

Remembering Roy Voss

1936-2021

Steve Trimble

Forum Staff

Roy Voss recently passed away at the age of 85 years old. He was somewhat a local legend, at least for those with cars. Or kids who always claimed, "There's no one who can fill a bike tire better than Roy." He did it free of charge.

He was born in Lyon County in rural Minnesota and came to St. Paul in 1953 looking for job opportunities. He started working at the service station on Third and Maria. In 1956 he bought it from its owners, and it became Roy's 66, the way it still lists in the phone book and on-line. There was gas to sell but Roy said in an article I wrote for *The Forum* in June 1991, doing repair was an important part of the income. Roy also said that at the time it was hard for smaller businesses because the newer high-tech manufacturing makes it hard to work on because the cars' new tools and equipment were expensive.

Over the years, many members of the Voss family worked there and once they grew up, they could take over. Mike, Roy's son and today's owner, bought the establishment. In 1996 Roy decided to retire to what had been his Aitkin County vacation home. He would come back to St. Paul from time to time to see family and old friends. He will be missed and remembered.



Steve Trimble

In the photo is Mike Voss, left, and Roy. On this day in 1991, Mike took over Roy's 66 from his father.



Dayton's Bluff District Forum Hiring

Forum Staff

The *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* is Now Hiring! We are looking to add an integral member to our team as we expand and grow our community news source through advertising sales.

Hours are flexible and training will be provided. Compensation is a generous 25% commission per ad.

If you are looking for gaining experience in advertising or community engagement please send a short email with your qualifications to daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com, for consideration in this exciting opportunity.

Young Artists Initiative presents "2021: A Virtual Performance"

Mandy Okonek

Forum Staff

Chances are if you've put a flyer on my doorknob, I've read it. Grass roots marketing is a practice I firmly believe in. The flyer-promoting community theater made it to my "think about later pile". When I asked my daughter if she was interested in participating, I received a very excited, "Yes"!

Youth Artist Initiative (YAI) is a non-profit theater company located on the East Side of Saint Paul with a mission to facilitate a "creative and engaged community where young people flourish – on and off the stage".

The 2021 Virtual Performance I've been listening to unfold as I quietly cook dinner in my kitchen features Saint Paul youth performing solo creative pieces, like monologues, comedy acts, or spoken word poetry while working on several group songs. YAI's group of artistic and musical directors work with kids ranging in age from eight to 18 via weekly Zoom meetings – both in a large group and one-on-one in small break out rooms. The director's core values of respect, fostering community, and cultivating a safe inclusive environment oozes positivity where children can be creative and learn to perform and interact. This is something any parent can support. My shy minion has mustered up the courage to sing to her bear, Flower, first and is now comfortable singing both with me and her group on Zoom. Listening to my daughter find her voice was an experience that I didn't know I needed.

I met with YAI director Matthew and his wife Robin to chat about the joys and challenges of continuing to build their village of creative youth during a global pandemic. While in-person workshops and practices are not an option right now, like many other live performing groups, YAI has pivoted to video chats to continue their mission of providing top-notch programming to engage Saint Paul's often underserved youth in need of positive creative outlets where they can shine.

Matthew's most cherished moments are seeing children develop the confidence, not only for performing but perusing their dreams outside of theater. For youngsters new to performing like my daughter, YAI creates and facilitates a safe, inclusive environment where kids can freely move out of their comfort zones as they try out new skills and implement them in performance. Before we know it, Saint Paul's youth will be running the show, and it's important as stewards of our community to give kids the empowerment, confidence, and empathy necessary to guide our diverse neighborhood in exciting new directions. For any parent interested in YAI, Matthew encourages you to reach out to him directly at, matthew@youngartistsmn.org. To purchase tickets for the upcoming performance which will be broadcast on YouTube **March 4 through 7**, visit youngartistsmn.org/virtual2021/.

Minnesota to Begin Offering COVID Vaccines to Those Over Age of 65

Minnesota Community Care

Minnesota Community Care, the state's largest federally qualified health center, has been given the go ahead to begin offering COVID vaccines to Minnesotans over the age of 65, whether or not they are current patients.

Appointments are necessary. Call 651-602-7500 to make your appointment. Walk-ins are not accepted at this time. Vaccinations will be given **Mondays through Fridays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Vaccinations are free for all.**

Getting community-based health clinics (CHCs) involved in the vaccine rollout is essential for ensuring the vaccine goes to the populations most impacted by COVID. Throughout the crisis, communities of color consistently experienced higher positivity rates than their counterparts. For example, of all the Latino patients tested at Minnesota Community Care's testing sites between March and July 2020, 54% were positive, almost eight times greater than the 7% of white patients that were tested.

In addition, Minnesota Community Care is also able to help vaccinate a largely transient population that generally does not have access to stable housing, much less the computers necessary to schedule appointments at many other sites.

