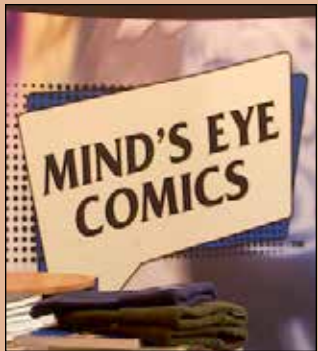
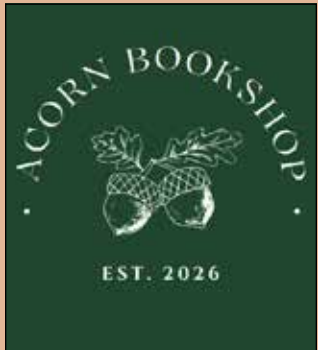




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Park Bugle

St. Anthony Park / Como Park
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February 2026

Analog oasis Present Company opens in Milton Square

By Seth Richardson

Turn off. Tune out. Drop in. That is the essential philosophy behind Mick Grotzke's Present Company, the recently opened retail store/workshop space/mini mart/hangout spot devoted to analog activities in St. Anthony Park's Milton Square.

Put simply, it is a place to unplug and be present.

Grotzke, 43, said, "What we're shooting for is to serve as a place where you can come together, grab coffee, sit, play cards, just hang out and be without the expectation to buy anything."

The shop in the rear courtyard behind Nico's Tacos looks as if it were plucked out of a '90s sitcom or teen drama. A tube television played VHS while an old Sony stereo played Green Day's "Dookie" during Grotzke's interview with the Park Bugle.

A coffee station and food and drink corner akin to a mini mart sits at the front of the store. Everything is \$4 or less to keep in line with Grotzke's vision of affordability and accessibility.

Shelves next to the snack stop hold dozens of stickers (Grotzke's a big fan of stickers), board games and puzzles.

On the wall opposite the counter full of Grotzke's knick-knacks — actually a bar from Mustache Cat — are the stereo, vinyl, cassettes, CRT television and books focused on skill-building to both peruse while vibing or

purchase to take home. Grotzke included a local music section for bands and musicians to sell their physical media at wholesale pricing.

A nearby cabinet houses analog technology — screen-free cameras, boomboxes and external drives for burning CDs — for sale.

Conversation nook and special events

In the rear of the store, second-hand — and quite comfortable — furniture is arranged next to another old television forming a nook for people to sit and gab.

Open around noon to 7 p.m. most days save Monday and Tuesday (a detailed schedule is online at presentcompanyanalog.com), Grotzke said Present Company will be chock full of activities throughout the week.

Sundays include sticker club (told you she was a big fan) and planner posse, a time to come in and plan out the week on physical planners. Other semi-regularly scheduled events include crappy



The Present Company recently opened in Milton Square, serving as a retail store, workshop space/mini market and hangout spot devoted to analog activities. Photo by Seth Richardson.

craft night and game night on alternating Wednesdays, Throwback Thursdays with rotating themes and puzzle parties on Fridays.

But it will also include special events such as retro video game tournaments and workshops on physical media, particularly geared toward younger people who want to adopt analog technology such as film photography or making mixtapes.

Most events are free and open to all ages, though some may be for adult audiences or have a small entrance fee to cover supply costs. "Ultimately, I'd like to have a non-

profit arm so I can bring physical media and analog programming to folks for free," Grotzke said. Until then, she's planning a youth volunteer program in which students can help at the shop to earn credit toward their tech.

Young people can also pitch Grotzke on a program or event idea, receiving help and space to make it a reality.

"If there's a workshop they want to lead or an event they want to host here, I'm happy to provide the space if they tell me more about it and how they plan to accomplish it,"

Present Company to p. 8

Steve Parshley reaches for the stars

By Sarah CR Clark

Steve Parshley is one of those kind and quiet neighbors whose humility hides the fact that he's engaged in extraordinary work.

A resident of St. Anthony Park with his wife and a kindergartner, Parshley is a full-time, remote project engineer at Cornell University. For over 10 years he has been managing the unique design and construction of a novel telescope in the Atacama Desert of Chile.

Parshley explained the instrument's extraordinary qualities include "a design that hasn't been done before. It feels very exciting."

While the CCAT Observatory's telescope isn't the largest or most powerful, it is currently unparalleled. (Originally standing for Cornell-Caltech Atacama Telescope, the acronym CCAT is now inconsequential, but has stuck.)

The telescope at CCAT has its own name, the Fred Young Submillimeter Telescope, named in honor of a Cornell alum and substantial funder of the CCAT project.

"It is fair to say that the project wouldn't exist without him," Parshley said. The telescope is a 6 me-

ter (20 foot) in diameter survey telescope. "It has a relatively large field of view as opposed to a classic telescope, so we'll be able to survey the sky with better resolution and better sensitivity, at a wavelength that hasn't been mapped before," Parshley expanded. "Think far, far infrared wavelengths."

Currently, the CCAT observatory is being built in the mountains east of San Pedro, Chile. The site is considered exceptional for a telescope because both the high elevation and low humidity of the desert decrease sight-obscuring air humidity.

"We'll be able to look across more of the sky than has happened before," Parshley added. "That's all exciting because whenever you look into the unknown, you always find new things, throughout all of science history."

Growing up in New Hampshire

Looking into the unknown has always appealed to Parshley, who grew up in a small New Hampshire town.

"As a kid I wasn't into sports, but I was taking my toys apart and dreaming of the next fort that I wanted to build," he remembered.

Parshley added that NASA's space



Steve Parshley lives in St Anthony Park, works full-time remotely for Cornell University. He is project engineer for the design and construction of a unique telescope and observatory in Chile. Photo by Sarah CR Clark.

program had a big impact on his early days as did PBS's NOVA series.

Parshley also credited his family for stirring his interest in engineering. "My dad is very handy electrically, and my uncles were farmers, therefore, natural tinkers when I was growing up. From a pretty young age I was drawn to technology. In high school I was interested in the engineering path."

Parshley credited a particular

Steve Parshley to p. 7

CITY FILES

St. Anthony Park and Como community councils news

District 10
Community Council

District 10 Blizzard Breakfast

Join St. Paul Parks and Recreation and the Como Community Council for a pancake breakfast and winter activities from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Feb. 7, at the North Dale Recreation Center, 1414 St. Albans.

Try snowshoeing, cross-country skiing and skating before you warm up with a bonfire and s'mores. After all the fun outside, head inside for more kid's activities and a pancake breakfast, sponsored by St. Timothy's and Como Park Lutheran churches.

Back this year is a local maker's market where people will have booths selling their goods. It's a way to help support local artists, bakers and plant enthusiasts. For more information, go to District10ComoPark.org/sd3event.

2025 Como Curb Cleanup results

Back in October and November, District 10 continued the work started by the Como Active Citizen's Network and partnered with the Capitol Region Watershed District to lead the Como Curb Cleanup program, a coordinated effort to remove fallen leaves from the storm.

Then in December participants were asked to report their cleaning efforts. With 91 participants reporting, we've calculated how much algae overgrowth was prevented with our community effort.

Here are the results:

- Total feet cleaned: 33,517
- Number of miles cleaned: 6.3
- Equivalent number of times around Como Lake cleaned: 3.7
- Total pounds of phosphorus prevented from reaching Como Lake: 10.47
- Tons of curly leaf pond weed this phosphorus amount could produce: 2.62

Take winter low/no salt pledge

This winter, District 10 is partnering with the Capitol Region Watershed District to raise awareness about the harmful effects of excess salt on local waters.

While salt reduces ice and keeps us safe, it can damage lakes, rivers, and more. Here's how to minimize its impact:

- Have the proper tools to clear driveways and sidewalks. Remove snow early and often to prevent compacted ice.
- Try using grit or sand for traction on ice instead of melting the ice with salt. Grit (also called cherry stone, chicken grit or traction grit) provides better traction than sand and is easier to clean up. Find it at hardware stores and farm/home centers.
- Select the correct product. Road salt only works when the pavement temperature is above 15 degrees. If you use a deicer, read the label for usage instructions and temperature. In colder temperatures, use different products like sand or grit.

tions and temperature. In colder temperatures, use different products like sand or grit.

- Scatter salt sparingly: A 12-oz coffee cup covers a 20-foot driveway or 10 sidewalk squares. Spread grains 3 inches apart and use salt only on ice.
- Sweep up grit and sand or leftover salt to reuse as needed.
- Help your neighbors! Assist those who can't clear sidewalks. If needed, the Saintly City Snow Angels Facebook group can connect you with someone to help.

Learn more and sign up for the salt reduction pledge at District10ComoPark.org/Cleanup/#chloride.

Serving on District 10
Community Council

Several seats are up for election in April to the District 10 Como Community Council board.

These positions serve two-year terms, through April 2028. To get on the ballot, fill out an application at District10ComoPark.org/Elections. That's where you can also learn more about the roles and opportunities of board members.

The filing deadline is Tuesday, March 31. The election ends April 14.

For further information, go to district10@district10comopark.org.

Upcoming District 10 meetings

District 10 meetings are hybrid on Zoom and at the Como Streetcar

Station, 1224 Lexington Parkway. You can find meeting details at District10ComoPark.org.

- 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 4
- 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 18

All District 10 community meetings are open to the public.

Submitted by District 10 executive director Shevek McKee.

District 12
Community Council

Winter meal at Seal Hi-Rise

On Saturday, Jan. 10, neighbors gathered at Seal Hi-Rise for an afternoon that felt quietly special.

The community room was filled with conversation, music and the steady rhythm of people coming and going for another helping of food.

Hosted by the St. Anthony Park Community Council Equity Committee, the annual meal has become a tradition — a chance to check in with one another during the long winter and share space without an agenda.

"There's something grounding about sitting down together in January," said Melissa Pappas, Equity Committee co-chair. "It's about creating a place where neighbors can relax, talk and feel connected."

Residents of Seal Hi-Rise were joined by neighbors from across the community. Live music from Rob Stokes and friends added warmth, providing a familiar soundtrack as people lingered.

The meal was made possible through support from local businesses including Herbst Eatery and Farm Stand, Lanna Thai, Colossal Cafe, Hampden Park Co-Op and Tim & Tom's Speedy Market.

In a season that can feel long and quiet, the Seal Hi-Rise meal was a reminder that connection doesn't have to be complicated.

50 years of
community engagement

In 2026, the SAP District 12 Community Council marks 50 years of

community engagement — five decades shaped not by any single project or plan, but by neighbors showing up for one another.

SAPCC is St. Paul's designated community engagement organization for District 12, working with residents, businesses, and partners across St. Anthony Park. Being transparent about funding is part of honoring that trust.

In 2025, District 12's contract with the city of St. Paul provided approximately \$63,000 to support core community engagement responsibilities. For 2026, that funding is expected to increase to approximately \$70,000.

This funding covers staffing, communications, meeting facilitation and coordination — functions that keep neighborhood engagement consistent year-round.

In addition to individual giving, District 12 relies on public and private funding. In 2025, the St. Anthony Park Community Foundation provided \$1,500 for operations and \$1,500 for the SAP Community Garden. In 2025 and 2026, SAPCC received \$2,000 from the St. Paul Bird Alliance to support habitat, garden expansion and orchard land reclamation at the Community Garden.

This year, District 12 plans a spring fundraiser beginning in April to boost overall funding.

Upcoming District 12 meetings

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

- Land Use Committee: 7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 5
- District 12 Board: 7 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 12
- Equity Committee: 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 23
- Transportation Committee: 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 24
- Environment Committee: 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 25

Submitted by District 12 executive director Zev Radziwill.

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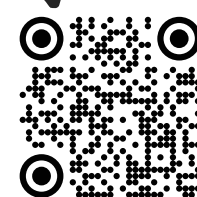
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SCAN FOR MORE



Mind's Eye Comics comes to Milton Square

By Seth Richardson

Eric Childs still remembers the first comic he ever owned. Childs, 47, had read his brothers' comics by sneaking into their rooms, but got his hands on his first issue around 1985 with "Spider-Man, Storm And Power Man Battle Smokescreen."

