Dayton's Bluff DistrictForum

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daytonsbluffdistrictforum.org

"The Voice of the Community"

Traffic calming on East Sixth Street: It's time for a test

Jane Prince, Ward 7 City Council Matt Mazanec, East Sixth Street Neighbor

Historically, East Sixth Street has been a residential centerpiece of our Dayton's Bluff neighborhood, lined with elegant Victorian architecture from Maria to Arcade streets. Yet, when the Interstate 94 freeway ramp opened onto East Sixth Street decades ago, speeding traffic exiting the off-ramp destroyed the residential character of this once peaceful tree-lined boulevard — while bypassing our evolving commercial corridor on East Seventh Street!

Uphill from the freeway, East Sixth Street neighbors have endured excessive traffic speeds and volumes, heavy truck traffic, vehicular pollution, trash, noise, aggressive driving behavior, property damage, crashes, injuries and sadly, the death of a pedestrian.

Seeking help from the city and the Dayton's Bluff Community Council, East Sixth Street neighbors worked diligently for 20-plus years to stem this tide of devastating traffic on their street. These efforts included adding parking bump-outs as a means of narrowing the street and installing traffic islands as pedestrian refuges at Maria and Maple streets. At the Maple traffic island, neighbors installed planters and planted perennials.

Neighbors also convinced the city to close East Sixth Street at Arcade to divert speeding traffic heading west onto the freeway entrance.

Despite neighbors' valiant efforts, speeding traffic has prevailed; occasionally knocking down the handsome wrought iron urns and traffic signs and uprooting carefully maintained plantings. From 2003 through 2013, East Sixth Street averaged 10 reported crashes a year, and the cost of street sign replacement alone is \$400 per month on East Sixth Street. This does not include all the unreported crashes and property damage on the street.

So it was no wonder, when nothing else worked, that East Sixth Street neighbors would seek to close their street once and for all: to prevent speeding freeway off-rampers from using it as a main drag to the East Side.

Today we write with the exciting news that a **test closure** of East Sixth Street at Mounds Boulevard has been approved by

the City of Saint Paul Public Works to take place later this year. The test will give all of us – residents, business owners, Metro State faculty, staff and students, visitors, employees, and everyone else, an opportunity to determine whether such a closing, while calming traffic on East Sixth Street, will still meet the needs of the larger community. We think there's a good chance that the test will lead to new neighborhood traffic patterns that could serve the East Side even better.

The Dayton's Bluff Community Council has supported both a test closure as well as a permanent closure of East Sixth Street. In 2013, the council supported the closure as a means of moving traffic to East Seventh Street (Minnesota Trunk Highway 5), "allowing drivers to stop and shop at businesses along East Seventh Street." It is worth noting that East Seventh Street commercial vitality is greatly enhanced since the council passed these proposals, including (but not limited to) the opening of the Metro State Student Center, the Cambric Apartments, Mississippi Market, the Indigenous Roots Cultural Arts Center, the East Side Enterprise Center, the Mexican Consulate, the Goat Coffeehouse, WEQY/The Voice of the East Side, along with the planned expansion of CLUES, and the imminent opening of Manana Restaurant in the old district council office.

The test is scheduled to occur over about six weeks during September and October. This study is designed to show where the traffic goes and how it affects other local streets. We will be providing a lot more information at public meetings in the coming months to prepare you for the test. And meanwhile, if you have questions, you can reach out to the Ward 7 office at ward 7@ci.stpaul.mn.us.

We believe that with this valuable test has the potential to help us dramatically improve the safety, functionality and livability for those on East Sixth Street, at Metro State University and within our Dayton's Bluff Community. Given all the efforts to crack this traffic problem over the past 20 years, what have we got to lose? And we could have everything to gain: restoring East Sixth Street to a beautiful residential boulevard, improving the pedestrian environment and campus feel of Metro State University and increasing the vitality and vibrancy of our East Seventh Street commercial corridor.

Jane Prince can be reached at ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us.



Rendering courtesy of Jane Prince

Rendering of what a greenspace could look like if East Sixth Street is permanently closed.

That was a clo\$e one

Whew! We almost didn't send this month's issue to print and distribution. Fortunately, some angels responded with enough donations that added to paid ads, we squeaked through. But that's only one month. *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* publishes once a month, except January. Each month's printing and distribution is \$1,500 to \$1,900.

Here's the status as of this issue:

- Our local printer runs the minimum possible for us now, in order to cut costs.
- Grants are being pursued (please let us know if you have knowledge of possible grants).
- We are expecting to be onlineonly with the June issue unless we raise capital.

To read the *Forum* online: daytonsbluffdistrictforum.org.

Unfortunately, many, many residents still do not have internet access, so will miss out on this unique neighborhood paper.

One of our donating angels sent a \$1,000 check to be used toward the May issue. We know not everyone can do that, and certainly, not every month. But, would you *please* dig a little deeper? Dream a little bigger? Think about lifting others up in the largest dollar amount you can share?

With ready access to news and local tidbits available on our phones, it's easy to believe we have all we need to stay in touch. I don't know - maybe a cell phone really is all that's needed. Of course I don't believe that! Working with other volunteer staff of the Forum, and talking with residents, business staff and customers, people at the libraries or on the streets, I have no doubt that the Forum helps to build community. Community to me means people working together, listening and learning, making plans for fun events, helping each other. It's how a small, neighborhood paper relates; so often, someone refers to something s/he read in the Forum, wanting to know more. Paper pulp, ink, people writing columns, people reading, laughing, rolling their eyes, recognizing a neighbor's name or picture...this is the kind of glue that keeps a neighborhood strong! PLEASE CONTRIBUTE - consistently, and with the most you can

Call Karin DuPaul at 651-776-0550 about contributing, or send a check to:

Dayton's Bluff District Forum Att: Karin DuPaul 804 Margaret Street Saint Paul, MN 55106

Thank you for reading, and thank you for your support.

(We have been hearing the Post Office has not been delivering to all residences - we have talked with management).

Dayton's Bluff Community Council 804 Margaret Street St. Paul, MN 55106

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Karin DuPau

The 2018 Minneapolis & Saint Paul Home Tour is Saturday, April 28, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Sunday, April 29, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Be sure to check out the stunning home at 170 Maria Avenue - open both days.