CHCs can also address the vaccine hesitancy that is more common among populations of color. Allowing a patient to receive the vaccine from a provider they trust is critical for getting buy-in.



Roxanne Sanchez

Community member, Roxanne Sanchez, had a Mardi Gras house float on February 16. She held a fundraiser, as well as passed out beads safely to passersby. Stay tuned for a full story in our April edition.

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, March 4, at 11:00 a.m.** If you'd like to attend, call 651-776-0550 or email daytons-bluffdistrictforum@gmail.com for more information. We are currently meeting virtually via Google Meet. You will need the link if you'd like to attend.

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. or 6:30 p.m.** on the third Tuesday of each month. Bring your neighbors!

Call Robyn at 651-266-5580 to ensure April's meetings have not been canceled.

Email: robyn.brewin@ci.stpaul.mn.us for more information.

We will be adhering to Gov. Walz's order to wear a face covering and limit participation to 50% capacity (roughly 25 people).

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.**



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, MN 55106; 651-772-2253; historic-moundstheatre@gmail.com

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/3KK0O1OGFO5NJ to have these much-needed items sent right to their office. From there, a team of volunteers will distribute them to seniors in need.

With the help of supporters like you, East Side Elders is 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 East Side Elders, 463 Maria Avenue Suite 201, St. Paul, MN 55106.

Landmark Center Open

Landmark Center is pleased to welcome visitors back to its works of art, inviting people to browse exhibits, and peruse its history. Guests can book advance appointments to visit the building by reserving tickets online

Appointments allow visitors to safely browse Landmark Center for one and a half hours. In addition to regular build-

ing exhibits, the American Association of Woodturners Gallery of Wood Art will be open during Landmark Center's visitor hours, and the Schubert Club Museum is scheduled to reopen this fall.

Entry times are **Wednesday through Friday, 11 a.m., 1 and 3 p.m.**; and **Sunday, 12 and 2 p.m.** (Sunday reservations close at 12 p.m. on Fridays).

Free Masks Available

Ramsey County launched a new initiative – A Mask for Everyone – to ensure that individuals and families have access to cloth face masks to help slow the spread of COVID-19.

Led by the county's COVID-19 Racial Equity and Community Engagement Response Team (RECERT), the program will prioritize distributing homemade cloth masks to racially, ethnically, and culturally diverse communities. Individuals and families in Ramsey County who are in need of masks can visit ramseycounty.us/AMaskforEveryone to request a mask. Each recipient will be provided with a homemade cloth mask to help slow the spread of COVID-19, accurate and up-to-date information about the importance of wearing a mask, and instructions on proper use and care of homemade masks.

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.

COVID Saliva Tests Available

Minnesota is proud to offer at-home COVID-19 saliva testing for any person who wants to be tested, with or without symptoms, at no cost.

When you take the test, you will log in to access the the Vault virtual waiting room and do a video visit with a Vault test supervisor. They can give you instructions. You will then send the test to the lab in Oakdale, MN, using the pre-paid package. Once it arrives at the lab, you will get your results by email in 24 to 48 hours.

This saliva test is available at no cost for every Minnesotan.

Go to learn.vaulthealth.com/state-of-minnesota/ or health.state.mn.us/diseases/coronavirus/testsites/athome.html to learn more

Learn About Medicare and Help Others

Help the Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging provide one-on-one counseling to Medicare beneficiaries at community partner sites.

Make a difference in your community by becoming a State Health Insurance Assistance Program certified Medicare Counselor. Help people understand their Medicare options. Visit Metroaging.org/volunteer to learn more.

Need Groceries?

If you are 60 or older, you may be eligible to receive a box of nutritious food every month from Second Harvest.

This box is part of a program called NAPS, and we can help you apply!

Give us a call at 651-683-2326 and someone will assist you with your application.

Some examples of what might be included in a NAPS box are: milk, meat, canned goods, peanut butter, grains, and produce.

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 for the season. (Grants are available.) For more information or to request an application, email Steve Lee at Steve12743@yahoo.com. The application period for new gardeners begins April 1.

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 for 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.

East 6th Street Test Envisioning a safer, calmer, and better neighborhood

*Matej Mazanec and Jane Prince
Special to the Forum*

Many Dayton's Bluff neighbors probably remember the test closure of East 6th Street that occurred in the summer of 2018. The test was conducted by Public Works at the request of neighbors, whose street begins at the end of a freeway off ramp. The test was informed by decades' worth of data, complaints, and concerns about the reckless and dangerous driving pouring into the East Side from Interstate 94.

