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# Park Bugle

St. Anthony Park / Como Park  
Falcon Heights / Lauderdale

parkbugle.org  
December 2025

## Falcon Heights, New Life churches pursuing merger

By Bill Brady

Falcon Heights United Church of Christ is in the process of merging with New Life Presbyterian Church of Roseville.

The as-yet unnamed new entity will make its home in the current Falcon Heights Church at the corner of Holton Street and Garden Avenues. The future of the New Life Presbyterian campus at 965 Larpenteur Ave. is still being decided.

The two congregations have been in merger discussions for quite some time. The process got jump-started in July when both congregations voted “by comfortable margins” to approve a plan of union, which set out general principles for a merger and laid out a timeline leading to “the birth of a new church” by this January.

Meanwhile, joint Sunday services are being held periodically, alternating between their two church buildings, and a “Vision Team” composed of New Life and Falcon Heights members, is having conversations with congregants and members of the surrounding neighborhood.

“These are designed to identify neighborhood and congregational assets and insights,” said Pastor Rick King on the Falcon Heights UCC website. “These will go into discerning our new church’s vision (how the world will be different because the church is here), mission (how we bring that vision into being) and values (how we embody that vision and carry out that mission).”

“We’re hoping the Holy Spirit reveals a new name for this new church that lets everybody know who we are and what we are about.”

### A dual identity

The new church will be dually affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the United Church of Christ. Technically, 50% of its members will be counted as PCUSA, and 50% UCC. Denominational support funds will also be divided 50-50 between the two governing entities.

Mergers across different Protestant denominations are not uncommon. For example, a similar merger is currently underway in Shawano, Wisconsin. On a more global level, the UCC and Presbyterian faiths are in “full communion,” meaning they recognize each other’s sacraments and allow ministers to transfer between branches, which presumably facilitates mergers.



Pastors Rick King, of Falcon Heights UCC, and Riz Prakasim, of New Life Presbyterian, discuss details of the upcoming merger in a podcast to their congregations. *Submitted photo.*

### For New Life, an old story

For New Life congregants, the merger process is familiar terrain. New Life was itself the product of a 2014 merger between Knox Presbyterian in the Hamline-Midway neighborhood and North Como Presbyterian on Larpenteur.

New Life Pastor Riz Prakasim helped to steer that process and learned that it naturally involves a sense of loss for both congregations.

“But the beautiful thing about grief is that it is not the end of the story,” he said in a recent YouTube podcast he co-hosted with Pastor King. “We are a resurrection people. When something ends, something else begins to look forward to.” ■

*Bill Brady is copy editor and writer for the Park Bugle. He lives in Falcon Heights.*

## Cougars run like the wind to grab state class AA cross-country title

By Eric Erickson  
Sports analysis

The Como Park High School boys cross-country team entered the 2025 season knowing that a team trophy at the state meet was within reach.

The Cougars returned all their varsity scorers after finishing fourth in state during the 2024 campaign. Coach Tim Kersey saw his team make steady gains through each of their four previous state meets, rising from 14th to 11th place, then to ninth and then to fourth.

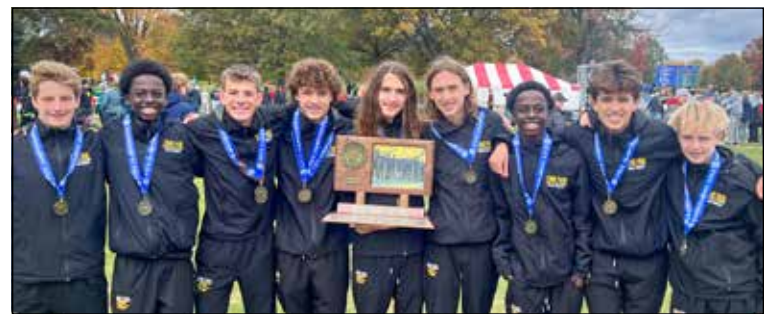
But all the way to the top?

It would take an amazing race with personal bests to beat the field at the Minnesota Class AA State Meet.

And that’s exactly what the Cougars produced: They ran their best race of the season at the most critical time.

“To execute under pressure is the challenge at the state meet, and everyone found a way to help the team,” Kersey said. “Their performances were exceptional.”

Como junior Charlie Loth ran the best race of his life to date, hanging with the lead pack and then pulling away from the competition down the home stretch.



The Como Park boys cross-country team earned the Minnesota Class AA State Championship on Nov. 1 at the University of Minnesota Golf Course. It was the Cougars’ fifth consecutive state meet appearance and their first title. *Photo by Eric Erickson.*

He crossed the finish line for the 5K course with a personal record of 15:31, becoming Minnesota’s Class AA individual state champion.

“Charlie’s state championship run was sensational,” Kersey said. “Even splits right on target and stayed off the lead until there were only a few in contention and with his endurance, kick and determination, he won the race.”

Loth was immediately pulled aside by a couple of members of the media to ask about his historic run—a first for Como Park. But all Charlie wanted to do was track his teammates.

Senior Ben Clark came across the line at 15:49, good for ninth place in a field of 160 runners. Ju-

nior Arthur Anderson was next in 11th place at 15:56. Both of those times were personal records and earned all-state honors.

Senior Hazel Small placed 23rd in the team competition with a season-best time of 16:25, and sophomore Logan Small secured the title with a 37th-place finish and a personal-record time of 16:42.

The combination of those results were instantly tallied on the big scoreboard, revealing a score of 75 for Como Park, 14 ahead of top-ranked Perham’s 89, and 57 points clear of third-place Orono.

Como fans erupted, exhausted runners embraced and Anderson worked his way over to find his

*State Championship to p. 15*

## CITY FILES

## St. Anthony Park and Como community councils news

## District 10 Community Council

### Planning for 2026

While most details are yet to come, District 10 is setting preliminary dates for its 2026 community outreach and cleanup events, to help plan and increase opportunities for collaboration with the city and other community partners.

District 10 will kick off 2026 with its annual Blizzard Breakfast at North Dale Recreation Center. The date is set for Feb. 7.

Stay tuned for more details, or connect with District 10 at its community meetings at 7 p.m. on the first Wednesday of the month to help with planning.

Questions? Visit [District10ComoPark.org/Events](http://District10ComoPark.org/Events) or email [organizer@district10comopark.org](mailto:organizer@district10comopark.org).

### Como curb cleanup reporting

The District 10 Community Council partnered with the Capitol Region Watershed District on this year's Como Curb Cleanup program.

Thank you to everyone who participated in our 2025 curb-cleaning efforts, we had our highest participation yet! Your work helped reduce nutrient algae flow into the lake. Once we've collected the data, we'll share results in the D10 newsletter and on the D10 Como Park website.

If you participated in curb-cleaning, even if you didn't register with us, you can still report your efforts at [District10ComoPark.org/Cleanup](http://District10ComoPark.org/Cleanup) before Dec. 22.

### Monthly socials

The District 10 Community Council once a month has a strictly social gathering. This agenda-free meet-up happens between our two monthly meetings on the second Wednesday of each month, beginning at 6 p.m. at Half-Time Rec (1013 Front Ave.)

For further details, check the weekly D10 newsletter or visit [District10ComoPark.org/D10Social](http://District10ComoPark.org/D10Social).

### Upcoming District 10 meetings

District 10 board meetings are hybrid on Zoom and at the Como Streetcar Station, 1224 Lexington Parkway. They are scheduled at 7 p.m. Wednesdays on Dec. 3 and Dec. 17.

Submitted by District 10 executive director Shevek McKee.

## District 12 Community Council

### Lucid Thomas leaves District 12

Lucid Thomas, District 12's renter outreach coordinator for the past two years, has left his position to join the East Side Freedom Library ([eastsidefreedomlibrary.org](http://eastsidefreedomlibrary.org)).

While at District 12, Lucid helped renters find their voice and place in the community, said Zev Radziwill, executive director of St. Anthony Park District 12 Community Council. "He led outreach across District 12—hosting renter forums, guiding activities at the Westgate Commons Park Summer Activation program,

and playing an integral role in community meals and the Hampden Park ice cream social."

### Upcoming Highway 280 closure

As the Minnesota Department of Transportation prepares for a full closure and reconstruction of Highway 280 in 2026, District 12's Transportation Committee Co-Chairs Pat Thompson and Scott Jensen recently led a small group of neighbors and officials on a guided look at the Raymond Avenue and Energy Park Drive intersection, an area expected to experience heavier traffic during the detour period.

The discussion focused on pedestrian and bicycle safety, potential increases in semi-truck use and the importance of keeping the corridor safe and connected.

MnDOT's Highway 280 project will include major bridge work, resurfacing, drainage improvements and stormwater upgrades between I-94 and I-35W. Local traffic reroutes are expected along Raymond Avenue, Territorial Road, Hampden Avenue, and Energy Park Drive.

"This isn't just a transportation project—it's a community project," Thompson said. "We want to make sure that when 280 closes, our neighborhood remains safe and connected for everyone."

District 12 officials will continue coordinating with MnDOT and Ramsey County to keep residents informed and address safety concerns as construction begins next April. A phone number will be provided to report any trouble spots.



District 12 Transportation Committee leaders recently led a small group of people on a guided tour at the Raymond Avenue and Energy Park Drive intersection in conjunction with the Highway 280 project scheduled for work in 2026. Photo courtesy District 12 Community Council.

### Connecting at renters forum

District 12 officials on Oct. 29 hosted a renters forum at The Legends at Berry, an affordable senior apartment community in south St. Anthony Park, home to longtime neighbors, new immigrants and elderly residents.

Residents from across Westgate Park learned about District 12's work, met council members and explored ways to get involved. Attendees shared feedback on

programs like this past summer's Westgate Commons Park Summer Activation, a series of pop-up play days and community events.

### Upcoming District 12 meetings

District 12 encourages neighbors to attend monthly committee meetings, available in-person and online. Find meeting dates at [sapcc.org](http://sapcc.org).

Submitted by District 12 executive director Zev Radziwill.

## New council members in Falcon Heights

By Anne Holzman

Falcon Heights will see two new faces on its city council in January.

**Georgiana May** led the vote totals in the Nov. 4 election receiving 1,137 votes or 41.89% of voters choosing her.

**Jim Mogen** was close behind with 1,074 or 39.57%. There were two open seats, and voters chose two. All Falcon Heights City Council seats are at-large.

Pending Ramsey County certification, May and Mogen will join the council in January. Council members serve a four-year term.

Jeremy Hallowanger finished in third place with 391 votes, or 14.41%.

Incumbent Eric Meyer announced in early October that he was ending his campaign. His withdrawal after the August deadline could have set the city up for a special election, but candidates apparently succeeded in getting the word out to voters that they should choose from the other names. Meyer garnered 94 votes, or 3.46%.

Besides Meyer, council member Melanie Leehy is also leaving the council. She served two terms. ■

Anne Holzman is a Twin Cities freelance writer covering local government news for the Bugle.

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SCAN FOR MORE

# On the menu at Hey Bear Café: ecofriendly meals

*Cafe features a small menu, with meals made from scratch*

By Mady Leick

At Hey Bear Café in south St. Anthony Park, the restaurant serves breakfast food six days a week that more than scratches the surface.

Located at 791 Raymond Ave., the family-owned business features a menu of only eight food choices. But nearly everything is made from scratch. Biscuits are made weekly. Beans, beets and all sauces are made in-house.

The menu centers on classic breakfast sandwiches, including Reubens and Cubanos, along with coffees, teas and soft drinks.

"We have a smaller menu that's focused," owner Sampson Benti said. "It helps us manage the inventory and also keeps everything fresh and sustainable."

