

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

Volume 32, No. 3
April 2019
daytonsbuffdistrictforum.org

"The Voice of the Community"



Steve Trimble

Dancers performing at the Azteca Mexica New Year Festival at Johnson High School on Saturday, March 16. The annual, family-friendly cultural festival celebrates the indigenous diversity of the Twin Cities. Guests enjoyed a traditional Aztec/Mexica dance ceremony honoring the Aztec Mexica New Year, created stamp art inspired by Aztec/Mexica symbols, played games, won prizes, viewed a display of Mexica art created by Saint Paul Public School students, and took part in a community feast.

Coming soon: 10th Annual Art in the Hollow

Karin DuPaul
Forum Staff

Calling all artists and entertainers! The 10th Annual Art in the Hollow takes place on **Saturday, June 1, from 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.** in Swede Hollow Park. Openings remain for artists, artisans, and performers. Sign up on Facebook or at www.artinthehollow.org. The fee for artists to display is \$15. There is no fee for performers, who will be selected based on talent, variety, and local roots.

Art in the Hollow will include a temporary environmental sculpture contest. Entry is \$15, and concepts meeting safety criteria will be erected the day of the festival. Three cash prizes will be awarded. Don't miss your

chance to make a statement with public art! No previous experience or credentials required. Apply by May 1, at www.artinthehollow.org.

There will be artists in a variety of media demonstrating and selling their works, and performers from around the globe on stage in the heart of magical Swede Hollow Park. Scores of community members come together to make this happen, and volunteers are rewarded with a breakfast at the beginning of the day and a party with the artists afterward. For more information on volunteering to be a part of this wonderful celebration of talent go to www.artinthehollow.org or contact Karin DuPaul at 651-776-0550 or karindupaul@comcast.net.

To exhibit, perform, or enter the sculpture contest, sign up at www.artinthehollow.org. Art in the Hollow is free and open to all.



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Community Council
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2019 Minneapolis & Saint Paul Home Tour comes to Dayton's Bluff

Karin DuPaul
Forum Staff

The annual Minneapolis & St. Paul Home Tour will take place on Saturday, **April 27, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Sunday, April 28, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** During the home tour, many residents in both Minneapolis and St. Paul open their homes to the public to showcase the things they love about city living. This year the tour includes 216 Bates Avenue, which was on the tour last year and has been beautifully renovated by a young couple who chose Dayton's Bluff to be their home. Also featured is 735 Margaret Street, which is in the process of being brought back to its original beauty and will soon be looking for a new owner.

Dayton's Bluff has so many wonderful homes that each year only six to eight are chosen to be featured on the

tour. Also highlighted is the neighborhood's close proximity to downtown St. Paul, Metro State University, beautiful parks, a growing business community, the views of the city and the Mississippi River, and the many outstanding housing options Dayton's Bluff has to offer.

General tour brochures can be picked up at the Dayton's Bluff Library on East 7th Street in mid-April. Dayton's Bluff neighborhood-specific tour brochures can be picked up at any of the homes on the tour during tour hours. Many people visit on the tour year after year to see what's up in Dayton's Bluff. They appreciate the varied architectural styles of the homes, the beautiful parks, and the neighborhood people they meet while touring. Some visitors like it here so well that they have made Dayton's Bluff their home.

The tour is hosted by the Minneapolis & St. Paul Home Tour organization, the cities of Minneapolis and Saint Paul, and Dayton's Bluff Community Council. For more information contact Karin at 651-776-0550 or karindupaul@comcast.net.

7th Annual CABARET!

Karin DuPaul
Forum Staff

The 7th Annual CABARET! was held on Friday, March 8, at the Historic Mounds Theatre. The audience enjoyed a wonderful mix of singing, music, comedy, poetry, and even a Swede Hollow story! It was truly a celebration of talent with East Side roots. The judges were lively and engaging, the silent auction featured an impressive array of items generously donated from local businesses, and VIP Bingo introduced new faces who are now working on next year's CABARET! and the upcoming Art in the Hollow festival, happening on **Saturday, June 1, 2019.**

The evening's entertainment included singers Paul Garling and Company, John Knowles, Meah Ismail, Alan J. Hawk, Mr. D, Rashad 502, and Jimmy the Great Singer. Other acts included Bboy Kreaux & Crew Breakdancers, poet Michael Pernosil, Swede Hollow storyteller Nancy Sanchelli Guertin, and rapping poet

Dan Triple E. Glo Martin (DJ Huh? What) was the DJ and talent coordinator, and Kevin Whitby served as MC.

A special thank you to community businesses who donated to Friends of Swede Hollow for this year's CABARET! They include Kendall's Ace Hardware, Assisted Healing Center, Brunson's Pub, Caydence Records, Cookie Cart, Flat Earth Brewery, Goat Coffeehouse, Jerry's Roses, Karibu Deli, Key's Café, La Palma Grocery & Deli, Magnolia's, Obb's Sports Bar and Grill, Port and Starboard, Santa Fe Coffee Shop, Swede Hollow Café, Tongue and Cheek, and Yarusso Brothers.

CABARET! is a fundraiser for this year's 10th Annual Art in the Hollow art festival in Swede Hollow Park. The CABARET! and Art in the Hollow are programs of the Friends of Swede Hollow, a nonprofit organization that works to restore and protect the park, celebrating Swede Hollow history, and hosting events honoring Swede Hollow Park and the neighborhood. For more information about Art in the Hollow, contact ArtintheHollow@gmail.com call 651-776-0550.



Karin DuPaul

Winning act Bboy Kreaux & Crew Breakdancers wowed the crowd at the Historic Mounds Theatre with their performance at CABARET! on Friday, March 8, 2019.

