

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

Volume 34, No. 6
July 2021
daytonsbluffdistrictforum.org
"The Voice of the Community"

Gold Line BRT Project Update

Metro Transit Website

Dedicated bus rapid transit, or BRT, is often considered the transit technology that is most like light-rail transit. Dedicated BRT includes a package of transit enhancements that deliver fast, comfortable, and cost-effective services using special roadways or lanes dedicated to the exclusive use of buses.

The Gold Line project will be built on the north side of I-94 [on Hudson Road through Dayton's Bluff]. These separate lanes ensure buses are never delayed due to traffic congestion. Approximately 80 percent of the METRO Gold Line will have exclusive lanes dedicated only to buses.

Gold Line BRT construction planning begins! On April 13, 2021, the Federal Transit Administration approved the project to prepare for construction. Project engineers will now develop the blueprints for construction, which is scheduled to begin in 2022. Some utility work is expected to begin in summer 2021. More information on the construction schedule will be available soon. Gold Line BRT remains on track to begin service in 2024.

For more information and updated schedules visit metrotransit.org/gold-line-project.



Greg Cosimini

Work continues on the renovation of the American Indian Magnet School located at the intersection of Third and Earl. Bricks and windows are being installed on the south (Third St.) side of the addition while similar work will soon follow on the east side.

Donations Needed for Us to Print!

Forum Staff

The Dayton's Bluff District Forum staff is asking you to support our newspaper! Just a small donation can help us get our newspaper back to the printing press and mailed right to your door!

Your donation will go toward printing and mailing costs. We miss having our newspaper delivered right at your front door and displayed in the businesses on Seventh Street.

We are so close to meeting our goal and we know your donations would bring us one step closer to printing your favorite paper!



Mandy Okonek

The photos above show the Braiding our Stories art installation crafted by Reyna Day and Ruti Mejia. They are both youth organizers at Indigenous Roots and this sculpture is connected to the Northern Spark Art Festival. The sculpture is located in Hamm Park.

Heritage Park Skatepark

Mandy Okonek

Wait, What? That ooky spooky piece of extended Swede Hollow leading to Lake Phalen past the old fenced off part of the Hamm's Brewery? Yup. That's Heritage Park.

Word is the Met Council has granted its blessing to the crew of Eastside skateboard aficionados known as the Taskforce to use Heritage Park as the space to build the destination skatepark of their dreams, and quite frankly mine and many others. As many of us know by the amount of solicitations from real estate companies wanting to buy our homes, right now, as is, for cash, property on the East Side is a hot commodity. So, this news is definitely a cause for celebration.

I firmly believe if we support the youth in our community by investing in a place for them to exercise, congregate, and most importantly, feel love and support from their community, we are all better for it.

With the closing of Wooddale Fun Zone and most recently the beloved Roller Garden, there is a need for places to roller skate and the folks from the Taskforce have promised to include space for us quad wheel skaters in their design.

Please reach out to the people in our community working their butts off to do something cool for our neighborhood and offer your support. The Eastside Skatepark Taskforce is active on social media at [facebook.com/Eastsideskateparktaskforce](https://www.facebook.com/Eastsideskateparktaskforce), where you can find out what local event they will pop up at to promote their cause and find out how you can help. Heritage Park has been in need of a facelift for many years and my fingers are crossed this reconstructive surgery includes a giant half pipe.

DONATE NOW

Upcoming Art in the Hollow Events

Benjamin Mason

In September, there will be a return to live events on the East Side. Solidarity Weekend will feature the second annual Solidarity Gallery along Payne Ave. from **September 23-25**, with local artwork featured in the shop's windows. There will be a number of musical events, vendors, and other gathering points, as pandemic control permits. This year's Solidarity festival will focus on Native American heritage and creativity while drawing together all East Siders.

On Saturday, **September 25**, Art in the Hollow will cap the weekend with vendors filling Swede Hollow Park once again. There will be art, music, history, and culture. It is hoped that the park can come alive just as it has in past summers.

You can visit the festival's website for more information: artinthehollow.org.

ART IN THE HOLLOW

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. 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.

Due to COVID-19, hikes are canceled. Please check back for more information at a later date.

If you have any questions email karindupaul@comcast.net

Friends of Swede Hollow

Friends of Swede Hollow watch over, restore, and celebrate the history of Swede Hollow Park. Join the Swede Hollow community at their monthly meetings. We have changed our meeting date to the second Thursday of each month.

Due to the COVID-19 virus, there will be no meetings until further notice. Please check back at a later date for more information. Email karindupaul@comcast.net 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 **Thursday, July 1 at 11:00 a.m.** If you'd like to attend, call 651-776-0550 or email daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com for more information. We are currently meeting at the Cambric, in the meeting room.

Police Community Meetings

The Eastern District Saint Paul Police hosts 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 meetings are intended as a time to learn, listen, and address people's concerns about crime and other issues on the East Side. Policing meetings held at **9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.** on the third Tuesday of each month. Bring your neighbors!

Call or email Robyn at 651-266-5580 or robyn.brewin@ci.stpaul.mn.us to ensure July's meetings have not been canceled.

We will be adhering to Gov. Walz's order to wear a face covering and limit participation to 50% capacity.

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

Due to the COVID-19 virus, the Historic Mounds Theatre is temporarily closed and all events have either been canceled or postponed to a later date. Please visit our website at moundstheatre.org for more information regarding the re-opening and upcoming events.

The Historic Mounds Theatre is located at 1029 Hudson Road, St. Paul, MN55106; 651-772-2253; historicmoundstheatre@gmail.com

Free Human and Health Services

United Way 2-1-1 provides *free and confidential* health and human services information for people in Minnesota, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, connecting you with the resources and information you need: Alcohol & Drug Abuse; Child Care; Consumer Regulation; Financial Assistance Programs; Healthcare; Money Management; Transportation; Animal Services; Criminal Justice & Legal Services; Employment; Food/Housing/Shelter; Tax Organizations & Services; Utilities (includes phones); Mental Health.