"It was a comic book they gave out at school for, like, smoking awareness," Childs said. "The villain was Smokescreen and he was smoking out the kids."

The seemingly innocuous PSA started a lifelong passion that Childs is now bringing to St. Anthony Park via Mind's Eye Comics.

Childs was a day-one customer of Mind's Eye at its founding in 1998. He purchased the long-standing institution in 2018 with an eye on futurizing the business and relocating it from Burnsville to Milton Square behind Nico's Tacos. The business, which was featured alongside industry powerhouses in the 2025 documentary "Shopping for Superman," had a soft opening in the fall and is now open daily from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.



Eric Childs is owner of the Mind's Eye Comics bookstore.

the rack just to the left of the entrance that includes that week's new releases as well as rows of graphic novels lining the walls from the big two of DC and Marvel to independent publishers.

As an artist and illustrator himself who dreamt of breaking into the industry in his youth, Childs said highlighting independent creators is part of his mission.

"Mind's Eye, if there's anything we're known for is the type of publishers we carry," he said. "We're going to have the widest selection of independent publishers."

The store racks house more than just pulp-noir, sci-fi and superhe-

roes. Childs, who is Black, has a selection of historical and diversity-oriented graphic novels, keeping in line with his personal commitment to literacy and education.

"For me, representation is a matter of fact," Childs said. "It should be there. This is stuff I want to showcase and have available."

Mind's Eye will offer subscription lists for weekly releases. And the store than just comics, including steamy romance novels.

For those looking to publish their own work, Childs also offers on-site printing services for runs as low as 25 copies.

Clothing racks and table displays are full of products from local designers and creators — who get 80% of the proceeds from the sales.

"They can use the store as an opportunity to launch their careers and get exposure," Childs said. "People ask how the store wins on that. The thing is, they help make the store unique. Many times, there's things you can come here and find that you're not going to find at any other comic shop."

In a back room, next to a Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles arcade machine are legacy video games, DVDs, Blu-rays and vinyl. Another corner features toys, figurines and collectibles.



Mind's Eye Comics opened in Milton Square after relocating from Burnsville in fall 2025. The shop has a wide selection of comics, graphic novels, books, apparel, figurines and legacy media as well as community space for events. Photos by Seth Richardson.

Pop culture products abound
Inside, customers will find a pano-

Offering a community room
The part of the store that Childs is arguably most excited about is the community room, which will host events ranging from book clubs to creator workshops to tabletop gaming sessions.

A devotee of literacy education, Childs is already formulating youth programs and partnerships with other local businesses, including his recently opened neighbor Present Company.

Childs is planning a larger opening event, as well as ongoing programming, featuring industry professionals — a sort of continuing miniature comic book convention. Events will be posted on mindseyecomics.com and its social media channels.

For now, the doors are open and he encourages anyone to stop in, whether they plan to purchase their next haul or to just hang out.

"I couldn't have found a more perfect spot for Mind's Eye and the way I curate and how I utilize the space," Childs said. ■

Seth Richardson is a freelance journalist and serves on the board of the Park Bugle.

Lauderdale to hold sustainability open house

By Anne Holzman

Neighbors can weigh in on environmental policy priorities at an open house from 5 to 7 p.m. on Feb. 11 at Lauderdale City Hall, 1891 Walnut St.

Lauderdale's new Environment Commission, in partnership with Ramsey County, will host the open house, with city council members on hand to discuss the issues.

The open house is a step in the

commission's work on an environment action plan for the city. ■

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

Opinions expressed in the Bugle by the editor, writers and contributors do not necessarily represent the opinions of the board of directors, Park Press, Inc. Copyright 2025, Park Press, Inc. All rights reserved.

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EDITORIAL

From the desk of the editor

By Scott Carlson

Putting love into action

The recent death of Minneapolis resident Renee Good in the wake of an immigration crackdown in the Twin Cities by federal ICE agents has stoked growing tensions and turmoil among local immigrants and citizens.

ICE agents' targeting and apprehending immigrants for possible incarceration and deportation has torn apart our Twin Cities community. These days, plenty of immigrants are leery about answering their doors and/or going out in public, for fear of getting unjustly apprehended.

When you know how this immigration crackdown is adversely affecting the Twin Cities, it's hard to ignore the plight of neighbors, who are scared and hurting.

So when a local Spanish-speak-

ing church put out the call in mid-January asking for help; St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church was among many local churches that answered the call.

SAPLC member Mary Mergenthal tells this story:

"SAPLC issued a call to its membership for immediate assistance to help donate a list of specific items to the Spanish speaking church," Mary said. "That call was then also extended to the SAP listserv on Jan. 13. The hope was to fill Pastor Jill Rode's minivan with groceries on Jan. 15.

"Thanks to the generosity of church members and the neighborhood, more vans and volunteers were needed to load and unload and transport items" said Mary, a former Bugle editor.

Here's the list of items that the community donated to the Spanish-speaking congregation: More than 300 bags of groceries; over 6,000

diapers and nearly \$10,000 in cash, checks and gift cards.

As SAPLC Pastor Rohde told Mary, "What a joy to be part of this collective action. Thank you for putting love into action!"

New tenants at Milton Square

Exciting changes are coming to St. Anthony Park's Milton Square retail center. In our February issue, the Bugle shares stories of three new tenants. They are:

Acorn Bookshop, which is being housed in the former upstairs Mica's Books space.

The new store, scheduled to open in March, will offer a collection of new and used books across genres. It will emphasize women authors, diverse and underrepresented stories, historical fiction and YA, plus jewelry, greeting cards, candles and toys.

Present Company, the recent-

ly opened retail store/workshop space/mini mart/hangout spot is devoted to analog activities.

"The shop in the rear courtyard behind Nico's Tacos looks as if it were plucked out of a '90s sitcom or teen drama," says Bugle reporter Seth Richardson.

Mind's Eye Comics. This store, also located behind Nico's Tacos, features a panoply of pop culture products.

Freelancer Richardson notes, "There's the rack just to the left of the entrance that includes that week's new releases as well as rows of graphic novels lining the walls from the big two of DC and Marvel to independent publishers."

I'm looking forward to checking out each one of these newbies to St. Anthony Park. ■

Scott Carlson is the managing editor of the Bugle.

COMMENTARY

Standing with immigrant farmers

By Theresa Schneider McCormick

In this deeply devastating time for the Twin Cities and Minnesota, I'm writing to reaffirm, as we did last January, that The Good Acre is here with and for this community, for good.

We stand in firm opposition to the widespread and indiscriminate federal immigration enforcement actions currently unfolding across our region, as well as the withholding of funds from the state of Minnesota.

In this acute moment of need, we are grateful to the people and organizations who have mobilized to protect community members, feed neighbors, provide resources, and create beauty and joy amidst fear and chaos. Find ways for you to get



involved in supporting immigrant communities below.

For The Good Acre, being "here" right now means staying close to our farmers and partners and responding to what they need in this moment.

Because our work is rooted in building a resilient and equitable food system, being here also means looking ahead.

We believe that planning for the future during times of uncertainty is itself an act of resilience.

While we are checking in on farm partners and working to ensure their safety in interactions with The Good Acre, we are also beginning the annual contracting process.

As our farm partners prepare for the season, it is our mission to ensure they have economic opportunities to thrive. This predictability matters deeply for our farm partners. It means being able to care for their families, sustain their businesses, and continue the skilled work of feeding our communities.

In the weeks ahead, we'll invite you to support this work by purchasing a CSA share and continuing to choose local food. These choices matter — not only because they help ensure farmers have stable markets, but because they help

ensure communities have reliable access to fresh, locally grown food. ■

Theresa Schneider McCormick is executive director of The Good Acre, a Falcon Heights-based nonprofit food hub.

Bugle deadlines

Here are our Bugle deadlines for the next three issues. We appreciate when writers and readers submit articles early.

Please note that publication dates reflect when papers go out for delivery; mail delivery may take several business days.

Bulk drop-offs of the paper are usually completed two to three days after publication.

March: Wellness Guide

Copy/ad deadline: Feb. 11

Publication: Feb. 24

April

Copy/ad deadline: March 11

Publication: March 24

May

Copy/ad deadline: April 8

Publication: April 21

Story guidelines

Want to send an article to the Bugle for print consideration?

Send your submission to editor@parkbugle.org. Your article, story or letter should be sent in Times New Roman, 16-point font. Articles are subject to space availability.

Please include your name and phone number in case we have any questions on your submission. Thank you.



Whither the Gopher golf course

Cara McKay, a long-time SAP resident, snapped this photo in late December of the University of Minnesota Golf Course. McKay remembers the land as a happy place for sledding and skiing during her youth. "I know that the University of Minnesota is selling the land," she said. "I am hoping that something will be done to keep at least the side of the golf course that is on the south side of Larpenteur Avenue. I just wanted to share with our community just how much this spacious area of land will be missed." Photo by Cara McKay.

The Great Minnesota Storage Unit

Fairgrounds is winter home for hundreds of boats, trailers, vehicles

By Bill Brady

For the 12 days leading up to Labor Day, the Minnesota State Fair's 322 acres might just lead the nation in population density.

But one little known fact too: Over the winter, many of the fairground's larger buildings teem with people's property.

From late October to late March, the fairgrounds offer winter storage for cars, trucks, boats, motor homes and other items that Min-

nesotans like to keep out of harm's way in the winter months.

The service is immensely popular. Fair officials received 1,751 requests for the current storage season, of which they were able to accommodate 1,306.

"Yes, space usually fills up," according to a media relations rep for the State Fair. "In the past couple of years, we've moved from mailed-in to online applications, so the process of getting to full has quickened. This past storage season was

full in a matter of days after online applications opened."

Storage rates vary. For this past winter, they ranged from \$250 for 20-foot-long units to \$500 for units that exceed 40 feet.

According to the Fair website, once an item is stored it is considered "dead storage," meaning the customer cannot retrieve it before the assigned removal date. Renters are typically notified around the first of March when they may collect their items. Those who fail

to claim their property on the assigned day may be subject to fines.

State Fair officials say the winter storage program dates back to at least to the 1970s.

"It is a way for the fair to utilize otherwise empty building space during the non-fair season to generate additional revenue," they said. ■

Bill Brady is the Bugle's copy editor. He lives within walking distance of the Minnesota State Fairgrounds.



A boat prepares to enter its winter slumber at the state fairgrounds last fall. Photo submitted by St. Anthony Park native John DiGiorno.

City's TIF payments reflect housing economics

By Anne Holzman

Falcon Heights made its regular semiannual payments in January to its two active tax-increment-financing projects, Town Square and Amber Union.

The payment to Town Square in January was \$103,267.83. The payment to Amber Union was \$22,481.08. The money comes

from tax payments made by the developer to the county and routed back through the city to finance property improvements.

Town Square senior housing, at 1550 Larpenteur Ave., is over halfway through its TIF term. City Administrator Jack Linehan told the Bugle in January that the amount of that fund, TIF-3, will likely be paid off before it expires in 2031.

Amber Union, 1667 Snelling Ave., has a 13-year agreement that expires in 2035, labeled TIF-4. That one does not look like it's going to get paid off before the deadline, Linehan said.

Every TIF agreement has a total dollar amount and an expiration date; it ends at whichever comes first. The city receives some revenue while the TIF district is active,

based on the property's original tax capacity.

Buhl Investors purchased the Amber Union parcel from a non-profit that paid no property taxes; its county-assessed value before development in 2020 was about \$7.8 million. Buhl proposed rents at 60% of area median income. The city wanted better affordability and agreed to establish a TIF district in order to lower the AMI for some of the apartments. The parcel's 2024 valuation was \$22.25 million, down to \$19 million last year.

