

# The Connector

January 2025

of Woodbury



*The  
Pelton  
Family:*

**Saint Paul Winter Carnival  
Volunteers Since 1994!**

POWERED BY  
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Photo by Framing Fairytales LLC



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January.....	December 15th	July.....	June 15th
February.....	January 15th	August.....	July 15th
March.....	February 15th	September.....	August 15th
April.....	March 15th	October.....	September 15th
May.....	April 15th	November.....	October 15th
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**DEAR RESIDENTS,**

Winter is in full swing and now is the time to be outdoors and enjoying what the community has to offer. Take a drive to Lowell Park in Stillwater and watch the second annual World Snow Celebration, which will now last for two weeks! There will be plenty of activities for everyone in the family. Find more information about the event inside!

For January, we are featuring the Pelton family that lives in the Brookview Village neighborhood—Josh and Danielle and their two children Elliot and Everett. For the Pelton family, volunteering their time at the Saint Paul Winter Carnival has been a family affair since 1994! Read all about their involvement inside, and consider attending this year's Carnival which goes from January 23 through February 1!

Our readers are important to us, and we always welcome your input and feedback. If you know of a neighbor you'd like to see featured in the magazine, belong to a community organization that deserves recognition or know of events your neighbors would enjoy, we'd love to hear from you.



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Photos provided by Danielle Pelton

# The Pelton Family:

## Saint Paul Winter Carnival Volunteers Since 1994!

By Allison  
Lund-Zalewski

For the Pelton family, volunteering their time at the Saint Paul Winter Carnival has been a family affair since 1994! Josh and Danielle and their two children, Elliot, 13, and Everett (Evie), nine, have lived in Brookview Village since August 2014. The family moved to the neighborhood after they outgrew their first home, a townhouse, in the Quarry Ridge neighborhood.

“We absolutely love where we live and feel fortunate to have some of the best neighbors anyone could ask for! Nestled near the end of a cul-de-sac, our home has been the perfect place to raise our girls, surrounded by a tight-knit community we can truly call our own. It’s not uncommon to see kids biking down the street, playing basketball, or tossing a football around. Our neighbors are one of the main reasons we’ve stayed as long as we have—we love the community and the friendships we’ve built while watching our kids grow up,” Danielle stated.

Josh and Danielle’s story began in 2007 with the Saint Paul Winter Carnival. Danielle’s dad was Vulcanus Rex, and one of his Krewe member’s wives was determined to introduce Danielle to her brother, Josh. After some persuasion, Danielle agreed, and from there, everything fell into place! Their early years were filled with Winter Carnival parades and activities, which eventually led to Josh joining the Vulcans in 2017. Josh proposed in 2008 at the Minnesota State Fair on the Ferris Wheel, and they were married on September 5, 2009, with many family, friends, and Winter Carnival family in attendance. The State Fair holds a special place for the family, as Danielle’s parents also got engaged there years ago.

Danielle graduated from Mounds View High School and went on to earn her Bachelor of Arts degree in communication studies, with a focus on organizational communication and a minor in media communication and marketing, from Bethel University in 2008. She became a licensed Realtor in Minnesota and Wisconsin, joining Cardinal Realty Co. in Oakdale in August 2010. Outside of real estate, Danielle also manages and coaches at Farrell’s eXtreme Bodyshaping in Woodbury.

Josh graduated from South St. Paul High School and has a diverse background that includes landscaping, carpentry, retail sales, and management. Since 2017, he has found his passion serving the local community through his work with St. Croix Hospice, based in Oakdale. Currently, he manages strategic growth initiatives across the Midwest, a role he helped develop as the company expanded.





Photo by Framing Fairytales LLC

The couple has two daughters, Elliot and Evie. Elliot is currently in the eighth grade and attends Oak-Land Middle School. She has a passion for all things beauty related, from staying up to date with the latest skincare and makeup trends to experimenting with different hairstyles. She's the family's go-to beauty expert. Evie is a fourth grader at Brookview Elementary School. She loves getting creative with all sorts of projects and crafts. When she's not making something, she enjoys playing Roblox and watching her favorite YouTubers on her iPad.

Elliot joined Aspire Music Academy in January 2020, with Evie following in the summer of 2022. Both girls love singing, dancing, practicing routines with their small groups, and performing for others. Elliot is now part of Aspire's new competitive show choir team, set to kick off competitions in early 2025. Before Aspire, they danced at Woodbury Dance Center, where their passion for dance began. Aspire has expanded their experiences, adding theater and acting to their singing and dancing pursuits.