When calling 2-1-1 you will need to enter your ZIP code and then will hear a menu of services. Be patient, please. With COVID-19 lines are busy. You may be given options to waiting on the line.

Dayton's Bluff Library

The library is hosting plenty of ongoing fun, virtual activities for all ages. Listed below are some July events:

July 1-Vietnamese Conversation Group, **6-7 p.m.**

July 5-11- Virtual Summer Spark: Jolly Pop, **all day event**

July 14-Virtual Summer Spark: Lalo's Lunchbox Livestream, **10-11 a.m.**

July 15- Online, Elevate: City of St. Paul Employment Info Session, **4-5:30 p.m.**

July 19-Virtual Summer Spark: Butterfly Life Cycle Dance with Karla Nweje, **all day event**

July 26-Virtual Summer Spark: Ralph's World Twin Cities TV Treehouse Episode, **all day event**

Visit sppl.org's calendar section to find more information about these events.

Business Classes

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

Those who successfully complete the course and locate their businesses in target neighborhoods are eligible for ongoing business support services. Some examples of businesses started by people who have previously taken this course include graphics, landscaping, photography, food service, restoration of wood furniture, art, custom floral design, and exterior and interior painting. The course is sponsored by the Dayton's Bluff Community Council and the Neighborhood Development Center. There is a small registration based on a sliding scale. Class sizes are limited, so enroll now. Please call 651-379-8432 for a current application.

Helpful Phone Numbers

Social Security Admin: 1-800-772-1213 — Service available from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on business days. Call to provide notification of death or to inquire about survivor benefits.

U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs (VA): 1-800-827-1000 — Call for survivor benefits, burial benefits, or to provide notification of death.

United Way: 2-1-1 and Metro: 2-1-1 or 651-291-0211

Free, confidential, multi-lingual information is offered 24 hours every day. United Way 2-1-1 is a unique community information and referral service. Call if you need to know where to turn for help.

Family Homeless Prevention Assistance Program

Family Homeless Prevention Assistance Program (FHPAP) funds can help single folks, too.

Here is a list of agencies that help with deposit and/or rent assistance through FHPAP:

Neighborhood House: 651-789-2500
MN Community Care: 651-266-1290
American Indian Family Center: 651-793-3803

CLUES: 612-746-3550

YMCA: 763-493-3052

Face to Face: 651-224-9644

Xcel Phone Numbers

Gas Leak: 800-895-2999. Power Outage: 800-895-1999 .

Call 811 Before You Dig: Before starting that roto-tiller or heaving that shovel into the ground for *anything*, call 811. At no charge, Xcel will have someone check the area on your property or on the boulevard to be sure there are no wires, pipes, other hidden surprises in the designated digging area. Usually, someone checks within a day (allowing a couple days is helpful), marking the 'no-dig' area with painted lines...and everyone is safe!

Community Garden Plots Available

Have you ever harvested and eaten your own carrots, tomatoes or lettuce? If so, you know how delicious they are, not to mention nutritious, inexpensive, and a great way to spend time outdoors!

Skidmore Park Community Garden has 24 raised bed plots that are available to the public. Cost is \$20. Grants are available. For more information or to request an application, email Steve Lee at Steve12743@yahoo.com.

Financial Assistance

Increased financial assistance is available for Ramsey County residents who lost income due to COVID-19 and need help paying for housing costs.

Residents may be eligible for Emergency Assistance that can help pay for past due rent/mortgage, a damage deposit, or prevent utilities including water, electricity, and heat from being disconnected.

Go to ramseycounty.us/EmergencyAssistance an application or call the Emergency Assistance hotline at 651-266-4884.

ESLC Seeking Volunteer Tutors

East Side Learning Center is seeking a virtual volunteer tutor to be part of their literacy program.

If you're interested, call Shoua Khang, the volunteer coordinator, at 651-808-8107.

Free Legal Services for Low-Income People

Call SMRLS (Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services) at 1-888-575-2954 or go to smrls.org to see if you qualify for free legal assistance with: Family law, government benefits, housing, education, seniors, immigration, and farm workers.

Other: behind on your bills, having problems with credit or creditors, or if you have been sold defective goods, or have other civil legal issues, SMRLS may be able to help through its volunteer attorney panel.

If an interpreter is needed, SMRLS will provide one.

Hours: **Monday through Friday, 9 to 11:45 a.m.; 1 to 3 p.m.**

Swede Hollow, A Series

A Little More Background

Karin DuPaul

Today, the Hamm woodland garden in upper Swede Hollow Park is the site of the Hamm home that was at 671 Cable, now Greenbrier. It appears that the house had a carriage path that encircled the house.