Benti took over in July after the previous owner closed the restaurant in May. He said he owes a lot to the former owner, Sean Person, who opened the restaurant in September 2024.

Benti said taking over the restaurant has not been easy, but the café has enjoyed strong community backing. "We get a lot of support from the neighborhood," he said. "About 50% or more of our customers are repeat customers."

Hey Bear manager Yogi Elliot said it took a while to get their menu right, but they've made changes to improve the original recipes. She said they completely revised their biscuit recipe, changing the shape from circle to square.

"Whenever we've changed, we've changed for the better," Benti said.

"We've made it simpler and we have not compromised any of the qualities that they [previous owners] tried to sustain."

The kitchen can be seen from the front of the restaurant. Inside customers can watch their food being made to order.

"The kitchen is small and efficient," Benti said.

With daily specials, the six-table interior contains pictures of bears, a signature of the restaurant. Hanging above the condiment station is Hey Bear's mission statement that reads: "We're dedicated to serving our community with healthy and delicious food in eco-friendly ways."

The restaurant uses mainly compostable packaging to minimize its impact on the environment, according to the mission statement.



Hey Bear Café is a breakfast stop in south St. Anthony Park that serves up home-styled sustainable meals. Photo by Mady Leick.

Hey Bear plans to expand its hours and is in the process of adding a nonalcoholic full bar, opening the business to Gen Z customers, who are drinking less than other generations.

Benti also hopes to open additional Hey Bear locations. ■

Mady Leick is a third-year University of Minnesota journalism and English student serving as an intern reporter for the Park Bugle.

## Ruby Thompson's art on St. Paul's utility boxes

By Sarah CR Clark

St. Anthony Park's own Ruby Thompson was selected by Forecast Public Art as one of four Minnesota-based artists to have their work featured on utility boxes in downtown St. Paul.

According to Forecast, the utility box project sought to transform "everyday infrastructure into storytelling canvases that reflect the identity, memory and vitality of Saint Paul."

Thompson knows a thing or two about St. Paul. Now a resident of the city's Frogtown neighborhood, she grew up in St. Anthony Park. As a young student, Thompson attended the Friends School (in the Midway neighborhood) and graduated from Avalon School (in the SAP neighborhood) in 2012.

Thompson later moved to Olympia, Washington, to attend Evergreen State College, where she studied art. After spending time on the West Coast, Thompson was excited to return to St. Paul and make it her home again after graduating.

Thompson knew she loved making art from a young age. Though, at the time, her elementary school didn't have a designated visual arts class, learning and experimenting with artistic expression was built

into every lesson. For Thompson, that early interdisciplinary exposure worked.

In July 2025, Forecast Public Arts extended a call to St. Paul artists and from the 123 responders, Thompson and her fellow winners were notified in mid-August. By the end of August, 16 utility boxes in and around Mears Park and Kellogg Mall Park were transformed.

Forecast stated, "From the story of the Underground Railroad to Southeast Asian family dinners to the Red Caps of Union Depot and native species of plants and animals of the Mississippi, each artist offers a new way to see into the history and people of our capital city."

Each artist's work covers four sides of four utility boxes. When asked if all 16 sides featured its own image, Thompson replied, "Yeah, basically. One of mine actually has a smaller box on the box, for a total of 17."

Thompson's utility boxes feature different ecosystems found in St. Paul: the Mississippi River, floodplain forests, oak savannahs and one regarding local nocturnal animals.

"I've always liked combining science and art," Thompson said. "I've vaguely been interested in botanical and scientific illustration, but

I also enjoy showing the personality of plants and animals which is harder to do in technical work."

One way that Ruby illustrated the personality of plants and animals in this project was to include folk-art inspired ornamental borders around her images.

Those hard-working borders had a second job, which she described in her artist statement: "I wanted to play with the three-dimensionality of the boxes by having borders around each side that connected to one another, showing their relationship to one another—we are all part of one whole."

Thompson created each image digitally in Procreate. Then the final images were printed on durable, weather-hardy vinyl wraps.

"This project was a lot bigger than the size in which I usually work," Thompson said. "I make a lot of digital portraits, so comprehending how large and detailed these images would end up was a challenge."

Thompson describes herself as an artist working full-time hours for part-time pay. She paints portraits of humans and pets and designs prints for the Friends School Mother's Day Weekend Plant Sale at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds. Her current favorite

mediums are watercolor, gouache and fiber.

Thompson invites all her neighbors to "slow down and look at the art around." Specifically, "walk around downtown St. Paul once it's snowing because there's going to be a lot of very brightly colored things to look at," Thompson said.

For more about Ruby's art, visit @rubylith.art on Instagram. ■

Sarah CR Clark is a regular Bugle freelance writer.



Rudy Thompson is one of four Minnesota artists to have their work featured on utility boxes in downtown St. Paul. Submitted photo.



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# Park Bugle

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

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## EDITORIAL

### From the desk of the editor

By Scott Carlson

#### A cornucopia of donations, news

As we move into the heart of the Bugle's fall fundraising campaign, we appreciate all of our supporters—individuals, businesses and nonprofits alike.

Two months into our 2025 fall fund drive, the Bugle has raised some \$32,000, and we expect additional contributions in December, traditionally the busiest time of the year for charitable giving. As do-

nations continue to stream in, we value every contribution.

As we publish our last issue of the Bugle for 2025, there is a cornucopia of news filling our pages. Some of those stories include:

- Eric Erickson's report on the Como Park Senior High School boys cross-country team winning the State AA cross-country championship.
- Transition Town's plans to launch a free e-bike program.

- Our annual holiday and winter events guide.

- A look at Hey Bear Café, a new breakfast restaurant.

We had so many stories this month that we simply couldn't fit them all into print.

One of them is a report about a group of members from St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church who traveled to Turkey for sightseeing and learning.

#### Seasonal greetings for all our readers

The Bugle board and staff wish you an abundance of blessings as you celebrate special holiday observances whether Christmas, Hanukkah or Kwanzaa.

May you experience peace, joy and a happy holiday season. ■

Scott Carlson is the managing editor of the Bugle.

## Federal agents raid Bro-Text textile plant

By Anshu Patel

Federal agents in ICE, FBI and HSI vests faced neighborhood resistance from demonstrators during a raid Tuesday morning at the Bro-Text facility in south St. Anthony Park.

Witnesses said agents arrived around 9 a.m. and detained about 15 workers at Bro-Text, 800 N. Hampden Ave. A family member whose uncle and father were detained said that Bro-Text workers were held in the breakroom and asked for evidence of their legal statuses. Those who were able to confirm their statuses were released.

Observers described clashes between officers and a growing crowd of around 40 people. The agents became increasingly belligerent after protestors attempted to block vans with detained workers from leaving, spraying a chemical irritant that appeared to be pepper spray into the crowd.

Another family member, waiting to hear updates on her cousin at

the Bishop Henry Whipple Federal Building, said the released Bro-Text workers notified other families of the operations.

"A lot of these people have been working here for over 20 years," she said. "So they all know each other."

The St. Paul ICE field office did not respond to requests for comment.

According to witness Donna Goodlaxson, who lives just three blocks from the Bro-Text facility, many of the observers were concerned locals. One group arrived after they heard about the raid while taking their children to the school bus stop in Midway.

Goodlaxson captured video of one parent being detained by an officer. The footage shows a woman with her hands zip-tied being escorted into an unmarked gray Dodge Charger.

The masked agents with no visible identification refused requests from crowd members for their badge numbers.

"People were trying to prevent those vehicles with the people that were being detained from leaving the scene," Goodlaxson said. "So there was a line of probably at least 10 (vehicles) that were driving north through the tape that had been put across to keep observers out."

St. Paul Mayor Melvin Carter, told KARE11 outside Bro-Text that local police were not involved in the operation.

"As a reminder, our St. Paul police officers will always identify themselves. They wear clearly marked SPPD uniforms, display their badges, and, when relevant, produce a warrant," Carter said in a social media statement.

"Our officers will help de-escalate situations when possible. And they do not wear face coverings."

Goodlaxson said there was increased police presence in the area.

"I saw at least five St. Paul police cars. They were driving behind the food co-op, they were driving through the Section 8 parking

space of housing that is just east of Raymond," she said.

U.S. Senator Tina Smith, D-Minn., denounced the Bro-Text raids in a statement to the Park Bugle. "When federal officers show up en masse with no explanation, it scares people and creates chaos in our neighborhoods. And Donald Trump and Kristi Noem shutting out local leaders and law enforcement just makes everything harder," she said.

"What happened in St. Paul today raises a lot of questions, and Minnesotans deserve clear answers," Smith added.

Indivisible Twin Cities said it planned to hold a vigil at the Bro-Text facility in response to the federal raids on Wednesday, Nov. 18 at 8:45 a.m. ■

Anshu Patel is a University of Minnesota graduate student and a freelance writer who wrote this story for the Bugle.

## Online conversations reflect community care for local landmarks

By Laura Adrian

Since I started with the Park Bugle in December 2021, our social media presence and reach has grown steadily.

Over the years, I've noticed these platforms do more than just share news—they create space for conversations about events and happenings in our Bugleland community.

Recently, one post that sparked lively discussion concerned the

fate of the Old Muskego Church on Luther Seminary's campus. As Luther Seminary prepares to sell its upper campus, the future remains uncertain for the Old Muskego Church—originally built by Norwegian immigrants in Wisconsin and relocated to St. Paul in 1904.

On our Facebook page, community members shared fond memories of the historic site. One person recalled playing "church" there as a child. Another mentioned they had once called it the "Mosquito

Church," only later realizing it's *Muskego*, not *mosquito*!

One commenter suggested relocating the church to Augsburg University or back to Wisconsin. Another shared a story from the 1970s, when the church's chalice was stolen—and returned years later by the person who had taken it, reportedly while they were dying of cancer.

Others expressed hope that the Old Muskego Church will be preserved.

It was intriguing how many memories and emotions are intertwined with this historic landmark.

Social media has become a modern gathering place—a space for reminiscing, sharing stories and generating ideas for how to move forward.

Come join us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter to be part of the conversation. ■

Laura Adrian is social media specialist for the Park Bugle.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Clear thoughts on a murky subject

Thanks to Ann Juergens and Eliza Swedenborg for their thoughtful and timely reflections on subjects of great concern to many Bugle readers: "What's ahead for Luther Seminary campus and the University of Minnesota Golf Course?" (In the November 2025 Bugle)

Thanks, too, to the Bugle for including this thorough explanation of what's at stake now and how past decisions are still in play (i.e.,

commandeering Dakota land in the mid-19th century).

As the writers noted: "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."

Mary Mergenthal  
Como Park

## Upcoming Bugle deadlines

Here are our Bugle deadlines for the next three issues. Early submission of articles is greatly appreciated.

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.

**Please note:** December paper deliveries may be slightly delayed due to the holidays.

### January 2026:

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

### February:

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

### March: Wellness Guide

**Copy/ad deadline:** Feb. 11  
**Publication:** Feb. 24

COMMENTARY

# The perils of time travel

## On the past, present and future of Breck Woods

By Eliza Swedenborg

Recently, I hosted a group of community members for a small time-travel experiment to explore the future of Breck Woods.

We were just under a dozen people, gathering for a few hours, equipped with our own memories and imaginations, and teamed up with the living Woods themselves.

### A look back

Before rushing forward, we took a gentle reunion tour through years past, first to the buzzing wetland back before European settlers arrived at this small nook of Turtle Island. Then to the laughter and wonder and likely mischief of Breck School students wandering from their brand new campus buildings into the Woods a full century back.