The study examined what would happen if East 6th Street were closed between Maria and Mounds Boulevard; it looked at where the traffic went and what street benefited from reduced traffic. Upon conclusion of the study, the data showed that two-thirds of the displaced traffic went to East 7th Street, our area's major commercial corridor and one-third went to East 3rd Street. *The test also showed that the average traffic volume on several adjacent neighborhood streets was lowered by triple digits of cars per day.*

In terms of data, the study showed that the closure was successful in moving a large amount of cut-through traffic onto East 7th Street, increasing visibility for businesses, while minimizing the traffic on neighboring residential streets.

From public meetings and a review of survey results, resident reactions were mixed. Because the test lasted only two or three weeks, many neighbors never got used to rerouting their commute, taking them extra time to get where they were going. And from those reactions, including those that were favorable, came ideas that would have less impact on Metro State University and businesses at East 6th and Maria Streets.

Once the City of St Paul adopted new criteria for

street investments in 2019, neighbors reopened the discussion with Jane's office. Under that new standard, city streets are to be designed to serve *pedestrians first*, bicycles second, public transportation third, and cars traffic last. Ushering in that change is new Public Works Director Sean Kershaw, who though not a traffic engineer, has accepted the role of lead problem-solver between Saint Paul residents and his team of dedicated public works professionals.

After a walking tour with neighbors, Sean went back to consult with his team. Before year's end, he and his team proposed a new test that more carefully targets traffic calming to residential streets and all but eliminates impacts on Metro State, Yoerg Brewing Company, and Deitz-Kane Insurance Agency.

The 60-day test that is currently proposed to begin this April, will place a temporary diagonal traffic diverter in the intersection of East 6th Street and Bates Ave. That diverter will run from corner to corner, directing eastbound vehicles from East 6th to the East 7th commercial corridor. Conversely, westbound traffic on East 6th Street will be directed south on Bates to East 3rd Street.

The test will additionally focus attention on the problematic four-way stop at Bates and East 4th, where neighbors have worked diligently for a decade to make their neighborhood safer for all the children who live there. Various engineering devices are under consideration and will be installed simultaneously with the diverter on East Sixth.

This time around, the test will also work to reduce driver confusion by including signage directing westbound vehicles to East 7th to access Mounds Blvd and the Interstate.

We will have several methods during and after the test to gauge public reaction to the test, to see how this new test is working for you. Meanwhile, if you have questions, you can reach out to Jane's Ward 7 office at ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us. Lots more information will be available in the coming weeks, to help you prepare for this exciting traffic calming experiment.

Our goal for this community — like yours probably is for your neighborhood — is to make Dayton's Bluff safer, calmer, and more livable for all our residents, businesses, and visitors.

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 April issue of the *Forum* is March 10, 2021.

Grab Your Camera and Head to Swede Hollow

Friends of Swede Hollow

The Friends of Swede Hollow is hosting their 2021 Winter Photo Contest. It began on January 17 and entries should be received by email by **March 19**. Photos must be taken in Swede Hollow Park.

Swede Hollow is such a beautiful place right here in Dayton's Bluff that winter is a great time to visit it. The first place prize is \$75, second place is \$50, and third place is \$25. All submitted photos will be judged by the East Side Arts Council.

We ask that contest participants allow their photographs to be printed and sold as a fundraiser for the Friends of Swede Hollow. All Swede Hollow photo entries are welcome. Submit your Swede Hollow Park photo to bradgriffith@me.com. If you need more information call Brad at 651-263-2830 or Karin at 651-776-0550.

Stay tuned for details on the Friends of Swede Hollow Spring 2021 Spring Photo Contes

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Animal Humane Society connects pet owners with the resources they need to keep their pets happy and healthy.

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- Behavior and training
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Connect with an AHS Community Organizer today:
651-788-4685 | outreachinfo@animalhumanesociety.org

Vaccine clinics

Animal Humane Society hosts vaccine clinics on the third Saturday of every month, from 9 AM – 4 PM at our St. Paul Veterinary Center (1159 University Ave).

A minimum fee of \$10 per animal is required for individuals who qualify based on yearly income. If you do not qualify for the minimum fee, the cost is \$26 per animal.

Registration is required to attend a vaccine clinic. To register visit animalhumanesociety.org/clinics or call 651-788-4685.

Clinic fee	\$26	\$10
Household size	Income limit	Income limit
1 person	\$51,040	\$12,760
2 people	\$68,960	\$17,240
3 people	\$86,880	\$21,720
4 people	\$104,800	\$26,200
5 people	\$122,720	\$30,680
6 people	\$140,640	\$35,160
7 people	\$158,560	\$39,640
8 people	\$176,480	\$44,120
Additional	\$17,920	\$4,480



Building Back Better

Clara Martin
Forum Staff

The Dayton Bluff community, along with other communities in a wintry wonderland, looks forward to the beginning of spring. This edition of the *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* is another reminder of our changing seasons: The end of tax season, folks out and about looking at homes for sale, hopefulness about kicking the virus to the curb, celebrations of special anniversaries, restaurants and bars opening, and the promise of more to come about yard work and gardening.