Ramsey County spokesman Casper Hill said apartment market values have dropped significantly over the past five years, contributing to shifts in assessed values.

"As interest rates and construction costs increased, new construction slowed and property values declined," Hill said. Market rate and affordable housing are assessed by the same rules, he added.

In setting up a TIF district, the



county certifies the property's baseline value and tax rate. As the property is improved, its added value (the "increment") increases its tax bill, and the difference between the two is returned by the county via the TIF administrator (in this case the city) to pay off development costs.

The city can also use TIF district funds for public improvements such as streetlights within the district.

When the TIF expires, the property returns to the tax rolls. Linehan cited the senior apartments at 1666 Coffman Street as an example of a completed TIF project now contributing its full tax amount. ■

Anne Holzman is a Twin Cities writer who covers local government for the Bugle

Sports spaces featured in SAP history talk

By Mary Mergenthal

The latest in Kristin Anderson's monthly series on St. Anthony Park architectural and neighborhood history continues at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 10, at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, 2323 Como Ave. Anderson's topic will be "Sports spaces in St. Anthony Park."

The neighborhood has been home to sports activities for over a century. From youth park and rec activities — in which many SAP residents played as children, or sponsored and supported as parents, grandparents, and community members — to professional and semi-pro events, players and fans have built and used many spaces over the years.

The February history program will consider these spaces, familiar or forgotten, as well as several surprising proposals for other sports spaces in the general vicinity.

Presentations remain free, but



Hippodrome Ice Rink, St. Paul, "Largest in the World, 270 x 110 ft." c. 1910. Photo belongs to Kristin Anderson.

donations in the tip jar help at the session offset program costs. Not present in person? Try the online tip jar at KristinAnderson.org/tipjar.

Anyone unable to attend in person can view the presentation live online, with a recording available for one week following Feb. 10. Use the SAPLC YouTube channel bit.ly/Sap-history.

Should unforeseen circumstances require rescheduling, a message will be sent through the SAP listserv and updates will be posted at KristinAnderson.org/events. ■

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



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LIBRARY CORNER

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Milton Square gets a new bookstore

By Dave Healy

Despite its once-predicted demise, the printed book is alive and well.

And the same is true of independent bookstores, whose numbers have doubled nationally in the last eight years.

Riding that wave is a new addition to St. Anthony Park's Milton Square. Acorn Bookshop will be housed in the former upstairs Micawber's Books space.

The new store, scheduled to open in March, will offer a collection of new and used books across genres. It will emphasize women authors, diverse and underrepresented stories, historical fiction and young adult (YA), plus jewelry, greeting cards, candles and toys.

The shop will host book clubs, children's story hours, local author readings and workshops that invite the neighborhood to shape the space. Acorn Bookshop will also be home to a dirty soda shop featuring custom, literary-themed beverages made with organic syrups.

Acorn Bookshop is the brain-

child of Rachael Ostrom, who recently left a corporate marketing career of 25 years, most of that at the Aveda Corporation. She's a lifelong reader who became obsessed with Louisa May Alcott after reading "Little Women" in third grade.

As a communication major at Hamline University, Ostrom took as many literature courses as she could.

"Opening a bookstore has been in the back of mind for years," she says. "My niece and I regularly do Saturday bookstore crawls, and I've long thought about what I'd do if I had my own store. The day I decided to get serious about it I walked by Milton Square and saw that the old Micawber's space was available. It just seemed meant to be."

She says that she was inspired by the candidacy of her friend Kaohly Her. "I figured if she can run for mayor, I can open a bookstore."

Ostrom says the store was named for the towering oak trees in her backyard and is a nod to how reading can plant seeds of growth, compassion and empathy.

"We need community more than ever," she says, "as well as the strength of women's voices and the ability to drive change. Bookstores have been beacons of democracy and protectors of freedom of speech."

Ostrom says that Acorn Bookshop's furnishings reflect an emphasis on sustainability and inclusivity, including vintage and secondhand furnishings from local vendors as well as gifts from woman-owned small businesses.

In addition, the store will partner with reforestation initiatives to plant a tree with every book purchase, "ensuring that the paper we read from gives back to the forests that created it."

Ostrom says she'll aim to have 75 percent of new books be by women authors. The mix of titles and genres will shift, adjusting to input from patrons.

The store will also have a children's section featuring an oak tree mural and an earth-bound treehouse. Throughout the store there will be places to sit and read.



Rachael Ostrom is owner of the new Acorn Bookshop at Milton Square in St. Anthony Park. Photo by Dave Healy

"I hope the store will be a place where people want to come and hang out," Ostrom says.

Acorn Bookshop will take special orders, and eventually those can be placed on the store's website. Their used-book section will start with donations from local readers. The store will also feature local authors.

Ostrom plans to install a Little

Free Library in the Milton Square courtyard.

"With the LFL and (the new) Mind's Eye Comics downstairs (at Milton Square) and the library across the street, this corner will be a tribute to books and reading." ■

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

St. Anthony Park Library events

Compiled by Kathy Henderson

The February calendar at the St. Anthony Park Library, 2245 Como Ave., features familiar favorites and special programs. Registration is not required unless noted.

Holiday closings

All St. Paul Public Library locations will be closed Monday, Feb. 16, for Presidents' Day.

Special events

Illumination: Author talk



1 to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 31. Minnesota authors talk about their work in the "Saint Paul Almanac Volume 14: Illumination," an anthology of prose and poetry. Stories by Wendy Brown-Báez, Tara Flaherty Guy, Mike Hazard, Raymond Luczak, John Medeiros,

Sara Wilcox and Kenneth Vigne highlight the tenacity, grit, pleasure and grace of the human experience. Coffee and cake will be served.

Lantern-making workshop

2 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 7. All-age workshop. Lantern-making supplies will be provided.

Precious and Adored book club



6:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 23. In partnership with the Minnesota History Center, the library will host a book club discus-

sion of "Precious and Adored" by Lizzie Ehrenhalt and Tilly Laskey.

The book explores correspondence between Rose Cleveland, sister of President Grover Cleveland, and Evangeline Simpson, a wealthy widow who later became the second wife of Minnesota Episcopal Bishop Henry Whipple. Their letters offer insight into social life and personal relationships in the late 19th century.

Participants receive a copy of the book and two passes to the MNHS exhibit "The Stories We Keep," featuring 25 objects from MNHS collections. Register at spl.bibliocommons.com/events/68daf23c4448c416641ce18e.

Ongoing programs

Due to space limitations, a complete list of ongoing programs at the St. Anthony Park Library is available at parkbugle.org/events_post. Additional details can also be found on the St. Paul Public Library events page.

Ramsey County Library

Tuesday with a Scholar

12:30 to 2 p.m. on Tuesdays from Feb. 3 to March 3. Register online or by calling 651-724-6001 (press #2). Co-sponsored by the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, University of Minnesota. Registration and details: rclreads.bibliocommons.com/events/69594212c967cb41207fcc61.

- Feb. 3: Save Our Signs. National Park signs being removed and markers erased.
- Feb. 10: The Somali Museum.
- Feb. 17: The International Wolf Center with guest speaker Grant Spickelmeier.
- Feb. 24: Author Nikki Shannon Smith talks about creating "Prince: A Little Golden Book Biography."
- March 3: Authors who contributed to the book "Tshuaj Ntsuab: A compendium of Hmong medicinal plants" that will be published in April.

Compiled from the library website by Kathy Henderson.



St. Anthony Park Branch Library Association

The SAPBLA Forum presents

A Conversation with Frank M. White



Join Minnesota author Frank M. White in a discussion of the history of African American baseball players in Minnesota from the 1870's through the 1950's.



In partnership with the Saint Paul Public Library



Thursday, February 12, 6:30-7:30 pm
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PEOPLE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD: Susan Outlaw

By Janet Wight

Susan Outlaw is the executive director of the Metro Deaf School, 1125 Energy Park Drive, a post she has held since 2015.

Outlaw, who has been employed in the field of deaf education since 2003, earned her doctoral degree in bilingual (ASL/English) education for deaf students, with a minor in curriculum, from Gallaudet University.

Throughout Outlaw’s education she was exposed to deaf children and befriended many of them, learning to sign at a young age. This contact sparked her early interest in deaf education, she explained.

Because there were many deaf students at her high school in Tallahassee, formal sign language classes were offered. She took advantage of these classes and passed the interpreter certification test during her senior year.

Outlaw previously worked at MDS as a curriculum and bilin-

gual coordinator prior to moving to New York State to join the Rochester Institute of Technology as a tenure-track faculty member. While at RIT, she worked in the graduate program helping prepare students who wanted to teach deaf children.

Although she never expected to return to MDS as executive director, Outlaw relishes her role. She sees herself as a servant leader who pitches in as needed to get things done. She also team teaches and fills in as a substitute, since she misses being in the classroom.

“I miss working one-on-one with kids,” she said. “I love what we have become and what we do,” she added.

MDS, a tuition-free charter school, has an enrollment of about 180. Students must be deaf, hard of hearing or deaf-blind to attend the school. The school has more than 100 staff members including teachers, paraprofessionals, specialists and office personnel.

The school is different from other charter schools in that a majority of its students are placed by their

individual home districts, rather than by parents, Outlaw explained.

Being deaf need not be a negative experience despite the fact that deaf students learn in a different way, she said. “The school empowers students to make decisions and be good citizens.”

Besides providing a quality education, Outlaw wants to ensure that MDS’s students have friends and access to the close-knit deaf community. The child’s journey is also the family’s journey, especially since a very small percentage of deaf children have a parent who is also deaf, she added.

There is a waiting list for several of the programs at MDS, including the transition program, which is open to young adults between the ages of 18 and 22.

Prior to moving to its current location six years ago, MDS has had three prior locations.

Because of MDS’s plain exterior, the school looks like any other regular educational institutional facility on the inside.

“This is our forever home,” Outlaw said.

When asked about the challenges facing deaf education, Outlaw cited “the politics around special education funding and trying to figure out how to best serve students in the most cost-effective manner.”

Another major challenge facing the school is a shortage of qualified teachers. The University of Minnesota offers the only deaf education program in the state, yet it is only graduating about 15 licensed teachers per year. Nationwide searches are required to fill open teaching slots at the school, she said.

Last year, Outlaw traveled to Finland as a Fulbright award recipient, visiting both Helsinki and Turku during the two-week program. She studied administration and teaching methods related to general and special education. Her specific areas of interest included refugee education (since these students are well represented at MDS) and bridging educational gaps for deaf students.



Susan Outlaw. Submitted photo.

“It was fascinating and I loved the experience,” she said.

A Como Park resident, Outlaw enjoys spending time in Como Regional Park, reading and travelling. Her daughter (a high school senior) and stepson (an eighth grader) also keep her busy.

Outlaw said she is continually inspired by the students at MDS. “Every different type of kid has a journey and a story, and that is what keeps me motivated,” she said. ■

Janet Wight is a regular freelance writer for the Bugle.

Steve Parshley from p. 1

class at his public high school with inspiring his career path.

“The class was called Principals of Technology and it was a blend of physics theory where we also got to build models,” he explained. “I realized in that class that I wanted to be the guy who designs machines and instruments.”

Starting college

In 1993, Parshley began attending Ithaca College (Ithaca, NY), enrolling in their 3-2 program, which consisted of three years of physics at Ithaca College followed by two years of engineering at an engineering school. (Parshley attended nearby Cornell University, earning two bachelor degrees, one from each institution, over five years.)

After graduating, Parshley worked in industry for a while; first for Boeing, then with a friend at a start-up company (which ultimately didn’t succeed), then as a consultant for a small engineering design firm.

Eventually, Parshley returned to Cornell University as a full-time employee where he simultaneously earned his master’s degree in engineering in 2009.

Also upon returning to Cornell, Parshley met his wife, Susan Rottschaefer, while both were university employees; he in the astronomy department and she in entomology. They were together for eight years before moving to the Twin Cities metro, where Rottschaefer is from originally.