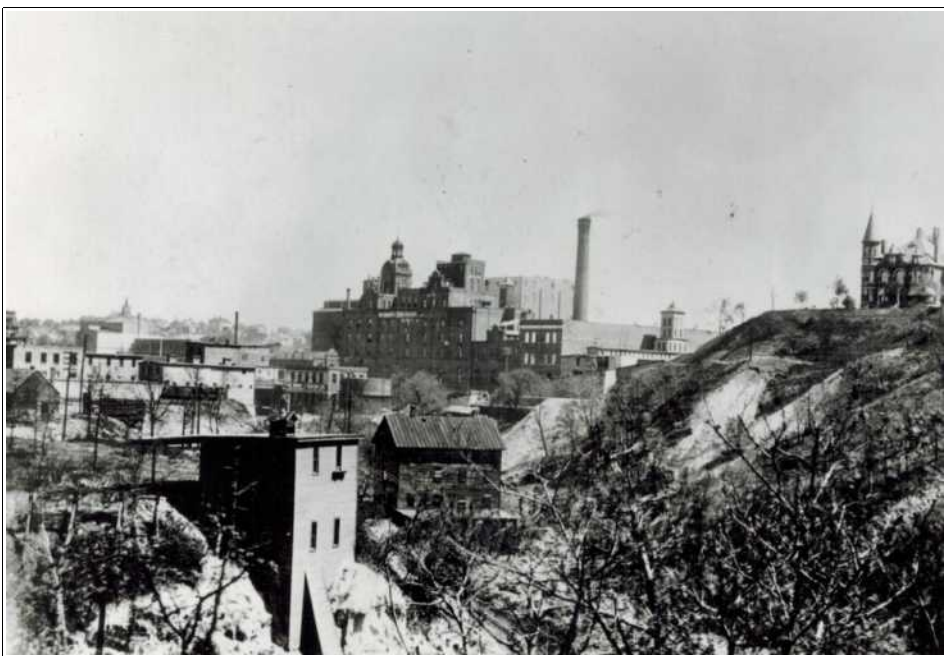
This month I will share a little more about the upper part of Swede Hollow Park. As mentioned in the June article, the upper part of Swede Hollow Park was once the site of the Hamm family home.

The family lived down the hill next to the Hamm's Brewery from 1864 until the

Hamm adult children had a new home built for their parents who were visiting back home in Germany. Son William Hamm and his sisters hired architect Augusta Gauger to design a new home for their parents at 671 Cable Ave. on the bluff overlooking the brewery. When the elder Hamms returned from Germany, instead of taking them to their home at the brewery, they continued up East 7th St. to their new home in Dayton's Bluff.

After the deaths of the elder Hamms, William and his family moved across the street into the 671 Cable Ave. and lived out their lives in that beautiful home. After that, the house was used as a nursing home run by Claire Robbins. The house became vacant in the early 1950s and in 1954, a young boy skipped school one day and set the beautiful old home on fire. Because of the heavy damage, the house was demolished.

In 1976 the former Hamm family home site and yard became the upper part of Swede Hollow Park.



Karin DuPaul

The new Hamm home built in the late 1880s on the bluff overlooking the Hamm's Brewery and other businesses in the Phalen Creek valley. It appears that the house had a carriage path that encircled the house. Today the site of the Hamm home that was at 671 Cable, now Greenbrier, is the location of the Hamm woodland garden in upper Swede Hollow Park.

In May, 2021 the median SOLD price of single family homes in Dayton's Bluff was \$261,854



SOLD 654 4th Street East \$325,000

SOLD 727 Margaret Street \$350,000



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Pet of the Month

Dandy Sandy

Kari Soeffker

I grew up on a dairy farm in Cologne, Minnesota.

My father enjoyed farming and cows since they produce milk, but was not interested in getting me a horse, as they do not produce anything and just consume hay.

Since I could not have a horse as a child, I decided to train and ride this calf, "Dandy Sandy."



Police Reform

Clara Martin

One of the most talked about agenda items at city council meetings across the country is police reform. Cities large and small have experienced violence in the streets in the past year often likened to the unrest during the Civil rights movement and the Vietnam War protests. Adding to the violence was the January 6 attack on our nation's capital, which overpowered the police; killing five and injuring hundreds. Leaders realize that police reform is greatly needed everywhere, not just in our cities. But in our cities, with mayors and councils, is a vital place to begin.

Mayor Melvin Carter of St. Paul, MN released his "Community-First Police Reform" initiative for greater public safety and improved trust between law enforcement and Saint Paul communities. To achieve these goals, Carter's proposal would make essential reforms to current police practices to increase accountability and trust, implement innovative community policing strategies, and make the investments our community needs to prevent crime before it starts.

"Saint Paul residents have made clear that community safety is a top concern, but making our neighborhoods safer for everyone will require a new approach," said Carter. "True community safety means preventing crime before it happens — by investing in strong neighborhoods — and ensuring that our police officers have the training, tools, and community connections they need to ensure greater safety for all Saint Paul residents."

(<http://www.melvincarter.org/vision/>)

Examples of police reform have been put into practice in some of our major cities. In Albuquerque, New Mexico, Mayor Tim Keller responded quickly to community pleas for police reform. As early as June of 2020 Keller called for an increase in police staff, as well as cooperation with social service agencies. ([koat.com/article/mayor-keller-announces-civilian-response-department-to-help-with-abq-public-safety/32869947#](https://www.koat.com/article/mayor-keller-announces-civilian-response-department-to-help-with-abq-public-safety/32869947#))

The city of Eugene, Oregon offers a prototype of police reform that has been working in their community for 30 years. While every city must tailor their programs to the needs of their citizens and the problems they face, adopting some ideas that are already working in other cities could help speed the process of reform.

Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets (CAHOOTS) is a mobile crisis intervention program staffed by White Bird Clinic personnel using City of Eugene vehicles. This relationship has been in place for nearly 30 years and is well embedded in the community. (<https://www.eugene-or.gov/4508/CAHOOTS>)

CAHOOTS provides support for EPD personnel by taking on many of the social service type calls for service to include crisis counseling. CAHOOTS personnel often provide initial contact and transport for people who are intoxicated, mentally ill, or disoriented, as well as transport for necessary non-emergency medical care.

Police reform across our country must take place, and being in cahoots with other cities that have these programs already in place sounds like a win-win partnership for us all.



Mark Schwister

A knapweed plant was spotted on one of Mark's bike rides through Swede Hollow. What's interesting, is that most plants in the area are generally considered weeds, not flowers. Some are invasive, some are native. But they're generally considered wildflowers, no matter what. Hidden beauty!