We followed into the quiet contemplation of Luther Seminary students on their walking commute between homes on Eustis Street and the campus. And finally to our own memories—owls, bug bites, fallen trees and forts; a mink, a sandpiper, a splash-down in the

pond; and an irresistible invitation to explore as if accompanied by Piglet and Pooh (“As soon as I saw you, I knew an adventure was going to happen”).

It was a quick tour, but truly a rich one. We could have stayed longer, but our itinerary led us onward.

### Now to the future

So, to the future we went. This time, slower. Quietly sensing into what could be.

We imagined the Breck Woods of the future infused with more life. It was more accessible to all members of the community, and it was reaching and strengthening more hearts, bodies and minds. All while retaining the Woods’ spirit: sacred, untamed. And all in the realm of the possible.

I didn’t expect the pain I felt at “re-entry.” Of coming home to the present time, to the reality and speed of decisions being made about the Woods now.

But after our little experimental time travel journey to the future, we looked again to the most recent plans for the Woods’ development. The latest available

*“The future enters us in just this way, to transform itself within us long before it happens.”*

— Rainer Maria Rilke

concept from the developer—as of a Sept. 23 presentation to Lauderdale City Council—showed a 68-unit cooperative building penetrating through the middle of the Woods, from Hoyt down toward the Woods’ pond, disturbing at least 2.5 acres and dissecting the remnants. It was crushing.

I am looking forward to adding many new neighbors to this community. Apartments, condos, senior housing: Yes, yes, and yes.

AND development doesn’t need to happen in the middle of Breck Woods.

Surely we collectively—the community, developers, our city government officials and Luther Seminary—are clever enough to figure out how to shift much of the development out of the Woods, and conserve and revitalize the Woods remaining?



What will the life of the Breck Woods be after Luther Seminary sells its long-time campus home off Como Avenue in St. Anthony Park? It is one question to be considered in a workshop called “Postcards from the Future,” a project explore what our collective imagination holds for the future of land in transition in the SAP community. Photo by Janet Wight.

Surely we are patient enough to let exciting and creative and collaborative ways forward emerge?

Surely we can figure out how to work toward a shared vision of the future, rather than work against competing interests?

I hope that by the time this commentary comes to print my concerns (some of them, anyway) are resolved. But I cannot actually see the future. So just in case, here I am.

This workshop was part of the “Postcards from the Future,” a project to explore what our collective imagination holds for the future of land in transition in our community due to the sale of the

Luther Seminary campus (including Breck Woods) and the University of Minnesota’s Les Bolstad Golf Course.

The project is supported by Transition Town–All St. Anthony Park and Friends of Breck Woods.

To learn more, save the date for Thursday, Jan. 8, for the St. Anthony Park Branch Library forum, and mark your calendars to visit our exhibit at boréal Gifts & Goods during the month of March. ■

*Eliza Swedenborg is a board member of Friends of Breck Woods and a member of Transition Town–All St. Anthony Park.*

## Bugle fundraiser update

The Bugle’s annual fall fundraising campaign is continuing, with scores of donor contributions helping boost and grow our operations.

As of Nov. 13, the Bugle had received \$32,688 in donations from individuals, businesses and non-profits in the first four and a half months of fiscal 2025-26.

We will publish an updated list of our latest donors in the Bugle’s January issue.

Each month the Bugle staff endeavors to keep you well informed on a wide array of community

news and information. We are eager to build community turning readers into neighbors.

As we head deep into the holiday season, we thank you all for your financial support and confidence. There is still plenty of time to join in supporting your community newspaper.

You can give online at parkbugle.org or with a check sent to The Park Bugle, PO Box 8126, St. Paul, MN 55108. Every gift matters.

Scott Carlson  
managing editor

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## SCHOOL NEWS

## School news around the town

Compiled by Janet Wight

### Hmong College Prep Academy (HCPA)

Submitted by Anna Her, creative content coordinator

The prep academy's talented band students represented the school as part of the University of St. Thomas Honor Band in October. They spent the day learning from college faculty and guest conductor Joseph Cheung from China.

The day was capped off with an evening concert and the opportunity to reconnect with two HCPA alumni.

### Metro Deaf School

Submitted by Susan Outlaw, executive director

Metro Deaf School's volleyball team won the City Conference championship in October for the first time in the school's history.



The Metro Deaf School's volleyball team won the City Conference championship in October. Photo submitted by the school.

The school also held its 14th annual arts and crafts festival and all-you-can-eat pancake breakfast on Nov. 15. Proceeds from this family-friendly event went to support the student life and art departments.

### Great River School

Submitted by Aja Parham, communications coordinator

Families of prospective students in grades one through six are invited to attend one of the upcoming elementary open houses. These sessions provide the chance to meet the program director, take a tour, learn more about the school and ask questions.

Open houses will be held from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 5, and from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 21. Register at [tinyurl.com/GRS-open-houses](http://tinyurl.com/GRS-open-houses) or email Karen Amway at [enroll@greatriverschool.org](mailto:enroll@greatriverschool.org).

### Murray Middle School

Submitted by Principal Jamin McKenzie and Stefanie Folkema

Forty-nine eighth graders, five teachers and three family members participated in Murray's inaugural field trip to Washington, D.C., in October.

Murray's social studies teachers—Kareem Aal, Janey Atchison, Kirsten Croone and Carrie Newman—planned the trip. Despite the government shutdown, the group was able to visit many monuments, memorials and historic sites during the four-day tour.



Murray Middle School students and friends participated in the school's inaugural field trip to Washington, D.C. Submitted photo.

The Murray delegation visited several major attractions including the White House, Lincoln Memorial, Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, Thomas Jefferson Memorial and Washington Monument. They also visited the National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial, Ford's Theatre, Gettysburg, the Library of Congress, Howard University and the Catoclin Mountain Orchard.

In other news, Murray is holding a book fair at Barnes & Noble on Dec. 3 from 6 to 8 p.m. The winter band and orchestra concert will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Dec. 16.

### St. Anthony Park Elementary School

Submitted by Principal Phillip Hutcheson



SAP 5th grader Margot with counselor Errol Edwards. Submitted photo.

St. Anthony Park Elementary School recently held an assembly to celebrate students who exemplify the Wolfpack Way—superb safety, remarkable respect and robust responsibility. The assembly coincided with Bullying Prevention Month. The students were asked “Who would stand up for you” and “Who would have your back?”

A fifth-grader named Margot was chosen by her classmates as one of the recipients of

the special Upstander Award given to students who are most likely to support and protect classmates.

October was filled with outdoor learning. Third and fifth graders took trips to the Belwin Conservancy in Afton.

Students had the opportunity to explore the outdoors through classes on predator and prey relationships. They also learned about birding. The students have been practicing these new skills in Langford Park, which is adjacent to the school.

### Twin Cities German Immersion School

Submitted by Paige Yurczyk, communication and community outreach manager



The Minnesota Council on the Teaching of Languages and Cultures has named Elizabeth Zehnpfennig, executive director of the Twin Cities German Immersion School, as the recipient of its 2025 administrator award.

Zehnpfennig was selected for her outstanding leadership and commitment to world language education as well as her significant contributions to intercultural learning within both the TCGIS community and the broader language immersion network in Minnesota.

TCGIS, a free public charter school located in St. Paul's Como Park neighborhood, is now accepting applications for the 2026-2027 school year. Applications are due by Jan. 30.

German language proficiency is not required for enrollment. For more information visit [tcgis.org/enrollment](http://tcgis.org/enrollment). ■

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



## PreK-12 School Choice Fair

Discover an SPPS school you'll love!

Saturday, December 13, 2025

9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Saint Paul RiverCentre, 175 Kellogg Boulevard West

Come early to avoid Minnesota Wild traffic!

Learn more at [spps.org/apply](http://spps.org/apply)

Get free transportation to the School Choice Fair! Use the QR code or visit [spps.org/apply](http://spps.org/apply) for more information on free park-and-ride locations and Metro Transit passes.



Metro Transit

## St. Paul Schools referendum approved

By Jane McClure

St. Paul voters have approved a school referendum that will provide about \$37.2 million per year or an additional \$1,073 per student for the next 10 years.

About 65 percent of voters on Nov. 4 supported the referendum. The total reported after the election was 43,178 for the referendum and 23,175 against.

The taxation rate will adjust with inflation. For 2026, for the median value home of \$289,200, that home owner will pay an additional \$26 per month or \$309 per year in property taxes. The levy takes effect for the 2026-2027 school year and budget.

Had the referendum failed, educators and school district leaders warned that deep cuts were destined for programs, along with bigger classes and staff reductions.

The St. Paul Federation of Educators, the Vote Yes for SPPS and other groups campaigned for the referendum. The measure didn't face organized opposition but it was debated on various social

media platforms. Objections came from property owners facing soaring property tax bills next year.

After the referendum's passage, Superintendent Stacie Stanley issued a statement saying, “This operating levy will help SPPS maintain the arts and music, language and culture, and college and career readiness programs that fuel our students' excitement for learning and make our schools shine. While this funding will not solve every challenge that comes our way, it will set us up for better outcomes and a brighter future.”

District officials campaigned hard for the referendum. One point they made was that St. Paul Public Schools has had one of the lowest voter-approved operating levies among the state's larger districts.

The last levy approval came in 2018. That levy provides \$18.6 million per year, with an inflation factor, for 10 years. It currently provides \$1,167 per student. ■

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

# Holiday Guide

## Holiday & Winter Events in the Neighborhood

Compiled by Kathy Henderson

'Tis the season, whether you are looking to attend special concerts shop craft shows and bazaars, or savor festive treats, the Bugle area offers a wide variety of events for the holiday season.

### Music

Nov. 29

**Julglädje: Family Holiday Concert**  
American Swedish Institute, 2600 Park Ave., Minneapolis  
Music, stories and holiday cheer. \$7-\$22/free for children ages 5 and younger and ASI members; includes museum admission and access to the "Tomte Tales: Legends of Winter" exhibit. Saturday, 11 a.m. to noon. Register: [asimn.org](http://asimn.org).

Dec. 12

### Holiday Concert

Centennial United Methodist Church, 2200 Hillside Ave.  
This St. Anthony Park Seniors program is also available for streaming at [facebook.com/sapaseniors](http://facebook.com/sapaseniors). Contact the SAP Seniors office 651-642-9052 for more information. Friday, 2 to 3 p.m. Free.

Dec. 14

### Lucia Celebration Concert

American Swedish Institute, 2600 Park Ave., Minneapolis  
Traditional music from the ASI Lucia Choir and Lilla Lag fiddling group. \$20-\$25 ASI members; include museum admission. Sunday, 1 to 2 p.m. Register: [asimn.org](http://asimn.org).

Dec. 17

### Star of the North Concert Band Holiday Concert

Landmark Center, 75 5th St. W.  
A festive holiday ensemble concert. Wednesday, 7:30 to 9 p.m. Free.

Dec. 18

### Songs of the Season

Landmark Center, 75 5th St. W.  
Schubert Club Courtroom Concert presents "Carols of Minnesota Composers." Thursday, noon to 1 p.m. and 6 to 7 p.m. Free.

Dec. 24

### Music and Candlelight

St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, 2323 Como Ave.  
Depending upon which of the three Christmas Eve services one attends, you will find three different styles of music and songs.

The 3 p.m. service features the children's and youth choirs.

The music during the 5 p.m. service is colloquially thought of as a pick-up or jam because musicians are welcome to informally join in playing alongside the featured musical group.

At 9 p.m., it is time for the adult choir to bring in the familiar carols and the formal hymns that one might traditionally expect from the evening before Christmas Day.