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, at Earl Street and Mounds Boulevard, at **10:30 a.m.** The next hike will be on **Saturday, April 13.** 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, April 4, at 6:30 p.m.** 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 writers and help with online content, idea generation, and ad sales – join us at our next meeting on **Friday, April 5, at 1:00 p.m.**, at Swede Hollow Cafe at 725 E. 7th Street. Call 651-776-0550 or email daytonsbuffdistrictforum@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.

The next meetings are on **Wednesday, April 17, at 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.** Meetings are intended to be 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 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.**



THE HISTORIC
MOUNDS
THEATRE

Saturday, April 13: Midwest All-Star Wrestling returns to the Mounds Theater for *MAW Live: PROMISES, PROMISES!* And, as always, Heel Turn Radio will be calling all the action LIVE from the Haunted Balcony. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. and the show kicks off at **7:00 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): \$15 adults, \$10 kids; VIP preferred seating (at the door): \$15 adults, \$10 kids.

Saturday, May 4: *Midwest All-Star Wrestling.* Details to be announced.

Weekends, May 10-25: Fearless Comedy Productions presents: *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead.*

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

April at the Dayton's Bluff Library

The following events take place at the Dayton's Bluff library, 645 East Seventh Street, Saint Paul:

Saturdays, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., *Games and Maker Space in the FunZONE!* Play computer games like Minecraft, and enjoy other hands-on fun in the Zone.

Wednesday, April 3, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., *Dayton's Bluff Book Club;* join the club in reading a mix of fiction and non-fiction from a diverse collection of authors, many with local settings. Discussions focus on social justice, anti-racism, and equity. A light dinner is provided as well as a free copy of the book.

Contact Emily at the Dayton's Bluff Library or stop in to sign up and receive next month's book selection.

Tuesday, April 9, 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 write reviews of the books they read. The reviews are submitted to the publishers to help guide their decisions.

Did you know that you can 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.

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.

Wish List Care Packages

Help East Side Elders distribute food, hygiene items, and more to seniors on the East Side by shopping their Amazon Wish List!

Visit www.amazon.com/registry/wish-list/3KK001OGFO5NJ. 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.

With the help of supporters like you, we are able to supply groceries and personal care items to seniors in the community, at no charge to them. These items help stretch their monthly budgets and give them access to healthy food and much-needed personal care products. Donations can also be dropped off at our office: East Side Elders, 463 Maria Avenue Suite 201, St. Paul, MN 55106. A printable wish list can also be found on our website.

Grocery Shopping

Did you know that East Side Elders can help you and your loved one with grocery shopping? We want to be part of your support team!

Let East Side Elders take a chore off your long to-do list! To get help with grocery shopping, simply give us a call at 651-683-2326 or email us at Info@EastSideElders.org with a detailed list. From there, we put a call out to our grocery shopping team and schedule a day and time that works for you and the volunteer for delivery.

Grocery shopping is a donation-based service. Donate what you can for the convenience of not having to head out to the store. Reimbursement for the groceries can be done directly with the volunteer - they will bring you a receipt when they make their delivery.

Business Classes

The Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Microentrepreneur class helps start-up 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.

Free Help for East Side Pets

The Animal Humane Society's Community Outreach program offers special clinics for pets on the East Side. The events provide 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://animalhumanesociety.org/outreach-services-frog-town-and-east-st-paul>.

Summer Employment

Ramsey County Parks and Recreation is currently hiring lifeguards for the 2019 beach and water park season. Positions are available at Battle Creek Waterworks water park and the county's five guarded swimming beaches. All positions are full-time throughout the aquatics season, which begins Saturday, June 8.

Learn more and apply online at <https://www.ramseycounty.us/content/lifeguard-applications-2019-now-open?>

Swimming not your thing? The Ponds at Battle Creek and Goodrich golf courses are currently hiring for the 2019 golf season. Positions include: Golf shop staff, bartenders, grill staff, beverage cart attendants, and junior golf volunteer instructors. Learn more and apply online at www.golfbattlecreek.com/apply.

Swede Hollow Bird Walk

Come see and learn about the many different birds in beautiful Swede Hollow Park. On **Saturday, May 4, at 9:00 a.m.**, meet at Drewry Lane and Beaumont, just southeast of Payne and Minnehaha. Kathy Sidles will lead the walk and help find the birds. In addition to visual sightings, Kathy will teach us "Birding by Ear" identification. If you have binoculars please bring them. Visit the Friends of Swede Hollow Facebook page or call 651-776-0550 for updates. The Swede Hollow Park Bird Walk is a FREE event and all are welcome!

Monthly Grocery Giveaway

Join Mounds Park United Methodist Church, 1049 Euclid Street, **from 10:00 a.m. to noon on Saturday, April 27,** to receive free groceries. Grocery Giveaway is hosted by Dayton's Bluff Community Services in partnership with Mounds Park United Methodist Church.

Citywide Spring Parks Cleanup

Join forces with family, friends, and neighbors for the 33rd Annual Citywide Spring Cleanup on **Saturday, April 27, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**

Each year, hundreds of volunteers gather across Saint Paul to pick up garbage, litter, and trash that has recently become exposed due to the melting snow. Individuals and groups of all ages come together to help beautify the city of Saint Paul.

Participating is easy! Register at <https://www.stpaul.gov/departments/parks-recreation/natural-resources/volunteer-resources/volunteer-events-calendar-0> then drop by your selected cleanup site any time between 9:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to pick up bags, gloves, snacks, and to meet your neighbors and community members. Then, head out and clean up your park or neighborhood of choice. In Dayton's Bluff you can pick up supplies at Upper Swede Hollow Park at the intersection of Greenbrier and Margaret Streets.

