasty treat to migratory birds, roving squirrels and other small mammals. These seeds are scattered by a thin quarter-inch-wide-by-two-inch-long pea pod that twists as it matures and dries to propel the seeds. Those that land on bare soil will be scarified by the freeze-thaw cycle of our Minnesota winters to emerge and bloom next summer and into fall, repeating this circular seed cycle of sharing and abundance.

Gardeners like Pat Thompson of St. Anthony Park know this cycle, gather these seeds, and share them at events like the St. Anthony Park



Partridge pea in bloom in October at the University of Minnesota Bee Lab. Submitted photo.

Ice Cream Social and through donations to seed libraries like Como Park Community Seed Library and the MN SEED Project. There, other gardeners will find them available to start their own crops of delicate sunny partridge pea in the coming

seasons, amplifying the abundant gifts of a resilient locally adapted free seed economy. ■

Dawn Lamm lives in Como Park and is the founder of the Como Community Seed Library.

Prosser named director of Como Park Zoo & Conservatory

By Aeden Evenson-McDermott



Erica Prosser is the new executive director of the Como Zoo & Conservatory. Pictured with Erica is her daughter June. Photo by Susannah Baudhuin.

The St. Paul Parks and Recreation Department recently named Erica Prosser as the new director of the Como Park Zoo & Conservatory.

The decision came following Prosser's work as the interim director where she gained recognition for her leadership and dedication to bettering Como for the future, according to a press release.

Prosser has brought experience through leadership in the public sector, including her work as the deputy director for St. Paul Parks and Recreation and her involvement with Right Track, St. Paul's youth jobs program, which provides mentorship, professional skills training and career opportunities to young people.

For more than 100 years, Como Zoo has served St. Paul residents and surrounding communities, according to its website.

"I want to make sure that every-

one knows about the zoo and that we continue to provide free access to our community," Prosser said.

St. Paul Mayor Melvin Carter echoed this sentiment for his hopes of Prosser. "Her leadership will not only preserve Como's cherished legacy, but also shape a future that's more inclusive, engaging and innovative for all who visit," he said.

When speaking about her interests going forward, Prosser said that a new conservation plan will continue to expand on education, on operations around the zoo and conservatory and on better determining what species get chosen for what the zoo can manage.

Prosser also said she looks forward to furthering and deepening the zoo and conservatory's connection to the Right Track Apprentice Program, which provides paid career training to youth where cost is a barrier to employment. The program started at Como in 2022.

The zoo is open daily and welcomes approximately two million visitors a year, according to Matt Reinartz, zoo marketing and public relations manager. It is the second most visited cultural attraction in Minnesota.

According to pre-COVID data, the zoo has 153 animal species with 1,226 individual animals. The botanical collection has nearly 1,400

species with the main ones being orchids, ferns and palms.

The zoo's operating budget is \$7.7 million dollars with 43% of its revenue from the city of St. Paul's general fund and the remainder from earned revenue and donations.

Prosser brings experience from her work with the Minneapolis Fire Department, the Metropolitan Airports Commission and the city of Minneapolis, where she led management of strategic and business planning, municipal budgeting, program implementation and community engagement.

"Erica has demonstrated she is the right leader for Como Park Zoo & Conservatory," said Andy Rodriguez, director of St. Paul Parks and Recreation. "Under her direction, we are confident that Como will continue to inspire visitors, strengthen conservation and education efforts, and remain an impactful community asset for generations to come."

Said Prosser, "It is really incredible with the breadth of knowledge with the staff and I feel extremely lucky to have this opportunity." ■

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

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LIVES LIVED

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

**Janet Carney**

Janet Carney, 91, died Sept. 16, 2025.

Janet was born to Frank and Gertrude Shypulski on Nov. 20, 1933 and was the youngest of five children. She was preceded in death by her husband, Donald Carney, in 1979. Janet and Don raised their children in St. Paul and she was a homemaker for most of her married life.

After Don's passing, Janet moved into her childhood home near Como Park, where she lived until this year. Janet was funny and a joy to be around.