Dayton's Bluff Take-a-Hike

On the second Saturday of most months, the Dayton's Bluff Take-a-Hike will begin at Indian Mounds Park, located at Earl Street and Mounds Boulevard, at 10:30 a.m. The next hike will be on Saturday, May 12. The hike is approximately one and a half to two hours long and will end at Swede Hollow Park or East Side Heritage Park, depending on the desire of the hikers. Share and learn a little history along the way! Email karindupaul@comcast.net or call 651-776-0550 for more information.

Friends of Swede Hollow

Watch over, restore, and celebrate the history of Swede Hollow Park. Join the Swede Hollow community at their monthly meeting on Thursday, May 3, at 6:30 p.m. Please note that meetings are now on Thursdays. Email karin@swedehollow.org or call 651-776-0550 for more information and the meeting's location.

Dayton's Bluff District Forum Board Meeting

The *Forum* is seeking help with writing, online content, idea generation, and ad sales – join us at our next meeting on **Wednesday, May 2, at 1:00 p.m.,** at Swede Hollow Cafe at 725 E. 7th Street. Call 651-776-0550 or email daytons-bluffdistrictforum@gmail.com for more information.

Police Community Meetings

The Eastern District Saint Paul Police will host their monthly meetings for community members at the Eastern District Police Office at 722 Payne Avenue, on the corner of Payne and Minnehaha Avenues.

The next meetings are on Wednesday, May 16, at 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Meetings are intended as a time to listen to and address concerns about crime and other issues on the East Side.

SNAP Food Program at CLUES (Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio)

¿Necesita más comida saludable para la familia? El programa SNAP le puede ayudar. SNAP proporciona fondos para alimentos que benefician a familias de escasos recursos.

Aún si no es ciudadano, si tiene hijos nacidos en este país ellos podrían calificar. Participar en el programa SNAP no afectará su estatus migratorio.

¡Llame a CLUES para saber si califica! 612-746-3500. Nuestro personal bilingüe puede facilitar el proceso para usted y su familia.

Need healthy food for your family? The SNAP program provides funds for low-income families to buy food. Even if you are not a citizen, your children born in this country could qualify. Participation in the SNAP program won't affect their immigration status.

Call CLUES to find out if you qualify at 612-746-3500. Our bilingual staff can facilitate the process for your family.

Twin Cities Mobile Market

The Twin Cities Mobile Market is a grocery store on wheels that brings affordable, healthy food directly into under-resourced neighborhoods. The Mobile Market stops at Parkway Gardens Apartments, located at 1145 Hudson Road, on Wednesdays, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.



Fridays in May: Spring Music Seies!

Friday, May 4: *Brio Brass* is a 50-piece big brass band featuring unique arrangements and a singular musical style.

Friday, May 11: *Dirty Shorts Brass Band* is a New Orleans style brass band performing a Mardi Gras in May celebration.

Friday, May 18: *Sound Advice* plays classic rock featuring the Beatles, Beach Boys, Monkees and Roy Orbison.

Friday, May 25: *Twin Star Rocket* plays all medleys, all the time, the best songs from rock's biggest artists delivered in rapid-fire, 15+ minute medleys.

All shows begin at 7:00 p.m. Tickets: \$5 online or at the door.

Saturday, May 5: The Peacock Cabaret will tickle your fancy with a glamorous and hilarious show featuring seasoned performers and fresh talents. The show stars Ophelia Flame and is hosted by Gina Louise. Featured performers include Kitson & Piston, Electra Cute, Joy Coy, Jäc Pau, Rebecca Joy, Bettie Beware, Maranda Wright and Nicolette Moll. Doors open at 7 p.m. Show starts at 8 p.m. Tickets: General admission (in advance): \$15; General admission (at the door): \$20; VIP seat: \$35 (each includes 1 drink ticket, seating at shared tables); VIP Table: \$150 (purchase 5 table seats - includes 5 drink tickets - discount applies at checkout).

Saturday, May 12: Midwest All-Star Wrestling brings live pro wrestling back to the Historic Mounds Theatre with a huge event. Officially set to appear is Mitch Paradise!!! Just what will he do? Stay tuned!! Doors open at 5:45 p.m. (VIP), 6 p.m. (General admission), Bell time 7 p.m. Tickets: General admission (in advance): \$9 adults, \$7 kids; General admission (at the door): \$12 adults, \$8 kids; VIP preferred seating (in advance): \$12 adults, \$8 kids; VIP preferred seating (at the door): \$15 adults, \$10 kids.

Saturday, May 26: Legend of the Rhinestone: A Mythic Burlesque Adventure. Check website for more information.

Visit moundstheatre.org for information on upcoming events as it becomes available. The Historic Mounds Theatre is located at 1029 Hudson Road, St. Paul, MN 55106; 651-772-2253; historicmoundstheatre@gmail.com.

May at the Dayton's Bluff Library

The following events will be held at the Dayton's Bluff library, 645 East Seventh Street, Saint Paul:

On Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays, through May 16, from 4:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Dayton's Bluff Library will offer Snack in the Zone, along with Homework Help in the Zone

from **4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

From 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on May 4, the Dayton's Bluff Public Library will test your knowledge of everything *Star Wars* and sci-fi during *Puzzles & Games Unplugged*. Kids and teens can play board games; work on a jigsaw puzzle, and win prizes in the sci-fi trivia contest!

The library will also offer snacks to hungry sci-fi experts! Join in the fun and "May the fourth be with you!"

Saturdays, May 5, 12, and 19, from noon to 2:00 p.m., Maker Space in the FunZONE! Play computer games like Minecraft, and enjoy other hands-on fun in the Zone.

Tuesday, May 8, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., *Teens Know Best!* Teens have exclusive access to books before they are published. This group meets on the second Tuesday of every month to share opinions and pizza. *Teens Know Best* members are expected to write reviews of the books they read. The reviews are submitted directly to the publishers to help guide their decisions. New members can register at the meeting. Call 651-632-3873 for more information

Check out board games at the library! Library visitors can play the games in the library or check them out for two weeks. The full list of games can be viewed at http://bit.ly/MetroGames and all are available to the public.

Saint Paul Public Libraries will be closed May 26-28, in observance of Memorial Day.

For information about these and other events check sppl.org or call 651-793-1699. The Dayton's Bluff Library shares its home with Metropolitan State University at 645 East 7th Street.