Back to telescope building

Parshley recalled CCAT’s genesis. “Cornell’s history with this project goes back at least 25 years,” he said. “Back then there was a professor who would rent a truck, drive up into the mountains and conduct site surveys for some future telescope.”

The original plan was to build a huge 25-meter telescope, but after an initial partner left the project, Cornell decided it didn’t want to let the opportunity slip away.



Construction of the CCAT Observatory, in the Atacama Desert of Chile, is almost complete. Photo taken in December 2025 by Steve Parshley.

Parshley explained, “We knew we had an amazing site, and decided to put in a Pathfinder telescope — something small, something we could afford — and that morphed into the current project that we have now.”

On the day the Bugle interviewed Parshley, he said his German-made telescope’s mirrors were in the middle of their two-day trek from San Pedro to the summit of the observatory.

“They are the last pieces of the telescope to arrive,” Parshley said. “Everything else was already up there. We hope to have first light in mid-2026.” The term “first light” is what astronomers call the first observations with a new telescope.

Besides extremely expensive mirrors making perilous treks over snowy, Andean Mountain passes, Parshley and his team have overcome numerous challenges in building the telescope. Besides technical problems, funding issues and scheduling conflicts, the most eye-opening challenge for Parshley has been communication.

“We have collaborators in the U.S., Canada and Germany; workers in Chile; and one of the sub-contractors is in the Netherlands. There are at least three languages present in our work at any time. It really has made me appre-

ciate people who have great communication skills.”

Once the telescope is operating, Parshley said it will be tightly managed.

“There will be a whole slew of people who will work on the science and the scheduling and all of that. It’s not the type of telescope that others can apply for time to use, or at least, we don’t envision that as of yet.”

“Hopefully the telescope will run remotely,” he continued. “We’ll need to go there occasionally for maintenance updates and checks, but it’s not going to require anyone to be physically present for normal operation.”

Parshley said a remote astronomer will be on duty to respond to warnings or errors and escalate issues as needed.

Even so, the telescope and its many systems will require a once-a-week in-person visit from local Chilean staff members, some of whom commute from Santiago.

“We’ll need someone to go there weekly, physically, to flick the gages, open the doors, turn on the lights, and troubleshoot any issues,” Parshley said. Once CCAT is operating, Parshley will continue to work with the project.

“It’ll be so interesting to see how the design works.”

Asked if he dreams about CCAT revealing any new specific aspects of space or astronomy, Parshley said he expects the telescope will be used to explore a wide range of science, from star formation within our own Milky Way galaxy to new aspects of the cosmic microwave background (leftover traces of the Big Bang). That includes the Epoch of Re-ionization, a specific time-range immediately following the Big Bang when chemical elements became capable of forming galaxies.

Parshley said of the Epoch of Re-ionization, “It’s a hot topic right now, a lot of projects are looking at stuff from that era.”

Parshley noted that astronomy has been understood historically via snapshots, but the whole field is on the cusp of moving into video.

“That’s going to open up all sorts of new science,” Parshley said. “Because CCAT is going to survey a

lot of the sky, pretty frequently, if something out there is moving and we can detect it, we’re going to see it. That’s the thing I’m most excited about, to see what the transient surveys pull up.”

In the meantime, as Parshley waits for his telescope’s first light, he is teaching his kindergartner the names of planets, and relaxing by reading books or playing the bass guitar, anything from Red Hot Chili Peppers to Stevie Wonder.

And while he spends a good deal of time in New York and Chile for work, Parshley is glad St. Anthony Park is his new home town.

“I’m an outsider who moved here and I feel really lucky that we ended up here by chance. It’s a great community.” ■

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

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BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT: Avoles and St. Paul Pipeworks

By Janet Wight

Master plumber Charlie Avoles has owned St. Paul Pipeworks, a Little Canada-based plumbing company, nearly 20 years.

Initially, Avoles co-owned the business with Dave Kerr, who had been the owner of Park Hardware in St. Anthony Park.

Kerr suggested he and Avoles combine to start the plumbing business together, and this idea led to the founding of St. Paul Pipeworks. Avoles bought Kerr's share of the business after about five years.

Avoles grew up on St. Paul's East Side and attended Concordia Academy. After spending two years at Concordia College in Chicago, he completed his degree at Macalester College in St. Paul.

After graduation, Avoles was a high school teacher in South St. Paul for three years, teaching speech, theatre and English.



Charlie Avoles. Submitted photo.

Meanwhile, his father had a successful and growing plumbing business, and Avoles helped out during summers. In 1972, he left teaching to join the family business full time.

Prior to starting St. Paul Pipeworks, Avoles took a ten-year break from the plumbing trade. During that hiatus, he was a business consultant and spent six years



Employees of St. Paul Pipeworks. Submitted photo.

with NexStar, a national best practices association. He also did private consulting for four years along with pro bono work.

As a small business owner, Avoles wears many hats. Besides technical plumbing knowledge, which takes years to acquire, it is also essential to learn all of the necessary business skills including marketing, sales, accounting, payroll and taxes, he said.

St. Paul Pipeworks is unique in the industry because it usually sends out two plumbers for each job, Avoles said. One is an experienced journeyman plumber while the other is an apprentice who is learning the trade.

Good customer service is essential in Avoles' business. Appointments are made with two-hour windows. Before leaving the previous job, one of the plumbers will call the next client to provide an updated arrival time.

Avoles' plumbers carry as many

parts as possible in their trucks. "We believe in taking care of our trucks," he said. "We have five times the inventory of a regular plumbing truck. The guys restock every day."

If a part is needed which is not in the truck, someone from the shop will deliver the part to enable the on-site plumbers to continue working.

Most of St. Paul Pipeworks' clients live within the Interstate 494/694 loop, including St. Anthony Park, where Avoles has resided with his family since 1972. He is well known in the community so word of mouth continues to be an important marketing tool, he explained.

Marketing is an ongoing challenge, however, since there is always the need to replace clients who move to senior housing or leave the area.

Although residential business accounts for most of its sales, the company also does some commer-

cial work for restaurants, churches, schools and condominiums.

Over the years, the biggest change in plumbing has been with the type of materials used. When Avoles started in the business, lead was still being used for the waste and vent side. Steel pipes were used for water delivery until copper became popular in the mid-1960s.

Avoles said being a business owner has been satisfying because he is able to help people fix house maintenance problems or undertake remodeling for them. He added it's been rewarding to guide younger employees to become journeymen.

Now stepping into retirement, Avoles is planning to transition the business to the next generation of workers. Currently, his shop has three managers (Tony Avoles, Phil Quinlan and Keith Leverton) who are running the day-to-day aspects of the business.

In his spare time, Avoles enjoys playing golf. He and his wife, Marge Avoles, are active in their church where they have each held leadership positions. They have been married 56 years and they have two sons. One is a mortgage underwriter and the other works in the family business.

Regarding St. Anthony Park, Avoles is all in. "This has been a wonderful place to live. Our kids could walk to school and the neighbors care about each other," he said. "We are very invested in this neighborhood." ■

Janet Wight is a regular freelance writer for the Bugle.

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Present Company from p. 1

she said. "I think it's important for kids to have those opportunities in a safe, chill environment."

Grotzke, who moved to Como Park from Montana in 2024 with her husband and three children, came up with the idea of a temple to analog technology in October while on leave from the Minnesota Department of Health due to hypermobile Ehlers-Danlos syndrome. That's a connective tissue disorder that can result in loose joints, hypermobility and chronic muscle or bone pain.

While pondering if she want-

ed to return to the normal 9-to-5 grind, she started brainstorming a place that could serve the community as well be an outlet for her.

"I needed a place to go to be creative," Grotzke said. "Being around other people inspires me. I love talking to people, hearing about their experiences and things they're interested in. It's surprising how much we have in common when we just sit down and visit."

While the physical space is the hub of Grotzke's analog movement, she is already in the planning stages of expanding beyond her storefront,

working on partnerships with other spaces and organizations to provide analog programming around town, including fellow Milton Square newcomer Mind's Eye Comics.

"We want to have a lot of bigger events and take this on the road," Grotzke said. "We'll go to places around the cities and not always just be here, but we definitely want to have something pretty much every day that we're open in the shop." ■

Freelance journalist Seth Richardson lives in St. Anthony Park and serves on the board of the Park Bugle.

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Valentine's Day is more than just romantic love

*My brilliant son Simon,
You opened my heart and
taught me what love is.
Thank you for all the
things you do for me.

Love always, Mom*

For the third consecutive year, the Bugle is giving readers a forum to express their love for the special people in their lives. While Valentine's Day is often associated with romantic partners, it also honors the deep affection we feel for siblings, grandparents, other relatives and close friends.

According to a Google search, Valentine's Day dates back to A.D. 496, when Pope Gelasius declared Feb. 14 the holiday, and Esther Howland is credited with selling the first mass-produced Valentine's Day cards in the 1840s.

This year, Valentine's Day falls on a Saturday, a timing expected to boost spending by giving people more time for travel, dining out and celebrating without the pressure of a workday the next morning. According to the National Retail Federation, spending on Valentine's Day has steadily increased, reaching a record \$27.5 billion in 2025. Jewelry remains the largest buying category, followed by dining out, flowers, candy and greeting cards.

In that tradition, here are Valentine Day messages that Bugle readers are sending to their special loves:

To: Isaac,
Penguins are cute
And so are you
You've changed my
life for the better
I love you, my poo
From,
Your lovey
(Katherine)



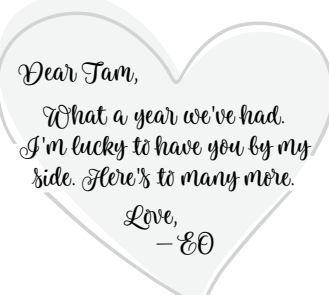
Sending hugs and lots
of gratitude to the
ENTIRELY VOLUNTEER
Langford Park
Hockey Coaches
and Ice Crew.



Dear Tam,

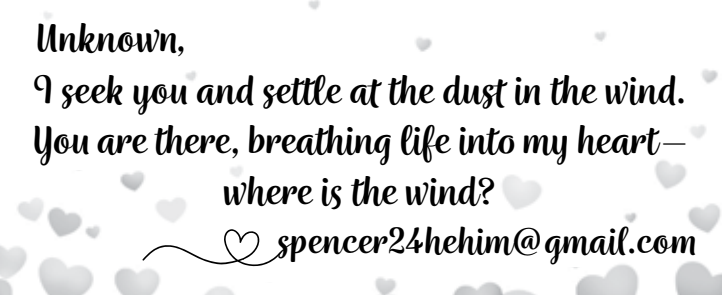
What a year we've had.
I'm lucky to have you by my
side. Here's to many more.

Love,
-EO



Unknown,
I seek you and settle at the dust in the wind.
You are there, breathing life into my heart—
where is the wind?

spencer24hehim@gmail.com



Marcia and Ezra—
Our little family is
dino-mite!

Happy Valentine's Day.
Love, Elizabeth



Versace —
Set out on a path dark as pitch
No surprise we ran into a hitch
Threads are in tatters
You're all that matters
Save me with timely a stitch?

— Madisynn



Welcome home,
Marilyn,

— Mary MMM



Rin,
IOU Certificate
can be redeemed for:
1) Unconditional love
2) Undying affection
3) Intermittent but sincere effort

—b.



Dear Milo,
Happy Valentine's Day
from your favorite valentine.
Dobby and I love you forever.

Love always,
Bonnie



With love
for
Team Scout!

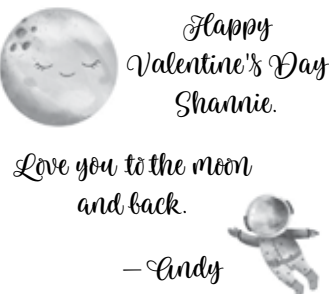
Paw prints



Happy
Valentine's Day
Shannie.

