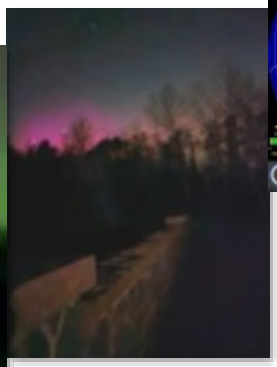
www.LookAtLakeside.com Dec/Jan 2025-26

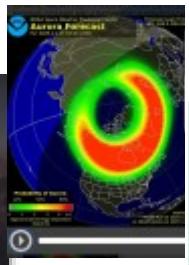
LOOK at LAKESIDE

LAL is in color online.

Lakeside—Lester Park
bi-monthly newsletter since 2012

What a Show!





Northern Lights were seen all over the Northland.

November 11 and 12 were opportunities for spectacular viewing of Northern Lights. The aurora glowed green and pink. White streaks danced above. Some people headed out of town to be away from city lights but the aurora, especially through photos, was very visible in town. The display lasted for hours and were pleasantly in mild temperature and early in the evening. We took photos even from inside our house on McCulloch St. Seven Bridges Road had pink glow with tree shadow shapes adding to the picture. Oh what a night!

Intense colors for hours. Visible from streets in town, open spaces and up Seven Bridges Road. ***Check NOAA Space Weather 30 min aurora forecast.***

Lottery Raises Funds
for Duluth Projects

It's a decision about whether to play the Minnesota Lottery. There are people that play often and some occasionally or never have. Forty percent of the proceeds from the Lottery are returned to the state are directed to the Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF). The fund supports projects that protect, conserve, and enhance Minnesota's natural resources—including its air, water, land fish, and wildlife. Since 1990, over $1 billion in lottery-generated funds have been invested into the fund to benefit communities across the state including Duluth.

In 2025, funding support was given to Thom Storm Chalet and Outdoor Recreation Center to build a new building and accessible parking lot at Chester Park. Another project supported this year was to **Enhance Preservation and Accessibility at Hawk Ridge Nature Reserve**. The project supported removing invasive species at Hawk Ridge,

Continued on Page 7

Welcome Sol Hong Kong Café

You can now have wonton noodle soup, Katsu sandwich, congee, house dumpling, and other Hong Kong inspired meal options at 4721 E. Superior St in Lakeside. Antony Gor opened the restaurant after being a chef for dinner parties and pop-ups and people asked for more. He grew up in Houston and has lived in Duluth for 3 years. Everything is made from scratch. The current hours are 8AM-2PM Thursday and Fri and 8AM until 4PM Sat and Sun. He speaks Cantonese and has customers who speak Cantonese as well.

Seasons Greetings and Happy New Year! Here comes 2026!

Solstice Get-Together

Dec 21 (Sun)
Brighton Beach
Chimney Shelter
3PM
Host Look at Lakeside

Full Moon 12/4 1/3 There will be 13 full moons in 2026

IN THIS ISSUE

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Poem by Stan
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& Events / Announcements
+ more...

Next Deadline *Jan 12

LOOK AT LAKESIDE
is a bi-monthly newsletter on people, places, happenings and history of Lakeside-Lester Park, Duluth, MN
6 issues/year
1st issue Aug/Sept 2012

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Photos by Wendy G.

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wendyupnorth.com
day trips, local art & gift fairs
live dulcimer music
local history and travel presentations, and more.

McCulloch Street Musings

from the Editor

BUSY TIMES. QUIET TIMES. THE HOLIDAY SEASON goes on for months. Stores had Christmas things up in October. Yards are decked out now with lights and shapes of Christmas.

A wild week in September was spent fostering 6 pitbull puppies—4 weeks old from the Humane Society of Douglas Co. The puppies were filled with energy, warm, and loved to explore and chew. Then they would take naps in a pile in the day (not a bad idea). My husband and I were down in Texas for almost a week visiting family in mid-October. I didn't know Texas Hill Country is the 2nd largest wine producer in the U.S. We sat to watch 3 million bats emerge from an old train tunnel (Texas' smallest state park Old Tunnel) but the sky grew darker so we couldn't view the emergence of millions of bats.