Jan. 4

### Minnesota Boychoir Winter Concert

Landmark Center, 75 5th St. W.  
Part of the "Sundays at Landmark" series this annual winter concert. Sunday, 1 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Free.

### Markets

Nov. 28 - Dec. 21

**European Christmas Market**  
Union Depot, 240 Kellogg Blvd. E.  
Holiday market inspired by the festive Christkindl traditions of Germany and Austria. Friday, Nov. 28, from noon to 9 p.m.; ongoing: Fridays, 3 to 9 p.m.; Saturdays; 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sundays, 11 am to 6 p.m. Free admission. [stpaulchristmasmarket.org](http://stpaulchristmasmarket.org).



**POTTERS IN THE LOFT!**  
with Master Painter Dan Mackerman  
Holiday Gift Market  
Dec 2 - Jan 11  
Boreal Art Loft  
2276 Como St. Paul

Front Avenue Pottery, Paul Ambie, Dan Mackerman, Sandra Shaughnessy, Chuck Solberg, Haley Macklem Art

**SHOW OPENER!**  
Thursday, Dec. 4,  
4:30-6:30pm  
Can't wait to see you!

**Front Ave is on the MOVE!**  
After 34 years on Front Ave!  
Studio & Gallery Open thru Nov 21  
M-F 9-5 Plz call ahead! 651-315-0334

Dec. 2 - Jan. 11

### Potters in the Loft: Holiday gift market

Boreal Art Loft, 2276 Como Ave.  
Local potters and painters—Paul Amble, Dan Mackerman, Haley Macklem, Mary Jo Schmith, Sandra Daulton Shaughnessy and Chuck Solberg—in the Art Loft during boreal's regular business hours. Opening reception: 5 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 4.

Dec. 5-7

### Holiday Bazaar

Landmark Center, 75 Fifth St. W.  
Beautiful and unique handcrafted gift items by 80 of the finest local artists. Delicious treats, holiday décor and live holiday music add a festive ambiance to this beautiful, classic venue. Friday, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. \$5 (cash or check only)/free for ages 12 and younger.

**Early Bird Friday**  
Dec. 5, 4-6:30pm  
Limited tickets.  
Buy online, \$15.

**Free admission Saturday & Sunday**  
Dec. 6, 9am-4pm & Dec. 7, 10am-2pm

**St. Matthew's Episcopal Church**  
2136 Carter Ave, St. Paul, MN 55108

Buy Friday tickets. Preview new gifts. Learn more:  
[Blue-House.org](http://Blue-House.org)

**2025 European Christmas Market**  
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Friday	Saturday	Sunday
NOV 28*, DEC 5, 12, 19	NOV 29, DEC 6, 13, 20	NOV 30, DEC 7, 14, 21
3PM-9PM *Opens at NOON!	11AM - 9PM	11AM - 6PM

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[STPAULCHRISTMASMARKET.ORG](http://STPAULCHRISTMASMARKET.ORG)

**Milton Square**

*Yuletide Faire at the Square*

Come join us for our  
**Annual Holiday Market at Milton Square!**

Gifts, vendors, treasures, art, food & beverages  
**Saturday, December 6 from 10am-6pm**

Meet Santa Claus from 3-6pm in the courtyard.  
Visit the Tamarack Room for photos and festivities.  
Stay for the annual tree lighting at 6pm.

2262 Como Avenue, St. Paul, MN

**Holiday Bazaar**  
Handmade & Heartfelt Gifts and Goodies

**Saturday, December 6, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.**  
2129 Commonwealth Ave, Saint Paul, [sapucc.org](http://sapucc.org)

Join us for our one-day bazaar where you will find handmade items including:

- Holiday and home decor
- Christmas ornaments
- Woodworking items
- Soaps and body care products
- Hand knits and embroidery
- Wreaths
- Gourmet baked items, assorted cookies, peanut brittle and homemade canned goods

Scandinavian egg coffee and cookies available all day.

Proceeds will support the ministry of the church and Cookie Cart which teaches life, leadership, and employment skills to young people through on-the-job and classroom experiences in their nonprofit bakeries in Minneapolis and Saint Paul.

**ST. ANTHONY PARK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

# Holiday Guide

Dec. 5-7

**Blue House Boutique**

St. Matthew's Episcopal Church,  
2136 Carter Ave.

Handmade items: jewelry, knitwear, home décor, gourmet goodies, artwork, stationery, Christmas décor, Ugandan crafts and more! Proceeds benefit Blue House, a charity in Uganda. Friday, 4 to 6:30 p.m. (early bird ticketed event); free admission Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Dec. 6

**St. Anthony Park UCC  
Holiday Bazaar**

2129 Commonwealth Ave.

Holiday bazaar featuring handmade and heartfelt gifts, wreaths and gourmet baked items. Saturday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. sapucc.org

Dec. 6

**Yuletide Faire Holiday Market**

Milton Square, 2262 Como Ave.

Stroll indoors and outdoors through Milton Square and visit

shoppes for artwork, vintage finds, clothing, gift ideas, food and beverages, Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Santa Claus, photos and festivities in the courtyards and the Tamarack Room from 3 to 6 p.m.

Dec. 6

**Summit Avenue Artisan Festival**

St. Paul's United Church of Christ,  
900 Summit Ave.

A grand meander event with handcrafted and food items from more than 45 local artists and artisans. Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Bid in the silent auction to support the church's community work. Santa

and Mrs. Claus will be available for photos from 10 a.m. to noon (\$5 suggested donation) Free admission.

Dec. 6-7

**Holiday Craft Fair**

Roseville City Hall,  
2660 Civic Center Drive

Handcrafted items for sale by more than 50 crafters and artisans. Vendor fees support the Harriet Alexander Nature Center. Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sunday, noon to 4 p.m. Free. Find vendor list at [cityofroseville.com/1398/Holiday-Craft-Fair](http://cityofroseville.com/1398/Holiday-Craft-Fair).

Dec. 13-14 and 20-21

**Minnesota Merry Market**

Minnesota State Fairgrounds

Local artists and vendors, food trucks and family fun. Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free to attend.

**Museums & Traditions**

Nov. 29-30

**Minnesota's Hmong New Year Celebration**

St. Paul RiverCenter,  
175 Kellogg Blvd.

Traditional Hmong dance, music, crafts, vendors, Miss Hmong Minnesota pageant and dance and

## Christmas Trees and More

Nov. 21-23, Nov. 28-30, Dec. 5-7 and Dec. 12-14  
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



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Escape to the farm. Visit and enjoy our forest, our fields of beautiful Christmas trees, the crisp fresh air and room to roam!

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Slow down to enjoy the [handmade home goods](#) / [pet-lover regalia](#) / [puzzles, games & crafts](#), and find something for a special loved one [or yourself!](#) Don't forget to venture upstairs for a Minnesota-made art gallery while you're there...

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THE PARK BUGLE

# Holiday Guide

singing competitions. The festivities mark the 50th anniversary of Hmong Americans in Minnesota, making this year's celebration especially meaningful. 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. \$15; children under 42 inches and seniors free. [theunitedhmongfamily.org/mnhny](http://theunitedhmongfamily.org/mnhny).

**Nov. 29 - Jan. 4**  
**Holidays on the Hill**

*James J. Hill House, 240 Summit Ave.*  
The popular Holidays on the Hill returns for another season with even more full and festive holiday decorations at the Gilded Age

mansion of railroad titan James J. Hill. Admission includes self-guided access to holiday-themed exhibits and a 60-minute guided tour with holiday stories and decor from 1910. See the website for the various days, times and admission cost. Reservations recommended. [mnhs.org/hillhouse](http://mnhs.org/hillhouse).

**Dec. 5 - Jan. 4**  
**Holiday Flower Show**

*Como Park Conservatory, 1225 Estabrook Drive.*  
A variety of poinsettias accompanied by variegated foliage, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.

Free. A voluntary donation of \$4 per adult and \$2 per child is appreciated. [comozooconservatory.org](http://comozooconservatory.org).

**Dec. 4-5, 11-12, 18-19 and Jan. 2-3**  
**Candlelight Christmas**

*Alexander Ramsey House, 265 Exchange St. S.*  
Candlelight tours return to this 1872 Victorian mansion on Thursday and Friday evenings during the holiday season. Guided by candlelight, explore the bluer side of Christmas and the melancholy feelings that accompany the season. View unique holiday artifacts and listen to excerpts from the

Ramsey family papers. Due to the subject matter, it is recommended for ages 18+; though all ages may attend. \$20-\$16/free for ages 4 and younger. See website for available time slots: [mnhs.org/ramseyhouse](http://mnhs.org/ramseyhouse).

**Dec. 6-7**  
**Christmas in Germany**

*Germanic-American Institute, 301 Summit Ave.*  
Celebrate the holiday traditions of a German Christmas in an atmo-

sphere of good cheer and music with the Haus decorated from the Rathskeller to the ballroom. Food, drinks and seasonal gift items available for purchase. Time-entry tickets required on Saturday and Sunday: 10 a.m. to noon; noon to 2 p.m. and 2 to 4 p.m. \$10-\$5. Children ages 3 and younger are admitted free but still require a ticket for space-planning purposes. Tickets availability at [gaimn.org/calendar/christmas-2025](http://gaimn.org/calendar/christmas-2025).

## YMCA Christmas Trees, Wreaths & Roping

Celebrate the Holidays with a fresh cut, live tree from the only YMCA tree lot in St. Paul.  
*Your support goes on to fund Y programs throughout the year.*

**1761 University Ave. W. | Infront of the Midway YMCA**

**Tree Lot Opens on Nov. 21st**  
**Lot Hours: Thurs/Fri 4-6 PM & Sat/Sun 10 AM-5 PM**  
**Extended Hours on Nov. 28th 10 AM-6 PM**

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2190 Como Avenue, St. Paul



Make memories this season at the Bell



**Spotlight Science: The Forest**  
**December 6, 10 am - 2 pm**  
Learn about trees and other plants, water, air, fire, and animals—even humans! Forests are rooted in many perspectives, and we'll focus on how those come together in collaboration and co-management of resources, adaptation for climate change, and careers in forestry and beyond!



**Heart and Solstice**  
**December 17, 2025 - January 4, 2026**  
Celebrate the winter solstice at the Bell! We invite you to stop by the museum for a variety of activities December 17-January 4 (closed Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day).



**Sensory Friendly Saturday**  
**December 20, 8 - 10 am**  
Enjoy a quieter visit to the Bell Museum on December 20. Experience our Minnesota Journeys gallery, temporary exhibits, the Touch & See Lab, and a brief planetarium show at 8:45 am—all with lowered lighting, quieter sounds, and fewer visitors. Anyone who can benefit from this environment is welcome to attend!

# Holiday Guide

**Various Dates**

**Celtic Junction Arts Center**

836 Prior Ave. N.  
Tickets at celticjunction.org.

**SPIKED!** Put some punch in your holiday: Holiday songs and foreign-language carols plus sketch comedy. 7 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 28, and Monday, Dec. 1; 2 and 7 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 29; 1 and 6 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 30. \$30-\$25; recommended for ages 16 years and older.

**Celtic Holiday Hooley:** Music and step dancing. 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 12; 1 and 6 p.m. on Saturday, Dec.

13 and Sunday, Dec. 14; 6 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 21 and Monday, Dec. 22. \$30-\$15.

**The Harp and the Holly:** Album Launch for Irish harpist and singer Hannah Flowers's holiday release, "The Harp and the Holly." 7:30-9:30 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 30. \$25/free for youth ages 18 and younger.