This change in seasons begs the question: "What can I change and what can I do better"? Homeowners might ask how they can beautify their landscaping, improve their home efficiency, or simply improve their home's curb appeal. Then there are the personal questions about pumping up exercise routines, taking in more natural vitamin D, going on day trips or any road trip to enjoy our state or our country: Something we've missed with all this isolation and quarantining. Change is clearly on our minds, especially here in Minnesota when seasons are an easily recognizable transition.

Whether making changes to ourselves and our personal lives; making our living situation different and/or better; building a life after loss; recreating yourself after a career change; or physically rehabilitating after a health crisis, the goal is to build on what you had or have been given, but make it better than before. Necessity for changes may be evident to us, but sometimes we don't know where to begin. At times, the road to our goals feels like a slog and the temptation may be to give up, give in, set it aside for another time, or simply quit. That is definitely a choice, but there may be better options.

The key to building back and building back better is to surround yourself with people who can lend support in your effort. Getting outside more often might be easier if you ask someone to join in. A house repair might seem less daunting if you engage an expert or handy person in advice. Rehab due to a physical ailment oftentimes requires therapists to set you in the direction of healing; loss of a partner due to death or divorce often requires a mental health expert, a clergy person, friends and family; while a career change might be bolstered by any number of experts in your field of choice. Life teaches us that we don't have to go it alone in order to reach our goals.

Building back better, as a goal, means we want to be stronger than we were. We want to be better than we were. We want to dig deep inside ourselves and find the strength to make a better life so we can look back when we're older and know we did the best we could, with a whole lot of help. Maybe we made a better life for ourselves, but maybe we built back better for our children. Whatever the reason, building back better strengthens our spirit and also that of those around us.

"Build back better" is a national slogan now, but it can be our personal slogan, as well. The pandemic has taken many of our activities and relationships away from us but we can pledge to build them back better in due time. We can make plans now and decide how we will do that — commit to building back better. We have the capability to give ourselves a much-needed shot in the arm in order to make our lives better.



Featured Pet of the Month

Kip

Roxanne Sanchez
Special to the Forum



Kip is a three-year-old rescue from New Orleans. This is his first winter and he loves it!

Kip is an advocate for wildlife, and always picks up others' litter and disposes it properly. He is very active and loves to encourage other dogs while exercising.

Kip loves to play fetch, swim, or have a microbrew on the patio.

While Kip cannot read, he hopes to one day learn so he can read road and building signs.

If you'd like your pet featured, send a story and photo to daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com.

**Swede Hollow: A Series
The Work Begins**

*Karin DuPaul
Forum Staff*

Efforts to clean up and restore Swede Hollow to its natural habitat began in the 1970s. The project involved many key players, including members of the Saint Paul Parks Department who believed in the project to restore the hollow. The Saint Paul Garden Club, led by Olivia Irvine Dodge, worked with the city parks department to form the Swede Hollow Task Force in developing plans for what was to become Swede Hollow Park.

As a Dayton's Bluff resident, I volunteered to be a part of the task force. Other key early members included George Hrynewych, President of the Dayton's Bluff Community Council, Joyce Cassidy from the Railroad Island neighborhood, and Buzz Wilson, a member of the District 5 Payne Phalen Planning District. Many city staff members and other interested citizens became involved in the project over time as well.

Olivia Dodge was a member of one of the key political and business dynasties in St. Paul's history. Olivia's passion was engaging young people to develop a reverence for nature. She started the Dodge Nature Center in West Saint Paul, the Irvine Nature Center in Baltimore, Maryland, and the Preschool at the Dodge Nature Center. To learn more about the Dodge Nature Center go to dodgenaturecenter.org and the Irvine Nature Center explorenature.org/.

In 1965, Olivia Dodge and her sister Clotilde donated their old family home at 1006 Summit Avenue to the state of Minnesota to become the official home of the Minnesota governor. The governor's home is a beautiful mansion, located not too far from the state Capitol.

Mrs. Olivia Irvine Dodge was an outstanding leader of our group who really loved Swede Hollow and worked to see that we had the support and the energy to keep this effort going. Many of the early Task Force meetings were held at Mrs. Dodge's beautiful home in West Saint Paul.

Mrs. Dodge was a very important person in my life. She helped me discover my own passion and her example was key to my work over the years in my work as community organizer and love for Swede Hollow.

Her example and help with the Swede Hollow Park led my daughter Angela and me to dedicate our book, *The Life of Swede Hollow*, to her and Margaret Hamm Kelley, one of the grandchildren of the Theodore Hamm family. Mrs. Kelley helped me understand and research the history of Swede Hollow and the Hamm family and Brewery. We also chose to honor

"everyone who ever lived in Swede Hollow," to honor all those who had begun their Minnesota lives in Swede Hollow.