Chickadee in the backyard using a hole made by a squirrel. Teamwork.

San Antonio River walk was nice for a day and evening boat ride. Temps were in the 90s there (the other end of Hwy 35) and returning to Minnesota were in the 40s.

The year went by and my husband and I hadn't had a chance to get out our canoe. On Nov 11 we had a free couple hours and with a skim of ice on the Nemadji River we paddled along with an eagle above, muskrat splash, beaver activity and more birds. You can really see the stars and planets in Lakeside some nights and the show of Northern Lights when we are lucky. Join me for a Winter Solstice Get-Together at Brighton Beach 12/21. Bundle up. BTW I sell cat/small pet/ stuffed animal scarves. Many fun things at local fairs. Great gifts. Do what you love.

Your neighbor, *Wendy*

Lakewalk Evening Walks >>2 Mondays
Dec 8, 15
Meet at Duluth East High School lower parking lot. 7PM
Hosted by Wendy/LOOK at LAKESIDE

DID YA' KNOW
Minnesota has **13 National Wildlife Refuges**?
We went to Sherburne for the 1st time this fall (near Zimmerman). 20,000+ Sandhill Cranes stop over there. We saw several hundred in the nearby corn fields.

A DEER WAS SPOTTED IN LAKESIDE THAT FOR WEEKS HAD ARTIFICIAL SPIDER WEB DECORATIONS CAUGHT IN HIS ANTLERS.

Photo by Bill Mattson

Day Trips

Pop-up local outings will be added ***

12/10 Rittenhouse Wassail Luncheon
Wendyupnorth.com
218 525 5098

View socials for holiday deals and future tastings.

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The Lake is not a Lake

Coming down Glenwood Street after cresting
the hill at Hawks Ridge, Superior rises
on the horizon as if you could drive right into it

We experience this vista almost every day
Superior is always there—at the bottom of 43rd Ave
Lapping along the freeway through town,
Old highway sixty-one

It defines our place in the world
Do not call it a lake
A lake, you can cross duck paddling A canoe or kayak

A lake, you can swim and splash
for hours, recline on an inflatable
raft or inner tube. You could do this
on Superior, but do you really want to?

Superior, more dangerous than the North Atlantic
Colder too---no Gulf Stream here
Ask the ghosts of sailors who have gone down
in its depths, see the broken bones of boats

Superior is always there, always changing its face
Moody, angry or sparkling. Do not expect
it will stay the same—not for a moment!
It rises to meet you on any hill falling from Skyline Parkway
It is not a lake. You best not take it for granted

By
Stanley Kusunoki

Stan moved to lakeside in March. He has several poetry collection books published. He will be at the Get It Local fair at Peace Church on 12/13.

A Handful of Events

12/4 > Housing in Duluth: A Local Panel Mitchell Auditorium CSS. Alworth Peace Lecture. 7:30PM and Livestream.

12/5 >A Cozy Evening Live Music. SOLCA. 7PM spiritofthelakearts.org

12/11 > Duluth Preservation Alliance Holiday Party 1503 N. Central Ave. 6:30PM Tickets at duluthpreservation.org

12/13 > Whisker Wonderland Make gifts for your pets and shelter animals. Humane Society of Douglas Co.,138 Moccasin Mike Rd. 11AM

12/13 >LLPCC Breakfast with Santa Come meet and talk with Santa. Free light breakfast. Lakeside Lester Park Community Club, 106 N. 54th Ave. E. 9-11:30a.m.

12/21 > Solstice Luminary Hike Enger Park Golf Course. 5-8PM. Free. All ages. Please carpool. Duluth Parks & Rec.