May at the East Side Freedom Library

The Artist as Activist, Friday, May 4, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Schubert Club composer-in-residence Reinaldo Moya talks about the role of a composer as an activist, his career, and his music. Moya is a graduate of Venezuela's El Sistema program of music education and Assistant Professor of Music Composition at Augsburg University. In his compositions, Moya often explores the immigrant experience and other social issues. He is joined by pianist Matthew Mc-Cright who will perform selections of Moya's music. McCright has performed extensively throughout the United States, Europe, Asia and the South Pacific as piano soloist and chamber musician. He has thrilled audiences and critics alike with imaginative programming that places the greatest piano repertoire alongside the music of today's most innovative risk-takers.

Robber Barons to Citizens United: A corporate person timeline, Friday, May 11, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Real human beings have struggled long and hard to be included in "We the People." How is it that corporations are included in the US Constitution in the same way? Are they? Presented by Barbara Gerten, MN Move to Amend State Network.

Are you interested in collaborating with the ESFL on events, media, and community engagement? Please join us by participating and taking leadership in any of the following projects: Event promotion and evaluation, media and communications, and community engagement.

For more information, please attend

our collaboration sessions. Meetings are held on the first and third Mondays of every month. In these meetings, we will discuss upcoming events, the library's mission and goals, and explore your own ideas about community programming.

All events listed here take place at the East Side Freedom Library, are free, and open to all. The East Side Freedom Library is located at 1150 Greenbrier Street. Call 651-230-3294, email info@eastsidefreedomlibrary.org, or visit eastsidefreedomlibrary.org for details on these and other upcoming events as they become available.

Business Classes

The Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Microentrepreneur class helps startup and young businesses on the East Side. All East Side entrepreneurs are welcome. Class training lasts 12 weeks and includes topics such as operations management, marketing, financial management, one-on-one assistance with creating a successful business, and developing a business plan, plus eight hours of one-on-one assistance with creating and preparing a business plan.

Those who successfully complete the course are eligible for ongoing business support services (they don't have to locate their business in target neighborhoods to be eligible).

The course is sponsored by the Dayton's Bluff Community Council and the Neighborhood Development Center. There is a small registration fee based on a sliding scale. Class size is limited, so sign up now. Please call the training department at 651-379-8113.

Let your voice be heard!

Contact WEQY 104.7 FM, St. Paul East Side's community reporter Cearah Hamilton of The Eastside Vibe if you have valuable resources you want to get out to the community, would like her to cover your event, or interview your organization! Cearah Hamilton can be reached at cearah@weqy.org.

Wish List Care Packages

Did you know that you can help East Side Elders distribute food, hygiene items, and more to seniors on the East Side by shopping our Amazon Wish List? Visit www.amazon.com/registry/wishlist/3KK0O1 OGFO5NJ.

You can have these much-needed items sent right to our office. From there, our team of volunteers will distribute them to seniors in need. Help us make a bigger impact and shop our wish list today!

Our wish list also includes supplies for the *Elder Cafe*, items for our *Fun and Games* events, and office supplies. Thank you for your support!

The Smilin' Cowboys

Long-standing Twin Cities party band, *The Smilin' Cowboys*, will perform at the Minnesota Music Café, located at 500 Payne Avenue on the **second Thursday** of each month. **Music begins at 8:00 p.m.**

Mounds Park United Methodist Church

1049 Euclid Street (corner of Earl and Euclid); 651-774-8736

Mounds Park United Methodist on Facebook

Mounds Park United Methodist Church is a multicultural, intergenerational neighborhood congregation located at 1049 Euclid Street in Dayton's Bluff. Sunday worship begins at 10:30 a m

May: After school programming for area youth, sponsored by the McVay Youth Partnership of Hamline University, is an after school program for community youth grades 5-12, held at Mounds Park UMC on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Students participate in environmental classes, Girl Scouts, field trips, and receive homework help and support in learning English. Contact Jane Krentz 612-581-6978 for more information.

Sundays: *Multi-Generational Sunday School Class.* Class meets every **Sunday at 9:15 a.m.** in the lounge of the church. This class follows an adult curriculum and has a participant age range of 80 years! Youth start in worship at 10:30 a.m. Following kid's time, children aged 0-4 years go to the staffed nursery, grades K-5 go to the upstairs Sunday School room, and children grades 6-12 go downstairs for classes. Breakfast is served during Sunday School. The nursery is staffed for those children aged 0-4 years who do not want to start in worship. Please call the church with any questions.

Need help with a project? Urban CROSS will have teams ready to help local residents and non-profits with projects such as indoor and outdoor painting, yard work, gardening landscaping, simple construction, and clean up. You may submit your request by calling the church office at 651-774-8736. **Project submission deadline is May 15, 2018.**

Mississippi Market Presents: Eat More Plants Event Series

Incorporate more plants into your daily life and diet

Matt Frank Mississippi Market

Mississippi Market, Saint Paul's premier natural foods grocer, is pleased to announce an upcoming three-part event series featuring local plant-based culinary experts, food samples, recipes, and cooking inspiration. Attendees will learn ways to incorporate more plants into their daily life and diet to promote environmental, physical, and financial health. As an added benefit, participants who attend all three events will receive a special plantbased cookbook and co-op gift bag. The Eat More Plants event series kicks-off in late April and runs once-a-month through June at the co-op's East 7th store. Each event in the series is free to attend; a \$5.00 registration fee is required per event, which will be reimbursed as a \$5.00 co-op voucher. Registration is open now and may be completed in-store at Customer Service, or online at www.msmarket.coop/eat-more-plants.

Eat More Plants: Meal Planning with The Herbivorous Butcher, Wednesday, May 30, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the East 7th store. Learn easy ways to eat more plants using meal-planning lists and tasty plant-based

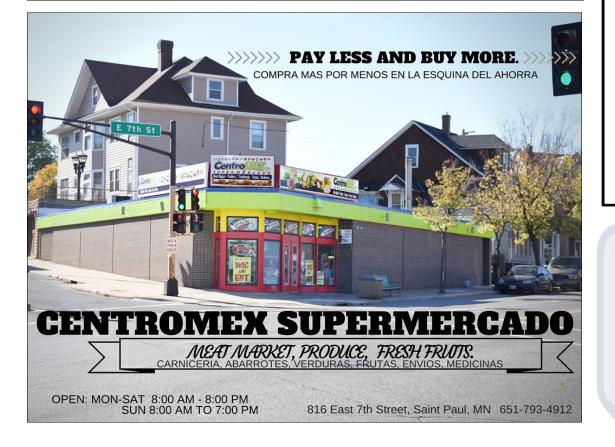
meats during an engaging evening with The Herbivorous Butcher.