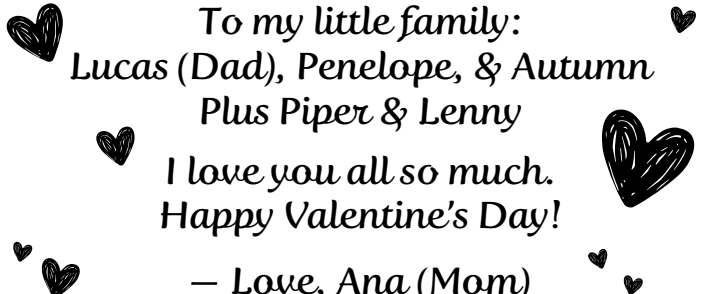
Love you to the moon
and back.

— Andy



To my little family:
Lucas (Dad), Penelope, & Autumn
Plus Piper & Lenny
I love you all so much.
Happy Valentine's Day!

— Love, Ana (Mom)



Thank you Bugle donors!!

By Scott Carlson,
Park Bugle managing editor

Three months after the Bugle launched its 2025 annual fall campaign, donors met the newspaper's challenge in contributing more than \$50,000 in funds for our operations.

From July 1, 2025 to Jan. 14, 2026, individual and business donors contributed \$55,392. And with about six months left in the current 2025-26 fiscal year, Bugle donations could reach \$60,000 or more.

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Each month, the Bugle staff endeavors to keep you well informed on a wide variety of community news and information, as we strive to turn readers into neighbors.

As we end our fall fundraising campaign,

we thank you for all your financial support and confidence.

Missed our fall fundraising campaign? You can still give online at parkbugle.org or send us a check to The Park Bugle, PO Box 8126, St. Paul, MN 55108. Every gift matters. Now, here is a list of our latest donors:

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NOTICE TO COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES

UNDER MINN. STAT. §216B.16, SUBD. 1

On October 31, 2025, Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy (Xcel Energy or the Company), filed an application with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) to increase natural gas rates. The request with the MPUC is to increase gross retail natural gas rates by 8.2 percent or \$63.40 million effective January 1, 2026, sixty-two (62) days after filing, without suspension, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 216B.16.

The Company requested, pursuant to Minn. Stat § 216B.16, subd. 3, that a temporary (interim) rate increase of approximately 6.8 percent or \$51.47 million overall bill increase, be effective on January 1, 2026. The MPUC elected to suspend the proposed rate increase under Minn. Stat. 216B.16, subd. 2, as discussed in the Company’s Notice and Petition for Interim Rates (Petition), included in the Application. The Commission authorized an interim rate increase of approximately 6.8 percent or \$51.47 million, overall bill increase, that will be effective on January 1, 2026. The interim revenue request for 2026 will be uniformly billed as a 16.19 percent increase on the base rate portion of customers’ bills, which includes the customer charge, distribution charge, and distribution demand charge where applicable (exclusive of fuel and purchased energy costs and certain rate riders). An interim rate will remain in effect until a final rate level is determined.

The typical residential gas customer uses 71 therms per month. On average, the proposed \$63.40 million rate change would increase the bill for a typical residential natural gas customer by \$7.11 per month or \$85.32 annually. The interim increase, for that same monthly amount of 71 therms on average, will be \$5.84 per month or \$70.08 per year for 2026.

In addition, the Company proposes to implement certain other tariff revisions in its Gas Rate Book, Volume 2D.

Over the past several years, the Company has proceeded through a cycle of capital investments necessary for the safe and reliable operation of its gas system and has continued to incur costs to serve new and existing customers. Xcel Energy has also experienced significant annual increases in inflation, labor costs, and other expenses necessary to serve our customers. Recovering these costs is critical to Xcel Energy’s ability to continue to successfully provide safe, reliable, and affordable natural gas service to its customers long into the future.

AVERAGE MONTHLY BILLS

RESIDENTIAL SERVICE

Monthly Therm Use	Present Rates*	Interim Rates	Proposed Rates
10	\$19	\$21	\$23
30	\$40	\$43	\$44
50	\$60	\$65	\$66
71	\$82	\$88	\$89
100	\$111	\$119	\$120
200	\$214	\$227	\$228
300	\$316	\$336	\$336

SMALL COMMERCIAL/INDUSTRIAL SERVICE

Monthly Therm Use	Present Rates*	Interim Rates	Proposed Rates
50	\$67	\$73	\$80
100	\$114	\$123	\$131
189	\$199	\$211	\$221
200	\$209	\$222	\$232
250	\$256	\$272	\$282
350	\$350	\$371	\$383
500	\$492	\$520	\$534
750	\$728	\$769	\$786
1,000	\$964	\$1,017	\$1,039
3,000	\$2,851	\$3,006	\$3,056
5,000	\$4,738	\$4,994	\$5,073



Typically, final rates become effective within 10 months of the date of the Application, unless the review period is extended by the MPUC. The Company anticipates that the review period will be extended in this proceeding. Any over-collection of interim rates during the review period will be refunded with interest to customers in a manner determined by the MPUC.

Xcel Energy is requesting this rate increase to meet its current cost of providing natural gas services, including a reasonable return on equity. The following tables contain the effect of the interim and proposed rates increases on customer classes:

INTERRUPTIBLE RETAIL SERVICE

Class	Monthly Therm Use	Present Rates*	Interim Rates	Proposed Rates
Small	6,745	\$4,633	\$4,898	\$5,001
Medium	46,220	\$27,353	\$28,555	\$30,196
Large	617,483	\$350,615	\$364,315	\$379,449

INTERRUPTIBLE TRANSPORTATION SERVICE

(Does not include the cost of natural gas)

Class	Monthly Therm Use	Present Rates*	Interim Rates	Proposed Rates
Small	6,745	\$1,729	\$1,998	\$2,097
Medium	118,174	\$19,722	\$22,724	\$26,990
Large	2,119,680	\$88,455	\$99,345	\$88,455

** The present rate levels identified in this application represent the rates authorized in Docket No. G002/GR-23-413.*

Public hearings will be held at various locations in Xcel Energy’s natural gas service area. Counties, municipalities, and customers will be notified once the hearings are scheduled.

The proposed rate schedules and a comparison of present and proposed rates are available at: https://www.xcelenergy.com/company/rates_and_regulations/filings/minnesota_natural_gas_rate_proposal (Make sure “Minnesota” is selected in the top left-hand corner) The documents may be examined during normal business hours at either our General Offices located at 414 Nicollet Mall in downtown Minneapolis or at the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Division of Energy Resources, 85 7th Place East, Suite 280, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101.

Those who wish to intervene or testify in this case should contact the Minnesota Court of Administrative Hearings, P.O. Box 64620, St. Paul, Minnesota 55164-0620, Telephone: (651) 361-7900, TTY: (651) 361-7878. Public notice of hearing dates and locations will be published in local newspapers in Xcel Energy’s service area.

Questions on the rate increase may be directed to Amber Hedlund at (612) 337-2268. Comments may also be mailed to Amber Hedlund at 414 Nicollet Mall, 401-7th Floor, Minneapolis, MN 55401.

2026 outlook for Gibbs Farm blends new with old

By Kathy Henderson

Sammy Nelson's outlook for 2026 at the Gibbs Farm: Pathways to Dakota & Pioneer Life is proof that a cherished historic resource is also a place for innovation.

Construction is planned for 2026 at the eight-acre Ramsey County Historical Society site in Falcon Heights. But not to worry, it will enhance, not upset, the mid-1800s ambiance that has long been popular with the visiting public and K-12 school field trips.

An \$85,000 fundraising campaign is underway to build a four-season barn and chicken coop on the property, said Nelson, Gibbs site director. Having a year-round



The white barn at the Gibbs Farm museum may be converted for use as an exhibit area. Photo from visitroseville.com.

structure will ensure the safety and comfort of the animals, while also expanding opportunities for visitors to view the different types of

farm animals that the Gibbs family would have raised.

However, Nelson reassures that the familiar white barn will remain

on the property. Ideas for its future use include the possibility of it becoming an exhibit area, Nelson said.

While Gibbs will continue to offer its popular Dakota field trip (Cloud Man's Village), Nelson is looking forward to the prospect of partnering with the nearby Bell Museum to host the outdoor portion of the Bell's Indigenous field trip program, "On Native Land."

"It's great to be able to work on things together with our partners," she said.

Registration is underway for the 2026 Winter PeeWee Camps for 4- and 5-year-olds. The mini-camps are scheduled on various dates and times from January through March.

"Our first day of public hours will be Saturday, May 23," said Nelson, when it will be welcoming guests again from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Overall, Gibbs had a busy K-12 field trip season in 2025, said Nelson, with 13,000 students attending its Pioneer, Dakota or combination educational tours.

The site is also known for hosting special events and activities. It had a record-breaking Apple Festival attendance last September, and the December beeswax candle making workshop attracted more than 100 participants. ■

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

Big Ten Open Book offers Indigenous North American collection

By Kathy Henderson

What would you do if you heard that there were 100 books in a collection relating to Native American history, culture and literature that you could download for free?

You might be delighted. Or would you think it's a scam?

What if you also heard that the 100 books in the collection are

books that were published by leading university presses at Big Ten-affiliated universities, including more than a dozen published by the University of Minnesota Press?

That might make you curious enough to explore the Big Ten Open Book Indigenous North American collection that became available last summer at bigtenopenbooks.org.

The Big Ten Open Books project is an initiative of the Big Ten Academic Alliance's Center for Library Programs.

Once you access the collection, you can scroll through all the e-book titles or find your way via an easy category sort that includes publisher, author or subjects such as Native American studies, biography, culture, history and much more.

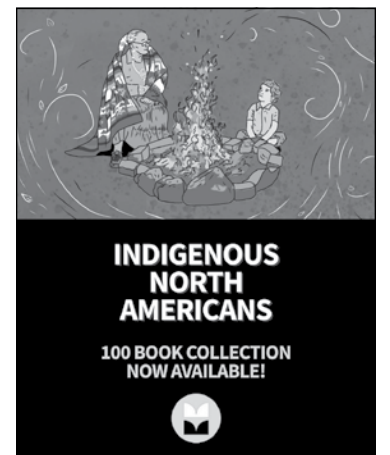
Are you thinking it sounds too good to be true?

Nothing is perfect. You are going to find more classic titles rather

than university presses' current best sellers or books that are actively part of class curriculums.

Kate McCready, program director for open publishing of the Big Ten Academic Alliance, describes the books as "backlist": useful, written by highly regarded authors, and sought out for point-of-need interest from a broad readership of scholars, government, public or anyone.

There is also a caveat: Books in the collection that were published years ago come with the notice "may



include outdated representations of Indigenous culture and society."

Eric Lundgren, University of Minnesota Press outreach and development manager, noted that during the process for this collection, he "consulted our editorial director, who is also our Indigenous Studies editor, to make sure that there were no significant issues with re-releasing these older titles in terms of cultural sensitivity or identity issues with the authors."

Karen Diver, the U's senior advisor to the president for Native American affairs, described the Big Ten list as a good one, adding that there are many good books out there.

"One I recommend to people lately is Ned Blackhawk's 'The Rediscovery of America.' As that book was published in 2023 by Yale University Press, it's not part of the Big Ten Open Book collection.

The collection began with BTOB creating a list of possibilities and connecting with university presses. After that came a multitude of detailed administrative and technical steps including copy-right, contracts, rights, resources, reformatting and author clearance. BTOB offers the assurance that "All of these steps in selecting and validating books in Big Ten Open Books mean that the collections deliver trusted information."

"Our authors have been really excited about this initiative," said Lundgren. "For authors, it's a chance to breathe new life into an older work that may not be getting much attention anymore." ■

Kathy Henderson is a regular freelance writer for the Bugle.