Janet was a faithful member of Maternity of Mary Catholic Church. She is survived by her four children, Patrick (Dee Dee) Carney, Kathleen (Keith) Hill, Colleen (Dale) Westerberg and Timothy (Denise) Carney; seven grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

George Corbey

George A. Corbey, 92, died Sept. 9, 2025. He was the son of Joseph and Mary Corbey, who emigrated from Aitou, Lebanon.

George had seven siblings: Bernice, Lucille, John, Genevieve, Celia, Agnes and Catherine. He married Mary Jane Tomsche, also of St. Paul, in 1955.

George was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army in 1954. He graduated from business college and proceeded to work for

Midway Finance Company. Thereafter, he became a restaurateur.

Active in parish ministries at Holy Childhood Church, George was on the finance committee to build the new church. He even attended the first-ever eighth-grade class at the school.

George, an honest and humble man, was quick with a joke and always ready to help others.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 64 years, Mary Jane. He is survived by his sister, Catherine Green; four sons, Thomas (Ronelle), Gary, Daniel and Robert; three grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

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

Barbara Langford

Barbara "Babbie" Langford, 90, died Sept. 16, 2025.

She worked as a teacher and then as a library assistant, primarily at St. Anthony Park Library. She loved doing Storytime with preschoolers and volunteered for Meals on Wheels.

Babbie is remembered for her kindness, her empathy, her bright smile and her ability to make people feel valued and loved.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Jack McGowan, and is survived by daughters Betsy (Fritz Kreiser), Cynthia (Tim) McGowan-Heath, Susan (Jack) McGowan-Stinski, Barbara, Anne

and Patty (Peter) Orme; sister Jo Lottsfeldt; 13 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and sisters-in-law and brother-in-law Patricia Cardozo and Sheila and Mark Hayes.

A gathering of family and friends will be held Dec. 29 at O'Halloran and Murphy on Snelling Avenue.

Rochelle Lunde

Rochelle Lunde, 79, Falcon Heights, died Sept. 8, 2025.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Jon; parents, Robert and Virginia Ortt; brothers Jerry (Barbara), Bob, Willard, Wilfred (Carol), and Mike (Bona); and sisters-in-law, Barbara Ortt (Jerry), Barbara Ortt (Bernie).

She is survived by her children, Holly Lindsey (Bill), Zachary Lunde (Jackie) and Kristofer Lunde; three grandchildren; and brother, Bernie Ortt.

Celebration of Life was scheduled for Sun., October 26, 2025, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Cremation Society of Minnesota, 1979 Old Hudson Road, St. Paul, MN 55119. Memorials may be directed to charity of your choice.

Stanley Olson

Stanley "Stan" Norris Olson, 79, died Sept. 12, 2025.

Born in Fort Dodge, Iowa; Stan lived his life with a deep commitment to faith, learning and service.

After completing studies at Waldorf College, St. Olaf College, Luther Seminary and Yale University, Olson first served the church as a parish pastor and seminary professor. While teaching at Luther Seminary in the 1980s, he lived in St. Anthony Park and was a member of St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church.

Stan served as bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's southwestern Minnesota synod, executive director for Voca-

tion and Education for the ELCA and president of both Wartburg Seminary and Trinity Seminary.

In retirement, Stan lived in Minneapolis. He is survived by his wife, Nancy, and daughters Maren and Christa. A service has been held.

Shirley Ann Santoro

Shirley (Lillehaugen) Santoro, 95, died Oct. 2, 2025. She was born in Drake, North Dakota, and raised in Bismarck, New York City and Minneapolis. A gifted violinist and pioneer in the classical music world, Shirley attended St. Olaf College and graduated from the University of Minnesota.

After beginning her professional violin career with the Hormel All-Girl Orchestra, she subsequently performed with symphonic orchestras nationwide — often one of only a few women in the ensemble. She later returned to the Twin Cities, where she was concertmaster of the Civic Orchestra of Minneapolis for over 40 years.

A passionate educator and chamber musician, Shirley treasured her class of violin students, in whom she engendered a true love of music. She was active in Thursday Musical, Schubert Club, WAMSO, SAI, Norway House and many other cultural organizations.