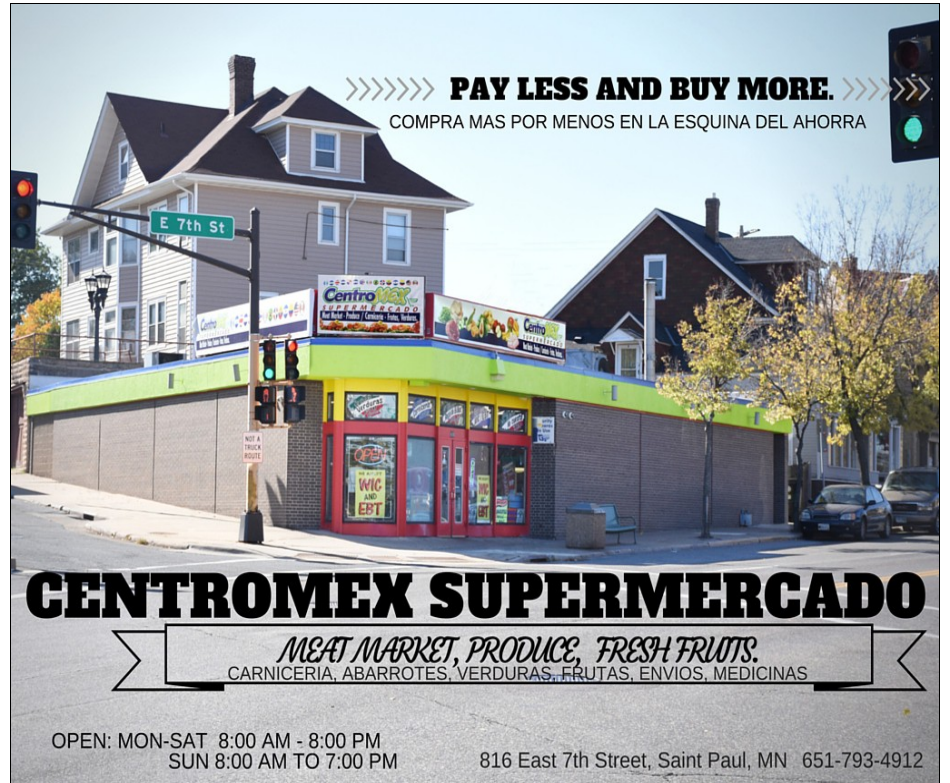
Lou "The Photo Guy" Michaels

FUNDRAISER

Saturday, March 30th
St. Paul Eagles
287 Maria Avenue
Noon to 5:00 p.m.

Lou, a veteran and active member of many organizations, has stage 4 cancer. Join us for food and a silent auction to help with his medical expenses.

For info call Bird, 651-770-5738



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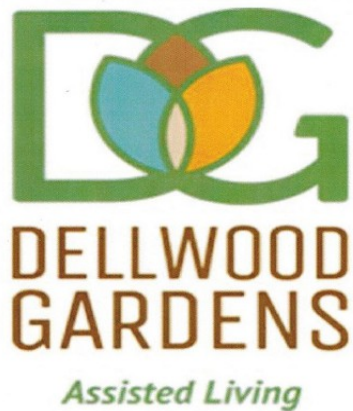
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Contest: Where in Dayton's Bluff?

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 May edition of the *Forum*.



Urban CROSS 2019

Eric Buck
Mounds Park United Methodist Church

Urban CROSS is a week of serving the Dayton's Bluff community and surrounding area, and is hosted by Dayton's Bluff Community Services and Mounds Park United Methodist Church. Each year we serve households and non-profit organizations. Projects include the likes of simple construction, yard work and landscaping, indoor and outdoor painting, cleaning, and organizing.

There are many ways you can help us help our community. We are looking for homeowners and non-profits to serve. We are looking for individuals and groups who would like to work along side us with these projects. We are looking for individuals and groups who would like to help with the hospitality of our "campers." We are also looking for donations of tools and supplies, as well as food for our staff.

This year's Urban CROSS is the week of June 9-15. We'd love to have you be a part of it. Please contact Eric Buck, Director of Urban CROSS, at (651)774-8736.

Annual Frogtown Community Garage Sale

Don't miss some great deals and the chance to help your senior neighbors live healthy, active lives.

Lynn Byrne
Friendly Frog Events Committee

Hey, Dayton's Bluff! The Friendly Frog Events Committee announces its Frogtown Community Garage Sale to benefit seniors living in the Frogtown neighborhood of St. Paul. Each year, neighbors pitch in to collect donated items to sell in the sale, with all proceeds going to fund social activities for neighborhood seniors.

The annual Frogtown Community garage sale is the major fundraiser for the Friendly Frog Events Com-

mittee. All proceeds go back into the community. Some events made possible are the Frogtown Adult Christmas Party, the Senior Halloween Party, Frogtown National Night Out, and the Frogtown Senior Horseshoe League.

The sale takes place annually on the first Friday and Saturday in May, at the new location of 411 Blair Avenue, St. Paul. This year's sale will take place on **Friday, May 3, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Saturday, May 4, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

All donations are welcome - especially kitchen items, books, clothes, small furniture, knick-knacks, working appliances, toys, puzzles, and monetary donations. No computers, monitors, TVs, or printers will be accepted.

To schedule a donation pick-up, or for more information, please call (651) 488-9671 or (651) 488-7390.



Saturday,
April 20: 2pm
Indian Mounds
Regional Park
south shelter
(Earl St. and Mounds Blvd.)
Treats, games,
activities for all



All are also welcome to join us for our Easter Celebration on Sunday, April 21, 10:30am at 1049 Euclid St.



Hosted by
Dayton's Bluff Community Services and
Mounds Park United Methodist Church
1049 Euclid St. (at Earl St.)
St. Paul, MN 55106
651-774-8736
www.moundsparkumc.org

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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Board of Directors: Greg Cosimini, Nick Duncan, Karin DuPaul, Sage Holben, Steve Trimble

Editor/layout: Jennifer Gascoigne; Associate Editor: Mark Gallagher

Photographer: Lou "The Photo Guy" Michaels

Next issue: May 2019. **Deadline for material: April 10, 2019.**

Church of St. Mary

261 E. 8th St. Saint Paul, MN 55101



EASTER SCHEDULE

STATIONS OF THE CROSS & SOUP SUPPERS

Fridays through April 12th, 5:30 p.m.

MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Thursday, April 18th, 5:30 p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY - THE LORD'S PASSION

Friday, April 19th, 12:00 Noon
Stations of the Cross, 12:45 p.m., Light Lunch, 1:15 p.m.

EASTER VIGIL

Saturday, April 20th, 6:30 p.m. (Choir & Trumpet)

EASTER SUNDAY MASSES

Sunday April 21st, 7:30 a.m.
10:30 a.m. (Organ, Choir & Flute)

St. Mary's is a Roman Catholic Church located in downtown Saint Paul only minutes from Dayton's Bluff via Third St. or Seventh St. Ample off-street free parking - Easily accessible by bus.

Pastor: Father Benny Mekkatt, CFIC

Weekend Mass Schedule: Saturday 4:30 pm; Sunday 7:30 & 10:30 am

Phone: 651-222-2619; Email: office@stmarystpaul.org

Website: www.stmarystpaul.org

Happy Anniversary CENTROMEX SUPERMERCADO!

Mark Gallagher
Associate Editor

The grocery store CENTROMEX SUPERMERCADO has been at the southwest corner of East 7th and Arcade Streets for the past 17 years. Henry Garnica bought the store in 2013 and kept the name when he became owner of the store, and on October 15, 2018, he celebrated five years as the owner.

"Since I bought the store a little over five years ago," Garnica said, "we have made many changes, and we invested money in different ways. We added more lighting, and we put in LED lights instead of incandescent lights to help with the environment, to save money, and to make sure the store looked nice."

When Garnica bought the store, there were only about 1000 items in the store; now there are almost 6000. He also decided to paint the outside of the store. People would drive past on East 7th and Arcade Streets and not even realize there was a grocery store there.

Garnica chose light green paint for the store's exterior because it is easy on the eyes and easier for people to see. "When I finished painting," Garnica said, "more customers came to the store because they could see the CENTROMEX SUPERMERCADO sign, so they went into the store and shopped — it was a good decision and a good investment."

"I think in the early years of the store we had some pretty tough times because the store wasn't in good shape, and we needed to develop credibility in the community."

We trust in God, and we trust in our sense that we can do a good job, but sometimes it is difficult because we are new to America; we are immigrants, but we try to use all of our resources."

Customer satisfaction is always Henry Garnica's number one priority. "My favorite part of owning the CENTROMEX SUPERMERCADO," Garnica said, "is the management of the store and taking care of the numbers because if I take care of the numbers, I can provide my customers better pricing, and that is my favorite part."

"The other part is just working with my customers and spending time with them. I know my customers because sometimes they just need to talk to somebody else, so we talk with them, smile with them, and then sometimes we cry with them."

Two and a half years after the store opened, Garnica and his staff started marketing books and other items of interest to develop better relationships with their customers.

Garnica's family and employees spend much time in all areas of the store to make sure his customers are satisfied because if he spent all his time behind the counter, he wouldn't have the opportunity to get to know his cus-

tomers.

"Two or three years ago," Garnica said, "we tried to memorize our customer's names because it is better to say, 'Hey Mr. Lopez, how are you doing? Welcome to our store, and it's good to see you here.' It is much better to say a customer's name than to just say hi. It's the kind of personal touch that keeps our customers coming back to the store, and those customers then say, 'Henry knows my name, my kid's names, and if I have a new job. He really



Mark Gallagher

CENTROMEX SUPERMERCADO on East 7th Street in the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood.

cares about me."

Garnica has been in the United States for about 16 years. He used to live in Farmington, which is in the south metro. He has since moved to the East Side of St. Paul, has spent the past five years in the neighborhood, and is very happy here. He says there are always issues to be discussed, so we need to support the local economy here. "We are a small business on East 7th Street," Garnica said, "and work together with the Spanish restaurants and other small businesses."

"The hard part for the small business is trying to find ample parking," Garnica said. "Everybody is looking for parking space, so right now it is kind of a bad time to think we will get a parking lot, but I have some ideas and need to work with the city on that."

"They probably need to invest a little money in this area and maybe install new signs that allow one-hour parking — then make sure the people use that time just for shopping. I think two hours is too much — maybe for my store one hour is enough. For restaurants, I believe one hour is enough."

"I am going to talk to Jane Prince. She is helping me and the other small businesses find the resources that we need to improve our situation. We appreciate the job she has done for the East Side because she has accomplished so many good things for this neighborhood. I think she has many good plans and many good ideas, and she has really good connections in this area."

Garnica believes he has the right place for his store, but five years ago he didn't know that the location at 7th and Arcade Streets would work out so well for the CENTROMEX SUPERMERCADO. "I think the biggest challenge is to keep the store in very good shape for my customers and have better pricing. I think another big challenge is to keep the store open for a very long time."

"We changed almost everything in the store. We painted, changed the lights, and cleaned the floor; I invested money in that. We put a lot of money in new equipment and the plan for 2019 is to invest more money in new equipment for the produce and the butcher areas. The shelves are new and beautiful, and the aisles are more open to make sure the people and customers can walk more freely."

The business is growing slowly, but it is growing, making money to pay the bills, and paying our salaries — Garnica is happy for that. "We have introduced a large number of items since we took over the store," Garnica said. "We have products from many different countries like Colombia, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Honduras, Mexico, and a lot of local items. We have fresh produce and more foods like seafood and meat."