Summer Activities at Dayton's Bluff Library

Dayton's Bluff Library

The summer sun is out, and Summer Spark is here! Summer Spark encourages kids and teens ages zero to 18 to have fun, stay active, and keep learning all summer long. Join in the fun by attending free virtual programs and earning prizes by completing reading and activity challenges. Kids and teens can earn book prizes, bookmarks, and journals. Summer Spark runs from through **August 31**. Stop into the library to choose a free book to keep and a reading and activity log. You can also track reading on the Beanstack app. In need of some inspiration? Pick up one of our Summer Spark Take and Make kits which includes a sculpture activity, nature walk kit, and butterfly cross stitch.

Are you a teen who likes to read? Teens Know Best (TKB) might be for you! Teens ages 12 to 18 who want to read and review young adult novels that aren't available to the public yet can participate in a fun, lively dialogue about books. Young adult publishers read TKB reviews and use them to influence the future of the publishing industry. We are a safe space to meet other teens from around the city who love books, too. TKB is sponsored by Metropolitan State University and Saint Paul Public Library. Members can pick up books at Dayton's Bluff Library and we meet every second

Tuesday of the month at **6:30 p.m.** Visit spl.org/teens-know-best/ for the most current meeting information. Contact TKB at teensknowbeststpaul@gmail.com.

Have you heard about our expanded hours? Dayton's Bluff Library is now open **Mondays and Wednesdays noon to 8 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Fridays 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Saturdays 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.** The outdoor book drop can be accessed at any time. Current hours are available at spl.org/locations/DB/ or call 651-793-1699.

Get out of the summer heat for a moment and enjoy our comfortable seating options while reading a book or newspaper. Kids can enjoy our updated space with seating options, brighter lighting, and activities like scavenger hunts, coloring pages, or a lively conversation with our Children's Specialist.

Dayton's Bluff Library now offers Career Lab hours **Monday through Thursday 1 to 5 p.m.** Reservations are recommended for one-to-one assistance, but walk-ins are welcome. Career Lab is a program for people who have experienced job loss, a reduction in hours, change or loss of household income, uncertainty in their industry, or any other recent impact to their financial well-being. We provide services to community members as they seek employment, build career skills, and navigate career transitions.

Dayton's Bluff Library will be closed **Monday, July 5** in observance of Independence Day.



Dayton's Bluff Library

Visit the library to sign up for Summer Spark and browse the Take and Make kits.



Dayton's Bluff Library

Teens Know Best advanced reader copies are available at the library.



Some St. Paul Trivia

On the third floor hall in the City Courthouse there is a brass bell sitting as a memorial. Where was it used in the past?

- A. A bell from a horse-drawn fire truck
- B. A bell from the *U.S.S. St. Paul*, a ship
- C. A bell from the old First Methodist Church
- D. A bell from Harriet Bishop's first school house

Ken Freiberg was a Saint Paul fire captain who often cooked food for the station. People liked his offering so he had a State Fair stand and later opened a successful business. What was the product that Captain Ken sold?

If you think you know the answers to both of these questions, submit your answers to daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com for a chance to see your name in the August issue!

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St. Paul Farmer's Market Dates for July

St. Paul Farmer's Market

Our Farmer's Markets bridge the gap between local growers and the neighboring communities by providing access to healthy foods, and helping to sustain the lifestyle of small, independent farmers, local food makers, and their families.

The St. Paul Farmer's Market (SPFM) allows only fresh, locally grown produce to be sold, directly from the grower to the consumer, making it unique among many farmers' markets. The baked

goods, artisan foods, confections and other products offered are produced locally as well.

The Saint Paul Farmer's Market is an extremely popular attraction in downtown Saint Paul. Free street parking (on Sundays only) as well as paid parking locations are available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

The Saint Paul Farmers' Market is located at 290 5th Street East in downtown Saint Paul.

The SPFM will run every Saturday and Sunday in July. **Saturday** hours are from **7 a.m. to 1 p.m.** and **Sunday** hours are from **8 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

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Monthly circulation: 7,000; also available online at daytons-bluffdistrictforum.org. This publication of Hopewell Communications, Inc., a nonprofit organization, is intended to provide a forum for the ideas and opinions of its readers and to be an instrument for developing community awareness and pride. Signed articles do not necessarily represent the views of the *Forum*. Material from this paper may be republished if it is attributed to the *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* and to the author, if any. Articles and letters to the editor are welcome and may be emailed to daytons-bluffdistrictforum@gmail.com, or mailed to the address above. The *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* is delivered to every home and business in the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood when the budget permits. We are currently online only. Outside this area, subscriptions cost \$15 per year and may be arranged by calling 651-776-0550.

Board of Directors: Greg Cosimini, Karin DuPaul, Jennifer Gascoigne, Sage Holben, Steve Trimble

Editor/layout: Allison Lund-Zalewski; Editorial Associate: Mark Gallagher

Staff: Mandy Okonek, Clara Martin, Clare Howard

Next issue: August 2021. **Deadline for material: July 10, 2021.**

Book Review

Daughters of the Lake

by Wendy Webb

Allison Lund-Zalewski

This is one of Wendy Webb's newest novels. I have to say I was a bit disappointed overall in the outcome of the story. Like I've said in my other reviews of her books, they are a bit slow to begin with, but she ends up throwing in twists that make the entire book worth reading. While she does exactly this in *Daughters of the Lake*, I found myself waiting for it to happen sooner than it did.

Generally, she knows how to make a reader's heart race with the spooky ghost stories she writes. This one fell short. I found myself figuring out the plot faster than normal, too. While that part wasn't too subtle to begin with in the book, it was just a let down to kind of know that I got it right. In *The Vanishing*, she had my jaw dropping with the plot twist, *Daughters of the Lake*, not so much.