Eat More Plants: Easy Recipes with J. Selby's, Wednesday, June 20, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the East 7th store. Join Chef Nathan from local eatery J. Selby's for an inspiring evening culminating in delicious samples of two flavorful plant-based meals from their menu.

From seasoned plant-based pros to those just beginning their local plant-based food journey, everyone is sure to learn and taste something new at Mississippi Market's Eat More Plants event series!

About Mississippi Market Natural Foods Co-op: Mississippi Market Natural Foods Co-op has been offering local, organic food at a fair price to our St. Paul neighbors for nearly 40 years. As a consumer-owned grocery store, Mississippi Market provides high-quality, fair-priced goods and services, and works toward a sustainable local economy and global environment. Learn more at www.msmarket.-coop.





Free help for East Side pets

Temperance Brennan Forum Contributor

The Animal Humane Society's Community Outreach program has special indoor and outdoor clinics for pets of low income families on the East Side as well as Frogtown. The events offer all

the same resources and care as the outdoor clinics — free wellness exams, vaccines, nail trims, spay/neuter appointment scheduling, guidance from the AHS behavior team and St. Paul Animal Control, free pet food, and more.

For information on upcoming events and locations call 651-788-4685 or visit http://animal-humanesociety.or/outreach-ser-vices-frogtown-and-east-st-paul.

Temperance Brennan can be reached at daytonsbluffdistrict-forum@gmail.com.

Sculpture in April, Photography in May

New self-guided tour, sculpture workshop, and photography exhibit

> Krissy Schoenfelder Landmark Center

Artistic vision is expressed in many ways and in late April and early May, Landmark Center will showcase sculpture, photography, and the building's own permanent art collection.

Everyone is invited to unleash their inner sculptor and create their own work of art on International Sculpture Day, April 28. Landmark Center will host a free "Make It and Take It" Sculpture Workshop, from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Local artists, Cecilia Schiller, "Automata" sculpture artist, and Judd Nelson, metal sculptor, will guide guests through making their own sculptures to take home.

International Sculpture Day is a celebration event held worldwide annually on the last Saturday in April. Its mission is to advance the creation and understanding of sculpture and its unique contribution to society.

Also on April 28, after creating a masterpiece guests can explore Landmark Center's permanent art collection. Often

overlooked, Landmark Center is home to several impressive works of art, which will be highlighted in a newly created selfguided tour. Permanent collection guides will debut as part of the International Sculpture Day celebration and will be available at Landmark Center's Visitor Information Center daily.

On May 3, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Landmark Center and Historic Saint Paul present, St. Paul 1978: Street Photography by Jerry Mathiason, in Landmark Center's North Gallery. The exhibit opens with a free public reception and runs through May 26, during normal building hours. This exhibit is part of Landmark Center and Historic Saint Paul's participation in National Preservation Month (May).

Landmark Center is a dynamic, historic cultural center and central gathering place in downtown Saint Paul. It is owned and sponsored by Ramsey County and managed by Minnesota Landmarks, the nonprofit programming and management agency for the building. Landmark Center is located at 75 West 5th Street, on Rice Park and is accessible to those with impaired mobility. Parking is available on street and in nearby Lawson, Science Museum and RiverCentre Ramps. For more information call 651.292.3225 or visit www.landmarkcenter.org.



Erica Schneekloth
Community Outreach, Owner

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Contest: Where in Dayton's Bluff?

Send your guess to daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com with the location of the neighborhood curiosity pictured below for a chance to win great prizes from local businesses. The reader who submits the first correct entry will be notified and the winner will be announced in the June edition of the Forum.







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Join us for our Spring Open House: Sunday, April 29, 1-3 p.m. | 225 Frank Street Classic Cars and Ice Cream Social

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

804 Margaret Street, St. Paul, MN 55106 Phone: 651-776-0550 E-mail: daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com

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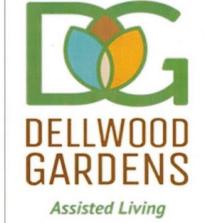
Mounds Park Barber Stylists



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You got somethin' to say? Say it here!

The *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* welcomes all opinions and neighborhood anecdotes – send yours to: daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com.

Deadline for the June 2018 issue of the Forum is May 10, 2018.

Letter to the editor

Dear Forum Staff.

Thank you for keeping us here at the Cambric informed about the church's Listening House turmoil. We would not have the news if we counted on the [other] newspaper's incomplete stories. We experience something almost daily from the vagrants now drawn to our alleys, doorways, and at night/late afternoon, attempts to come inside where they hide in storage closets, garages underground, and take refuge on parking lot walls.

We are seniors. Many of us use walkers and canes. No <u>one ever asked</u> us how we felt about the dangers we often have had happen by transients.

We are a "secure building" but they do get in

We pay dearly for our 113 "living rooms." Of course it is sad that many struggle with housing costs. But what possible help to secure a better life is 2-3 hours playing cards, eating a snack, or being smiled at? Sounds phony to us!

We fault Dorothy Day for closing and leaving these souls so completely. If they truly were committed, they could have rebuilt in stages.

The stopgap of Listening House adds no progress we can see to deal with homeless people.

We are afraid to sign our full names, so sign us -

"The 100 plus seniors who live across the street."

(Another) View From My Porch: The Feline Relationship

Sage Holben Forum Staff

Once I've positioned myself among covers and pillows, my cat settles in, his eyes five inches from mine. If my face is not turned to his, he reaches with his paw and turns my face. Our eyes fix on each other's for three to five minutes as he concentrates his eyes on mine, his unblinking. This is his nightly routine. His mind is such that he identifies (yes, I know) what has accumulated in my head throughout the day, sorting every thought and deed, measuring each by a standard unknown to me. I sense no harshness in his eyes; he is not simply gazing or staring. I don't find it disconcerting; he is scrutinizing and discerning. I find his process reassuring - a check-in at the end of a day. As he absorbs whatever he sees, I peer into his eyes and offer my heartfelt verbal praise of his wisdom, his insight, and intelligence.