The family has a dog named Irene that they brought home during the pandemic. Initially, they thought she was a Yorkiepoo, but after doing a DNA test, they discovered she's a mix of Poodle, King Cavalier, Corgi, and Parson Russell Terrier. Danielle and Josh brought home their first dog together during their honeymoon in 2009—a Yorkiepoo named Mildred. Sadly, Mildred passed away a little over a year ago, and the family

misses her every day. While they still miss Mildred, they love having Irene to cuddle and play with!

The Peltons' community involvement with the Saint Paul Winter Carnival began in 1994 when Danielle's dad served as Prince of Soot, a Vulcan in the organization. Over the years, the family participated in many carnival activities. In 2007, Danielle's dad became Vulcanus Rex, and his brother-in-law became King Boreas, symbolizing the legendary "brotherly" battle between Winter and Summer.

This turned into a true family affair, with both sides uniting to represent St. Paul. When Josh and Danielle met, their shared passion for the Carnival grew, with their first major event together being the Thanksgiving Day Parade in Chicago. Josh became the Count of Ashes in 2017, and after his "year on the streets," he joined the Fire & Brimstone Board of Directors in 2018 and became President in 2022. For close to 15 years, Danielle has coordinated both the Vulcan Christmas Party for Fire & Brimstone members and spouses and the Conclave Dinner during Winter Carnival, which hosts nearly 400 guests, including dignitaries from Florida, Canada, and other cities.

Danielle also volunteers her time as a member of the St. Paul Area Association of Realtors (SPARR) and has been a member since 2010. She joined the MetroYPN committee in 2016 and served as Committee Chair from 2020 to 2021. She continues to be an active committee member and joined the Board of Directors in 2022. She will be inducted as President-Elect in early 2025.

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"I'm excited to combine my passions for real estate and the winter carnival, as the St. Paul Area Association of Realtors will be the main sponsor of the Grand Day Parade at the start of Carnival this year," Danielle commented.

When the couple is not involved in the carnival activities and planning, they manage to find time for other hobbies. While they're not a big sports-playing family, Josh enjoys playing pickleball when he can, and both he and Danielle look forward to playing in the Woodbury Chamber's Annual Kickball Tournament each year. Danielle began working out at Farrell's eXtreme Bodyshaping (FXB) in October 2015, quickly developing a passion for the workouts and community. Josh soon joined her to experience it firsthand, and now they both train there about six days a week, alternating between kickboxing and strength training. Danielle is Co-Studio Manager and instructs classes.

"Together, we've found a supportive community that feels like a second family at FXB Woodbury," Danielle said.

Every year, the Pelton family takes Halloween costumes to a whole new level, along with their neighbors. What started out as coordinating costumes with the kids has now turned into a tradition where the adults plan their outfits together, while the kids have branched out and come up with their own creative ideas. Each year, the parents try to outdo themselves, and they've built quite a following of people eagerly awaiting to see what they'll come up with next! Another neighborhood favorite is gathering for a friendly game of bags. On warm summer and fall evenings, the first person to open their garage door and set up chairs in the driveway is quickly joined by others.

The family adores traveling and tries to make a trip to Florida every year to visit friends and family along the Gulf Coast. Puerto Vallarta, Mexico is another favorite destination they try to visit as often as possible, especially to see Danielle's parents, who spend extended periods of time there. COVID inspired the family to embrace road-tripping, and they hit the road to visit friends in Kentucky and then made their way down to Florida. They also took a separate trip to Montana that same year. Now, they try to plan road trips whenever time allows, with their most recent journey being Kentucky over MEA break.

Danielle and Josh occasionally take trips without the girls, but rest assured, the girls have more than enough fun with their grandparents while their parents are away. The couple's latest getaway was to Nashville, Tennessee, with Danielle's cousin and his wife. Last year, Danielle also took a girls' trip with one of her best friends to visit her cousin to see Justin Timberlake in Tampa, Florida. Danielle is looking forward to more travel opportunities through her leadership role on SPAAR's board including some trips where Josh and the girls will join her as well.

Looking for something fun to do this winter? Go check out the Saint Paul Winter Carnival January 23 through February 1. If you happen to see the Peltons there, be sure to stop by and say hello!