One thing I did like in this book, though, was that there were great characters and the development of the characters that we don't see in some of her books. However, I found myself thinking — did she waste too much time on the development of characters when the ghosts and suspense needed that focus more? I also like the fact that the chapters alternated from present day to the early 1900s. It makes it a fast read.

There was one particular part in the

book that was flat out unnecessary to the plot. I just wonder why she decided to keep it in the book. So I won't reveal anything crucial, she basically dedicated one chapter for a major part in the book and just like that, it was over with and the problem the characters faced was fixed in a matter of one chapter. Again, so I am not spoiling anything: readers will understand that this part also doesn't make any sense.

The book is about Kate who finds herself in the middle of a messy divorce and goes to Wharton to escape her husband while the divorce is being processed. She and her dad find a body of a woman washed onto the shore. Somehow Kate feels as though she knows this woman. They also find a major clue hidden with the woman. Kate finds herself invested in this mystery and helps the local police detective find more clues.

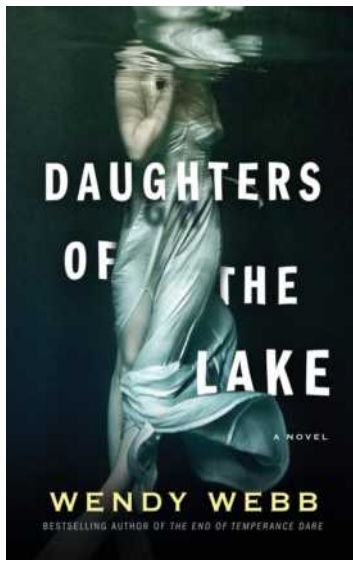
Webb ties in her supernatural writing by giving Kate the powers to dream the past. Could Kate be dreaming about

this woman who's washed up? Will she find out what happened to this woman and how she died?

Although, so far, this is not one of the most exciting books Webb has written, it is worth the read. If you decide to read several of her books, you'll really notice how much her writing style has changed and how much it's progressed since her earlier books. If not for the story, read the book because she's a great writer. So far, the books I've read

of Webb's all take place in Minnesota, so that's fun to read and relate to, as well.

If you'd like to write a book review about Minnesota-based stories or authors, send it to daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com.



Letter to the Editor

As an elected Saint Paul School Board member and a parent of four (St. Paul Public School) SPPS students, I want to start by acknowledging the enormous amount of work that our students, parents, and families put forth on the home front to support our distance learning model virtually with teachers, staff, and administration leaders throughout SPPS. We asked our students, parents, and families to rearrange their work schedule and to re-prioritize health above all else. Thank you. Your work will not be lost on me as we move out of the COVID-19 pandemic.

If I could sum up the last school year in one word, then it would be "revealing". The lessons I've learned from COVID-19 are emphasizing a flexible learning model, mastering protocols to mitigate the spread of disease, and having pa-

tience to allow reliable data to drive decision-making.

In retrospect, COVID-19 only revealed systemic inequities existing in SPPS for decades such as language barriers for English as a second language learners, lack of a reciprocal communication system to report on progress of learning models between student, parent, family, teacher, and administrative leaders, along with predictable student outcomes based on race.

Going into the fall, I intend to learn from COVID-19 and focus on identifying actionable data to drive decision-making. I want to promote a more effective and rapid reciprocal communication system. I want to promote learning programs and curriculum such as language immersion and ethnic studies that can be found in our students' home and school life. I want to listen to and learn from families, students, and educators from throughout the city. You are welcome to write to me at jim.vue@spps.org.

-Jim Vue

Interested in Working with Animals?

Animal Humane Society

Did you know there are more than 100 different jobs at Animal Humane Society? It's true! There are so many different ways you can get involved with animals.

Register for this new program and learn about some of the jobs you know, and some you will be surprised by.

You'll see the inner-workings of Animal Humane Society, hear from guest

speakers, assist in our Vet Center, and more. Plus, we will have games, crafts, and hanging out with animals.

These sessions are for seventh to tenth graders. The session size holds six participants and costs \$75.

Sessions are one week, meeting **Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 9 a.m. to noon.**

Sessions run from **July 13-15, July 20-22, July 27-29, August 3-5, August 10-12, or August 17-19**

Participants will meet at AHS Vet Center, 1159 University Ave W, St Paul.

Go to animalhumanesociety.com/brainregistration.com/ to register.

Summer Events at East Immanuel Church

East Side Immanuel Church

Thursday Hot dog Outreach — July through August: Every Thursday from **5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.** Hungry? Grab a hot dog, chips, and drink and gather together with East Immanuel and the community. There will be bubbles for kids! Volunteers will be available for prayer needs and questions about God.

FCA Pursue Sports Camp — July 13, 14, and 15: Join our friends from Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) for three days of fun activities and learning about Jesus. This camp is for children in first through fourth grades. The camp runs from **5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.**

Rocky Railway VBA — August 3, 4, and 5: Hop on the Rocky Railway as we see how Jesus' power pulls us through. Each day at Rocky Railway Vacation Bible Adventure, kids track through field-tested rotations that reinforce relevant Bible points and immerse kids in new adventures. This camp is for children four years old through fifth grade. The camp will run from **5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.**

All events listed above are free for the public and children. To register your child for these camps or if you'd like to volunteer, go to eastimmanuel.org.



Steve Trimble

A large crowd came to honor the memory of a Dayton's Bluff former resident for his leadership of the disabled community on June 13, 2021 for Rick Cardenas Day in Ramsey County.



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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:

daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com

Opinions expressed in contributed articles may not represent the views of the *Forum*.

Deadline for the August issue of the *Forum* is July 10, 2021.