Most cherished was her musical partnership with her beloved husband, pianist Michael Santoro, with whom she performed and recorded widely.

Shirley was preceded in death by parents, Sigvald and Hazel Lillehaugen, sister, Ardis Nordland and first husband, Frederick Thomson Sr. She is survived by husband, Michael Santoro; children, Frederick Thomson Jr. (Allyson) and Kathleen Thomson (Bill Moss); and three grandchildren.

A funeral service was held at Como Park Lutheran Church.

Memorials preferred to Norway House, Como Park Lutheran Church, Thursday Musical or the Civic Orchestra of Minneapolis.

Lawrence Schreifels

Lawrence "Larry" Schreifels, 78, of Roseville, died Sept. 3, 2025.

Born on Jan. 14, 1947, in St. Cloud to Gilbert and Genevieve Schreifels, Larry grew up in St. Anthony Park, graduated from Murray High School in 1965 and earned his boiler license from St Paul Technical Vocational Institute. He proudly served in the National Guard and went on to become a bricklayer.

Larry later worked for 35 years as an operating and maintenance engineer at Riverview Hospital and United Hospital in St. Paul.

He had a passion for coaching football, hockey and softball at Langford Park. The Larry's Lemons girls' softball team won the St. Paul City Championship two years in a row.

Larry enjoyed fishing and cabin time and was a lifelong car enthusiast. A devoted sports fan, he cheered for the Minnesota Twins, Minnesota Vikings and University of Minnesota Golden Gophers. Larry loved dogs, and those who knew him will remember his kindness, humor and willingness to lend a hand.

Larry was preceded in death by his parents, Gilbert and Genevieve. He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Mary; daughters Laura (Doug) and Lynn; and two grandchildren. He is also survived by siblings, MaryAnn Bjork (Jim), Barbara Jungmann (Tom), Debbie Schreifels and Joyce Lehmann.

Service has been held, with interment at Roselawn Cemetery. ■

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- ❖ **ST. ANTHONY PARK LUTHERAN CHURCH**
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Sunday worship in-person: 9:30 AM
Wednesday community dinners: 5:00 PM
Music school, all-ages: Wed. evenings. saplc.org/music
- ❖ **ST. ANTHONY PARK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**
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- ❖ **ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**
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www.stmatthewsmn.org, Facebook: *stmatthewsmn*
Sunday Eucharist 10:30 AM | Faith formation 9:15 AM
Wednesday Eucharist 12:00 NOON followed by lunch
Contemplative worship: 5:00 PM, 2nd and 4th Sundays
11/27 Thanksgiving worship: 10:30 AM, Feast at NOON

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

Classifieds

Send your ad to classifieds@parkbugle.org or P.O. Box 8126, St. Paul, MN 55108. Ads are \$1.15 per word. Phone numbers, email addresses and websites are considered two words. Add a box or art for \$11 each. Next deadline: November 12, 2025.

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EVENTS AND MORE

Compiled by Kathy Henderson

boréal Art Loft

Opening reception for Lisa Himmelstrup pottery and the Lake Country Pastel Society's annual fall exhibition from 4 to 6 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 1.

The exhibit demonstrates the versatility of the pastel medium by showcasing a broad range of styles and subject matter shown in 49 paintings by 21 artists.

The show continues through Nov. 30 during boréal regular hours: Mondays–Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sundays, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Detail from "BeeBalm" by MaryAnn Cleary, one of many pastel works featured in the annual fall show. Submitted photo.

Goldstein Gallery

Opening reception for the exhibition "Resist and Reclaim: Exploring the Intersections of Black Liberation and Indigenous Sovereignty" from 5 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 6, at McNeal Hall, University of Minnesota St. Paul campus, 1985 Buford Ave.

Part of the College of Design's Design Justice Initiative, the exhibit features commissioned work by 20 Black and Indigenous women and femme-identifying artists with ties to Minnesota, who created original artworks from second-hand denim jackets.

Regular gallery hours: 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Tuesday–Saturday. Exhibit ends Feb. 20, 2026.