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How to host an “at-home café”

By Jenni Burg

This time of year, I find myself to be somewhat of a shut-in. It seems like it's always dark outside and constantly freezing. While I long for the lighter, warmer days that I know March and April will eventually bring, I also like to think of creative ways to connect with friends, family and my community in the meantime. A few months ago, I saw an idea online that seemed intriguing: Create a coffee-shop or café vibe at home to enjoy with friends. I gave it a test run in early December.

It was a warm and cozy success — so much so that I hope to plan another at-home-café, as it seems like the perfect answer to the post-holiday winter blues.

It's a gathering that can be as simple as you please or as elaborate as you find fun and enjoyable. Read on for some ideas to get started.

- Craft a cute invite or flyer to share snail-mail style with friends or post online. Many sites like Canva offer free, easy-to-use templates that can be customized.
- Make a menu of easy-to-eat bites that taste good at room temperature. Think of your own café or coffee shop favorites: muffins, sweet rolls and savory pastries are all great options. Many of these can be baked and frozen ahead of time to make preparation easy.

Also, don't underestimate the wonderful thing that is frozen puff pastry dough! If you're not an at-home-baker, pick up some frozen options or place a order from your local shop.

- Diversify your drink options so everyone can find something that fits their needs. Plan for a variety of hot and cold beverages, caffeine and decaf options and non-dairy swaps, too.
- Set the stage of a relaxed café vibe with warm lighting, soft tunes, a puzzle or game or two and plenty of cozy seating spaces. You might even rearrange your living room a bit! Roll out a swath of brown kraft paper on the counter or table for your bakery spread.

If you want to be a bit more elab-



A framed food menu makes for easy décor. Photo by Jenni Burg.

orate, create some fun food and beverage menu or other signage. When the day comes, don some comfy clothes and spend the mid-morning or afternoon catching up with your friends and family in the comfort of your own home. Even better, your guests will be home before the cold and darkness sets in, too! ■ Jenni Burg (formerly Jenni Wolf) is a registered dietitian who writes about food and nutrition.

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EVENTS AND MORE

Compiled by Kathy Henderson

St. Anthony Park Garden Club

Guest speaker Julie Grossman presents “Soil Health 101: Simple Practices for Thriving Home Gardens.” Grossman is a professor of soil agroecology and organic food systems at the University of Minnesota.

Business meeting begins at 6:30 p.m., refreshments at 7 p.m., with the program at 7:30 p.m., on Tuesday, Feb. 3, at St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church, 2323 Como Ave. Enter via the Luther Place door.

boréal Art Loft

Cindy Libman exhibit, “One Love, Many Forms,” runs Feb. 1 through 26 in the Art Loft at boréal Gifts and Goods, 2276 Como Ave.

Opening reception from 1 to 3 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 1. Libman’s art is described as being rooted in the belief of living life from the heart and trusting one another, embodying the light we can all become — even in challenging times.

Community art show

Annual juried art show runs Feb. 15–April 4 at St. Matthews Episcopal Church Undercroft Gallery, 2136 Carter Ave. Viewing during regular office hours from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Wednesdays and Fridays and from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Sundays.

Opening reception from 6 to 8 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 15, with winners announced in each category.

Artists have until Feb. 7 to submit one or two works. Unless otherwise arranged, artists may drop off their work between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 7. Fill out a simple registration form and pay the \$10 fee. All media accepted (oil/acrylic, watercolor, photography, print, textile, ceramic, clay, etc.) Art from amateur artists is accepted; you do not have to be a professional artist to participate.

Larson Gallery

“Beyond the Bounds” continues through April 10 at Paul Whitney Larson Art Gallery, 2017 Buford Ave., lower level, Student Center, University of Minnesota St. Paul campus.

Reception from 6 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 12. The exhibit of paintings, sculptures and digital art by students and local artists features artistic portrayals of creatures and magical entities rarely seen beyond the bounds of dreams and myths. Gallery hours: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays; Thursdays to 6 p.m.

Goldstein Gallery

“Resist and Reclaim” curators’ talk with faculty guest curators Jessica Garcia Fritz and Terresa Hardaway from 6 to 7 p.m. and gallery tour from 6 to 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 4, at the Goldstein Museum of Design, McNeal Hall, 1985 Buford Ave., UMN-St. Paul campus.

The installation features commissioned work by 20 Black and Indigenous women and femme-identifying artists from Minnesota. Exhibit continues through Feb. 28, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Tuesday–Saturday. Content notice: visitor discretion advised.

Music Under Glass

Performances from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the Como Zoo Conservatory’s Sunken Garden, 1225 Estabrook Drive. Free admission. Beer and wine available for purchase.

- Sunday, Feb. 1
Annie Mack; roots and blues.
- Wednesday, Feb. 4
Jeff Ray with Mikkel Beckmen; acoustic blues and American.

Schubert Club

“Music in the Park features Nathan Amaral (violin) and Alice Chenyang Xu (piano) from 4 to 6 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 15, at St. Anthony Park United Church of Christ, 2129 Commonwealth Ave.

Community sing

Join pianist, storyteller and vocalist Dan Chouinard and singer-songwriter Ann Reed for a free community sing-along at 7 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 16, at St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church, 2136 Carter Ave.

Women’s Drum Center

Hand drum for beginners class from 5 to 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 10, at 2242 University Ave. W. Drums are provided. \$15 per participant. Register at womensdrumcenter.org.

St. Paul Parks & Recreation

651-488-9673 or stpaul.gov

Ice skating rinks: Langford Park and North Dale Recreation Cen-

ter are open, weather dependent, at various hours and days; lights turned off at 9 p.m. daily.

Como Park Ski Center: 1431 North Lexington Parkway N. (Como golf course clubhouse), open various hours, weather permitting. “Mount Como” features two rope tows, a 150-foot vertical drop on 15 skiable acres, 5K+ of groomed cross-country trails, lessons, and ski and snowboard rentals.

Langford Park: Parent-child Latin cooking class: 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Thursdays, Feb. 5, 12, 19 and 26 at 30 Langford Park. One child per class; child age 7 or older. \$35–\$45. Register at stpaul.gov.

Next Chapter Bookseller

Author readings from 6 to 7 p.m. at 38 Snelling Ave. S.

- Tuesday, Feb. 17
Annie Neugebauer, “You Have to Let Them Bleed”: horror genre short story collection.
- Tuesday, Feb. 24
Angelica Baker, “When We Grow Up,” in conversation with Macalester professor/author Emma Törzs, “Ink Blood Sister Scribe.”

Landmark Center

75 Fifth St. W.

Sundays at Landmark — TaikoArts Midwest’s Enso Daiko: 1 to 2 p.m. on Feb. 8. Taiko is the Japanese word for drum and refers to the modern style of playing these drums. Free.

Urban Expedition — Trinidad and Tobago: 1 to 3 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 22. A celebration of Caribbean culture with music, dance, crafts and cuisine. Presented in collabo-

ration with Minnesota’s Caribbean American Cultural Center. Free.

African American History Month:

The 2026 theme is “A Century of Black History Commemorations,” which recognizes that this year marks the 100th anniversary of the now-month-long observance that grew from the single week originated by Carter G. Woodson in 1926.

Minnesota History Center

345 W. Kellogg Blvd. See website for more information: mnhs.org.

Being Black and Betty Crocker:

11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 14. Screening of TPT’s “Being Black and Betty Crocker,” followed by a moderated conversation with Barbara Jo Davis, Q&A, and light refreshments. Also available virtually via Zoom: mnhs-org.zoom.us/j/84811307843. Free program; regular museum admission required for exhibits. Registration recommended but not required: mnhs.org.

Booked on Thursdays: “A Darker Wilderness: Black Nature Writing from Soil to Stars” by Erin Sharkey: 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 26. Register: mnhs.org/events/43268520780. After registration, request a free copy of the book via email: engagement@mnhs.org. Limited copies available. Free admission and parking from 4–8 p.m. Repeated March 26.

Gibbs Farm

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

Winter PeeWee Camps: Registration is open for mini-camps for 4- and 5-year-olds ready for independent fun. Various themes, dates, and times in Feb. and Mar. \$30/session. Details: rchs.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Winter-PeeWees-2026.pdf. Register: rchs.com/gibbs-farm/summer-camps/peeWee-camp.

Senior activities

Note: Due to space limitations in this month’s Bugle, a complete list of senior activities is available on the Bugle’s website. ■

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

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More info about events: www.sapbla.org



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.

The Park Commons: Imagining the future Luther Seminary “upper” campus

By Eliza L. Swedenborg

Postcards from the Future — a community art and dialogue project with the support of Transition Town—All St. Anthony Park and Friends of Breck Woods — hosted a series of workshops on the future of the Luther Seminary campus, which will soon be sold and redeveloped.

Attendees took part in a time travel experiment to unearth ideas for how the redevelopment could strengthen the community’s well-being. The text below is a synthesis of those workshop discussions.

Part 1

I’ve been to the year 2046. I built a small-time machine, you see. My fellow time travelers and I, we packed our bags with memories, prepared for takeoff and walked through the portal.

Our feet touched the ground in 2046 at the southern tip of the old Luther Seminary campus near Como Avenue and Luther Place. And the first thing we heard was laughter.

Here, where the St. Anthony Park Arts Festival still springs up every year, fingerprints of that festival now remain all year long. Art seems to have sprouted up from the landscape, a natural companion to the milkweed and blazingstar that have emerged here with the oaks. These islands of color are outfitted with benches, inviting us time travelers to stop and linger.

Ok, back to the laughter! It came from a family, idly moored at one such island, with



A community flower garden on the Luther Seminary “upper” campus — like Mears Park in downtown Saint Paul — could enliven the land and connect neighbors. Art by Allie Rykken.

a pair of metal sculptures — two turkey toms locked forever in a dance battle. The family watched with delight as a monarch butterfly left a stand of milkweed, rested briefly on top of a child’s head, then flew off to the next island up the hill.

We time travelers followed that monarch until we heard the sound of garden spades, running water and neighborly gossip. Kneeling bodies tended garden plots surrounding a constructed creek, which flowed from under the grand pillars of Bockman Hall.

Some of the neighbors with plots in this garden live in the Zvago housing co-op, overlooking the space. And some live in the new housing that was built on the old campus — housing that is now fully lived in and enlivened by new neighbors — apartments, senior housing and multi-family homes.

A tour group walks by. The tour guide enthusiastically describes the development’s integration of affordable housing and the networked thermal energy. The guide points out the narrow buildings with big windows

on all sides, allowing the passage of sunlight and a cooling breeze; green corridors for children to walk safely to school; common spaces for shared meals and little concerts.

We time travelers listen intently as we follow the tour further up the hill, near Bockman Hall — which has become a boutique hotel — to a little cafe with outdoor seating. From here we survey the scene as a whole. The new homes, and new neighbors. And the green space that has been reinvigorated into a form of public commons, sort of like an Italian piazza, but as a beautiful expression of this place.

Now called the Park Commons, it integrates neighbors old and new, an expression of shared belonging on this land. An expression of community and care.

“When Luther Seminary sold its campus 20 years ago,” the tour guide said, “some people worried this housing development would change this community. And it has. For the better.”

I am sensing you have questions — but we have more time traveling to do. So, onward.

To be continued in the March Park Bugle. ■

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



Space Fest: Star Party

February 13, 6:30 – 8 pm

Join us for our first Star Party of the year, kicking off Space Fest! Outside, we’ll have our telescopes set up to observe our favorite deep-space objects (weather and temperature permitting). Inside, you can explore hands-on activities and catch a special, short planetarium show.

bellmuseum.umn.edu



Space Fest: Love Letter to Earth

February 13 – 15

Join us for our annual cosmic celebration as we look at what makes Earth “just right,” how we learn about it from space, and what we can do to be good stewards of our special planet. Throughout the weekend we’ll have talks, hands-on activities, and researchers in the museum!



Spotlight Science: Climate Stories

March 28, 10 am – 2 pm

Explore the ways we talk about climate change with our families, in our communities, and to ourselves. Find your climate story, and hear from others about theirs.