Heavy Metal Heat Wave

Mandy Okonek

There is no song about the day heavy metal music died in Saint Paul. Perhaps, some creative with an acoustic guitar should get on that.

Before live music was pandemic-paused, in 2014 the heavy metal mecca, located at 4th and Sibley, known as Station 4, The Lab, and most fondly, Ryan's, closed its doors for good and soon a For Sale sign appeared.

For a fan of loud, fast amplified music, ripping guitars, and the roaring thump of a double bass pedal, Saint Paul's appeal faded into obscurity.

However, on the first Thursday of June, in the burning hellfire of an unusually warm late spring, the gods of metal erupted from the scorching heat in the middle of the earth and gave their blessing to a small bar on Payne Ave., and heavy metal bands literally appeared in their parking lot.

I followed the smell of sweat, leather jackets, and perhaps a bit of fresh baked

blueberry muffins to local Payne Ave. record spot, Caydence, who I was sure had some skin in this heavy metal parking lot of my dreams. I was directed across the street to 883 Payne Ave., The Northstar Bar and Grill, where on the first Thursday of every month now through September they host live, loud, heavy metal bands and vendors catering to those of us who get geared up at the sight of motorcycles, vans, and amps so loud they vibrate your soul.

The rad folks at Caydence Records, will be there slinging records and I hear you can score a beer for under five bucks. On **July 1, August 5, and September 2** Northstar Bar will host Heavy Thursdays, complete with choppers, vans, music, and vendors.

To get your live music fix in the interim, Caydence Records has local musicians playing outdoors on their sidewalk patio, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday afternoons; and they make an amazing iced coffee.

For more information about NorthStar Bar please follow them on their social media page, [facebook.com/nsbarandgrill](https://www.facebook.com/nsbarandgrill). To keep tabs on all the cool events and art happening at Caydence Records, they are always updating their social media channel, with worthy reasons to leave the house, [facebook.com/caydencemn](https://www.facebook.com/caydencemn).



Mandy Okonek

The Northstar Bar and Grill is pictured above, where every month through September they host live, loud heavy metal bands and vendors.



July Events Happening in Ramsey County

July 1, 8, 11 a.m.-noon. Right Track Plus Employer Information Session: Employers: Make a difference in your community with Right Track Plus by providing new opportunities, fostering diverse talent and supporting young people.

July 5, 1-2 p.m.: Virtual Career Club — Career Direction: Career Direction: assessments and job searching tips.

July 7, 11, 1:30-5:30 p.m.: COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic: Ramsey County Public Health offers free COVID-19 vaccination clinics for all eligible individuals. This clinic is for the second dose for Pfizer.

July 10, noon-3 p.m.: COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic: Ramsey County Public Health offers free COVID-19 vaccination clinics for all eligible individuals. Pfizer, age 12 and up — first or second dose OR Moderna — second dose only

July 10, noon-3 p.m.: COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic: Ramsey County Public Health offers free COVID-19 vaccination clinics for all eligible individuals. Pfizer, age 12 and up — first or second dose OR Moderna — second dose only

July 10, 11 a.m.- 1 p.m.: Boating with Rice Creek Boat Club: Join the Rice Creek Boat Club at this free event to demo recreation and racing kayaks, stand-up paddleboards, canoes, and surf skis.

July 12, 1-2 p.m.: Virtual Job Club — Resumes & Interviews: Create a resume that gets you the interview.

July 13, 27, 6:30-8 p.m.: Archery in the Park: Try your hand at the exciting and challenging sport of archery through this free event at Keller Regional Park.

July 16, 23, 30, 6:30-7:30 p.m.: Let's Go Fishing!: Join us for free fishing opportunities for youth ages 15 and under. Participants will learn basic fishing techniques and skills.

July 19, 1-2 p.m.: Virtual Job Club — Networking: Networking for the Reluctant.

July 26, 1-2:30 p.m.: Virtual Job Club — Interviewing: Interviewing Success plus open forum.

For more information about these events, go to [ramseycounty.us/calendar](https://www.ramseycounty.us/calendar).



Jennifer Gascoigne

Thousands of cars from 1964 and older overtook the fairgrounds for the 47th Annual Back to the Fifties Weekend. Car enthusiasts were especially revved up for this year's show after the COVID-19 pandemic canceled the 2020 show.

@Dayton's Bluff District Forum

Recipe Kreplach

Sage Holben

Ingredients:

Pastry:

- 2 C. flour
- 2 eggs
- 1 T. cold water
- ½ tsp. salt

Filling:

Mix together:

- ½ lb ground beef (*use ground beef with highest percentage of fat; this gives the best flavor. Ask the butcher if not in display*)
- ½ C. onion, finely chopped
- salt and pepper to taste
- pinch of garlic powder

Directions:

Pastry:

With fork, lightly beat eggs, mix into flour and salt; gradually add water. Dough will be sticky, but do not over-flour or overwork. Form dough into ball, place on floured board and knead until smooth and elastic. Cover dough with bowl and allow to rest about one-half hour while mixing filling (below).

Then roll dough thin and cut into one- or two-inch square. Depending on size of square, place a teaspoon or tablespoon of uncooked filling in middle of square. Fold square to form a triangle, very lightly moistening edges of dough and pressing to seal. Cook in boiling salted water or in soup broth for about 20 minutes (dumplings will pop to surface) until the noodle pastry is thoroughly cooked.