Another member of the Task Force was Jody Martinez, a student at the U of M and an intern at Saint Paul Parks Department. Jody did a lot of the early planning and design for Swede Hollow Park. One important contribution from Jody was in creating a large box model of Swede Hollow which was featured at the "Festival on the Bluff" event in Mounds Park that summer. It helped people who did not know much about Swede Hollow Park learn about it. Jody went on to work at Saint Paul Parks and Recreations until she retired several years ago.

At one early hearing at City Hall about funding the Swede Hollow development, Jim Sazevich and Steve Trimble, well-known historians, and a number of others including me, spoke in favor of moving the development of Swede Hollow forward. It was a challenge to make the case for Swede Hollow at a time when city leaders were grappling with serious budgetary issues relating to the basic health and well-being of our city and its citizens. However, the mayor made it clear in his remarks after I spoke that parks like Swede Hollow were also very important to the well-being of our communities.

At one of the early meetings, we learned that the Saint Paul Police Department was against the development of Swede Hollow into a park. This wasn't because of the park itself, but because young people were holding large, unchaperoned parties in Swede Hollow that included drinking, and creating other problems for the police. Once we became aware of this danger, we were able to marshal the neighbors around Swede Hollow to be more vigilant about unauthorized activities going on in the park. Mrs. Dodge, with help from others, worked to convince the Chief of Police to support our work to revitalize Swede Hollow.

I became a member of the Dayton's Bluff Community Council and at the time, I was able to get support from our neighbors to organize clean-up projects for Swede Hollow. For me, this was a new adventure. The first year we collected over 130 tires, old stoves, old washing machines, and other types of refuse. Members of our neighborhood group, the Upper Swede Hollow Neighborhoods Association, continued these annual spring clean ups of Swede Hollow. In more recent years the St. Paul Parks Department has hosted annual Spring Cleanups for all the parks in Saint Paul. Our Swede Hollow clean ups are now a regular part of the annual Saint Paul Parks Department Clean Up Day project.

Next month's Swede Hollow article will be about the railroad that for so many years ran through Swede Hollow.

Note: if you are interested by buying a copy of our book *The Life of Swede Hollow* call me at 651-776-0550 or email me at karindupaul@comcast.net.



Greg Cosimini

The Mounds Park Sports Bar located at 1067 Hudson Road is under new management and is now Cheers Pub. It offers pull tabs, food, cocktails, and music.

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

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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

Next issue: April 2021. **Deadline for material: March 10, 2021.**

AARP Tax Aide Information

St. Paul Public Library

Tax season is here and now more than ever, people have many questions for filing. Below are some great resources for all kind of options to find the best fit for you. All AARP Tax-Aide sites are now appointment only. Call 612-440-6107 or email semetro.taxaide@gmail.com beginning February 1 to make an appointment.

For **free services**, go to the Minnesota Department of Revenue or AARP Tax-Aide Site Locator. The websites will ask to put in a zip code to find the closest sites to you that offer free services.

The St. Paul Public Library will not be doing appointments this year, but there are two community centers offering assistance. Keystone Community Center, located at 2000 Saint Anthony Avenue Saint Paul 55104 or Thompson Park Community Center, located at 1200 Stassen Lane West Saint Paul 55118. Appointments are required.

Prepare + Prosper is offering three different service types: **Do It Yourself Prep:** Online trainings to help you get ready, along with the Self-Prep Tax Guide and the software needed to file your taxes for free. Reserve a spot in a webinar "Introduction to Preparing Your Own Taxes", This is meant to get you ready to file on your own using Prepare + Prosper's TaxSlayer software. No taxes will be filed during the webinar. You need a device to access Zoom to take part in the webinar (a laptop or desktop computer is ideal, but a smartphone works too). There are only 50 slots available per webinar. This webinar will be offered **once a week February 2 through April 20.**

Virtual Tax Prep: The entire process will be virtual and require access to a computer, tablet, or smartphone. Appointments may be scheduled beginning January 19. For anyone with more than \$6000 of self-employment income, choose a self-employment appointment. Conducted over Zoom video conferencing. All documents will be uploaded to Dropbox, a secure file sharing site, Upon scheduling an appointment, P+P will send you a confirmation email with detailed instructions on how to prepare for your appointment (including resources for using Zoom and Dropbox).

In-Person Drop-Off Prep: Drop-off services will be offered on an extremely limited basis, by appointment only. Drop-off appointments may be scheduled by phone ONLY. Beginning February 8, contact 651-287-0187 to schedule a drop-off appointment.

More details on all three services are available at prepareandprosper.org/free-tax-preparation/



Karin DuPaul

Olivia Dodge, in the turquoise suit, telling the visiting members of the Garden Clubs of America during their conference here in Saint Paul in 1987 all about making Swede Hollow into a Saint Paul city park.