**Various Dates**

**American Swedish Institute**

2600 Park Ave., Minneapolis  
A variety of events are scheduled during the holiday season in the

historic Turnblad Mansion. Tickets and reservations: [asimn.org/](http://asimn.org/)

**Tomte Tales:** Legends of Winter: The featured holiday exhibition runs through Jan. 25, 2026. Museum regular hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursdays and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays-Sundays; closed Christmas Eve and Day. \$20-\$1/limited income; free for children ages 5 and younger.

**Winter solstice celebration:** arts and crafts, music plus FIKA Café special menu. 5 to 9 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 19. Reserve timed-entry tickets: 5, 5:30, 6 and 6:30 p.m. \$30-\$8/free for children 5 and younger.

**Julbord holiday dinner:** Multi-course Christmas smorgasbord

and live music. 6 to 8 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 20, and 1 to 3 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 21. \$100-\$40 children ages 6-12/free ages 5 and younger; ASI members \$90. Reservations.

**12th Day of Christmas Jul Ball:** Music by some of the area's finest Nordic folk musicians. All dance-skill levels are welcome; light instruction will be provided. 6 to 9 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 5, 2025. \$15-\$10/ASI members. Reservations.

**And Much More**

**Dec. 4-18**

**Festive baking**

Northwest Como Rec Center,  
1550 Hamline Ave N.

Holiday baking with NWC staff for children ages 8 to 13. Gingerbread

houses will be made at the last session. 3 to 5 p.m. on Thursdays. \$10. Registration required. [stpaul.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/activities-events/winter-activities](http://stpaul.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/activities-events/winter-activities).

**Dec. 6**

**Cookies & Cocoa with Kris Kringle**

Cedarholm Community Building,  
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Bring a camera and capture a photo of the children (ages 2-10) with Santa. Decorate a cookie and create a festive craft. Parents must accompany children throughout the event. 9 to 10:15 a.m. or 10:45 a.m. to noon. \$14. Limited space; pre-register for time slot online at [cityofroseville.com](http://cityofroseville.com).

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THE PARK BUGLE

# Holiday Guide

**Dec. 13 and Dec. 21**  
**An elf and gingerbread houses**  
 St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 2136 Carter Ave.  
 Sprinkles the Elf: 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 13. Stories, songs, cookies and cocoa. Write letters to Santa. Family event for all ages, but especially geared toward children age 10 and younger. Free. Register with Mia at kids@stmatthewsmn.org.

**Greening the church and making gingerbread houses**  
 11:45 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 21. Free. Register with Mia at kids@stmatthewsmn.org.

**Dec. 14**  
**Santa's Workshop**  
 Landmark Center, 75 Fifth St. W.  
 Free photo with Santa, games and gift making. 1 to 3 p.m. Free.

**Dec. 17**  
**Winter wonderland**  
 North Dale Rec Center, 1414 St. Albans St. N.  
 Festive and wintry activities, games, crafts, food and photo booth. Presentations and performances from North Dale activity groups. Family event geared for ages 12 and younger. 6 to 8 p.m. Free to attend.

**Dec. 22**  
**Ornament painting**  
 Northwest Como Rec Center, 1550 Hamline Ave. N.  
 Children ages 7 to 12 paint and take home an ornament. 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Free. Register: stpaul.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/activities-events/winter-activities.

**Dec. 31**  
**Ring in the New Year on Ice**  
 John Rose OVAL, 2661 Civic Center Drive  
 Skating or open hockey on the outdoor OVAL, indoor arena skating, magician and more. 2 to 9 p.m. Admission, \$10.; skate rental, \$5.

**Throughout Feb. 28**  
**Night Trains**  
 Twin City Model Railroad Museum, 668 Transfer Road  
 A holiday tradition of uniquely decorated model trains that run on the layouts; special holiday-only layouts will also be on display. Saturdays from 3 to 7 p.m. Bonus weekdays: Fridays, Dec. 19 and 26 and Jan. 2; Mondays, Dec. 22 and 29.

Santa makes an appearance at 3 p.m. on Saturdays, Dec. 13 and 20. \$15/free ages 4 and younger. Tickets sold for two-hour time blocks at [tcmrm.org/special-events/night-trains](http://tcmrm.org/special-events/night-trains). ■  
 Kathy Henderson lives in St. Paul and is a freelance writer.

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**SUNDAY WORSHIP**  
 Dec. 7, 14, 21, 28  
 9:30 a.m.

**ADVENT MUSIC & REFLECTION**  
 Wednesdays, Dec. 3, 10, 17, 6:30 p.m.

**CHRISTMAS EVE**  
 Wednesday, Dec. 24  
 3:00, 5:00, & 9:00 p.m.

**CHRISTMAS DAY**  
 Thursday, Dec. 25  
 10:00 a.m.



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# Holiday Guide

## Top book picks for this holiday buying season

By Gwen Willems

With our weather getting colder and sunlight shorter, it's time to think about good books to read ourselves or give as holiday gifts.

As Alisa Mee, of the St. Anthony Park Branch Library, noted, we read to “open ourselves to a world larger than our lived experience; to gain knowledge and learn new skills; to escape everyday challenges and the darkness of winter; to sharpen our minds; to slow down; to imagine; to reflect.”

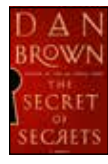
Here are recommendations from me and David Enyeart, manager of Next Chapter Booksellers. Borrow them from the library or consider buying new.

As Enyeart noted, “Independent bookstores are part of their communities. We know our customers—their interests, their concerns, their needs.”

### For mystery lovers

“**Apostle’s Cove**” is the latest in the Cork O’Connor series by St. Paulite William Kent Krueger. It examines Cork’s first murder investigation as sheriff of Tamarack County. The result was a young Ojibwe man sentenced to life in prison without hope of parole.

The story begins with a call that makes Cork question whether he condemned an innocent man.



It took Dan Brown eight years to write his much-anticipated book “**The Secret of Secrets**,” which was published this fall. His recurring main character, Harvard Professor Robert Langdon, moves away from his typical mysteries of Christianity and Freemasonry to that of human consciousness. It includes descriptions of the beautiful and magical setting, Prague, a historical home to the occult and the golem from Jewish mysticism.



Hana Babic, the protagonist in “**The Quiet Librarian**” by Allen Eskens, is a middle-aged librarian in Minnesota who came from Bosnia 30 years ago. The murder of

her best friend leads her to search for answers tied to a dark remnant of their past. Hana’s journey from farm girl to warrior to librarian refugee is skillfully told by Eskens, a former criminal defense attorney who lives in greater Minnesota.

### For foodies interested in culture



Sean Sherman keeps making news. His book, “**Turtle Island: Foods and Traditions of the Indigenous Peoples of North America**” was published in November and it was just announced that his restaurant, Owamni, will be relocating to the Guthrie Theatre. Learn about the Indigenous food scene as Sherman sees it and enjoy recipes that reflect centuries of tradition.

### For fans of multi-genre books



“**Birding to Change the World**,” by Trish O’Kane is an appealing combination of memoir, bird-life details and social engagement. After her New Orleans house was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina, O’Kane moved to Madison, Wisconsin, to work on a Ph.D. She became fascinated with birds in a nearby park, which led to her becoming an ornithological expert and citizen activist.

### For Minnesota history buffs

Despite health issues, retired Minnesota Star Tribune editorial writer and columnist Lori Sturdevant keeps writing prolifically. After hearing her speak last month, former Minnesota Rep. Mindy Greiling made a quick read of “**Martin Sabo: The Making of the Modern Legislature**,” calling it the best of Sturdevant’s many books.



Sturdevant also contributed to “**Perpich: A Minnesota Original**,” by Ben Schierer. It tells of Minnesota’s longest-serving—and perhaps most colorful—governor and his bipartisan victories, from international economic tours, to major construction projects and even a visit from former USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev.

Schierer, a former Fergus Falls mayor, drew on oral histories of key leaders.

### For musicians

The title of this book makes it a must-read: “**What Doesn’t Kill Me Makes Me Weirder and Harder to Relate To: A Memoir**” by Mary Lucia. This rock-and-roll Twin Cities DJ tells the story of the drawback of connecting with a multitude of fans. One obsessed fan terrorized her for three years. Lucia tells her story beautifully, with wit, power and humor.

Top Books to p. 13

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# Holiday Guide

## Astra joins Como Zoo polar bears

By Janet Wight

Astra, the 5-year-old polar bear who arrived at the Como Zoo in October, has now settled into her new home and routine.

Born at the Detroit Zoo, Astra spent two years with her mother and twin sister before being transferred to the Point Defiance Zoo in Tacoma, Washington, said Allison Jungheim, Como Zoo senior keeper.

Jungheim, a Como Zoo employee for 24 years, also serves as the studbook keeper for the North American population of polar bears.

"All bears in human care in zoos in the United States and Canada are included in my studbook," she noted.

Jungheim and her team recommended Astra's transfer to the Como Zoo based on her age and the fact that resident polar bear Kulu, a 6-year-old male, is also coming into his breeding age.

The other polar bears at the zoo are Neil, 30, and Nan, 31, although most polar bears in human care live only into their late 20s.

When a new bear arrives, it is initially isolated from the resident bears. However, the bears are close enough to see and smell each other. Keepers determine when it is time

to increase interactions based on observed behaviors, Jungheim said.

Bears can choose between indoor and outdoor enclosures. With two completely separate habitats, newcomers like Astra can have their own space for as long as needed.

Jungheim said she enjoys seeing the bears interact. The bears are offered a variety of enrichment activities although they tend to crush most of their toys.

Polar bears breed from mid-February through April but then experience delayed implantation. The mothers-to-be bulk up throughout the summer, gaining about 300 pounds before implantation occurs in early fall, she added.

The cubs are born 60 days after implantation and weigh just one pound at birth, which occurs between mid-November and

mid-December. They grow rapidly, reaching 300 to 400 pounds within two years, she explained.

The polar bear diet at the zoo consists of a meat mix, polar bear chow, capelin and herring, shank bones, carrots, lettuce and lard.

Jungheim said she and her team hope Astra and Kulu will breed early next year, potentially giving birth to one or two cubs in the fall.

For now, it is uncertain how long Astra will remain at Como Zoo, Jungheim said. "It is best to breed polar bears early and often for the greatest chance of survival," she said.

Jungheim recommends visiting the polar bears in winter because it is a much quieter time at the zoo. ■

Janet Wight is a regular freelance writer for the Bugle.



New to Como Zoo's polar bear exhibit this fall: Astra. Photo courtesy Como Zoo.

### Top Books from p. 12

#### For young adults



"Angelica and the Bear Prince: (A Graphic Novel)," by Trung Le Nguyen, focuses on Vietnamese-American high school junior Angelica Hoang, energized by a theatrical internship. A Publishers Weekly Best Book of the Year, it explores difficult emotional topics among a diverse cast of characters. "Kirkus Reviews" describes the book as "Tender, sweetly romantic, and enchanting; an encouraging coming-of-age story."

Now it is time for each of us to make a list, check it twice and pick up some books for ourselves and our lucky gift recipients. ■

Gwen Willems lives in Falcon Heights and is a freelance writer.

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# Holiday Guide

## Mindful eating tips for the holiday season

By Jenni Wolf

Welcome to the Holiday Food Survival Guide!

As much as I wanted that to sound like the luring click-bait we see on social media, there are no surprises or fancy tricks here. No cleanses that cost a fortune, no mysterious concoctions to drink and no holiday-week workout regimens.

Just some simple tips and reminders that will help you to have a mindful and enjoyable food experience this holiday season.