Our relationship reminds me much of one I shared with Eric (not his real name). Eric was a 10 year old boy I worked with in Iowa while I attended college. Labeled 'developmentally disabled', Eric grunted and groped instead of speaking. Perhaps some day I will tell the adventures Eric and I enjoyed, but at this time, I'll just say that though Eric didn't yet use words, we enjoyed full conversations. At the end of a day, I heard in my head, dialogues. We connected through watching each other's facial expressions and body tensions. I would use words, Eric had not yet mastered his short sentences. A key to our communication was that we would look into each other's eves as we 'talked.'

The key to communicating with Tommy is mainly through eye contact. Tommy's talk is limited to two syllable comments, but he knows how to get his message across. I've learned to 'listen,' learned either by instinct or by working with Eric.

Tommy is one of the wisest creatures I know. He is a cat, and I am not a feline specialist, nor an animal psychologist. I cannot recall other cats in my life being so astute except for now deceased Sophie and Poppy. I think the difference between cats that simply live in a home and those that relate on a deeper level to their housemates is how much the human talks with the four-legged creature face to face, combined with touch and general respect. An opposite to our close feline/human relationship comes to mind: several years ago, upon seeing my neighbor's cat in the window, a young boy asked if his family could borrow the cat to catch a mouse; a clear purpose for a cat, a living mouse trap; no acknowledgment of a personality or expectation of a relationship.

Following are two stories of feline actions based not on habit, as is usually said to be reason for an animal's action, as opposed to reasoning. For years I was led to believe animals acted out of repeated actions and did not 'reason', even on the simplest scale. What I know from experience is that animals and humans are capable of building extremely close relationships and they reciprocate care and feelings.

When I first moved to Dayton's Bluff, I lived on the first floor of 326 Maria. Gary, my landlord, lived upstairs. I came home from work and greeted Gary, who was doing yard work in the back. I entered through my back door, as usual. Sophie greeted me at the door and went to the front door, sitting in front of it. Sophie never went outside, and I seldom used the front door except to get the mail. My front apartment door led into the hallway, common to the other two tenants and to the basement. Sophie sat next to the door, looked at me, looked at the door. I went to Gary and asked why he needed to enter my apartment while I was out. He said he didn't. I said, 'ok,' and turned to leave. Sounding a bit surprised, he asked, "How did you know I was inside?" "Sophie told me" was my response.

Skip ahead several years and I am living at the opposite end of the block. I came home from work and Tommy greeted me at the door. He led me to the bathroom, walking four feet and stopping to be sure I was following; four more feet and checking. In the bathroom he sat next to the tub, looked at my face, then up at the wall near the ceiling above the tub; then again at my face and then the wall. He was showing me a screw that protruded about 3/4" from the wall. I called my landlord about it. He said earlier that morning he had repaired the handrail in the common hall/stairway on the other side of the wall. He had not realized the screw was so much longer than the depth of the wall. Tommy has shown me things of interest in the past. What amazed me was that he noted the 'event' in the morning, around 8 a.m. and that he knew that 'Sage might want to know about that,' then, that he remembered to 'tell' me when I arrived home later that evening.

Tommy seems very much like a dog, in size (neighbor kids call him the giant cat, at 25-30 pounds) and in behavior (he follows me from room to room, lying at my feet, keeping one eye open for my next movement). Cats have gained a reputation for aloofness. I think that's because we haven't accepted the lessons in communication they offer. Now, if only we would transfer that face to face, eye to eye, real 'seeing' to our human to human relationships.

If you have thoughts on animal behaviors, please share – Sage Holben can be reached at daytonsbluffdistrictforum@g-mail.com

View From My Porch: Contemplation on homeless and homelessness

Sage Holben Forum Staff

Our City Council is working on the 'homeless problem.' Our federal government has worked for decades to solve the 'homeless problem.' Perhaps it is time to stop working on the 'homeless problem' and start on the 'problems of the homeless.'

Building more housing is usually the first suggestion in alleviating homelessness. But there is never enough housing, never appropriate housing, and it is never affordable enough. To the larger point, housing is more tangible, easier to fund. Poverty is more abstract. I suggest housing is not where fixing the 'homeless problem' should start, at least not without strong, professional support services. Housing, if starting there, should be varied - some people do better in dorm-like living, some studio apartments, some small one-bedrooms, some might prefer a simple pod space to sleep in and nothing more. Not everyone is capable of or desiring of maintaining an apartment or living within four walls; housing in group homes, perhaps, with on-site, certified, trained staff to help coordinate process of jobs, socializing, health and mental health appointments, until living skills are stabilized. This instead of silo-ing or warehousing people within 60+ apartments and anonymity, which can be horribly isolating for someone edging into depression, setting one up for failure.

Over the 17 years I worked at MSU library, the men I met who were staying at local shelters, or who were by choice unsheltered, talked about freedom of movement and bristled at strict housing rules. Some cringed, after years of living an almost 'feral' life, of feeling imprisoned in an enclosed space on one of too many floors. I have seen men newly released from prison pace the floor, uneasy with too much space, too many people around them, too many choices, perhaps somewhat fearful of making the wrong choice. Essentially, feeling crowded, but needing support and direction.

We use the word 'homeless' as if these thousands have no faces, no individual personalities, and no unique needs, talents, drives, or dreams. For number theories and statistics, we look at a group; but then look beyond to sub-populations, which further define persons who are homeless: chronically homeless, severely mentally ill vs. highly functioning mentally ill, chronic substance abuse, veterans, HIV/AIDS, victims of domestic violence, unaccompanied youth, parenting youth, children of parenting youth; add to this, recently released prisoners, refugees, special needs, developmentally disabled, or simply not able to pay monthly expenses that housing requires.

Then, without medicalizing all who are homeless, what about investing *real* money into well-trained, dedicated, social work staff and clinicians, who make long-term commitments to working with *individuals* in meeting particular, unique needs, whether medical, mental health, job search, or building social skills and stability.