 **bell museum**

LIVES LIVED

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

Jeanne Andert

Jeanne M. Andert, 87, died Dec. 8, 2025. Jeanne was a 37-year employee of the City of St. Paul.

She was preceded in death by parents, John & Angeline Andert, Sr., and brother, John "Jack" Andert, Jr. She is survived by sister-in-law, Marilyn Andert.

Dorothy Bailsen

Dorothy T. (Dingmann) Bailsen, 96, Falcon Heights, died Dec. 21, 2025. Dorothy loved cooking, baking, gardening, reading and family gatherings.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Gerhard & Appolonia Dingmann; husband, Louis "Mike" Bailsen; and siblings, Olivia, Eleanor, Kathryn, Joseph, Loretta, Carl, Edmund, Clarence and Alexander. She is survived by children, Michael, John (Debbie), Edward & Karen; five grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Doris Benson

Doris Irene Benson, 80, a longtime resident of St. Anthony Park, died Jan. 5, 2026. She was born May 25, 1940, in Minneapolis and moved soon after to her lifelong home on Hythe Street.

Doris graduated from Murray High School in 1958 and earned degrees in business and education from the University of Minnesota in 1962 and 1964.

After working for the Northern Pacific Railroad, she joined Honeywell, where she trained employees on new technology, including early computers and coding. She later worked for several years at 3M before beginning a second career managing her real estate properties and investments.

Doris loved to travel and was active in her bridge club for decades.

Doris was preceded in death by her parents, Ikel and Inez Benson. She is survived by her sister Janice Sharp (Sam).

A celebration of Doris' life was held in late January. Memorials may be made to SAP Seniors or to a favorite nonprofit.

Cheryl Brandau

Cheryl Brandau died Dec. 21, 2025. Cheryl will be fondly remembered for her love of travel, especially trips to northern Minnesota with friends for the annual International Eelpout Festival.

After graduating from Alexander Ramsey High School, Cheryl lived and worked in Lauderdale and St. Paul, where she built lasting friendships and touched many lives with her warmth and kindness.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Raymond and Emma Gustafson, and brother, Joe Gustafson. Cheryl is survived by daughter, Kris Bauernfeind; brother, Paul Gustafson; best friend, Lois Pauluk; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life remembrance will be held this summer.

Colin Dailey

Colin Mark Dailey, 56, died Nov. 5, 2025, in Singapore. He was born Jan. 15, 1969, in St. Paul. Colin attended St. Anthony Park Elementary, Murray Junior, and graduated from Cretin High School in 1987.

Colin earned a bachelor's degree from Central College in Iowa and a master's degree in teaching at the University of St. Thomas before starting a teaching career that would take him around the world. Despite living for extended periods in Paris, Taipei, Jakarta and Singapore, he held a special place in his heart for St. Anthony Park.

Colin dedicated the last 19 years of his career to teaching at the International French School (IFS) in Singapore, where he shared his love for learning and inspired students with his enthusiasm and creativity.

A multi-talented musician, Colin played guitar, bass, electric bass

and piano and also sang. He loved taking the stage to share his love of music with others.

He also enjoyed exploring new cultures, motorcycles and sports.

Colin was also devoted to his family. He was a loving husband to Anne Chevalier. He is survived by his two children Emma and Léo from a previous marriage, who lives in Europe, and his sister Elizabeth Dailey of Minneapolis. He was preceded in death by his parents, Denis and Beverly Dailey.

Colin was diagnosed with Glioblastoma, an aggressive form of cancer, in early 2025. He and Anne explored many treatments and options in hopes of beating his diagnosis, but to no avail.

Colin touched the lives of countless individuals with his generous spirit, empathetic nature and vibrant personality. His memory will live on in the stories told, the music played and the many lives he touched during his journey.

Marilyn Mitsch

Marilyn Mitsch, 89, of North Oaks, died Nov. 4, 2025. She was born Oct. 11, 1936, in St. Paul to Audrey and George Martin.

Marilyn grew up in south St. Anthony Park, proud of her father's Irish spirit and her mother's White Earth heritage.

She married Ronald Mitsch and together they built a family that became her greatest joy. Marilyn's home was filled with laughter, stories and the hum of generations gathered around her. She was "Grandma" not only to her 14 grandchildren and great-grandchildren, but also to countless others she affectionately "adopted" along the way.

Her career included work as a medical technologist and at the Roseville Schools Science Center.

She believed in the power of prayer, education and in giving back, always finding ways to lift others up, especially through her support of the White Earth Reservation.

She is survived by children, Gregory (Michelle) and RaeAnne (Leo). She was preceded in death by sons Jeffrey and Sean.

A Celebration of Life service was held. Memorials may be sent to the Children's Hospital in St. Paul.

Stella Kiel

Stella Mae Wessman Kiel, 95, died Dec. 13, 2025, in Milaca. Stella was born on Jan. 29, 1930, in Milaca to Henry and Jessie Wessman. She and her husband, John Kiel, moved to Falcon Heights and formed many lifelong friendships with neighbors and members of Rose Hill Alliance Church.

Stella was a gardener, an avid reader and loved to sew quilts.

Stella was preceded in death by her husband, John, and her eight sisters. She is survived by her brother, Bud Wessman, and by children, Richard (Carole), Debra (John), and Michael (Kristin); eight grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren.

Memorials preferred to Milaca Elim Meadows Assisted Living.

Lives Lived sponsored by



Roselawn Cemetery



A tribute to Glenda Martin
Co-founder of Minnesota Women's Press dies at 91

By Mollie Hoben

Glenda Martin, the co-founder of the Minnesota Women's Press, died peacefully at home in St. Anthony Park on Dec. 19, 2025.

Martin was 91. Earlier, she had lived in University Grove.

In her long and rich life, Glenda was a visionary and a trailblazer whose work inspired many. At heart, she was always a teacher, whether in her career as an educator or, later, as publisher, book-seller, book-group leader and writer.

In education, Glenda's students ranged from public-school fifth graders to University of Minnesota graduate students. She was a leader in Minnesota and nationally in supporting blind and vision-impaired students in the mainstream.

In 1985, Glenda was co-founder of the Minnesota Women's Press, a feminist newspaper (now magazine) that continues today, a powerful platform for women's stories and a voice for change in Minnesota. It is one of the longest running feminist publications in the country.

Glenda understood the power of story. She believed strongly that women's stories needed to be told and honored, whether in the news, books or in everyday life.

Over the years, Glenda created and facilitated hundreds of book groups — all dedicated to reading books by women. In 1996, she and I created the magazine BookWomen, which is also still publishing.

Glenda never met a person she didn't find interesting. She was always eager to hear people's stories, and could talk with anyone. Beyond words, she was a lover of color, pattern, texture, design — and the ways they shaped our shared spaces.

She will be deeply missed by daughter Corinne Martin White, son Douglas Martin, son-in-law Thomas White and daughter-in-law Julie Martin, and four grandchildren.

I will also deeply miss her.

Glenda was preceded in death by husband Richard, in 2001, and son Jeffrey, in 1986. Glenda and Richard raised their family in University Grove during the 1970s and 1980s.

Family and friends celebrated the life and legacy of this remarkable woman at a January event at St. Anthony Park Branch Library. Friends may honor Glenda's memory by reading books by women and supporting their local libraries and independent booksellers.

Memorial donations suggested to Minnesota Women's Press.

Mollie Hoben lives in St. Anthony Park and was a close friend and co-founder of the Minnesota Women's Press with Glenda Martin.

Darlene Phillippi

Darlene E. Phillippi (née Wagenknecht), 85, died Jan. 7, 2026. She was preceded in death by grandson, Paul Bradish; sister, Karen Christiansen; and sister-in-law, Lois McDonough. She is survived by her husband of 58 years, Jerry; children, Kevin (Eva) and Cheryl; three grandchildren; many great-grandchildren; brother, Jerry (Naomi) Wagenknecht; and sister-in-law, Jean (John) Liebgott.

Kimberly Torseth

Kimberly Margaret Torseth, 65, Falcon Heights, died Dec. 18, 2025. Born Jan. 20, 1960, in Mankato, Kim grew up in Lake Elmo. She attended the University of Minnesota, earning a bachelor's degree and graduating from its law school. She worked as a tax attorney at 3M for over 30 years.

Kim shared her kindness, humor and intelligence with all. Her resilience and full spirit served as a profound lesson in how to live a meaningful life.

Kim was preceded in death by parents Beverly (Larson) and Thomas E. Torseth, and brother Thomas N. Torseth, Sr. She is sur-

vived by her husband, William (Bill) Conroy; children, Joseph (Joe) and Erin Conroy; and sister, Amy Torseth-Teelin.

Memorials may be directed to the Foundation for Women's Cancer, the American Cancer Society or a charity of your choice.

**Roger Upham**

Roger Upham, PhD passed away peacefully on January 7, 2026. Born April 22,

1941, in Bath, Maine, Roger spent 35 years living with his wife, Carol, and their family in the SAP neighborhood, across from Langford Park. They valued their community and enjoyed connecting with neighbors and friends, including through their involvement in the local garden club.

Roger built a respected career in mass spectrometry, earning his PhD from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Outside of work, he loved spending time with family, traveling, sailing on Bde Maka Ska, and skiing out west.

He is survived by his wife, Carol; siblings Lisa Jones (Archie), Carl Upham (Janice), and Wally Up-

Lives Lived to p. 17

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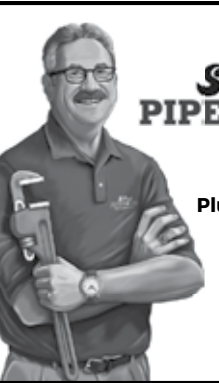
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Lives Lived from p. 16

ham (June); stepchildren Mark Hogenson (Nina), Paul Hogenson, and Kristin Henkenius (Jeff); grandchildren Ashley Hogenson (Drew), Catriona Clohessy (Elton), Michael Clohessy, Megan Henkenius, and Jackson Henkenius; and great-grandchildren Everett and Elliott.

A celebration of life will be held Feb. 5 at 1 p.m. at White Bear Unitarian Universalist Church.

Cynthia Verhey
Cynthia Anne Verhey, née Martin (formerly Bailey), 82, died Dec. 14, 2025. She grew up in Falcon Heights and graduated from Alexander Ramsey High School in Roseville.

Cynthia earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Minnesota.

Balancing life as a single mother — living off-campus, working, and

attending school — she relied on her resilience as a superpower.

As supervisor on the Rehab Unit of Metropolitan Medical Center, Cynthia implemented primary care nursing as a model practice for all departments. At the end of her career, she helped multiple Al-lina hospitals install an electronic medical record system.

She created an endowed scholarship at the University of Minnesota School of Nursing and served on the Episcopal Homes board, where her skills were highly valued.

She is survived by her daughter, Cheryl Bailey (Dan Humes), and two grandsons.

Memorials may be sent to St. Christopher's Episcopal Church, Roseville; Episcopal Homes Foundation; or the Cynthia A. Verhey Achievement in Nursing Scholarship at the University of Minnesota. ■

“Grief, I’ve learned, is really just love ... Grief is just love with no place to go.”
— Jamie Anderson



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Ash Wednesday worship: 2/18, 7:00 PM
Wednesday community dinners 5:00-6:30 PM
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Ash Wednesday, February 18 services at 12:00 & 5:30 pm
Contemplative worship 5:00 PM, 2nd and 4th Sundays

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

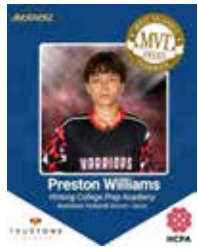
SCHOOL NEWS

School news around the town

Compiled by Janet Wight

Hmong College Prep Academy (HCPA)

Submitted by Anna Her, creative content coordinator



Prep Academy junior Preston Williams was selected as a Minnesota State High School League

Most Valuable Teammate.