Larson Art Gallery

"The Human Condition" continues through Dec. 12 at the University of Minnesota, St. Paul Student Center, 2017 Buford Ave. Through a variety of mediums and styles, the artists explore the feelings, experiences

and connections that are uniquely human. Gallery hours: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Fridays during the fall.

Metro Deaf School hosts pancake breakfast & art festival

The 14th annual arts and crafts festival and pancake breakfast is from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 15, at 1125 Energy Park Drive.

Festival entry is free. The all-you-can-eat breakfast (pancakes, sausage, hash browns, eggs, and coffee or juice) is \$10 per child, \$15 per adult, or \$30 per family of four. Proceeds benefit the Student Life and Art department.

Peggy's Holiday Boutique

Fine Arts & Craft Show: Opens Saturday, Nov. 1, and runs through Sunday, Nov. 9, at the Roseville Skating Center, 2661 Civic Center Drive. Hours: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturdays, Nov. 1 and 8; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sundays, Nov. 2 and 9; 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday–Friday, Nov. 3–7. Works from 150 artists and crafters. Free.

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St. Matthew's

"The Spirit of Marbling," a Minnesota Marbling exhibit, continues through Nov. 23 at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 2136 Carter Ave., during regular office hours from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Wednesdays and Fridays and from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Sundays.

St. Anthony Park Garden Club

Guest speaker Courtney Tchida, co-creator of the MN SEED Project, will present "Seed Saving for Your Garden and Community," a talk on connecting people to free, locally adapted native seeds.

The meeting begins at 6:30 p.m., social time at 7 p.m., and the program at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 4, at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, 2323 Como Ave. Enter via the Luther Place door. To attend virtually, request a Zoom link at saggardenclub@gmail.com.

Alden Square: Pumpkins-in-the-Park

Daily viewing from Sunday, Oct. 26, through Thursday, Oct. 31, at 1169 Gibbs Ave. View carved pumpkins from community members. Nightly lighting around dusk. Pumpkins still in the park at 10 a.m. on Nov 1 will be composted. Sponsorship partner: Tom & Tim's Speedy Market, 2310 Como Ave.

Community sing

Join musicians Dan Chouinard and Ann Reed for a free community sing-along at 7 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 17 at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 2136 Carter Ave.

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 per adult and \$2 per child is appreciated.

Fall Flower Show: Continues through Nov. 30 in the Sunken Garden area.

Ikebana flower show: Nov. 3–9 in the Ordway Garden. Ikebana is the Japanese art of flower arranging. Watch the artists from the Ikebana International Minneapolis–St. Paul chapter create arrangements from fall flowers, leaves and berries at 10 a.m. on Monday, Nov. 3.

Senior Strolls: 4:30 to 6 p.m. on Tuesday Nov. 4, and from 9 to 10 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 18. Special time reserved for adults ages 55 and older.

"Wolves and Wild Lands:" A traveling exhibit from the International Wolf Center (Ely, Minn.) continues in the Exhibit Gallery through Jan. 4, 2026.

Through an immersive display and engaging graphics, guests are encouraged to consider how humans and wolves share the land. The display includes six preserved taxidermy specimens (five wolves and one coyote) presented within natural and cultural context.

Bell Museum

2088 Larpenteur Ave. W., Falcon Heights. See website for hours and registration: bellmuseum.umn.edu.

Collectors Day 2025: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 1. Community members share and showcase personal collections. Free with regular admission.

Events and More to p. 15

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Library Corner
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LIBRARY CORNER

Poetry slam celebrates SAP Library reopening

By Dave Healy

It was a long haul. Renovations to the St. Anthony Park Branch Library took much longer than expected, and the library was closed for much of the summer. When it finally reopened, a celebration was in order.

There was something else to celebrate as well: two new trees planted on the library's front lawn. They were purchased by the St. Anthony Park Branch Library Association, which organized the celebration, held Sept. 20 in front of the library.

The event included games, an art table, music, information tables by local nonprofits, refreshments and a poetry slam.

Original poems were read about trees, libraries, words and community. To read some of the poems from the poetry slam, visit the Bugle website at parkbugle.org. ■

Dave Healy lives in St. Anthony Park and is a former editor of the Bugle.



