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LWV ABC Returns to In-Person Meetings!

Update on Anoka County Parks

Monday, July 12
6:00 Gathering time
6:30 Program

An Update on Anoka County Parks with

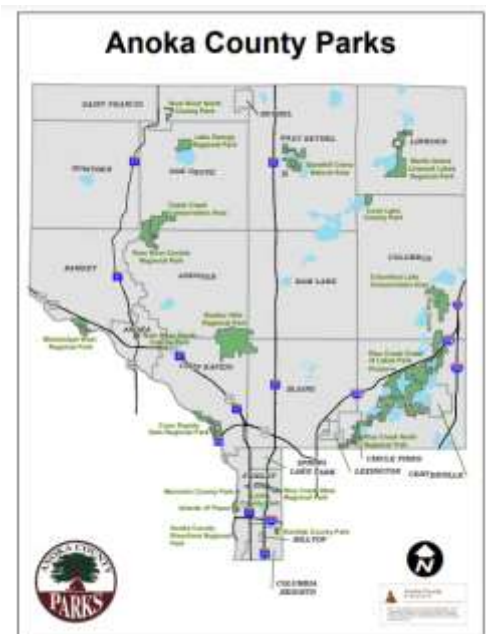
- Jeff Perry, Anoka County Parks Director (left)
- Mike Gamache, Anoka County Commissioner (right)



Join us for this special opportunity to hear first-hand about what's happening in our parks, future plans, protection of our natural environment, and the many opportunities for recreation and leisure activities. We will meet at the Bunker Hills Activity Center in the beautiful **Bunker Hills Regional Park, 550 Bunker Lake Boulevard, in Andover**. Weather permitting, we will enjoy our social time on the deck. The presentations will take place in the Activity Center.



We will have some packaged snacks. Bring your own beverage.



Recap of our June Program Meeting

**Book talk with
Star Tribune columnist Lori Sturdevant and
US Senator Dave Durenberger**

We enjoyed a fine evening with Star Tribune Columnist Lori Sturdevant and US Senator Dave Durenberger discussing their book, "When Republicans Were Progressive." This program was postponed during the pandemic, but it was worth the wait to have them join on us on Zoom with lively conversation and generous amounts of time for questions.



Missed it? QCTV video recorded the event, is available for viewing later on LWV ABC's YouTube channel [YouTube @ LWV Anoka Blaine Coon Rapids Area](#). It's also posted on our website here: [https://my.lwv.org/minnesota/anoka-blaine-coon-rapids-area/lwv-abcs-spotlight-issues#Spotlight Environment](https://my.lwv.org/minnesota/anoka-blaine-coon-rapids-area/lwv-abcs-spotlight-issues#Spotlight%20Environment)

VOLUNTEER TO REGISTER VOTERS!

The voter registration committee is using SignUp Genius to recruit volunteers to register voters at community events. Check out the places we will be at the link below. Events will continue to be added so check back frequently.

Volunteers will be provided with signage and all the supplies needed to set up a successful registration table.



Volunteer to register voters using Sign-Up Genius at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805084AAEA82CA7FA7-voter> -- or go to the home page of our website and scroll down to click on the SignUp Genius Button.

Foreshadowing of Future Meetings

Now that we are coming back to in-person meetings, we are making plans... more detail will be provided in upcoming issues of this newsletter!

August 9 - Our August 9 meeting will be in Fridley, at the Banfill-Locke Center for the Arts. As usual, 6pm social and 6:30 start for the meeting. Our speaker will be [Abby Kosberg, Executive Director](#). [Here's a recent article](#). Abby will be talking about the challenges and options facing the art group as the county withdraws funding.



September 13 – We will be returning to Andover City Hall for our September meeting! Our topic will be Redistricting, and our speakers will be former Minnesota Representative Kathy Tinglestad and LWV MN's redistricting expert Paul Huffman. Once again, we will be working with QCTV to record and cablecast the meeting, and we will also offer Zoom connections for those who want to participate virtually.

Our Program Committee, led by DeeAnn Christensen, is planning meaty and informative meetings on current topics that support LWV work and initiatives. If you'd like to help plan future meetings, email us at lwwabc@gmail.com!