This award recognizes student-athletes who demonstrate leadership and integrity while also making a positive impact in their schools. Williams exemplifies these

qualities through his commitment, reliability and sportsmanship across multiple sports (basketball, volleyball and soccer).

Murray Middle School

Submitted by Principal Jamin McKenzie and Stefanie Folkema

- The recent Murray winter band and orchestra concert played to a standing room only crowd of family and community members, making it a night to remember for the school's musicians. A special thank-you to music teacher Denae Olsen for her efforts supporting the Murray band and orchestra students.



Como Park Conservatory field trip. Submitted photo.

- The comparative anatomy class, taught by science teacher Erin Dooley, participated in a field trip to the Como Park Conservatory. The students examined a variety of plants with and without seeds. They also studied different types of

wolves and learned how they have adapted to their habitats.

- Mary Crowley's environmental science students learned about radon from professionals at the Minnesota Department of Health and Ramsey County. They created educational posters to inform the public and then entered them in the radon poster contest, with prizes presented by Marc Katz (MDH) and Rachelle Peleska (Ramsey County).

Twin Cities German Immersion School

Submitted by Paige Yurczyk, communication and community outreach manager

TCGIS, 1031 Como Ave., will host its fourth annual Festival of Cultures on Thursday, Feb. 19, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Diverse cultures will be celebrated through music, dance, food and more.

Enjoy multicultural performances, hands-on activities and delicious cuisine, all showcasing the vibrant traditions of TCGIS families and community members. This event is free and open to the public.



2025 Festival of Cultures. Submitted photo.

Chelsea Heights Elementary School

Submitted by Principal Guillermo Maldonado Pérez

Chelsea Heights recently hosted 4 Low Pitches, a Twin Cities-based bass clarinet quartet ensemble. These musicians allowed K-5 students the opportunity to learn about the unique dynamics, range and timbre of the bass clarinet.

Using MPR Class Notes resources, music teacher Molly VanAlst prepared the students to actively engage with the music. Concerts like these inspire students to explore their creativity while developing a lifelong appreciation of music.



The bass clarinet ensemble showed off its timbre. Submitted by Chelsea Heights Elementary School.

Coming up: Hibernation Night, organized by PTO parents and volunteers, will be held on Friday, Feb. 6, from 5 until 8 p.m. This popular annual event offers a fun way for the school community to stay active and beat the winter chill. ■

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



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Share your comments by attending a public meeting in person on **Thu, Jan. 29** or virtually on **Wed, Feb. 4**. Or, submit them anytime during the comment period on the project website.

RETHINKING I-94



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MINNESOTA NATIVE PLANT OF THE MONTH: Common milkweed

By Paw Moo

Common Milkweed, Silkweed, Milkplant, Butterfly Flower

Latin name:
Asclepias syriaca

Dakota name:
Phagnúnpada



Common Milkweed provides food and shelter for monarch butterflies and a variety of other insects. Submitted photo from Minnesota Seed Library.

Common Milkweed is a sweetly perfumed plant that is loved by a wide variety of pollinators. Providing both food and shelter for migrating monarch butterflies, common milkweed is also the host plant for the milkweed beetle and a powerhouse of nectar for many species of bumblebees, solitary bees, wasps, ants, butterflies, moths and hummingbirds. It is not shy at all, but very confident with its bloom and fragrance. The beautiful common milkweed blooms around June, through August. Its dusty pink flower can be seen vividly in prairie fields, parks, roadsides and lakes. Common milkweed typically grows in U.S. hardiness zones 3–8. The blooms have a strong floral fragrance that can be smelled before seen. The plant can grow from 2–5 feet tall.

This versatile plant does well in partial sun to full sun and adapts to both dry and damp locations, proving its resilience in many landscapes. Its established root system has the ability to stabilize soils, break down compacted soil, improve aeration and boost microbial life. Throughout North America, indigenous tribes have processed and made use of it. The Dakota people made medicine out of milkweed root to address respiratory issues. The laxative property was used for purgative purposes throughout North America. The Ojibwe relied on it for its medicinal

benefits. They also made use of the milkweed plant for its fibers, using them to make twine and rope. It was also used by the Cree for insulation and padding. To this day, milkweed floss can be found in furniture for insulation. Numerous native communities, restoration organizations and modern art communities still make use of the plant. As milkweed seed pods mature and dry during fall, they crack and release their seeds attached to shiny, pale, fibrous strands. The seeds fly wherever the wind takes them. I walk by Lake Phalen and see the seeds floating like fairies through

the wind. When the wind plays with its floss, it is like the skirt of a ballerina. When the floss touches a body of water, it floats smoothly as it glides without resistance, as if the lake is putting on a show. I’m reminded of the feeling when looking at the Ophelia painting by John Everett Millais. As I take in my surroundings, I notice children opening the pods and playing with the silky floss. They giggle as the wind catches the light strands and the seeds drift away. The scent of milkweed is nostalgic, an aroma deeply ingrained in many childhood memories. Familiar throughout the North Ameri-

can continent, it offers a whimsical experience that reminds children of the feeling of summer. Milkweed is a beloved and respected plant in many cultures. Yet its value is beyond its cultural significance. The role it plays in ecology, especially the improvement of soil and providing for pollinators, shows the true versatility of common milkweed. No wonder it has held a long, special place in people’s lives and the ecosystem. ■ Paw Moo is a sophomore at the University of Minnesota and an intern with the MN SEED Project.

36th annual SAP Progressive Dinner

By Maya Betti

The streets of St. Anthony Park will come alive once again for a night of community connection and cuisine on Saturday, March 7 for the 36th annual Progressive Dinner. This long-standing dinner offers residents an opportunity to travel throughout the neighborhood, sharing home-cooked food while meeting strangers. The event starts at 5:30 p.m. at Centennial United Methodist Church, where participants receive their personalized schedule that directs them to different private residences for salad, a main course and dessert. To make this possible, every participant serves as a host for one portion for the evening — whether through appetizers at the church or hosting a course in their home. Alisa Weber, a veteran host,

encourages everyone interested to participate regardless of their kitchen skills. “No one’s judging your house or your cooking skills,” Weber said. “It’s just a fun chance for people to get together.” Jane Leonard, who coordinated the event for over a decade, describes the evening as a form of neighborhood “magic.” “I think the beauty of it is that you’re giving a dinner party for six to ten people, but you only have to worry about one course,” Leonard said. She added that for those new to the area, having the opportunity to meet up to 40 people face-to-face over the course of an evening is “kind of incredible.” Current dinner coordinator Breanna Mueller, now in her second year of leading the event, highlighted its intergenerational

reach, noting that participants have ranged in age from 30 to nearly 100 years. Mueller believes that dinner creates a lasting sense of belonging that carries on long after the plates are cleaned and put away. Registration for the event, which is kid-free, is required by Friday, Feb. 27. Interested residents can sign up through the official registration form or contact the coordinating team at progressivedinnersap@gmail.com. As Leonard describes it, the dinner is “an incredibly localized example of how we can build community one meal at a time, one table at a time.” ■ Maya Betti is a journalism student at St. Olaf College and a Twin Cities freelance writer.

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CPHS COUGAR SPORTS

Thank a referee — we can't play without them

By Eric Erickson,
Sports analysis

On a cold January night in a St. Paul high school gym, the national anthem was followed by the public address announcer's introduction of the starting line-ups for two basketball teams.

Standing at midcourt throughout the pre-game rituals was the third team on the court — the officials.

Had the officiating crew not shown up, there wouldn't be a game. The gym would have had disappointed players, upset coaches, frustrated fans and a new problem for administrators to address.

While officiating can be a thankless job, at all levels of sports, the role that officials play is essential and invaluable.

Saladin Broadway

Saladin Broadway grew up playing basketball and football in St. Paul — at rec centers, in high school gyms and on their fields. He graduated from Como Park High School in 2008 as a two-sport student athlete.

Now, Broadway spends each weekend of the fall refereeing high school football games and three to four nights a week officiating basketball in the same places he used to be a player.

Broadway never considered officiating before his father (veteran St. Paul basketball coach Saladin Wright) asked him to help ref the parks and rec league in 2015.



Saladin Broadway monitors an in-bound play on the baseline. Broadway appreciates giving back to the basketball community he grew up in. Photo by Eric Erickson.

And after his first weekend of officiating U10 boys, Broadway never wanted to do it again!

"Managing the game, managing the parents and fans, managing the rules. It was a mess," Broadway recalled with a laugh.

However, encouraged by his dad and other mentors, Broadway gave it another try. Through a willingness to learn and supportive veteran officials, Broadway has grown to enjoy his side hustle. He's thriving on the basketball court and has gained respect — earning assignments for junior college and NCAA Division III games.

Broadway's full-time job is at U.S. Bank as a financial analyst. In officiating, he represents a relative youth movement. As veteran refs are aging, there's demand for the next generation. Meeting

that demand has been difficult, mainly due to the worst part of the job — verbal abuse.

The Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) has taken steps to change behaviors that cause harm to officials. The "Thank a Ref" initiative encourages school sites to promote positive interactions with officials and educate players, coaches and fans about their crucial role.

Through social media praise, pre-game announcements and showing gratitude, the likelihood of retaining and recruiting officials may increase.

Tim McGowan

Tim McGowan has been a football and basketball official for over 30 years, in addition to being an educator. He's been at Community

of Peace Academy for decades as a teacher, principal, and currently as its executive director.

McGowan agrees that verbal abuse is the most challenging part of being an official. But his experience allows him to put that into perspective.

"I walk into every game acknowledging that this is the most important moment for those participating as well as those supporting the moment," McGowan explained. "More often than not, there's an understanding of the ability levels of the players and an appreciation for the enjoyment of competition. Unfortunately, there's a percentage of coaches, parents and fans that lose perspective and make officiating unpleasant."

MSHSL basketball officials are assigned games through their associations. McGowan and Broadway are both part of the St. Paul Capital City Officials Association.

Currently, McGowan is serving his second term on its board of directors. In football, he often officiates high school games under the lights on Friday night before traveling with a crew on Saturday to ref contests in the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference.

Regardless of level or sport, McGowan sees how much the mindset of participants can impact the game.

"In my opinion, 90 percent of the most successful teams, players and coaches understand that officials are not perfect," McGowan says. "During games they ask questions, ask if we can keep an eye on certain actions or behaviors. Sometimes this is with higher emotion, which relates to the point of the game. However, they say it or ask it and move on with the game. Unfortunately, there are others who believe that acting officials is part of the game."

Chris Yang

Chris Yang echoes much of the same sentiment based on his decades of serving as a soccer official. Yang has always loved the game as a player, coach and ref. He's still an active player in a league for men age 50 and above.

But Yang says stepping away from officiating may come sooner than he thought as it's becoming more frustrating.

"From game to game, I have to witness all the hassle, ridicule and abuse from players, parents and coaches. Sometimes it gets to you mentally and you just want to walk away from it," Yang said.

For the MSHSL and youth soccer to lose a highly qualified official like Chris Yang would be a shame, and testament to why sportsmanship, respect and gratitude towards officials needs to be emphasized and practiced with intentionality.

The pay for officiating isn't bad (around \$90 per game for some varsity sports), but it's not enough to keep dissatisfied workers around.

Ultimately, the reasons some refs become lifers are because of relationships. There's a relationship to sports they love, connection to the community and friendships with fellow officials. At its best, being a ref is a positive contribution to the growth and development of players becoming better people.

Broadway is keenly aware of how much high school sports shaped his formative years and taught him lessons that influence his life today. Now he can give back, knowing that showing up to serve at a varsity game allows young people to learn through competing in something they love to do.

And when Broadway rolls in to a rec center to call a youth game, there is joy.

"The most rewarding thing is walking in the gym and seeing little kids' faces light up knowing that they can play this game today because they have a ref."

Those smiles of appreciation send a message of thanks to a trained officiating eye.

But to ensure a better experience for all participants, the next time you find yourself at a game as a parent or fan — take a moment to thank a ref. Without our officials, we can't play the game. ■

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.

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