On Sept. 20, the St. Anthony Park Branch Library held a series of activities to celebrate the library's reopening after a temporary shutdown for maintenance and repairs over the summer. Pictured are (left) Dave Healy reading during the poetry slam. (Middle photo) Three volunteers manning the library's information table. (Right photo) Children played board games. Photos by Rita La Doux.

St. Anthony Park Library events

Compiled by Kathy Henderson

November features a variety of familiar favorites and ongoing programs at St. Anthony Park Library, 2245 Como Ave.

Holiday closing

All St. Paul public libraries will be closed on Tuesday, Nov. 11, in recognition of Veterans Day and on Thursday, Nov. 27, for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Special event

Literary Bridges

Re-homed and Re-Vamped. 10 to 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 15. Guest authors, Jessi Atherton, Alan Perry, Bethanymae and Jana Bouma read from their works.

Ongoing programs

Storytime in the Park

10:30 to 11:15 a.m. on Tuesdays, Oct. 28 and Nov. 4, at College Park, 2223 Carter Ave. Stories, songs, rhymes and puppets for children ages 5 and younger and their siblings with their caregivers.

In case of inclement weather, Storytime will be held in the SAP Library auditorium. The decision

to move to the library will be made by 9:30 a.m. on Storytime days and posted to sppl.org/calendar.

Shake Your Silties Out

10:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Fridays Oct. 31 and Nov. 7, 14 and 21 in the lower level auditorium. This early childhood playtime for children ages 5 and under with their caregivers includes stories and movement to foster a love of books and make new friends. Adults must stay with children for the entire session.

English Conversation Circle for Adults

4 to 5:30 p.m. on Thursdays, Nov. 6, 13 and 20. Join the University of Minnesota Retirees Volunteer Center and the Partners in English program for free English practice taking place in the library's lower level auditorium.

Paw Pals: Read with Enzo

10:15 to 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 8. Youth ages 5–12 can read to Enzo, a friendly dog who loves to listen to stories. Register in advance for a single reading session (maximum of 15 minutes to allot time for others) by calling the library at 651-642-0411 or emailing SaintAnthonyPark@ci.stpaul.mn.us.

Handiwork @your library

10 a.m. to noon on Thursday, Nov. 13. Knit, crochet, embroider and socialize with neighbors. Bring your own supplies. Co-hosted by SPPL and St. Anthony Park Area Seniors.

Adult book club

6:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 24. Join us in the lower-level auditorium for conversation and refreshments. Call the library at 651-642-0411 to find out November's book selection.

Tuesdays with a Scholar

12:30 to 2 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 18 (online). Guest: Vanan Murugesan, the executive director of the Sahan Journal, a nonprofit newsroom serving Minnesota's immigrant and communities of color. For topics, presenters and registration, visit rclreads.org.

Great Decisions

India: Between China, the West, and the Global South

10 to 11:30 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 7. Online version of the annual series on critical issues facing America. Study the topics, then join discussions led by expert speakers. Register at rclreads.org. ■

Compiled by Kathy Henderson.

Events and More from p. 14

Brandon Kilbourne poetry reading and conversation: 7 to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 12. Doors open at 6 p.m. Event celebrates his new book, "Natural History." Kilbourne will be joined by Sushma Reddy, Breckenridge chair of Ornithology and curator of birds at the

Bell Museum. Recommended for ages 14 and older. Free. Register at bellmuseum.umn.edu.

Senior activities

Due to limited space, we were unable to list St. Anthony Park Area Seniors in-person and virtual activities.

To see this month's activities, visit sapaseniors.org/calendar. For more information call 651-642-9052 or email sc@sapaseniors.org. ■

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

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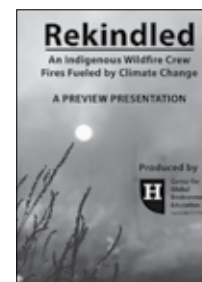
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St. Anthony Park Branch Library Association
presents

Wildfires!