**Eat consistently.**

It is easy to get caught up in all the holiday to-dos and rush out the

door before you've eaten anything or skip lunch in favor of crossing more off your list. This will increase your vulnerability to feeling tired and irritable and likely leave you overly hungry and disconnected from your body's cues.

If you don't want to dive head-first into the cookie tin at the end of the night, make sure you are grabbing something at each mealtime throughout the day. Adding in snacks is even better.

**Check in with your cues.**

Typically, I recommend eating a meal every 4 to 5 hours and a snack every 2 to 3 hours. But your cues won't always line up with that schedule perfectly.



Christmas sprinkle cookies. Photo by Jenni Wolf.



Holiday snack spread: Plate sweet treats with a cheese, crackers and nuts. Photo by Jenni Wolf.

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Before eating, check in with yourself to notice how hungry you feel and gain a better awareness of what might serve you best. Are you “snack hungry” or “meal hungry”?

If you are experiencing meal-level hunger and you reach for Aunt

Dory's homemade caramel corn, it is likely you may eat a meal's worth of it! Caramel corn is delicious, but a meal's worth doesn't sound pleasant to me.

Instead, plating a few handfuls of popcorn with a leftover ham sand-

wich and some green bean casserole seems like a more enjoyable and helpful option for you and your body.

How does “future you” want to feel heading to bed or in the morning after a holiday cocktail hour of drinks and cheesy snacks? Being mindful about how you want to feel both during and after the event can increase awareness of the behaviors and choices that would be helpful to make. Setting an intention for the event can help hold yourself accountable.

**Give intentional permission to enjoy foods without guilt.**

This can take a lot of mindfulness practice, as it doesn't come easily to most people. Instead of letting food rules influence your food choices, work to recognize any negative food judgments or negative self-talk around food and reframe these thoughts.

Doing that can help prevent the “all-or-nothing” mentality that can often set in, which can lead you to restrict and then later overeat. Not to mention, it clears the way for you to eat the special holiday foods you enjoy unconditionally, making the season less stressful and even merrier. ■

*Jenni Wolf, a registered dietitian, writes about food and nutrition.*



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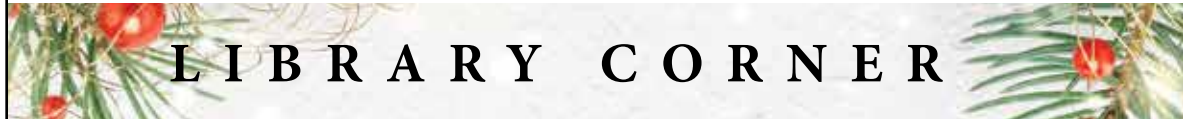
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# Historic SAP Branch Library getting special gift

By Bugle staff

As a historic Carnegie Library, the St. Anthony Park Branch Library will receive a \$10,000 gift from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, part of its nationwide Carnegie Libraries 250 initiative.

The St. Paul Public Library plans to use the funds for updates to the “play-and-learn” space for children and families at the St. Anthony Park location, Library Director Maureen Hartman recently told the St. Paul Pioneer Press.

The Riverview Library, a Saint Paul Public Library Carnegie branch on the West Side, also re-

ceived a \$10,000 gift from the Carnegie foundation.

According to the foundation’s website, in commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, it will send the checks to Carnegie libraries across America in January 2026.

According to the Carnegie Foundation: “Scottish immigrant Andrew Carnegie funded the construction of 1,681 free public libraries in the United States between 1886 and 1917. As part of the Carnegie Libraries 250 special initiative, his philanthropic foundation reached out to each library and established that about 1,280 still operate and

acknowledge their link to Carnegie, making them eligible for the gift. Approximately 750 continue to use their original buildings, while others have moved to new locations.”

The SAP Library was built in 1917 and is on the National Register of Historic sites.

This is the latest good news for the SAP Library. This past summer, the library was temporarily closed for needed repairs and maintenance to both entrances of the facility in order to ensure its accessibility to all library users. ■

*This report was compiled by Bugle freelance writer Kathy Henderson and Bugle editor Scott Carlson.*



The St. Anthony Park Branch Library in 2026 will receive a \$10,000 gift from the Carnegie Corporation of New York. Photo from Bugle archives.

## St. Anthony Park Library events

Compiled by Kathy Henderson

Familiar favorites and ongoing programs are on the December calendar at the St. Anthony Park Library, 2245 Como Ave.

Check the library’s website for additional upcoming events, including the adult book club,

### State Championship from p. 1

friend Loth who was still being interviewed.

“Charlie, we did it! We won!” Anderson yelled.

It was a clean sweep for the Cougars. The Como Park cross country boys had won the individual and team state titles for 2025—the first of each in program history.

“After last year’s state meet it seemed likely that Perham would be in contention, and they ran great on Saturday,” Kersey said about the top-ranked team going into the meet. “But in our pre-meet meeting we just reviewed the section results and reminded them that rankings are not races. We thought we were the team to beat at state.”

Como cross country continues to be a supportive community for all those who are willing and able to experience running.

The Como girls have added depth to their roster and are now a formidable team in Section 4AA competition, finishing third, just three points shy of qualifying for state as a team.

Freshman Lu Beckman and junior Lilly Coyle qualified as individuals for their third and second consecutive state meet respectively.

The state championships were celebrated by all—the runners, the alternates, supportive teammates, friends and family. It was the culmination of many dedicated years.

“This means everything,” said Loth with a massive smile on his face. ■

*Eric Erickson is a teacher at Como Park Senior High School.*

English conversation circle, Shake Your Sillies Out! playtime, and Paw Pals reading sessions.

### Holiday closing

All St. Paul Public Libraries will be closed Wednesday, Dec. 24, and Thursday, Dec. 25, for Christmas.

All libraries will also close early at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 31, and be closed all day on Thursday, Jan. 1, in recognition of the New Year’s Day holiday.

### SAPBLA 2nd Thursday Forum

6:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 11. The St. Anthony Park Branch

Library Association’s monthly community forum is “Sing in the Season with Dan Chouinard,” who will perform favorite seasonal tunes. Co-hosted by the St. Anthony Park Library and SAPBLA.

### Financial literacy @ your library

2 to 3 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 17. For details on December’s topic, visit the library or Sunrise Banks, 2300 Como Ave. This program is co-hosted by the SAPL and Sunrise Banks. ■

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

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More information at [sapbla.org](http://sapbla.org).

## LIVES LIVED

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

**Gerald Barte**

Gerald W. "Jerry" Barte, 71, of Roseville, died Sept. 24, 2025. Jerry was an avid golfer and lover of all music, especially opera, classical, folk and early rock. He was a graduate of the University of Minnesota. He loved singing, fishing, baseball and card games, and was a good friend to all.

He was preceded in death by wife, Vicki Johnson; parents Bill and Joan Barte; and nephew, Daniel Sedgeman. He is survived by sisters, Diane Weinhold, Joyce Sedgeman (Tom), and Karen Norman (Chip); and brother, Paul Barte.

A memorial service was held at Como Park Lutheran Church. Memorials preferred to Como Park Lutheran Church or the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation.

**Robert Barton**

Robert Vincent Barton, 68, of Como Park, died unexpectedly and peacefully Oct. 17, 2025. He was preceded in death by his infant son, Gabriel Vincent; brothers Brian and Michael; and their mother, Sandra.

He is survived by his father; nine brothers and sisters; seven children; and seven granddaughters. Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at Holy Childhood Catholic Church.

**Belva Fish**

Belva Ann Fish, 94, formerly of Falcon Heights, died Oct. 14, 2025. Belva Ann was born in New London, Wisconsin, but grew up in Bessemer, Michigan. She and Ron met on a blind date and were married for over 73 years. Belva was a woman who wanted nothing more than to be a stay-at-home mom taking care of her family.

In later years, Belva loved to travel. In winter, she went to Phoenix and Sacramento. She also traveled as much as possible in summer.

She was preceded in death by her parents Oscar and Florence Norris, and sisters June and Carol. She

is survived by her husband Ron, daughter Cheryl (Jim), sons Jeff and David, and daughter-in-law Carol, plus eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Memorials to Chisago Lakes Lutheran Church, 1 Summit Ave., Center City, Minn. 55012.

**Richard Hughes**

Richard Allan Hughes, 84, died Oct. 19, 2025. He was born Jan. 15, 1941, in St. Paul.

Dick graduated from Marshall High School in Minneapolis, where he played football and tennis. Dick made friends easily and had very close lifelong friendships. Dick was an avid golfer and once shot a hole-in-one at Keller Golf Course in St. Paul. He had a quick wit and enjoyed making people laugh. He had successful careers as a CPA and a realtor.

Dick was a quintessential family man who enjoyed attending his children's and grandchildren's events, among other things.

He was preceded in death by parents Walter and Vivian Hughes; in-laws Philip and Marie Wagner; brothers Bob (Dorothy) and Wally (Marilyn); and sister Jan Sturgeon (Larry). Survivors include wife of 62 year, Phyllis; daughters Terri and Diane; and sons Tom (Sabrina) and David (Michelle); and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Cecilia Catholic Church. Memorials preferred to UofM Anatomy/Bequest program or Hospice of the Midwest-Minnesota.

**Dallasjean Mooney**

Dallasjean C. Mooney, 96, of Shoreview, longtime Como Park resident (née Schepers), died Oct. 27, 2025.

Dallas never stopped moving. She first worked at Montgomery Ward, later ran Eden Valley Butter out of her home, and also worked

at Carlson Travel and finally JC Penney.

She was preceded in death by husband, Philip; brother, Earl; son-in-law, Greg Bies; and brother-in-law, George Dimke.

Dallas is survived by children, Maureen (Ken) Deceuster, Dennis, Laurie Bies, Terrie (Don) Luedtke, Tom (Sandy), Ann (Chad) Radenbaugh, and Kathy Davis, who died later the same day. She is also survived by 16 grandchildren and two step-grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren and three step-great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; and sisters, Donna Mae (Jerry) McCoskey and Janice Dimke.

Mass of Christian Burial for both Dallas and Kathy were celebrated at Maternity of Mary Catholic Church, with Dallas' interment at Fort Snelling National Cemetery.

**Kathleen Mooney Davis**

Kathleen Marie Mooney Davis, 73, of Roseville, died Oct. 27, 2025, after a long battle with Alzheimer's.

Kathy grew up in Como Park. She attended St. Andrew's, St. Agnes, beauty school, and later graduated from Metropolitan State. Kathy worked in insurance claims most of her career. She also ran a beauty salon business out of her home.

Kathy loved golfing, walks around Como Lake, and spending time with family and friends.

Preceded in death by father Phil Mooney and most recently her mother Dallasjean, she is survived by children, Jay (Rachel) and Erica Davis; three grandchildren; one great-granddaughter; and siblings, Maureen (Ken) Deceuster, Dennis Mooney, Laurie Bies, Terrie (Don) Luedtke, Tom (Sandy) Mooney, and Annmarie (Chad) Radenbaugh.

Mass of Christian Burial for both Kathy and Dallas were celebrated at Maternity of Mary Catholic Church, with Kathy's interment at Roselawn Cemetery.

**George Reilly**

George Francis Reilly, 90, longtime resident of St. Anthony Park as well as Roseville and Green Valley, Arizona, died Oct. 20, 2025. George was a devoted husband, dad and

grandpa; a proud Minnesotan; a weekend golfer; a long-suffering Vikings fan; a UofM booster; and a diehard Democrat.

George was an accomplished public speaker, debater and amateur actor in high school, college and graduate school, winning national awards in public speaking and debate. He earned a bachelor's degree from Illinois College and a graduate degree at South Dakota State University. There he met Dadee Bruce. They wed in December 1957 and remained married for 66 years, until Dadee's death in 2024.