The Giesen-Hauser House

Mark Gallagher
Associate Editor

The Giesen-Hauser House — a prominent, redbrick and sandstone mansion — is situated on the crest of a wooded, one-acre plot located at 827 Mound Street in the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood of St. Paul. The Queen Anne style house was first listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1983. The house reaches up two and a half stories and has a roof engineered with a series of complex gables and smaller hip roofs accented by modest dormers and tall chimneys.

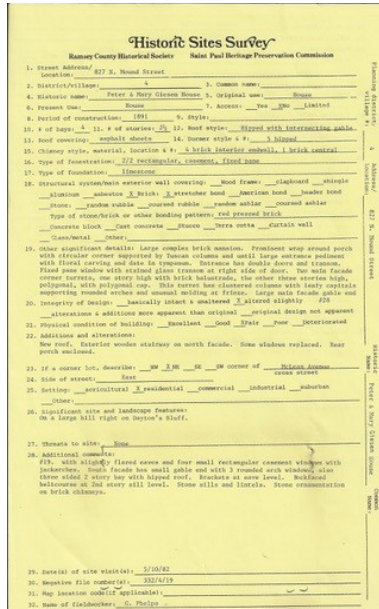
In 1891, St. Paul architect Albert Zschocke (1859-1892) was commissioned to design and build a family residence for Peter and Mary Giesen in a stylish and popular section of the Dayton's Bluff community. The house overlooking St. Paul is one of the only surviving works of the local architect.

"The Giesens, including three of the four sons, moved in. However, they lived in the house for a relatively short time for such an ambitious project. In 1907, the Giesens sold the house and the family moved to a more modest house, closer to the business, at 184 Summit Avenue.

"There would have been plenty of room, even if they had all moved in with family and an entourage of servants. The house has an expansive, open, wrap-around porch with classical columns, a solarium, and a corner observation tower crowned by an octagonal spire above an open, belfry-like observation porch. The first floor alone is nearly 2,200 square feet. The house is large enough that, for a number of years before its present owners bought and began rehabilitating it, it was an apartment building with seven-teen units."

Born and educated in Germany, Zschocke came to the United States in 1882. He started his career as an architect and launched his business in St. Paul in 1885. In addition to designing and building private residences, Zschocke also drew up the plans and built apartment buildings, hotels, schools, and churches. Unfortunately, Zschocke's dynamic, architectural career was short-lived — he died at the age of thirty-three.

A friend of mine, David Minea, recently told me about an interesting connection



with his family and the Giesen-Hauser House. Albert Zschocke married Barbara Minea and also designed the John Minea house, which was built in 1886 and located on the West Side of St. Paul. That house is also on the National Register of Historic Places, and John Minea was Albert Zschocke's brother-in-law.

John Giesen, a son of Peter and Marie Giesen, was married to Anna Isabella Miller, a daughter of John Conrad Miller. David Minea's mother's maiden name is Miller, and John Conrad Miller was David Minea's great-great grandfather.

Peter and Mary Giesen were an ambitious pair. Peter learned the trade of book binding and started working as a journeyman bookbinder for a St. Paul bindery. Giesen then became a partner in a bindery business, and in 1870, created his own bindery company.

"Peter Giesen, a bookbinder who had won exclusive rights to bind West Publishing Company books, had started the movement resulting in the organization of the Mozart Club and the building of Mozart Hall, which he owned at the time of his death in 1915."

Mary Giesen was just as driven as her husband. She laid the foundation for a theatrical costume business, which was to become one of the largest in the Midwest. At that time, St. Paul was home to many Ger-

man-American immigrants, who organized singing societies and assembled in their neighbor's homes to play music, sing, and converse about music and life.

"Giesen's Costumers, the first commercial costume business in Minnesota, paralleled this evolution. Marie Dreis Giesen started it, after years of unpaid costuming for many of the operatic productions of groups such as the German Society. In 1872, a year in which interest in German theater was especially marked, Marie Giesen launched her business with twenty-two costumes, apparently confident that the city had enough cultural and social activity to sustain it; for eighty-eight years, it was a distinctly family institution."

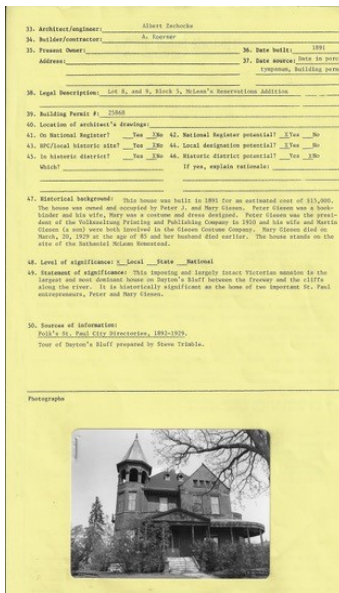
In 1907, the Giesen house was sold to Eric Hauser (hence the name Giesen-Hauser House). Hauser was an affluent railroad contractor and humanitarian who sponsored various charities.