*NOTE: * I often freeze dumplings by removing cooked kreplach and draining them. I place them individually on a plate or tin, freeze, and then bag/package for longer freezer storage. Heat and serve in shallow bowl of beef or chicken broth.*

Here's the backstory of Kreplach in my life:

I grew up outside of Chicago. My mother was a terrific cook and baker, working in restaurants and area supper clubs. Some of her best — our family favorite dishes, though, came from her life in Negaunee, Michigan (aka Upper Peninsula, the UP). Her family of Roberts and Pelto, were mostly miners of Finnish, Scottish, French and English background. Negaunee, specifically, with its mining, brought together many ethnicities...and great foods which became common to our childhoods, among them: kreplach (Jewish), pasties (Welsh), cudhigi (Italian), and Swedish meatballs. Thankfully, she never forced lutefisk or her beloved blood sausage on us!

The pastry, from Wales (the miners' historic lunch favorite), was always one of our most favorite foods. As a kid in Bloomingdale, Illinois, when my mother made pasties late at night, a hot, wrapped one, emitting its enticing aromas from my 6th grade school desk, would likely be stolen

If you'd like to submit your favorite recipe, please send it to: daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com.



Gendy Yarusso's Story

Steve Trimble

Here is another of Gareth Hiebert's columns that was contained in his book *Oliver's Towns* that remembers one of the East Side historians. The column, written in March 1980, was headed "Remembering Gentile." All of Hiebert's writing will be in quotations. It was long, so I edited it down.

"The last time I was with Gentile Yarusso, we were having lunch in Geno's Payne Avenue Italian restaurant and he was talking about his favorite subject — the Italian neighborhood along 'the Avenue' in days past. He... spun out his feelings and vivid vignettes of almost years along that stretch of Payne from Minnehaha and Hamm's... to East Seventh Street with tiny streets fingering like arms in both directions...

This was Gentile (they always called him Gendy) Yarusso's Payne Avenue and he wrote about it with a facile pen and mind, filling files full of tales of the first generation immigrant families... he wrote about the little things of life in that time—always so big in memories."

Some of the reminiscences were about smell. Gendy said, "I come in here to Genos...and sniff the spicy aromas and I go back to the old Italian grocery stores around Payne and Bradley. One could inhale those stores. The rich, garlicky and pungent odors of pickle brine and cheese, olives and fish overflowing through open windows and store entrances."

This was written by Hiebert soon after Gentile's funeral at the old St. Ambrose Church on lower Payne near Collins Street.

"I met Gentile in 1946 when I was writ-

ing about the city's ethnic communities. Everyone referred me to Gendy because even then he was the historian, the oracle of 'the Avenue' — working in the Hamm's bottling department by day and studying and writing at night. He finally got his high school diploma, a feat which earned the respect of his teachers."

Hiebert includes a section about the fact that during the Prohibition era that most of the Italian families made their own wine. The mothers often lit a candle and led a prayer that the wine would be good. The fathers were the ones to tap the first barrel to taste it after rolling it around in his mouth, swallowing, and gave his opinion.

Gentile loved music, especially opera. His uncle Fred was an accomplished musician. "Uncle Frank decided one summer to write and produce an opera on Payne Avenue called the *Life of St. Anthony*... dedicated to the patron Saint of the Italians. More than 2,500 people turned out as the curtain went up on a stage of old railroad ties and scrap... opera lovers from all over came, including the governor and mayor."

Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could somehow find the score of the opera and produce it in the neighborhood again? Maybe not on a stage made of old railroad ties and scrap wood, though. Shall we do some research?

Hiebert ends his column by offering Gendy's own words: "People ask me many times why I write about the past. Perhaps it is a compulsion that makes me feel like I'm home again. When I walk down the old familiar streets, I begin to call out names of families who once lived in the old familiar places. But I would not want to come back and live there again. Memory is what enables man to survive and to progress. We don't like to see people we love taken away. For when they go, they take part of you with them."



Minnesota Historical Society

Seven young men of Italian descent posed by fence on St. Paul's East Side near the corner of Hopkins and Bradley. Front row, left to right: Perry Yarusso, Albert Copacasa, Dominick Controneo. Back row, left to right: John Policano, Frank Ricci, Floyd Olanis, Gentile R. Yarusso.



501 Payne Ave, St Paul, MN 55130

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Greg Cosimini

Steve Trimble's Oliver East Side column in the June *Forum* was about the Burlington Hotel which was located below Indian Mounds Park near Warner Road. This photo shows the path that at one time led from the park to the hotel. It was taken in the 1940s and pictures sisters Fannie and Elsie Sorini on the path. Elsie Sorini eventually became my mother. This is a family photo, most likely taken by my father, Joe Cosimini. Remnants of the path still exist in the park although it hasn't been maintained for a very long time and is in extremely poor condition.

View From My Porch

A Precious Moment

Sage Holben

"Why would you do that?"

I judged the girl to be about 14 years old and she knew what I meant, as she waved her arm in front of her body and kept walking toward me. A few minutes earlier, I had seen from my window that she had pushed over the mannequin legs on the traffic art installation my neighbors had helped position in our intersection days before. I went out and scooped up the goopy asphalt that had anchored the legs. Now I stood in the street, asphalt bag in my hand, wondering if the approaching girl viewed my bag as a weapon, and me wondering if I would use it as such if needed. But her body language erased any sense of emanating antagonism.

As she came closer, the girl answered: "I was bored."

"Do you want to talk about it? We could sit on my porch or sit here, on the curb. But I'll need help getting up if we sit here."

She said something about age and we both laughed. I had never seen this youth before and, as we sat side by side, asked her what was going on. After a bit of silence, she replied, "family issues." She wasn't the oldest child in the family, not quite the youngest. I told her I had been the second oldest of five, with lots of family problems, from alcoholism, drugs,

abuse, violence, moving.... So, there wasn't too much new to me.

She turned her head to face me, tears in her eyes, asking, "How do you know when someone really likes you? I don't fit in. I'm not like others."

"You're beautifully unique as you are. You don't have to change, just be yourself." I sounded like Mr. Rogers, and my words sounded too pat to me. We sat in silence before she turned to me and said, "You're a good listener."