People who are at the most fragile end of lacking housing stability are the most open targets to be judged. Without a place to bathe or shower regularly, a group of men who have perspired beneath layers of winter clothing sweat up a rich stench when gathering in a small corner of the local library. Yet, already carrying a duffle or several backpacks of belongings, one either wears one's closet or continually discards the soiled and picks up something clean at the local 'free closet.' Unfortunately, too many pieces of discarded clothing end up in the parks, streets and yards along with the discarded

hypodermic needles, liquor bottles, and anything else not wanted to carry.

Without housing stability, receiving mail becomes a problem - as does holding a job, getting decent sleep, eating more nourishing and regular meals, or creating a safety and support network. Relationships are built on trusting people in little, day to day social exchanges. Living on the street can quickly define who can be trusted - to watch your phone or to lend a few dollars; or sell you out as if you had no history. Kinship can be defined by who will cover you when you walk into a store and shoplift.

An eight year old neighbor of mine once observed, "Sage, people are complicated." Yes, we are. We can have such black and white answers, yet such conflicted thoughts. We allow educated, well-known people to get away with lies and inane remarks, yet discredit a person who carries his/her home in a duffle. We too often believe that people who loudly profess Christ to really be like Christ...until we experience they aren't; while the quietest, the one who simply shows respect for all, is really the godliest.

Here's some of what I take away - and offer to you - in light of the above. Yes, people are complicated: which explains why First Lutheran and Listening House volunteers and/or staff publicly pat themselves on the back as 'Christ-like' because they dutifully wash feet of homeless, and openly defy city regs, but deride neighbors who complain about some of the LH guests leaving hypodermic needles in the grass and snow, or harassing passersby....as the same volunteers and staff go home to quiet Edina, Woodbury, etc. neighborhoods zoned largely as single, residential dwellings (could the same be true of most City Council and Zoning Committee members?)

Homelessness is a state of being; without a permanent place to live. It is something I hope we all actively work toward alleviating. A homeless person is an individual who, though being without a permanent residence, chooses how to behave. It is the negative and/or criminal behavior, *not the individual* that Listening House neighbors find appalling and detrimental.

Being human is complicated. When you have a sharp mind and insight, but reek because you can't shower at a shelter and what people see is your mismatched clothing and filthy backpack, the public may only tolerate you; but you do make a good statistics 'served' number and photo op for the LH board, eliciting self-satisfaction. It doesn't help the 'homeless cause' when Listening House 'guests' defiantly pour soda on the floor at Burger King, place their shoes on the tables, pass out in the booths, faces either on the floor or in their food trays. Yes, judgments are made, and unfairly, because this isn't the behavior of all LH guests; but, when LH staff openly disrespect and mock the neighborhood residents, some of their guests follow the negative, detrimental be havior....after all, the church, and LH which rents church space with a ten-year lease are Christ-centered.

It was complicated when Listening House closed on Monday in observance of Easter Sunday; I guess even Jesus needs a day off. Too bad for the guests who walked all the way to find a locked door on a frigid day.

It's complicated for the people who teach their children to respect everyone, rich or poor, but what about the Listening House guest who is exposing himself in front of the child? Mommmm!!!

Daddy, look what I found! Is this a needle like my flu shot? I found it on the sidewalk. Shh, that man is sleeping on Sue's porch...why is he lying on the steps? If the people at the church love God, why don't they like us? Why don't they care about our lives?

Sage Holben can be reached at daytons-bluffdistrictforum@gmail.com.

Congratulations to Shannon Groff, winner of the April Where in Dayton's Bluff? contest!

Shannon correctly guessed the location in the photo on page 5 of the April issue – a home on Maple Street.

Letter to the editor

The Forum,

I read with much pleasure Rick Cardenas' tribute [March Forum] to his sister JoAnn, my good DFL friend. In fact I ran one of her campaigns. JoAnn was two years younger than me and Rick, "the 1958 Icon" at Harding in the 50's, two years older.

JoAnn and I got to know one another so well in the Mac-Groveland and Midway area conventions (Districts 63 and 64). Once you have had an East Side Harding connection, it never fades. I spent one year at Harding and finished in 1959 at Central.

That was another world. JoAnn and I would trade barbs about her life as "one of the trolls" who grew up "under the bridge," now a segment of Swede Hollow.

I was now "one of the snooty R.B.s from Summit Hill." How we laughed.

And Rick. If anyone deserves a memoir or two, this dedicated activist, gorgeous man and loving brother, does!! He has fought the need to see, hear and experience the attention to the reality of special physical reality. The essential curb cuts, sidewalk clearing, quality home health, essential care, etc.

Rick was there, bier-side at JoAnn's massive funeral. The parking lot was full of "Bernie Sanders" bumper stickers at Our Lady of Guadalupe. I will remember him, an East Side legend, there.

Thank you Rick, for reigniting treasured memories of a friend whose personality and smile always lit up the room and the podium at those long conventions!

Judy Yaeger-Jones Dayton's Bluff resident

Mounds Park Potter

Seeley Booth Forum Contributor

Dayton's Bluff potter, Tricia Schmidt, lives in a world of nasty women, ambivalent sloths, and industrious dung beetles...or at least her pots do. Schmidt works out of her Mounds Park home studio to produce wheelthrown, functional ceramic pieces that feature quirky creatures which she hand-carves into the clay.

Her work will be featured throughout the month of May at two local artspaces in St. Paul. The first is Corazon, a boutique at 526 Selby Avenue that features an eclectic collection of local artisan creations, gifts, jewelry, and home goods. The second is Hwy North, an artisan collective and gift shop located within Groundswell Cafe at 1340 Thomas Avenue in St. Paul's Midway neighborhood.

Seeley Booth can be reached at

daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com.



Photo courtesy of Tricia Schmidt

Local potter, Tricia Schmidt, is no sloth when it comes to her creations - she'll be showcasing her work around St. Paul in May



Karin DuPaul

Art lovers flock to Swede Hollow Park for the annual Art in the Hollow open-air art festival, an event hosted by the Friends of Swede Hollow organization.

2018 Public Health Award winners announced

Chris Burns Ramsey County Public Health

Three organizations and two individuals working to address health issues in the community received the 2018 Ramsey County Public Health Award at a meeting of the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners on Tuesday, April 3, 2018. The annual awards, sponsored by Saint Paul - Ramsey County Public Health, recognize individuals and groups who have made exceptional contributions to improving health by advancing health equity in the county.