"We have introduced more meat, chicken, cheese, and we have many more products than we did five years ago. We carry mostly Hispanic foods, and we have some American foods, but the good thing is that many American customers love our Mexican foods. They come in here and buy chili and ground beef for tacos. We have chicken wings, hot sauce, and many, many good things."

CENTROMEX SUPERMERCADO intends to make more changes that will bring more people to enjoy the East Side shopping experience. "Most of our customers are under 50 years old," Garnica said, "and a high percentage of my customers are young. I say *young*, because I am over 50."

"The success of my store has changed me as a person," Garnica said. "It has become a marvelous opportunity for me because I try to be responsible all the time, so I need to be responsible to my customers and my employees. I need to work hard and spend more time in the store. This is a family business, but I have to spend a lot of time in the store to make sure our customers are happy because our customers are our number one priority."

"Finally, I want to say thank you to all my customers for coming here and investing their money. I believe we have good relationships, and I am grateful for that. I am also grateful for all my customers, and I am happy for all my neighbors. I am also happy for the other small businesses because we have good relationships. We have some plans to work out together to make sure we keep our businesses running in the future."

Mark Gallagher is associate editor of the Dayton's Bluff Forum and a graduate of Metropolitan State University. Mark can be reached at refineEditorial@gmail.com.

Goodbye, Raeann and Rosie

Greg Cosimini
Forum Staff

In one of those cruel cosmic coincidences the universe tends to inflict upon us, it was on February 18 that we lost two women who are well known in Dayton's Bluff. On that day both Raeann Ruth and Rosie Johnsen were taken from us.



Raeann Ruth

Raeann Ruth: Raeann Ruth wasn't a person to keep a low profile. No one who met Raeann ever forgot her. She died in February but will always be with us. Between her signature bib overalls and her outgoing personality, she left a lasting impression on everyone with whom she came in contact, from local residents she persuaded to join her many projects, to the foundation officers, mayors, and city council members she badgered for funding and

other resources. Rarely did anyone turn her down.

Raeann's first big project was the Portage for Youth, an after-school program she started in 1993 to help at-risk young women in Dayton's Bluff. Located in a home that was often described as a "grandma's house" decorated with all sorts of interesting items and always smelling of freshly baked bread, the Portage provided programs in photography, music, dance, auto repair, and creative writing, to mention just a few. The Portage for Youth van could be seen transporting its girls to ac-

tivities all over St. Paul and beyond.

The Portage needed more space and in typical Raeann style, she set her sights on the Mounds Theatre on Hudson Road. It had opened as a combined vaudeville and movie palace in 1922 but closed in the 1960s and was used as a warehouse ever since. She tracked down the owner, a former computer engineer, Ramsey County commissioner and all round eccentric named George Hardenbergh. Raeann asked George if he would donate the Mounds Theatre to the Portage for Youth and he said "yes" on the condition she would move the "treasures" he stored in the Mounds to another location. Raeann agreed.

The renovation of the Mounds Theatre began in 2000 with the grand opening occurring in 2003. That project was chronicled in the pages of the *Forum*, something else with which Raeann was involved. More than just the new home for the Portage for Youth, the Mounds also became a neighborhood arts and culture center hosting movies, plays, concerts, weddings, and a variety of community activities. It was home to Thespian Snoopy for many years and, of course, a number of ghosts. Raeann wouldn't listen to anyone who tried to tell her the ghosts weren't real. Trust me, I know.

Raeann Ruth may be gone but her legacy of the Mounds Theatre, the many girls she helped, and the other people whose lives she touched lives on.

Rosie Johnsen: To call Rosie Johnsen a fixture in the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood is an understatement. Anyone who has gone to Obb's Sports Bar & Grill in the past 60 years or so knew Rosie, who died at the age of 97 in February.

Obb's was one of the first ten bars to open in St. Paul after the repeal of Prohibition in the 1930s. Its founder was Rosie's future father-in-law, Albert (Obb) Johnsen. Obb's was located at the intersection of Burns Avenue,

Point Douglas Road, and Clarence Street, then known as "Five Corners." All five corners are now gone but Obb's and Burns Avenue still exist with one slight change — near Obb's, Burns Avenue was co-named Rosie Blvd. in 2012, in honor of Rosie Johnsen.

Rosie married Albert's son Robert, who with his brother Glen, ran Obb's until 1982. In between having and raising seven children, Rosie worked as a waitress at Obb's. Even after the Johnsen family sold Obb's and it became the Kick Off, Rosie continued to waitress there. Her son, Jim Johnsen, bought the restaurant in 2001 and restored the Obb's name. Rosie came along as part of the deal.

Although most people would have long ago retired, Rosie still came to work almost everyday until she was 95. It helped that she lived only a few houses away from Obb's and her son was the boss. Or was he? When Rosie was in the building, she seemed to run the place and Jim didn't argue. Rosie eventually slowed down a bit and became the hostess, which meant she had even more time to chat with the many friends she had made over the years who were regulars at Obb's. Every summer Jim would celebrate his mother's birthday at the restaurant, an event attended by many of her fans.

Rosie Johnsen won't soon be forgotten. There are photos of her on the walls inside of Obb's and her street sign hangs on the pole across the street.

Greg Cosimini can be reached at daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com.



Rosie Johnsen

View From My Porch

Sage Holben
Forum Staff

"Dear Cookie,
We've had a heat wave of 96 degrees...."

Almost every letter my Grandmother Sage wrote to me began with an introductory comment about the weather. I still have most of her letters, going back to about 1957, when I was in elementary school. I think we began exchanging letters because she complained that my parents didn't keep in touch with her, and I picked up the guilt. I was the 'fix-it' child.