The Giesen-Hauser House was sold in 1944 and became a boarding house until the 1970s. The house is currently owned by Greg and Nancy Ward, who have returned it to single-family residence. They are gradually restoring the interior floor plan to its original layout.

Quotations and Historic Sites Survey photos are courtesy of the Ramsey County Historical Society.

— Mark Gallagher

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



Mark Gallagher

The Giesen-Hauser house stands at 827 Mounds Street in the Dayton's Bluff Community.

Historic Bluff House is For Sale

Steve Trimble

Forum Staff

The home at 654 East 4th is now on the market. It isn't historic because it was in the Dayton's Bluff Historic District, even though it is. Instead, it has an interesting story that makes it memorable. At least for cinema buffs. Two popular movies used the structure as a setting.

The neighborhood was most featured in *That Was Then, This is Now*. It was produced by Media Ventures of Minneapolis and Beverly Hills, California. It was the tale of two teen age boys — one of them a young Emillio Estevez — and his movie family lived in Dayton's Bluff at 654 East 4th Street. The well-known actor Morgan Freeman also had a main role in the movie.

One of the directors said that the house "fit the image and the feel of the script". Shooting began August 20 and was set to be completed in early October. In addition to the house, locations include Hudson Road, St. John's Hospital, Spanky's Bar, and other St. Paul sites.

There was an earlier movie made by the same production group, *Purple Rain*, starring local legend Prince that was also partly set in Dayton's Bluff. In fact, there were scenes at 654 East Fourth.

So this may be your chance to own a house with a heritage and a great view of downtown. You could have Emillio Estevez movie night and/or a Prince music

night on the front lawn.

The photo, found in an old issue of Dayton's Bluff District Forum, pictures a camera crew getting ready to shoot the film at 654 East 4th in Dayton's Bluff.



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Minnesota China Garden Society Seeks Additional Funds

Minnesota China Garden Society

The St. Paul-Changsha, China Friendship Garden, located in Phalen Park, St. Paul, is seeking additional funds to complete Phase I of the garden construction and begin Phase II. The Garden will require \$160,000 to complete Phase I.

The Minnesota China Friendship Garden Society (MCFGs) began a New Year Matching Gift Challenge to raise funds from December 22, 2020 to February 28, 2021. The state of Minnesota through its state Legacy and Bonding funds and private donors have provided close to \$1 million restricted for Phase II, some of which must be spent by 2022.

MCFGs is working with the St. Paul Department of Parks & Recreation, the Phalen Park neighborhood, and the Twin Cities Hmong and Chinese communities to inform the design and build the garden. In Changsha China, St. Paul's sister city, the Hunan Jianke architectural firm continues to provide design direction for the garden using Chinese building and garden principals.

The China Friendship Garden began in 2011 with funding for the design received in 2015. Phase I included a Hmong Heritage Wall, the Xiang Jiang Pavilion, plazas, rock work, and the west entrance Archway Gate. Other work to be completed in Phase I include planting more trees, shrubs and flowers; creating and installing artistic calligraphy stones; and installing a seven-ton China Garden naming stone.

Founders, board members, and advisors have pledged \$76,850, and when matched by other donations at the end of February, Phase I will be completed and Phase II can begin. Phase II will include a Hmong Plaza, extension of the Pavilion garden to the water's edge, a donor wall, the east entrance Moon Gate, and the Chinese Moon Bridge.

Donations of any size are welcome and will be doubled to match. Donations at the \$1,000, \$5,000, and \$10,000 levels will qualify the donor to be a Groundbreaker and will be recognized on the donor wall. All donations will be used to complete Phase I and begin Phase II.

Anyone who wishes to visit the China Friendship Garden may go to 1640 Phalen Drive, Phalen Park, St. Paul, Minnesota.

Log on to [tube.com/watch?v=t3hbHgT9il4&feature=emblogo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t3hbHgT9il4&feature=emblogo) to see a video of the China Friendship Garden. Photos of the various garden structures are at the MCFGs website: mnchinagarden.org/st-paul-changsha/.

For more information, call Bill Zajicek, president of the Minnesota China Friendship Garden Society, 763-913-4438, mcfgs@mnchinagarden.org.

Photos provided by William Zajicek.



Contest: Where in Dayton's Bluff?

Send your guess to daytons-bluffdistrictforum@gmail.com with the location of the neighborhood curiosity pictured at right. The reader who submits the correct entry will be notified, and the winner(s) will be announced in the April edition of the *Forum*.

Congratulations to our December winner, Amy Buck! The photo was from Dayton's Bluff Community Garden at 683 North Street.