The 2018 Ramsey County Public Health Award winners include Saint Paul Public Schools, Dayton's Bluff Achievement Plus Elementary, the district's Student Placement Center, and Somali Cultural Specialist Mohamed Hadi for their work to promote immunizations before and during the 2017 measles outbreak.

Shoreview resident, Eugene Nichols, for his leadership in reducing youth access to tobacco products and his long-standing work promoting health, mental health and wellbeing. United Family Medicine and the Mitchell Hamline School of Law for their partnership to help clinic patients address legal issues that affect health.

"Our 2018 award winners worked on a range of different issues, but all demonstrated a common understanding that partnership and collaboration are essential to advancing health equity," said Ramsey County Board Chair Jim McDonough. "Many hands coming together is the best way to solve health challenges in our community."

Nominations for the awards were solicited from the public earlier this year. This is the fourth year Public Health has recognized individuals and groups for their work. Nominations for the 2019 Ramsey County

Public Health Awards will be accepted starting in January. Find more information on the awards, including a list of past honorees, at www.ramseycounty.us/publichealthawards

Dayton's Bluff was well-represented: Dayton's Bluff Achievement Plus Elementary School is a leader across schools in Ramsey County for having 100 percent of their students vaccinated. This exceptional rate has been achieved despite the challenge of a student population where 92 percent qualify for free or reduced lunch. The vaccinations offered in the school nurses office fits together with the Achievement Plus model where the school and community provide other wrap around health and social services to ensure academic success.

Mohamed Hadi is a Somali Cultural Specialist for the Family Engagement and Community Partnerships division of the Saint Paul Public Schools. During the 2017 measles outbreak, Hadi showed leadership in reaching out to the Somali community through a variety of places where young families gather. On Fridays during the peak of the outbreak, he routinely met with imams prior to prayer to share current information about measles. At community events, he partnered with a Saint Paul -Ramsey County Public Health epidemiologist to provide information and answer questions. Working across civic and school district boundaries was key in controlling the spread of measles in 2017.

The Student Placement Center in Saint Paul Public Schools is the welcome center for new and returning students, educating families about requirements for school entry and supporting efforts to immunize children. Last year, Placement Center health staff administered 1,423 vaccinations to 574 students. Nurses at the Placement Center serve as an immunization resource for all school nurses in Saint Paul and field questions daily on disease prevention and control. They communicate skillfully, with a racial equity lens, supporting health equity with bilingual staff and materials translated into languages families can read.

9th Annual Art in the Hollow

Karin DuPaul Forum Staff

On June 2, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., come down into Swede Hollow Park to discover a deeper beauty and find art at its roots. The main entrance to Art in the Hollow is the Drewry Tunnel located on Beaumont Street, one block south from Payne and East Minnehaha Avenues (behind Hope Community Academy). The TAP, a local social organization and its literary club, Urban Journal will be hosting space for performers at the East 7th Street Improvement Arches (near Payne Avenue).

Swede Hollow was one of the first neighborhoods in St. Paul's immigrant history. Now a city park, it will be ready for spring blooming in June with Art in the Hollow artists, performers, and a public sculpture contest. The tradition of nurturing and showcasing local talent continues with performances, demonstrations, sales, and "plein air" artists creating art in the park, representing past and current cultural communities.

Artistic media runs the gamut ranging from sculptors and weavers to glassblowers and photographers. There are two stages full of talent this year, the main stage - same as past years, and a new stage at the Historic East 7th Street Improvement Arches.

The day will be filled with Native dancers, Italian accordionists, Mexican Mariachis, Swedish music, African-American Rhythm 'n Blues, American Bluegrass music, spoken word, and more. Food trucks and an eating area will be near the main entrance. Space remains for artists, performers, and sculptors. Visit www.artinthehollow.org or www.facebook.com/artinthehollow. For more information contact Karin at karindupaul@comcast.net or call 651-776-0550.

East Side Eating – Trimble's Taste Trek

In 2015, Forum contributor Steve Trimble set out to eat at every locallyowned, sit-down restaurant on the East Side (all 59 of them!)

Recently, he has been visting restaurants that opened since then. All of Steve's reviews can be found at daytonsbluffdistrictforum.org under the "East Side Eating" tab.

Cajun Life (651) 772-0101 1193 Payne Avenue St. Paul, MN 55130

Monday-Saturday: 11:00 a.m. to 9:00

p.m.

Sunday: 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

facebook.com/CajunLife

With another Forum deadline near, I thought I should visit a new spot that is the only Cajun food spot in St. Paul. I saw a Facebook post about it being on Payne Avenue and thought the address looked like it might be north of Maryland. I couldn't find it at first. It is one store south of Maryland in the former Mexitalian Pizzeria storefront. The old sign has not yet been removed.

I found a street spot but there is a small parking lot in the back. I dropped in a little earlier than 7:00 p.m. on a Tuesday. On the tiled floor there are eight tables, each with four black chairs. Red and green colored walls are without decoration, but they have been open only since the first week in April. There is also a medium sized flat screen TV.

There were between three and five tables occupied during the time I was there. There is a menu at the counter where you order. It is somewhat small at this time but will probably be enlarged in the future. Here is what some of the offerings are: The combos, (all including Cajun French fries) are

Cajun Catfish (two pieces), jumbo chicken wings (seven pieces), a 12-piece shrimp basket, and Gator Nuggets are not yet available but are listed on the menu to see if people want them

The "Seafood Boil" section features Cajun peeled shrimp, Cajun snow crab legs, and Cajun crawfish. The sandwich combos are Cajun shrimp, Cajun catfish, Cajun fried tilapia, as well as Cajun mussels. Sides include Cajun fries, Cajun onion rings, Cajun rice, and Cajun potatoes.

I was told that what makes the dishes Cajun are the different spices that are dry rubbed. You can ask for mild, hot, or what they call "Dragon."

The beverages are limited and for now they are Pepsi, Mountain Dew, and bottled water. I decided to have the Cajun shrimp basket and it came with a really large portion of Cajun fries. I actually counted 14 of the small shrimp, two more than suggested by the menu. I don't usually drink Pepsi but I had never had a Wild Cherry Pepsi so I opted for that.

I talked with the two owners of the restaurant - Roz Barnes, a Central High School graduate, and Darnell Dubra, who got his diploma from the old Arlington High School. I also met Darnell's mother who has family in Louisiana, so she has played a role in cooking for him.