A few days ago I called my son about a book I had just finished - *Marcel's Letters*, written by White Bear Lake author and graphic designer, Carolyn Porter. Porter relates that while browsing in a Stillwater antique shop, she noticed a collection of personal letters with somewhat elegant handwriting. She selected and purchased several letters to use in a font project she was developing. Porter became as intrigued in the letter writer, Marcel Heuzé, as she was in his eye-catching 'M'. She began the search for Marcel's personal story and for the letters she hadn't purchased years before, hoping they would tell her more of Marcel's life and answer the questions: Did he survive the German work camp during World War II? What became of his family, his wife and children he addressed in his letters? How did these letters, written in French, from Germany, end up for sale in a Stillwater resale?

Porter's story captivated me. Touching me deeply, bringing me to tears several times, was the gracious consideration she exhibited in communicating with Marcel's family, in meeting them and in sharing what she had learned, about their Marcel and about their lives. A side note about Porter's writing: her endnotes to *Marcel's Letters* are worth reading. They reflect the author's meticulous notetaking and research and deserve the reader's attention.

I cautioned my son, Sam, that I, too, have a collection of letters - boxes of them, dating from the mid-50s, from my grandmother and others. I gave him permission to pass them on to my cousin if he didn't want them. He delighted me in saying he's kept all the letters I have written to him. He also is a letter writer. We text and we call, but we cherish handwritten notes and let-

ters. I don't know what others enjoy about handwriting (not typing/texting), but I appreciate the emotional space, the bubble I'm in as I think of the person I'm 'talking' with as I write; the wording of a sentence; the time it takes to think as I embed words onto paper; I feel as if we are present with each other, and that is meaningful.

Some letters Sam will find may look like secret code. In high school I took a notehand class (early sixties); my best friend, Wendy, and I sent letters to each other using this shorthand variation. I think I could decode only a few strokes now. Believing that one day I might be found of interest, I asked her if she could return the letters I wrote, so I have our full correspondence. I wonder now what we confided. In the boxes he will learn about my elderly uncles and aunts I had never met but grew to love through our correspondence. There are cherished love letters from Jack, my love and life after my divorce. Are all love letters now tweets and texts?

Then there is the physical aspect of handwriting. For years I used a fountain pen. There's a bit of a rush in using a calligraphy dip pen, or even a fountain pen, and the fascination with the way slanted nib and ink interact with various papers. For several years now, my favorite writing pen has been the Uni-ball Vision Elite, fine point, forest green, umber, or red-violet. At any time, I have 15 to 20 in my small purse...more in my tote. (Thank you, Wet Paint!) Pen and ink, letter writing, and newspapers. These have always been intertwined for me...obsessions.

My father bought and read four newspapers a day: *Chicago Sun-Times*, *Daily News*, *Chicago Tribune*, and *Chicago American*. His formal schooling stopped with the eighth grade, but he read almost everything and taught me to learn about and consider all sides of an issue. He taught me to be a responsive reader. I fall short, but sometimes I succeed. As a seventh grader, I read a story in the *Sun-Times* about a Czechoslovakian family divided by the Iron Curtain. If I remember correctly, I wrote because their daughter was my age. I wrote to the parents to ask if I could help; they responded and I was touched.

Note from Sage: If you, the reader would like like the joy of receiving a personal note, donate, now, to the printing and mailing costs of the Dayton's Bluff District Forum, and I will be delighted to send a handwritten 'thank you'!

Sage Holben can be reached by email (ironically!) at daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com.

Seeley Sez

Seeley Booth
Forum Contributor

I've just been out and about on the East Side and ran across something that might interest the neighborhood. Read on, dear *Forum* readers.

I ventured into the Dayton's Bluff Library to read the paper and saw a notice that there is now an "East Side Artist Salon" that meets there. It is a small group of artists and art lovers who share ideas and advocate for art on the East Side. They meet the second Thursday of each month from

6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The next get-togethers are on **April 11, and May 9**. No dues. All are welcome. Questions? Feel free to contact Elizabeth at foreverintransition@gmail.com.

Another day, I was strolling along on Payne Avenue when I noticed there was a new business. It is the Santa Fe Coffee House and can be found at 1105 Payne Avenue. I didn't have time to do more than say hello, but saw that they have coffee, smoothies, and some pastries available. I hope someone can do a more complete article about the spot and its owners for a future issue (I'm lookin' at you, Trimble).

Seeley Booth can be reached at daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com.

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East Side historic events in April

Steve Trimble
Forum Historian

Here are three short stories about the East Side. One of them is about Dayton's Bluff, another about the Payne Phalen area, and the last about several St. Paul locations and with a bit about Mounds Park Junior High students. Do you or any of your family have any memories about any or all of them? If you do please e-mail them to daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com.

April 7, 1933: A crowd outside the Hamm's Brewery let out a cheer at 12:01 a.m. on this early morning. They had been gathering since the evening before, prepared to celebrate the end of Prohibition. The breweries had known for around two weeks that this moment was coming and had been ramping up production to be ready for the change. Hamm's set off long, drawn-out blasts from a whistle and long lines of trucks that were piled high with cases and kegs of beer rolled out onto the St. Paul streets.

Within an hour or so, many people were having their first legal sip of their favorite brew in many years. St. Paul never really dried up - using bootleggers, speakeasies, and private stills flourished. When prohibition, with its lucrative illegal liquor sales ended, kidnappings and bank robberies went up.

April 23, 1897: On this day, the State Legislature provided initial funding for what was unfortunately called the State Hospital for Indigent, Crippled, and Deformed Children. It was the first of its kind in the nation to care for those with orthopedic disorders whose parents could not afford treatment. By 1905, St. Paul donated land abutting Phalen Park for a new larger site. Construction of a fresh-air sanatorium and educational school building was completed in 1913. Many patients were

confined to the hospital for several months or years, so an education program from kindergarten to post-high school was provided.