2/1 > Fly Fishing Film Festival Clyde Iron Works. Doors open at 3PM Film starts at 4PM $20. Free for children 14 & under. Sponsored by Arrowhead Fly Fishing Club and Gitche Gumee Trout Unlimited

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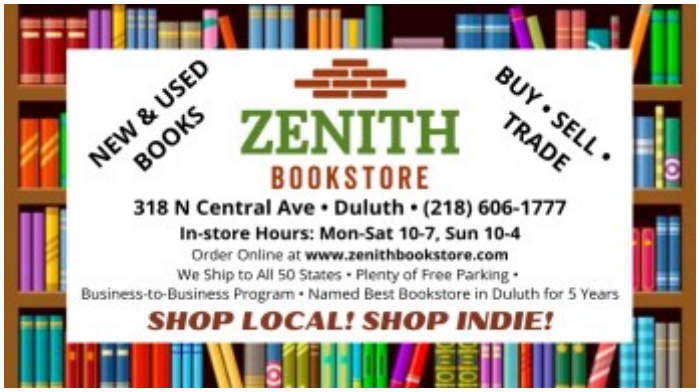
Happy Holidays!

.

The sun makes Lake Superior glisten. Are you ready for glistening ice and snow?

Resources **Monthly Breastfeeding & Lactation Support Group** 12/4, 1/8) Spirit of the Lake SOLCA. 6-8PM **Teen Closet** Open Thursdays from 2-6PM. First Lutheran Church, 1100 E. Superior St. Or call 218 780-1595 to make an appointment. Another room has newborn to pre-teen clothing. **Center for Changing Lives** has diapers, bottles, baby clothing and more. Accepts donations. 218-529-2230 LSS

DT Lester Park is the "other" end to the Duluth Traverse (DT) trail. The trail runs for 40 miles. DT connects Lester Park to Chambers Grove. The trail passes through multiple neighborhoods along the way. The trail can be accessed in multiple locations. A map is at coggs.com/Duluth-traverse It's made as a trail bike trail and is one of only seven IMBA Gold Level ride centers in the world. An app—Duluth Traverse on-trail navigation on Android and iOS is available. The trail is for multi-use (non-motorized). Bikers must yield to others. Events are held year-round. Pending funding first-aid kits may be added at multiple locations. Duluth Foot Trails Alliance helps to maintain trails on this route and other local trails.



^ ^ Lakeside BIZ/COM BITS ^ ^

****** New Restaurant — See front page. Sol is open.**

****Theater production at Duluth East. Students put on *Alice by Heart*. A spring musical is TBA

*** **Fall blood drive** was held at Duluth East. The EPA Lab was canceled due to the federal shut down.

Federal workers that were furloughed returned to work on Nov 12.

*** **Roasting in Lakeside Coffee beans** from Brazil, Ethiopia, Kenya, and other countries are roasted in Lakeside as a business **Jake Underwood** started in his 20s—Underwood Coffee. He worked in the coffee industry for 10 years before starting this. His 5 year anniversary is coming up and he's had his setup in Lakeside for almost 4 years. He will be opening a restaurant downtown Duluth in the Exchange building early next year. He wholesales coffee to places around the U.S., Minneapolis, co-ops and in Duluth.

*** **Art Play Time** Alison Kilpo runs weekday day and after school classes for youth age 9 months to 6 years. The art play sensory group has a new location on the lower level of Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd. Alison lives in Lakeside and has many activities for the kids – filling 2 rooms with space to have some fun (learn and make messes, too). GrowingLittleLoves.com

*** Duluth East has a **school resource officer** (SRO) Officer Jayson Dardis is in his 2nd year as a SRO. He builds relationships with the student and is available during emergency situations. The officer is a commissioned police officer. He has been with the DPD for 17 years. He has coaching experience and has a passion for using athletics as a way to teach students life lessons. He helps students problem solve, develop critical thinking and helps them process conflicts.

*** **Donna Bergstrom** gave a presentation as part of the Bong Center Lecture Series in Superior celebrating the 250th of the Marine Corps sharing history and her own stories of her time in the Corps.

Be yourself; everyone else is already taken.
Oscar Wilde

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Duluth, MN 55804
www.diamondwillow.com/careers

—-**Lester River Rendezvous** downsized to education voyageurs only (no craft vendors/food trucks). Heavy vehicles crossing the pedestrian bridge was a concern.

A REVIEW OF 2025 *LAKESIDE*

—-St. Michael's Church Lakeside Professional Building Removed. Photos were taken as the building was removed. A gif of many deconstruction photos will be added to LookatLakeside.com.

—Maxton Gudowski Memorial Run heads out at Portman supporting animals and low income food.