From devastating West Coast blazes to smoke from burning northern forests—wildfires increasingly impact our daily lives. Join video producer John Shepard of Hamline University who will present segments from the upcoming **Rekindled** documentary, and UMN forest scientist Lee Frelich as they share insights about Minnesota's historic and current wildfires, evolving forest management practices, climate change impacts, and lessons to be learned from Indigenous approaches to living with fire.

In partnership with the Saint Anthony Park Library

Thursday, November 13, 6:30–7:30 pm
Library Auditorium | 2245 Como Ave.
More information at sapbla.org and cgee.hamline.edu/current-initiatives/rekindled



CPHS COUGAR SPORTS

Soccer teams shine at Allianz Field

By Eric Erickson

Dreams of playing in a professional stadium rarely become reality for high school student athletes. But for soccer players in the St. Paul City Conference, there's a shot.

Thanks to Minnesota United and their relationship with the St. Paul Public Schools, two high schools get to compete on the perfect pitch at Allianz Field for one magical night every year.

"Friday Night Lights" hit another level for the varsity girls and boys from Como Park and Humboldt on Oct. 3 when they competed for the St. Paul Cup.

Bell Bank sponsored the game and provided free tickets to some 2,400 spectators, who took advantage of the games and produced an energetic environment.

Como and Humboldt were the first high school teams to ever play at Allianz back in 2021 when their traditional Mayor's Cup Matches were celebrated on the big stage.

In 2022, Harding and Washington were invited to play for the St. Paul Cup and that became the consistent branding of the match going forward.

The 2023 St. Paul Cup featured Central versus Highland. Johnson got its opportunity in 2024 against fellow East Side school Harding.

And in the fall of 2025, Como



The Como girls' soccer team at Allianz Field for the St. Paul Cup. Photo by Justin Oakman Photography.

and Humboldt were back at the top of the cycle.

It doesn't matter what the match is called or where it's played — the intensity and excitement surrounding the rivalry game between Como and Humboldt is bigger than anything else on the schedule.

But if you're lucky enough to be a varsity player during the year the match is played in Minnesota United's stadium — you get to make memories that last a lifetime.

Girls match: The Cougars came into Allianz with a record of 7-5-2 for the season. The Humboldt Hawks entered with a program-best record of 12-1-1 and a top 10 state ranking.

Humboldt started with strong possession and worked their way to a goal by sophomore Way Ber Paw in the 15th minute.

Como responded within four minutes as freshman star Alayla Salas pulled in a pass with a precise touch and slotted her shot into the upper corner to level the match at one.

Humboldt has their own freshman star in Louisa Schmidt, who pounced on a loose ball in the box and calmly passed it by the keeper to stake a 2-1 halftime lead.

With 23 minutes remaining in the match, Humboldt increased its lead to 3-1 when seventh grader Diana Htoo launched a shot from outside the box that spun into the side netting.

But the Cougars never, ever quit. With seven minutes left, senior captain Lucy Dietz struck a direct



The Como boys celebrate their win against Humboldt in the St. Paul Cup. Photo by Justin Oakman Photography.

free kick from 30 yards out that sailed into the back of the net to make it 3-2.

Boys match: The Cougar boys brought their 9-5-1 record to Allianz to face the 7-5-2 Hawks. Como came out with a vengeance, scoring two goals in the first 10 minutes.

Junior Stephan N'da took a touch to settle a cross from fellow junior Pah Chi and efficiently shot the ball into the right corner. Less than three minutes later, N'da served a cross to senior attacker Blessed Htoo, who blasted a header into the net.

After the dominant start, Como maintained control, with the score holding at 2-0 through halftime and beyond.

Things tightened up with 13 minutes remaining when Humboldt's

Xavier Harris scored on a free kick from beyond the top of the box.

However, Como's two-goal margin was restored with 3:56 on the clock. Junior midfielder Patrick Tennison launched a shot no Como teammate or fan will ever forget, scoring from 28 yards to seal the deal.

"It was an amazing feeling," Tennison said. "Greatest game of my life."

Senior captain Henry Simmons shared the sentiment. As his teammates celebrated their 3-1 victory, Simmons couldn't stop smiling. "I'm proud of how we conducted ourselves. We played our hearts out and made this the most memorable game of our lives." ■

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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