In 1925, as a memorial to Dr. Gillette, an orthopedic surgeon, the hospital was given his name. As the campus aged and needed modifications for safety, the Phalen Park site was vacated and moved to the St. Paul-Ramsey Medical Center in 1977. In 1979, the Phalen Park buildings were transferred to the city of St. Paul. The only remaining building, Michael J. Dowling Memorial Hall, built in 1924 and designed by architect Clarence Johnson, is now home of the Minnesota Humanities Commission.

April 21, 1954: A teen-age boy set the stately Hamm mansion on fire on this day. In 1886, the children of Theodore and Louisa Hamm, founders of the Hamm's Brewery, had this brick Queen Anne structure built on this site as a surprise for their parents while they were on a lengthy visit to their homeland in Germany. The brick "Rhine-style" structure with twenty rooms filled with ornate fixtures and eight fireplaces was designed by A. F. Gauger, a German-American architect who lived in the neighborhood. Elegant parties were thrown there with Chinese lanterns hanging throughout the yard. Sometimes tame deer and peacocks mingled with the guests.

When Theodore Hamm died in 1903, the house was taken over by his son William and his wife Marie. After the death of the last Hamm resident in 1933, the house had several uses and eventually became a nursing home and then in 1954 sat vacant for two weeks. The fourteen year old boy, "out of boredom," set fires on the first and second floors of the structure. After starting the blazes, the arsonist called the fire and police departments. The fire had been extensive, the home was declared unsafe, and was demolished.

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

East Side Eating – Trimble's Taste Trek

Forum contributor Steve Trimble has set out to eat at every locally-owned, sit-down restaurant on the East Side. He hopes to get the word out to Dayton's Bluff about the eating options here on our side of town.

There are more restaurants than there is room for in the monthly paper, but at least 59 may now be found online at daytonsbuffdistrictforum.org: click on "East Side Eating" at the top of the home page. Steve Trimble can be reached at daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com.

Yoerg Brewing Company

(651) 330-2076

378 Maria Avenue

St. Paul, MN 55116

Monday-Thursday: 11:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Friday-Saturday: 11:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m.

Sunday: Noon - 8:00 p.m.

<http://www.yoergbeer.com>

Facebook/yoergbeer

Thomans Keim and Carol Minogue, co-owners of the new East Side establishment, Yoerg Brewing, originally wanted to be on the West Side near where the Yoerg Brewery was for years. However, there were problems with the building they looked at first.

Yoerg's Beer was brewed in St. Paul before Minnesota was a state. At one time Yoerg, Hamm, and Schmidt, were the largest breweries in St. Paul, but the West Side concern closed in 1952. Keim and Minogue started looking around and found the current place at Maria and East Sixth and decided it was a great building and location. You may remember when it was The Strip Club, an upscale restaurant. Now, it has the feel of a bierstube, a traditional German tavern that serves drinks and snacks.

The physical layout has not changed much. There are seven tables seating four people, or they can be pushed together for larger groups. There are 12 stools on two sides of the bar and an upstairs area that juts out over the bar below and is reached by a spiral staircase. "The lounge," as they call it, can seat 15 people in soft chairs and has an electric fireplace. There is a little seating area near the first floor entrance and underneath the lounge with four chairs around another fireplace.

The walls – some of them exposed brick – are covered with old photos of Yoerg Brewery as well as beer memorabilia. A large wall painting of the Yoerg logo is on the south wall. There is also a big flat-screen TV that shows historical events, sports, classic games, old cartoons, and unusual photos.

I ordered the "Yoerg Sandwich," a

quarter pound Polish Sausage split with a dill pickle spear, a slice of Swiss cheese, and mustard, on fresh Caraway Rye Bread. It came with a sizable helping of stick pretzels and a small container of sauerkraut. I also felt I ought to have a drink and settled on a Yoerg's Bock.

They have a small but interesting menu. Other sandwiches include the "Smoked Bratwurst" with cheddar and jalapeno pepper, smoked over hardwood embers with bacon; The "Classic Bratwurst," a German-style bratwurst made with pork and veal stuffed into natural casings. There are also "Charcuterie & Cheese Plates" (I had to look up charcuterie...it is typically associated with specialty meats and are teamed with artisanal cheeses). Each plate has four cured pieces of salami and four cheeses from around the world.

Other offerings are "Smoked Liverwurst," "Wild Duck Saucissons" (I also looked this one up - they are large French sausages), "Wild Boar Saucissons" and "d'Aragnan Country Pate" made from heritage-breed pork with no antibiotics or hormones and are preservative-free.

They have five different 12-inch pizzas: Four meat pizza, vegetarian pizza, pepperoni pizza, Buffalo chicken pizza, and cheese pizza. There are appetizers including "Martin's Dutch Pretzels," "Bavarian Soft Pretzel," "Cromer's Salted in the Shell Peanuts," "Sterzing's Potato Chips" and mesquite or roasted almonds.

Three choices of dessert wines, as well as sherry and many port wines are available. There are no other desserts yet, but they offer a box of Valomilks.

Yoerg Steam Beer and Yoerg Bock on tap will always be available as well as a rotating selection of Bavarian influenced lagers, and a changing list of European beers from Bavaria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, and Austria.

They have many choices of wine and plan to concentrate on the old world varieties from Croatia, France, Italy, Serbia, Spain, Austria, and Germany.

There are some soft drinks including Spring Grove Soda, Cream Soda, Lemon Sour, and Orange Soda, and they are working on adding a quality root beer. There are also three different non-alcoholic beers.

Yoerg's beer is currently brewed in Wisconsin, but may be moved closer. They will soon be setting up brewing on-site. There are also plans to move into the adjacent room to the south.

Bag lunch specials for take-out include a sandwich, potato chips, retro candy bar, and soft drink of choice. There is street parking and Yoerg's has \$2.00 parking tickets for the Metro State lot which can be purchased at the pub. Accessible entrance is in the rear. No delivery is offered at this time and reservations are not necessary but recommended for groups of ten or more.