After teaching for two years at William and Mary in Virginia, George received a full scholarship from the University of Minnesota Law School. He and Dadee, and infant daughter Laura, moved to Minnesota in 1961, where they made their home for the next 64 years. Daughter Tressa was born in 1967.

George graduated with high distinction from the UofM Law School and joined the Leonard, Street and Deinard law firm, where he remained for his 46-year legal career, working in commercial law and also serving as managing partner. His tenure with Leonard Street was briefly interrupted when George was Chief Deputy Attorney General for Minnesota.

George and Dadee traveled widely well into their late 80s. For the last 25 years, they spent winters in Arizona.

George is preceded in death by his wife Dadee; parents Jim and Hilda Reilly; brothers Harry and Bob Reilly; and brothers-in-law Tom Vogl and Bill Shramek. Survivors include daughters Laura (Martin) Roller and Tressa Reilly; two grandchildren; his sisters Pat Shramek and Kathleen Vogl; and sisters-in-law Mary Anne Reilly and Geraldine Reilly.

Memorials to Duluth Regional Care Center, 5629 Grand Avenue, Duluth, Minn. 55807.

**Dean Schafer**

Dean R. Schafer, 64, of Saint Paul died Oct. 19, 2025.

Preceded in death by mother Sheila Fitch, and her husband John, Dean is survived by wife Camille;

son Ben (Gaby); daughter Violet; father Paul (Sherry); brothers Dan (Ann), Dave (LeeAnn), and Cary Truman (Lisa); and sisters Diane (Tom), and Rachel Griebing (Bill).

Funeral Mass was celebrated at Holy Childhood Catholic Church. Memorials preferred to the National Gaucher Foundation at [gaucherdisease.org](http://gaucherdisease.org).

**Betty Swanson**

Mary Elizabeth "Betty" Swanson, 82, died Oct. 28, 2025. She was born in Millville, New Jersey, March 3, 1943, and grew up in nearby Vine-land, Ohio, and later moved with her family to Minnesota, putting down roots in St. Anthony Park.

Betty attended Glassboro State College, received her teaching license and later earned her master's degree in library technology. Betty primarily taught at North Star Elementary in Minneapolis, but spent part of her career in the St. Paul Public School District.

Betty was a woman of heart who made positive impacts in her community. She generously volunteered at many schools including SAP Elementary, Murray, Central High School and other various organizations including SAP United Church of Christ, Scouts and community fundraisers.

Betty loved serving others. She spent much of her time baking and delighted in sharing her bread, pies and cookies with loved ones. Betty will be remembered for her abundant energy and her warm ways.

In retirement, Betty continued to work at the Bibelot gift shop, where she stayed connected with friends and neighbors in St. Anthony Park. Later in life, Betty moved to Episcopal Homes to be near a close friend.

Betty's survivors include son, Eric Svensson (Mariella), daughter, Christina Sheu (Ted), four grandchildren and siblings Patricia Brashears and Robert Lawther.

Betty's celebration of life will be held at a later date. ■

*Unable are the loved to die,  
for love is immortality.*

— Emily Dickinson

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**OFFICE W/MEZZANINE** and lower-level worker/creative space available for lease at the corner of Como and Carter. For details call Wellington Management at 651-292-9844

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Instagram @flannelbuilders

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## HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS

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2278 Como Avenue  
Nate Cogswell, DDS  
Allison Forbes, DDS  
Brad Nozzarella, DDS  
Nadine Yacoub, DDS  
Phone/Text: 651-644-9216  
[frontdesk@sapdentalcare.com](mailto:frontdesk@sapdentalcare.com)

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651-644-3900 • [www.skonchiro.com](http://www.skonchiro.com)

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

## Community Worship Directory

❖ **ST. ANTHONY PARK LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
2323 Como Avenue West, 651-645-0371  
Pastor Daniel Tallon Ruen and Pastor Jill Rode  
Web, Facebook & Instagram: *SAPLC*  
Sunday Worship in-person: 9:30 AM  
Wednesday Community Dinner: 5-6:30 PM  
Dec 3, 10 & 17, Midweek Advent Reflections 6:30 PM  
Dec 24, Christmas Eve: 3:00, 5:00 & 9:00 PM  
Dec 25, Christmas Day: 10:00 AM  
Live stream on YouTube Channel: [bit.ly/3nWjlDD](https://bit.ly/3nWjlDD)

❖ **ST. CECILIA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
2357 Bayless Place, 651-644-4502  
[info@stceciliasp.org](mailto:info@stceciliasp.org), [www.stceciliasp.org](http://www.stceciliasp.org)  
Handicap-accessible.  
Pastor John M. Hofstede  
Wednesday, Dec 3, Taize Prayer: 7:00 PM  
Dec 24, Christmas Carols: 4:00 PM  
Dec 24, Christmas Eve Mass: 4:30 PM  
Dec 25, Christmas Day Mass: 9:30 AM  
Jan 1: New Year's Day Mass: 9:30 AM

❖ **CENTENNIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH—ST. ANTHONY PARK CAMPUS**  
2200 Hillside Avenue, 651-633-7644  
[www.centennialumc.org](http://www.centennialumc.org)  
Worship online and in-person  
Sundays at 10:30 AM  
Dec 24, Christmas Eve Service: 3:00 PM  
Find us on Facebook: *Centennial SAP* for worship schedule.  
*We're in this together!*

❖ **ST. ANTHONY PARK UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
2129 Commonwealth (at Chelmsford), 651-646-7173  
[www.sapucc.org](http://www.sapucc.org)  
Sunday Worship: 10:30 AM in person and via Zoom  
Christmas Eve: Family Service: 4:00 PM, and Candlelight Service: 8:00 PM  
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❖ **ST. MATTHEW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
2136 Carter Ave. (at Chelmsford), 651-645-3058  
[www.stmatthewsmn.org](http://www.stmatthewsmn.org), Facebook: *stmatthewsmn*  
Sunday Eucharist 10:30 AM | Faith formation 9:15 AM  
Wednesday Eucharist 12:00 noon followed by lunch  
Thanksgiving worship: 11/27, 10:30 AM followed by feast  
Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols: 12/21, 5:00 PM  
Christmas services: 12/24, 4 PM & 10 PM, 12/25, 10:30 AM

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# EVENTS AND MORE

Compiled by Kathy Henderson

## St. Anthony Park Garden Club

Brandon Miller, University of Minnesota Department of Horticultural Science and Extension specialist, presents "Lesser-Known Trees and Shrubs for Minnesota."

The meeting begins at 6:30 p.m., with the program at 7:30 p.m., on Tuesday, Dec. 2, at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, 2323 Como Ave. Enter through the Luther Place door. To attend virtually, request a Zoom link at [sapgardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:sapgardenclub@gmail.com).

## St. Paul Parks & Recreation

Registration for 2025-2026 rec center winter activities is now open. View details at [stpaul.gov/news/winterspring-activity-registration](http://stpaul.gov/news/winterspring-activity-registration).

## Women's Drum Center

Drum basic class from 6 to 7 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 15, at 2242 University Ave. W. Jo Klein teaches easy hand and stick exercises. Drums provided. \$15. Register at [womensdrumcenter.org](http://womensdrumcenter.org).

## Community sing

Join musician Dan Chouinard and Ann Reed for a free community sing-along at 7 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 15, at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 2136 Carter Ave.

## Next Chapter Bookseller

Author readings at 1 p.m. on Saturdays at 38 Snelling Ave. S.

**Stephanie Hansen**, Nov. 29, "True North Cabin Cookbook Volume Two: Seasonal Recipes from a Cozy Kitchen."

**Anika Fajardo**, Dec. 6, "The Many Mothers of Dolores Moore."

**Lori Sturdevant**, Dec. 13, "Martin Sabo: The Making of the Modern Legislature."

**Drew M. Ross**, Dec. 20, "Becoming the Twin Cities: Swindles, Schemes, and Enduring Rivalries."

## Seed Session at North Dale

The final Seed Session of the season will take place from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 10, at North

Dale Recreation Center, 1414 St. Albans St. N. Enjoy a little garden joy and share seed know-how with the Como Community Seed Library. Youth ages 15 and under should register with an adult. Register at [comoseedlibrary.org/events](http://comoseedlibrary.org/events).

## Bell Museum

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

**Heart and Solstice:** Activities and exhibits from Wednesday, Dec. 17, through Sunday, Jan. 4, highlight the shortest days of sunlight in our hemisphere.

**Christmas bird count:** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 20. Volunteers count birds on designated routes within St. Paul.

**Solar observing for solstice:** Noon to 2 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 21. Solar telescopes at the Learning Landscape (outside the museum) will be available dependent upon weather and temperature.

**Winter Camps: Snow Much Fun: Weather, Space, and Engineering (Grades 3-5):** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 22, and Tuesday, Dec. 23. \$170-\$155. Limited space, registration required.

**Biology, Adaptations, and Art (Grades 3-5):** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. from Monday, Dec. 29, through Wednesday, Dec. 31. \$250.-\$235. Limited space, registration required.

## Art Show at St. Matthew's



Abstract watercolor, Circle 1010.2, by Marie Panlener.

Realistic and abstract watercolors by Marie Panlener opens Sunday, Dec. 14, and runs through Feb. 13, 2026, at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 2136 Carter Ave., during office hours: 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m. on Wednesdays and Fridays and 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. on Sundays.

## 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.

**Senior Strolls:** 4:30 to 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 9, and from 9 to 10 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 16. Special time reserved for adults ages 55 and older.

"Wolves and Wild Lands," the traveling exhibit from the International Wolf Center (Ely, Minnesota) continues through Jan. 4, 2026.

## Gibbs Farm

Pathways to Dakota and Pioneer Life, 2097 Larpenteur Ave. W., Falcon Heights: [rchs.com/gibbs-farm](http://rchs.com/gibbs-farm).

**Beeswax Candles with Pressed Flowers:** Dip and decorate a beeswax candle on Saturday, Dec. 6, in the Red Barn. Register online for a time slot: 11 a.m., noon, 2 or 3 p.m. \$15-\$17.

This project involves hot wax and timing: All children under 14 need to be accompanied by an adult and all kids under 7 will need one-on-one help from their grown-up.

## Senior activities

St. Anthony Park Area Seniors offers a variety of activities. Unless another location is listed, activities take place at Centennial United Methodist Church, 2200 Hillside Ave. W. Unless specified, registration is not necessary. For more information, call 651-642-9052 or email [sc@sapaseniors.org](mailto:sc@sapaseniors.org).

**SAIL: Stay Active and Independent for Life:** A fitness class for balance, strength and flexibility. 10 to 11 a.m. on Mondays, Dec. 1, 8 and 15, and on Wednesday, Dec. 3. Call the office or email to register.

**Pound Fit:** Full-body movements with drumsticks set to music. 10 to 11 a.m. on Tuesdays, Dec. 2, 9 and 16. Limited class size. Call the office or email to register.

**Viewers Like Us: Remember the Magic:** Film and discussion. 2 to 4 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 4. Call the office or email to register.

**Game Day:** Coffee and board games. 10 to 11:45 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 5

**Card-making workshop:** 9:30 to 11 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 11. Call the office or email to register.

**Handiwork Group:** 10 a.m. to noon on Thursday, Dec. 11, at St. Anthony Park Library, 2245 Como Ave. Bring your own supplies.

**Equal Portions:** Noon to 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 18, at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 2136 Carter Ave. Catered luncheon and presentation, \$15. Register by Wednesday, Dec. 10.

**Poetry Group:** 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. on Friday, Dec. 19. Virtual: Call the office or e-mail for Zoom link.