—-Still no change at Lester Park golf course. No golf. No development so far.

—-Goats chow down on buckthorn invasive species at Russell Park

—-Locals and people from around the U.S. and beyond enjoy Brighton Beach and trails at Lester Park.

SMOOTH…..No shortage of orange cones around town this summer and fall. Portions of Superior Street have a fresh new surface.

—-Neighborhood Night Out events, laughter, dog-walking, beach time, Lakewalk activities, worship, school time, lawn mowing, gardening, birdwatching, wildlife viewing, train time, fishing, surfing, shoveling, raking, sports, celebrate, hike, bike, learn to read, and r e s t .

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City Reps

At-Large City Councilors
Terese Tomanek
Jordan Johnson

Wendy Durrwachter is our District's rep through 1/3/28

Email addresses of all councilors can be found at duluthmn.gov/

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Cont. from Front Page, Lottery

improving outdoor recreation and education opportunities and promoting conservation of raptors and preservation of natural resources.

Previous projects in the Northland that have received support are **Native Plant Community Data** in the City of Duluth to make plant maps for Duluth and the St. Louis River Estuary and supporting conservation and restoration planning. Support has also gone to **increase recreation opportunities and access in West Duluth** through enhancing trail and trailheads including accessible canoe/kayak launches, picnic areas, restrooms and restoring habitat and more **steps toward connecting people with natural resources along the St. Louis River**.

WINTER QUIZ

1. WHAT ZODIAC SIGN RUNS FROM NOV 22 TO DEC 21?

2. WHAT VITAMIN SUPPLEMENT SHOULD YOU CONSIDER TAKING WHEN YOU DON'T GET ENOUGH SUNLIGHT?

3. WHAT MAKES UP 90% OF FRESH SNOW?

Answers: 1. Sagittarius. (associated with being optimistic, adventurous) 2. Vitamin D (sample food higher in Vit D include fortified cereal, O.J, sardines, fortified milk) 3. Trapped air

ACTIVE OUTSIDE

Ski –Lester Park has 15 km skate-ski groomed trails. 4.3 km is lighted. Ski hotline 218 730-4321 Ski Chalet up Seven Bridges Rd.

Skate— Free skate at Portman and several rinks. Lighted at night.

Tuesdays, 5PM **Kubb** (pronounced kube) Earth Rider, Superior. Game will be taught to those who would like to learn. Come play this old-time game.

AEOA Senior Diners Club

Meals at community dining sites and local restaurants that support adults age 60 and above. No income requirements. Suggested contribution of $4.50 per meal. 218-735-6899

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MUSIC & SPECIAL EVENTS OF THE SEASON

12/2 A La Carte Holiday Concert Musicians in Duluth East Music program. 7PM. $30. Desserts and concert. Clyde. Tickets at demboosters.org

12/3 UMD Big Band Jazz Concert Weber Music Hall. 7:30PM

12/5 Sounds of the Season Concert UMD Weber Music Hall 7:30PM

12/5 O Holy Night CSS choral, brass, and string ensembles. Cathedral of Our Lady of the Rosary. 7:30PM Freewill offering to benefit Chum. Tickets at css.edu

12/6 DSSO Holiday Spectacular DECC Symphony Hall 2PM, 7PM

12/6 Creepmas Parade Dress up as winter myth. Bells unify. Jingle and jangle. Outdoor. Dovetail Café. 5 PM

12/13 Feeling that Gingerbread

Feeling: Holiday band Concert CSS. Mitchell Auditorium. 7 PM

12/14 Chanukah Celebration Great menorah lighting, music, magician. EH Miller Hill Health Plaza. 4PM

12/19 A Bell Noel: ringing in the holidays! Strikepoint. First United Methodist Church. 7PM $25. Students $10. Tickets at the door.

Lakeside Presbyterian Church
4430 McCulloch Street, Duluth, MN 55804
218-525-1967

10:30 a.m. Sunday Worship
4:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship
For families w/Chancel Choir & Candlelight

Childrens' Christmas Worship
10:30 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 14th
www.lakesidepreschurch.org

ELCA

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www.lcgsduluth.org

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