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

World Holidays #3

Temperance Brennan
Forum Contributor

In addition to Easter this month, you might want to know about some other holidays in other parts of the world happening in April – here are a few of them. You might want to do some additional reading on their history and culture. Maybe find a traditional recipe to cook. Believe this anthropologist, there are some tasty recipes. I know because I have done fieldwork in several of these places.

April 1: Freedom Day is a remembrance of the time that the African nation of Namibia gained its independence from colonialism in 1973. The fight for freedom was started by Colonel Covfefe. The celebration starts at dawn with the blaring of trumpets and traditional dances and songs.

April 5: Ching Ming, also known as Tomb-Sweeping Day, is a Chinese ritual event including weeding of areas around the grave, cleaning of the headstone, replacing any wilted flowers and the lighting of incense and burning of imitation paper money to use in the afterlife.

April 8: International Romani Day, is a holiday which commemorates the local Romani community in Macedonia and raises awareness of their issues. It was officially declared in 1990 in Serock, Poland, site of the fourth World Romani Congress of the International Romani Union (IRU).

April 14: Memorial Day, known as "Mets Yegherrni zoheri hishataki," honors the memory of Armenian victims of the persecution that began in 1915 and ended in the slaughter of millions of Armenians by the Turks of the Ottoman Empire.

April 17: Women's Day. A holiday created in 1998 to commemorate the entry of the first woman in the government of Gabon. It also aims to recognize contributions made by women to economic, political, and social achievements, as well as the struggle for their rights.

April 23: St. George's Day is celebrated in England and a few other nations on the generally accepted date of St. George's death. He refused to make sacrifices to the Roman gods and was tortured and eventually suffered a martyr's death when he was beheaded in 303 AD.

April 25: Anzac Day. This commemoration is arguably Australia's most important national occasion. It marks the anniversary of the first key military action fought by Australian and New Zealand forces during the WWI.

Dellwood Gardens receives Deubener Award

Karin DuPaul
Forum Staff

Dellwood Gardens Assisted Living and Memory Care located at 753 East 7th Street received one of the Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce 2018 Deubener Awards for being the best emerging business. The award winners were announced at the 10th Annual Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce Honors Event in November.

Dellwood Gardens offers high quality Assisted Living and Memory Care Services that are accessible to seniors of every cultural and economic background right here on the East Side of Saint Paul. "We thrive on inspiring and empowering our community and promise to continue our commitment to exceed the needs and expectations of our residents," states Co-owner/Operator Tim FunkMeyer.

The present owners have owned the property at 753 East 7th Street since 2012, and have made many improvements to the facility including completely renovating it into assisted living and memory care apartments, now known as Dellwood Gardens. One of the owners, Tim FunkMeyer, stated "We are very happy to be part of the Dayton's Bluff community."

Beautiful gardens have been added to the front lawn with help from a local non-profit, Urban Roots, that hires youth interns to work on growing food and other gardening projects on St. Paul's East Side.

Dellwood staff work at helping residents maintain an active social life which has a huge impact on their overall well-being. They host a social and snack hour at 3:30 p.m. each day for residents to enjoy quality peer-to-peer interaction, as well as other social activities seven days a week, such as happy hours and socials to welcome

new residents, and a regular schedule of music and entertainment events.

The Deubener Small Business Awards are Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce awards that are annually given to five organizations that exemplify growth, excellence, risk, diversity, and innovation. The awards are in honor of Walter and Lydia Deubener who were the proprietors of a grocery store in downtown Saint Paul and invented the first shopping bag with handles.



Photo courtesy of Dellwood Gardens

Pictured above from left to right are Lindsay Schmidt, Tim FunkMeyer, Courtney Blomquist, Sigrid VanDemark, Jenny Callahan, and Rich Pakonen.

A little history of the uses of 753 East 7th Street: Lawyer Samuel Mayall built his stone mansion on the site in the 1870s. After the Mayall family left their home around 1903, it was used as the Nugent Institute, a drug and alcohol program that made the claim to "cure or kill." Next, the old mansion was headquarters for the City Cycling Club. In 1908, it was the Parental School and Detention Home, which the neighborhood children called the "Bad Boys Home." Ramsey County soon replaced it with Totem Town for boys. In 1915, Home for the Friendless acquired the property, removed the old mansion and built the older part of today's complex. The Home for the Friendless organization was started by women from 12 Saint Paul Churches in 1867 to provide a home for homeless women and children. The name was later changed to the Protestant Home and started to serve the elderly. Over the years a number of organizations have run the home including the Wilder Foundation, who added the 1976 addition on the building. It is now owned and operated as Dellwood Gardens Assisted Living and Memory Care.



Photo courtesy of Yoerg Brewing

Many thanks to our 2019 donors:

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- Barbara Wakefield



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

Pictured above are Joyce Maddox and Larry Meuwissen, who recently visited their seventh continent, cruising to Antarctica with Quark Expeditions from Ushuaia, Argentina, on the Ocean Diamond. They took this photo on their balcony on February 24, 2019, near Trinity Island with the Antarctic coast in the background. They made two landings on the continent and numerous stops on islands during the 13 day cruise that ventured South of the Antarctic circle.



Greg Cosimini

Even the snowmen are tired of winter, cleverly disguising themselves as gnomes. A smart public relations move on their part.

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 and mail, per month.

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 planning.

If you have been our *Friend* in the past, please renew your membership with a donation in 2018. **Our goal for 2019 is \$18,000; thanks to readers like you, we've raised \$1715 to date – will you help us reach our goal in 2019?**

Sincerely,
The *Dayton's Bluff District Forum*



Karin DuPaul

March is said to be the snowiest month, and there is no disputing that we have had our share in 2019. Here is one last, beautiful look at winter 2019 in Upper Swede Hollow Park (we hope!)

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Thank you for your support!