UPCOMING BOOK AND FILM CLUB DISCUSSIONS – VIA ZOOM

Gather with LWV ABC members and friends to expand your knowledge of diversity, equity and inclusion topics from the comfort of your deck, yard, or comfy chair.

Check the Calendar on our website

<https://my.lwv.org/minnesota/anoka-blaine-coon-rapids-area/calendar> for meeting times, description of the book/film content, where to obtain, and the Zoom link for our evening discussions.

Upcoming Films

- July 7 – *Mankiller* -- Activist, Feminist, Cherokee Chief (2017) and optional supplemental film *The Cherokee Word for Water* (2013), both on Kanopy with library card
- August 4 - *Hidden Figures* –untold true story of three women at NASA (2016)

Upcoming Books

- July 21 - *Funny in Farsi: A Memoir of Growing Up Iranian in America* (2007) by Firoozeh Dumas
- August 18 - *Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America* by Richard Rothstein
- September 15 - *Minor Feelings: An Asian American Reckoning* (2020) by Cathy Park Hong
- October 6 - *Neither Wolf Nor Dog* (2016) book or film (Gretchen will share her dvd.)
- November 17 - *Rez Life: An Indian's Journey Through Reservation Life* (2012) by David Treuer

**Check out the latest posts on the LWV
ABC Antiracism Blog at this link:**

[https://www.lwvumrr.org/lwv-abc-
blog/category/antiracism-resources](https://www.lwvumrr.org/lwv-abc-blog/category/antiracism-resources)

Mankiller (2017)

“My own role has just been to be here for a tiny period of time in the totality of history. I guess I don’t think I leave any great legacy and I hope that when I leave, it will just be said that I did what I could.” - Wilma Mankiller

Based in part on Wilma Mankiller’s autobiography *Mankiller: A Chief and Her People*, this documentary by Valerie Red-Horse Mohl provides an in-depth look at the life and work of Wilma Mankiller, the first female Principle Chief of the Cherokee Nation. Mankiller’s experience is inextricably linked to the fight of Indigenous persons in the USA and the doc observes the fight for sovereignty in tandem with her rise to power.

- **Free Streaming:** Kanopy (with Anoka County or Columbia Hts library card)
- **DVD:** [Hennepin Library](#) - 6 DVDs, [Anoka Library](#) - 1 DVD

Supplemental Film: *The Cherokee Word for Water* (2013) is also available for viewing on Kanopy.

The Cherokee Word for Water (2013), told from the point of view of Wilma Mankiller and Charlie Soap, is a fictionalized account of the struggle for, opposition to, and ultimate success of a rural Cherokee community to bring running water to their families.

Highlights of the LWV ABC Board Meeting, June 28, 2021

The Board discussed the issue of how decisions are made about the subject of displays that are put up in the Anoka County Library System. The larger issues are; what is the role of public libraries in our communities, how independent the Library System should be, and the related issue of not having a trained librarian as the Director. Gretchen Sabel said that we will look into what League's position is on this issue.

How to handle signing up to volunteer for forums and voter registration events was next on the agenda. We are working on having an online system through Sign-up Genius as the principal method for sign up. A problem with doing it this way is that the Sign-up Genius site may be hard to find, so we would need to supply instructions for that.

The report on the LWV MN convention included a question about how the Vote411 web site is being handled. The problem seemed to be that the staff is overwhelmed by the amount of work involved in having the site complete and up-to-date for both urban and rural elections. We decided to write a letter to the state league, letting them know of our concerns.

Arlene Gillett
LWV ABC Secretary

Do you have Information to share with LWV ABC?
Get in touch with LWV ABC

Visit our public website: www.lwvabcmn.org. If you need a refresher on accessing the Members Only section of the website, send an email to lwvabc@gmail.com. We will reply with the link for you to bookmark.

We're on Facebook: Just search for "LWV ABC Facebook". **Instagram, too!**

Our monthly newsletter, *The Voter*: Members and other interested persons receive our newsletter by email in the early part of each month. Issues are also available on our LWV ABC website, www.lwvabcmn.org.