The two said one of their goals is to set an example for the youth in the area, having them see a successful Black-owned business.

Cajun Life accepts cash and credit cards but no checks. They have also been doing some catering for weddings and other events. They are available on BiteSquad (BiteSquad.com) for delivery.

Incidentally, one of the first people to visit their new endeavor was our new Mayor, Melvin Carter. I'm guessing that the photo of him posing with the two of them will soon show up on the wall.

Steve Trimble can be reached at daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com.



Steve Trimble

Roz Barnes (left) and Darnell Dubra (right), owners of Cajun Life.

Remembering Marion Carpenter

Steve Trimble Forum Staff

This is the story of a path-breaking woman who lived most of her life in Dayton's Bluff but made history on the national landscape. She had victories but also failures and was a talented but sometimes troubled person. Very little has been written about her and there are some conflicting accounts. Here is what I have found so far.

Marion Carpenter was born on March 6, 1920, in Villard, Minnesota. The family may have been on a farm before they moved to St. Paul when she was around 10 years old. She attended local schools here and I was able to find proof that she graduated from Harding High School in 1938. According to the *Saga*, the school's annual, Marion was in the French club, sang in the choir, and played in the orchestra. She was part of the Girls Athletic Association, and swimming. A hobby she enjoyed was music and she once said she "is going to college."

My research led me to St. Catherine's University and their archivist said there were records showing that she was there at least through her sophomore year. She possibly dropped out because around this time she earned a degree from a hospital nursing program in Minneapolis.



Photo courtesy of Steve Trimble

Marion Carpenter as pictured in the 1938 *Saga*, the Harding High School annual.

While she practiced nursing over the years, photography became her passion. She joined the St. Paul Camera Club in the early 1940s and won a few awards. She was mentored by Ray Allen, a South St. Paul meatpacker who had a photo studio in his home. In her mid-twenties, Carpenter moved to Washington D. C. and first took a job at the Times-Herald, and then moved on to the International Photos syndicate where her talent led to a White House job.

Not everyone lauded the presence of the first woman to be joining the prestigious group. "You have to be able to take the guff," she said in an interview.

One of her male colleagues, columnist Tris Coffin, said she "smiled and teased" to persuade politicians to pose for her. When Carpenter sat next to him in the Senate restaurant, she threw a bowl of navy bean soup over his face. The next day a local newspaper ran a story with the headline "Carpenter Nails Coffin."

She soon became one of President Harry S Truman's favorite photographers and earned a spot with a handful of photographers who traveled with Truman. Even though she was a member of the White House Correspondents Association, as a woman, she was not allowed to attend the group's annual dinners.

Then things took a sour turn. She allegedly fell in love and had an affair with a married Capitol journalist. She lost her job. She later married a Navy officer — not sure when — but he abused her so she divorced him. Then, at a time uncertain, she married a radio announcer and went with him to Denver where they had a son. Unfortunately, he was a heavy drinker and by 1951 the marriage and her career were both over.

Carpenter, then 31, returned to St. Paul with her son, Mjohn, and lived with her parents. She started Marion Carpenter Portrait Studios at the home on 1032 Conway Street, sometimes doing freelance work or covering weddings. She also worked as a nurse. Four years later, her father left after a terrible fight with his wife leaving Marion, her son, and her mother in the home.

There were more heartbreaking events to come. When he was 19, Mjohn got in trouble with the law and was being held in a juvenile facility when Marion came to visit him. It was the last time she ever saw him, as he ran off after he was released. Then in the mid-1980s, her mother died. Carpenter was alone.

That was when she began to spend her time visiting thrift shops, sitting on used furniture and leafing through old copies of National Geographic. She started storing all sorts of antiques, as well as junk, in the home and pulling away from others. One of the people she met in a West St. Paul Goodwill offered the following to an interviewer: "She was sensitive and kind, with an overflowing heart, but that heart covered up a lot of bitterness about how she'd been estranged from her son for more than 30 years and how she was treated in life... I think it caused her to be a recluse."

St. Paul inspectors eventually condemned her home and tore it down. Marion bought a small house at 1058 Margaret Street with her remaining funds and lived on a small Social Security pension, once again starting to collect and store things. Eventually there were three-foot high piles and a small path that led between her front and back doors.

On October 29, 2002, the nearly destitute Marion Carpenter was found dead in her very cold house at the age of 82. She had shut off the

hot water heater and turned the thermostat way down. She was on a sofa tightly wrapped in blankets next to her Rottweiler, Karl. Her remains waited at the coroner's office for three months until they finally found her son who returned from Colorado to handle her affairs.

Mjohn scattered the ashes of Marion and her mother on a farm near Villard. He also donated many of her photographs to the Truman Library in Independence, Missouri. The estate gave a donation to the Saint Paul Camera Club that decided a traveling trophy would be given each year to the best Monochrome (black and white) photojournalism print. It is called the "Marion Carpenter Award" in her honor.

In the words of a woman historian, this pioneering photographer "May have died, in the cold, but not in vain."

Steve Trimble can be reached at daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com.

Have Forum, will travel...



Maggie Kessell shares the Forum with a friendly iguana in Belize.

Several readers send us pictures of themselves reading our newspaper on their travels. If you'd like to do the same, please email photos to daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com.

Many thanks to our 2018 donors:

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Steve Travis with the Forum in London.



Sage Holben

"Ready for Spring" the tables on the lovely patio of Swede Hollow Cafe are patiently waiting for sunny days and happy customers.

Friends of the Forum

Dear Reader,

The *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* has been a volunteer-run newspaper since the 1980s and has always operated on a minimal budget. Each issue costs around \$1,900 to produce.

For the past three years we have been soliciting donations through our *Friends of the Forum* program. Thanks to the donations of readers like you, we have been able to keep the paper up and running. If you value this community source of information, please consider filling out the form below. Any amount is appreciated; you may also make memorial donations, or include the *Forum* in your legacy plan-

If you have been our *Friend* in the past, please renew your membership with a donation in 2018. **Our** goal for 2018 is \$3,000; thanks to readers like you, we've raised \$2,000 to date – will you help us reach our goal in 2018?

Sincerely,

ning.

The Dayton's Bluff District Forum

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