

## CITY FILES

## Como and St. Anthony Park community council news

District 10  
Community CouncilBanfield Pet Hospital  
coming

Banfield Pet Hospital has bought and plans to expand the Larpenteur Animal Hospital, 1136 W. Larpenteur Ave.

Banfield's plans also include leasing the building to the west at 1144 Larpenteur Ave. and adding a vestibule connecting the two buildings, according to David Sorenson, project manager with Colliers, which is handling the construction work for Banfield.

Demolition work is already underway in the west building, he told District 10's Land Use Committee on Jan. 6.

The company hopes to begin new construction at the 1144 Larpenteur Ave. building in February and finish by the end of this summer. The 1136 Larpenteur Ave. building then will be renovated in the fall. When finished, the clinic will be more than 8,000 square feet. The project does not require variances or zoning changes.

Banfield has more than 1,000 U.S. locations. The company hopes to maximize the Como site's proximity to the University of Minnesota's veterinary school, Sorenson said.

The Banfield project will include new landscaping, additional lighting and some parking lot revisions, including the likelihood of

eliminating the driveway at Dunlap just south of Larpenteur Avenue, Sorenson said. The addition connecting the two buildings will include an elevator to provide accessibility that does not currently exist, he said.

## District 10 Meetings

Pandemic or not, renters, homeowners and other community members are welcome to participate in District 10's board and committee meetings. Join either by video conference or phone.

To obtain links, phone numbers or other access information, send a request by email to [district10@district10comopark.org](mailto:district10@district10comopark.org). Or, call 651-644-3889. Upcoming meetings:

• **Neighborhood Relations:** Tuesday, Feb. 2

• **Land Use:** Wednesday, Feb. 3

• **Environment:** Wednesday, Feb. 10

• **Board meeting:** Tuesday, Feb. 16

All meetings begin at 7 p.m. When possible, agendas and other relevant documents are posted in advance in the "Board News" section of District 10's website: [www.district10comopark.org](http://www.district10comopark.org)

*Submitted by Michael Kuchta, District 10 Community Council executive director.*

District 12  
Community Council

## New council members

The St. Anthony Park District 12 Community Council has welcomed several new members to its board of directors. They are:

**Business/Organization:** Raymond Bryant (board co-chair), Sherman Eagles and Scott Simmons;

**North SAP:** Michael Russelle (board co-chair), Tara Smith, Pat Thompson and John Maurer (treasurer)

**South SAP:** Walker Johnston (secretary), Amanda Longley, Karen Nelson, Heather Humbert and Melissa Pappas (board co-chair).

Several seats still remain open for one-year appointments. Contact [kathryn@sapcc.org](mailto:kathryn@sapcc.org) for more information. Visit [sapcc.org](http://sapcc.org) to learn more about board and committee leadership.

## SAPCC February meetings

• **Land Use Committee:** 7 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 4

• **Board meeting:** Thursday, 7 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 11

• **Transportation Committee:** 7 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 23

• **Environment Committee:** 7 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 24

• **Equity Committee:** 5:30 p.m., Monday, Feb. 22

All meetings are hosted via Zoom. Meeting times are subject to change. To attend a meeting or if you have questions, please con-

tact [kathryn@sapcc.org](mailto:kathryn@sapcc.org) or [emily@sapcc.org](mailto:emily@sapcc.org).

*Submitted by Emily Rodriguez, District 12 community organizer.*



Excavation work last fall at Seminary Pond. Submitted photo by Capitol Region Watershed District.

Seminary Pond flood  
prevention project  
nearly complete

By Scott Carlson

A joint governmental project to minimize potential flooding at Seminary Pond and runoff water pollution into the Mississippi River is nearly completed.

The Capitol Region Watershed District said that in a recent news release on the project it has coordinated with Lauderdale, Falcon Heights, Ramsey County and the University of Minnesota. The project is designed to minimize flooding and prevent an estimated two and a half tons of sediment and some 10 pounds of phosphorous annually from entering the Mississippi River.

Besides improved water quality, the \$400,000 project is expected to improve wildlife habitat by controlling invasive plants and replacing them with native plants in and around the pond, according to a Watershed District official.

"The improvements being made to Seminary Pond will enhance its storm water management functions and the surrounding natural area that is part of the larger, 7-acre Breck Woods, enjoyed by many local residents," Anna Eleria, Capitol Region Watershed District Division manager, said in the news release.

The improvement project involved removing 25 years of built up sediment and expanding the pond's capacity by deepening it and raising a berm along its western edge, the Watershed District said. Rocks have been used to stabilize the channel, slopes

and ravine leading to the pond. Iron-enhanced sand filters were added to the northern and southern edges of the pond to remove dissolved phosphorous, a pollutant in storm water runoff that fuels algae growth.

Eleria told the Bugle the project went smoothly "as a drier and slightly warmer fall was favorable for construction." The project is scheduled to conclude with native plantings this spring.

Seminary Pond, located southeast of the intersection of Carl Street and Idaho Avenue, is a regional storm water pond receiving runoff from 128 acres of land in Lauderdale, Falcon Heights and St. Paul. The pond was created in 1994 and was originally designed to move and temporarily store storm water runoff. It has provided limited treatment of polluted water before it flows into the storm sewer system and the Mississippi River, the Watershed District said.

"Capitol Region Watershed District worked doggedly to pull together the partners and financial resources needed to accomplish this project," Lauderdale City Administrator Heather Butkowski said. "The beneficiaries are the Mississippi River and all of us who are committed to doing our part to protect and improve our local natural environment."

To learn more about the project go to [capitolregionwd.org](http://capitolregionwd.org) ■

*Scott Carlson is managing editor of the Bugle.*

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