A few more moments of quiet, and my new acquaintance said she had to go now. She stood and said, "Let me help you up." I extended my hands, palms up,



saying they are too filthy, greasy with tar, to let her get her hands dirty. "That's ok," and she took my hand. After two tries and laughter, I told her I would just have to push myself up with my hands and stick my butt into the air since my knees wouldn't help push. We laughed again, me with my face dripping with

sweat on this humid, hot day, and she with tears, but now with a smile.

In the meantime, a neighbor came walking toward us from behind, thinking I may have fallen, and a driver stopped her car and asked if we were ok, had I fallen.

The young girl and I shared a hug, and we were off, with reassurance to the others. It was a beautiful day in our neighborhood.

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 60 may now be found online at daytonsbluffdistrictforum.org: click on "East Side Eating" at the top of the home page. Steve Trimble can be reached at daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com.

Taqueria El Buen Gusto

821 Maryland Ave. East
St. Paul 55106

Phone: 651-756-7288

Hours: 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m., open until 9:00 p.m. on Wednesdays

Facebook: @taqueriaelbuengusto

I had planned to go to this restaurant when the COVID shut down arrived, and I had to wait until recently. So now I can venture out and go inside to add to articles on a Taste Trek. I jumped into my car and headed to the northeast corner of Arcade and Maryland. I pulled up behind the restaurant around 6:30 p.m. and was able to find some parking spots behind it. I walked around to the front entrance. Later I found that it would have been easier going through a back entrance.

You may remember that the earlier restaurant in the building was Mr. Pete's, a Chicago burgers and hot dogs restaurant. The interior space was about the same size, but it was transformed with a new style with red and orange walls that were decorated with a large Mexican flag, Mexican blankets, and many photos of artwork. Colorful *banditos*, traditional paper decorations, were strung along the ceilings. There were six tables that seated four people and one bigger one for larger groups. Soft Latin music was playing, and one sign said masks were required but most people weren't wearing them.

People order at a counter with an illuminated menu that is on the wall above. Some of them are in smallish lettering and may be hard for some people to easi-

ly read. They said the food would be brought to your table. There was a line at the counter and most folks were taking their choices home. But the tables showed that this was a family friendly place with lots of kids when I was there.

So here are some of the offerings from the menu. Not everything, but some samples from all the categories: They are open in the morning, so they serve breakfast items. They include breakfast burritos, *Huevos* (eggs) *Rancheros*. Here are some sides: chips and guac, *arroz* (rice), French fries, grilled jalapenos, *nopales* (cactus pads), pork or chicken tamales.

Sopas (soups) served are *menudo*, beef tripe, *caldo de camaron* (shrimp soup), *pozole* hominy corn soup. A few of the many Sides: grilled jalapenos, *arroz* (rice), French fries, *nopales*, *tamales*, *esquites* (corn), chips and guac and *frijoles* (beans). The selection of drinks features pop, fountain drinks, Jarritos, horchata, but no beer wine or liquor.

Another category of *Platos* or Plates. Like a burrito bowl, *torta gordita*, a Mexican flatbread of cornmeal, *hurache*, *chimichanga*, *enchiladas*, meat nachos, and *pupusas* which are traditional Salvadorian food.

A number of tacos are available with beef, pork, chicken, veggie, *pocitan* (beef), steak taco, *Americano* flour tortilla, and some more interesting with tacos with *tripa* (stomach) *Cabeza* (head) *lengua* (tongue) for meat.

If you have a large family or having a party, you might want to order a The House Specialty. *Churrasco* with choice of beef, shrimp chorizo with rice, beans, avocado, six nachos, plantain, and avocado. The family combos contain 22 *rosca de tacos* and *dorados*, crispy tacos.

Desserts: *Tres Leches*—a cake made with three kinds of milk, *churros*, a type of fried dough found in the cuisine of the Phillipines, and fried *platano*. Bring your children who can choose from a *niños* (kids) meals—burritos, tacos, quesadilla, and four *alitas* (wings).

I ordered a *chimichanga* and drink called *Mundet* from a stand-up cooler that was an apple cider-based item. I had a long wait because it was busy and there was some confusion.

Just a fun fact—*Taqueria* is a title for a Mexican restaurant specializing in tacos. The following "*el buen gusto*" translates in English is "good taste." It's up to you to decide if it lives up to its name when you visit there.



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Many thanks to our Friends of the Forum 2021 donors:

Maureen Anderson
Anonymous Donor
Carol Carey
Greg Cosimini
Carol Carey



Steve Trimble

Pictured above is the Taqueria El Buen Gusto restaurant that serves all kinds of authentic Hispanic dishes. The restaurant is located at 821 Maryland Ave. East.

New Charter School Opening on the East Side Fall 2021

Enspire Academy

Enspire Academy is a free public charter school beginning with grades kindergarten to second. It will open in the fall of 2021.

This school will eventually grow into a pre-K to fifth grade learning community with each new school year.

Enspire Academy will be a values-based school with a focus on literacy and designed to specifically overcome learning loss.

The school offers tutoring, small group instruction, personalized learning, and a rigorous child-centered curriculum. Enspire Academy was founded in 2018 to celebrate and serve the rich, cultural and ethnic diversity of St. Paul's East Side, which is represented in its communities, families, and most of all, in its children. To ensure that all children have unlimited opportunities to discover and attain their fullest potential in the early years of their educational journey is our fundamental commitment.

For more questions, call 651-401-6183 or visit enspireacademycharter.com/.

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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 from 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 2021. **Our goal for 2021 is \$18,000; thanks to readers like you, we've raised \$1,815 to date – will you help us reach our goal in 2021?**

Sincerely,

The Dayton's Bluff District Forum

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