**Chair yoga:** 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. on Fridays, Dec. 5, 12 and 19. Virtual via Zoom. Contact office to register.

**Lunch Bunch:** Noon to 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 17. Socializing and BINGO. ■

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

### An Evening of Chamber Music

Works by Albeniz, Mendelssohn and Francaix, plus a world premiere trio by Brian Krinke!

<b>Brian Krinke</b> violin & piano <small>Colorado Mesa University</small>	<b>Amelia Krinke</b> viola <small>The Juilliard School</small>	<b>Laura Sewell</b> cello <small>Formerly Lark &amp; Artaria Quartets</small>
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Friday, Jan 9, 2026, at 7pm

**St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ**  
2129 Commonwealth, St. Paul, MN

Free admission: \$20 suggested donation | \$5 for seniors and students

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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](http://TransitionASAP.org).

## Why I love my e-bike And why I think you'll love one too

By Bonnie Horgos

I'm originally from California, and watching the Palisades Wildfire in January 2025 made me to realize we're past the point of climate change as an imminent threat. We're already living in a changed world, and I needed to adapt my life immediately.

I calculated my carbon footprint, then identified ways to live more sustainably that were easy and affordable, even cost-saving (given that I was finishing graduate school and on a tight budget).

Besides joining Transition Town—All St. Anthony Park (TT-ASAP), I stopped eating meat, sold my car and bought a used e-bike on Facebook Marketplace.

Each of these steps has improved my life immensely.

Going vegetarian cut my grocery bills, joining Transition Town provided community, and selling my car means I'm not only spending less time in rush-hour traffic, but I have also drastically reduced my carbon emissions (the average U.S. car produces approximately 4.6 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per year).

My e-bike, though, has created a particular sense of joy. There's nothing like seeing my neighbors bring their kids to preschool

during my morning commute, loading groceries in my pannier outside Speedy Market or watching the UofM crew practice while I bike along the Mississippi River.

However, e-bikes can be a bit of a financial commitment. For example, the average e-bike at REI goes for about \$2,000, with entry-level options costing around \$1,000 and high-end bikes costing \$6,000 or more. So it's important to try an e-bike before making the switch.

**Try one for free:** Fortunately, Transition Town plans to start a new program so people can try before they buy.

In spring 2026, we'll launch Fresh Air Wheels: St. Anthony Park eBike Library, so neighbors can try an e-bike for several days, completely free.

Modeled after the successful Minneapolis Cargo Bike Library, this program lets borrowers see how an e-bike fits into their life, including commuting to work, getting groceries, dropping off kids or simply enjoying the ride. Each participant can borrow a fully charged e-bike (standard or cargo style), a helmet and a bike lock. Additionally, we'll provide a brief orientation and safety training to ensure a confident, comfortable ride.



At the end of the loan, participants will have the chance to share feedback and reflect on how e-biking could fit into their daily routine. I'm confident that people will see the e-bike as a must-have.

Besides being faster than manual bikes, e-bikes can encourage others to get in the bike lane.

Research shows that e-bikes can be a great mobility aid for people from all backgrounds, including seniors and people with disabilities. For example, I have type 1 diabetes. Although I'm very active, I love not having to worry about my blood sugar dropping during my commute, which is common with exercise.

**You can help:** In order to launch Fresh Air Wheels and show people the magic of the e-bike, Transition Town needs community support. That's why we launched a fundraiser in November 2025 via GiveMN, beginning on Give to the Max Day. We're aiming to raise \$5,000, which will cover our two e-bikes, accesso-

ries, insurance, a fund for repairs and replacement costs, and overhead, including GiveMN fees.

We plan to continue fundraising until we meet our goal. You can learn more about our fundraiser and donate by going to [givemn.org/story/tgmneg](http://givemn.org/story/tgmneg).

By supporting Fresh Air Wheels, donors help power sustainable transportation in St. Anthony Park. I think it'll be a great ride. ■

Bonnie Horgos is a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Minnesota's Department of Forest Resources, an adjunct professor at the University of St. Thomas and a member of Transition Town—All St. Anthony Park.

### Fresh Air Wheels St. Anthony Park eBike Library

**What it is:** A free e-bike lending library launching in spring 2026. Borrow an e-bike for several days to explore how it fits into your daily life, whether commuting to work, running errands or just enjoying the ride.

**What's included:**

- A fully charged e-bike (standard or cargo style)
- Helmet and lock
- Orientation and safety training

**Why it matters:** E-bikes make biking more accessible, sustainable and fun, while reducing car trips, emissions and commuting stress.

**How you can help:** TT-ASAP is raising \$5,000 for e-bikes, accessories, insurance and maintenance. Support the GiveMN fundraiser and power sustainable transportation in our neighborhood.

**Donate Today**

[givemn.org/story/tgmneg](http://givemn.org/story/tgmneg)

## "All things Knapp": A legacy

By Mary Mergenthal

Augsburg University academic Kristin Anderson will discuss "All Things Knapp" in her latest architectural history talk.

Anderson's free talk is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 9, at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, 2323 Como Ave. Ave. A professor emerita of art and architecture, Anderson presents monthly talks at SAPLC through May.

In the early 1870s, brothers-in-law William Marshall and Nathaniel Langford—both prominent St. Paulites—had the idea for a grand garden suburb set between Minneapolis and St. Paul. Big ideas require big money, and the project received financial backing from wealthy lumbermen in Menomonee, Wisconsin.

This small group included John H. Knapp, who remained involved in the revised St. Anthony Park of the 1880s and whose family owned land on the neighborhood's edges well into the 20th century.

Knapp's legacy is honored in a discontinuous street spanning the St. Anthony Park and north St. Anthony Park additions, and an intersecting block-long street next to the Methodist church.



At the intersection of Knapp Street and Knapp Place. Detail from Langford Park Under Improvement (c. 1890). Photo donated by Charles Cheney, used by permission of the Ramsey County Historical Society.

Anyone unable to attend in person can view the presentation live online, with a recording available for one week following Dec. 9. Use the SAPLC YouTube channel [bit.ly/Sap-history](http://bit.ly/Sap-history).

You can also access the channel from [saplc.org](http://saplc.org) via the worship tab and then to the livestream link.

All are welcome to attend. Presentations remain free, but donations help offset program costs.

Looking ahead, Anderson will discuss "The State Fairgrounds: St. Anthony Park's Big Neighbor" on Jan. 13. ■

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

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## CPHS COUGAR SPORTS

# Cougar boys soccer at state final

## Remarkable playoff run ends with second place

By Eric Erickson

The Como High boys soccer team's unforgettable six-game winning streak through October was snapped on Halloween. The final score of the Class AA State Championship Game at U.S. Bank Stadium was 3-0 in favor of Blake, the state tournament's top seed.

The Cougars were unseeded as a surprise entrant in the eight-team tournament field. But they quickly became a compelling story, knocking off the No. 3 seed from New Ulm in the quarterfinals and then defeating No. 2 Simley in the semifinals, with senior captain Blessed Htoo scoring the game-winner in an overtime thriller.

However, Blake was a worthy champion, combining to beat their three state tournament opponents by a collective score of 12-1.

For the Cougars, reaching the title game allowed the community to rally around the team and show its support in myriad ways.

The players visited Como Elementary School for a rally with their young fans. A fundraising effort secured five fan buses and game tickets for Como students.

The St. Paul Police Department escorted the team's bus to the championship game. Social media posts from the mayor, school district and alumni celebrated the team's success.

"We all felt the support of the community," said senior captain Henry Simmons. "Not just Como, but we heard from friends and players across St. Paul."

Como's student section at the final was loud, proud and thematically dressed in Halloween costumes. Their support never wa-

vered, even after the final whistle. Cheers for every player receiving their second-place medals helped the Cougar boys handle the sting of the loss.

Putting it all into perspective is difficult to do in the immediacy of the season's ending. But as time goes by, the 2025 Como boys soccer season will be remembered as a thriller. "I can hardly believe it happened," co-coach Jonah Fields said. "But at the same time, I'm not the least bit surprised by each individual result."

The team's health returned to full strength after junior captain and all-state midfielder Stefan N'da recovered from an injury that sidelined him through much of September.

"We knew we'd be a different team with Stefan back in the lineup," co-coach Brendan Doyle said. "We felt like we could give anybody a game."



Como Park Cougars with fans and their state runner-up trophy following the championship match at U.S. Bank Stadium. Photo by Eric Erickson.

The Cougars finished with an overall record of 15-6-1. They went 6-1 in October, starting at Allianz Field with a victory over Humboldt in the St. Paul Cup and ending at U.S. Bank Stadium with their only loss of the month in the state final.

In between, they won five playoff games. On paper, they were the underdog in four of them. What

the Cougars discovered, along with everyone else in the state, was that they belonged with the best and shone on the biggest stages. ■

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

# Other notable Cougar athletic achievements

By Eric Erickson

Here is a rundown of other Como Park High School teams and athletes who had noteworthy fall sports achievements:

**Tennis:** For the first time in school history, a Como player qualified for the girls' state tennis tournament.

Como junior Ela Cantellano rolled through the Section 4AAA singles tournament without dropping a set and claimed the championship.

At the state tournament, Cantellano made more history by winning her first-round match. She defeated her opponent from Maple Grove in straight sets before falling in the state quarterfinals to the state's No. 1 seed.



Como junior Ela Cantellano became the first Como girl to ever qualify for the state tennis tournament and advanced to the quarterfinals. Photo by Kia Yang.

"When I made it to state it meant so much to me but also to everyone who has helped me on my journey," Cantellano said. "I'm so grateful to have found such a genuine, caring, and talented group of people in Como tennis."

Junior Aurelia Haycraft was all conference with Cantellano. Senior Sofia Gonzalez earned honorable mention.

**Swimming:** Como senior Aleia Lueck repeated as the Section 4A champion in both the 50-yard free-style and the 100-yard free. She also swept those events at the St. Paul City Conference meet, posting a new conference record.

As the Bugle went to press, Lueck was preparing to swim in her fourth consecutive state swim meet.

Lueck, senior Hattie Miller, junior Adeline Hanson and freshman Sadie Kersey combined forces to win the St. Paul City Conference title in the 200-yard relay. Hanson was also the conference champ in the 100-yard breast-stroke and the 200-yard free. Miller earned all-conference for her second-place finish in the 200-yard individual medley.

**Girls soccer:** The Cougars played strongly against the top teams in the city and put together an overall record of 7-7-2. Senior Lucy Dietz and freshman Alayla Salas were both selected all conference. Seniors Robin Engman-Phiri, Sarah Dar and Sarah Oakman received honorable mention.

**Volleyball:** The Cougar girls finished fourth in the St. Paul City conference. Their playoff matchup was against Harding, who had tied for the city championship. But the Cougars turned the ta-

bles on the Knights in the section quarterfinals and posted an impressive 3 sets to 1 victory.

Como's all conference players were senior captains Aletha Keizer and Niko Solheid and freshman libero Tsuki Solheid. Sophomore middle blocker Azrayelle Taylor earned honorable mention.

**Football:** The Cougars finished 3-7 with victories over Central and Harding-Humboldt in St. Paul City competition. The third win came in a first-round section tournament game versus Columbia Heights. The Cougars outlasted the Hylanders 28-27 and advanced to the section semifinals before falling to Totino-Grace.

Seniors Jonas Tetevi and Aaron Carter and junior Tate Prinsen were all district selections. Senior Vontae Williams along with juniors Angelo Salas and Everette Lake-Higgins were honorable mention. ■

Eric Erickson is a social studies teacher at Como Park High School.

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