Need the Internet? Libraries Offering Hotspots

St. Paul Public Library

Borrowers must have a Saint Paul Public Library card and must be a **resident of the City of Saint Paul**. Borrowers can have no more than \$10 in fees owed to the library.

Hotspots can be put on hold and picked up at any Saint Paul Public Library locations.

Hotspots can be checked out for two weeks, but may not be renewed. A replacement fee is billed after a hotspot is 14 days overdue. Internet service will be turned off if a hotspot is overdue. When borrowing a hotspot, patrons must agree to abide by the terms of the library's internet use agreement and Sprint's acceptable use policy.

If you find yourself needing help with connection issues, Contact Sprint customer service at **1-877-879-5031**. Identify yourself as a Mobile Beacon customer and provide the device's phone number (on the box under "MOBILE BEAC").

We Have Three Easy Ways for You to Donate!

We were able to print the November 2020 issue, due to the generous donations made by our community. If you'd like to see future issues printed again, please consider donating. We have three ways for you to do so:

- Donate electronically via PayPal at: daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com
- Make checks payable to *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* and mail to: 668 Greenbrier Street, Saint Paul, MN 55106

668 Greenbrier Street, Saint Paul, MN 55106

-Donate on our website at: givemn.org/organization/Hopewell-Communications-Incorporated-

Be sure to keep up with us online in one of four ways:

- Website** at daytonsbluffdistrictforum.org
- Facebook** at Dayton's Bluff District Forum
- Instagram** at Dayton's Bluff District Forum
- Nextdoor** at Dayton's Bluff District Forum.

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View from My Porch

Fourth Street and Bates Avenue Default to Commercial Throughway

Sage Holben
Forum Staff

My friend Jason and I were comparing weather between his home in Pennsylvania and my corner of Fourth and Bates. As he mentioned a problematic intersection near his home, I watched an extra long FedEx Ground truck come down the Fourth Street hill, turn south onto Bates to the center of the block, then back up through the four-way stop intersection at a good clip, without pausing, and with no safety beeper. I thought he was parking on the north side of the intersection, but he drove back up Fourth and then to Third, then returned to Bates from Third. The driver didn't slow as he turned west on Fourth and again ignored the several posted 20mph 'suggestions' on our streets. When I see these large trucks and semis drive through our narrow, car-lined residential street, I see-saw between hoping I hear a crash, proving a point; or praying that no car door swings open, no car backs out of a drive, and no child or adult steps out from between the solid row of vehicles.

UPS is not much better than FedEx. We once had a great UPS driver, Adam, who knew the residents here, he knew where to stow packages out of sight, and was so proud of his several young children. Then he was jumped one day up the street by several youths, who stole several packages. Adam suffered slight injury, but regained possession of his truck. Adam also delivered to Metro State University Library where I worked. He enjoyed this area. He explained to me the UPS restrictions on speed, turns, intersections, etc., countered with the UPS expectations of minimizing time, time, TIME! And how drivers were tracked for time and stops. Yet, the job seemed personal to him,

and he glowed when talking of his family.

Perhaps that personal connection is what is missing in the FedEx drivers and other drivers whose only getting from point A to point B, run the four-way stop signs, not considering the pedestrians, other vehicles, car doors suddenly opening, and the expectation of ice, or having to swerve for potholes, and the unexpected person stepping out suddenly from between parked cars. Expendable. Collateral damage. We get too many extra long semi trucks, Sysco, Unfi, Amcon, I can check my tally book for more. I have contacted FedEx through Facebook and have called, too many times, their 1-800-463-3339 number. It used to be that a customer service person would talk with me. Then it was a human without a human response. I keep being asked for the vehicle number or license. I repeat the driver was going too fast for me to get the plate #, the vehicle number is small and not visually obvious. The FedEx person doesn't admit to trucks having GPS. I have been asked for the destination address of the truck. How the BLEEP would I know where the driver is delivering?!!

I've griped about this intersection many times in the past. Yes, my findings are anecdotal; but they are real, and they are documented. Also, what the city has electronically studied in the past doesn't necessarily reflect the actual problem. Now, besides the past and outdated 'norm', we are seeing drivers who appear more aggressive in their speed, still text while driving, and seem oblivious to inattentive pedestrians. Drivers seem angrier (yes, lack of income, social needs not being met, and then, WOW! a street is blocked off or another driver ticks you off! Drivers continue to ignore safety signage, dislike sharing the road, and seem not to recognize humans as breathing, walking forms made up of blood, muscle and bones who cannot easily stand being hit by a couple tons of metal or being flung around within a crushed metal four-wheeled container.

Please, when you're behind the wheel, give ALL your attention to what is happening on the street and at the curb. When you come to a full stop, don't just turn your head right and left, but actually see what is in your view. There is a difference between looking and seeing...but that's another article...if one lives to read it.



Many thanks to our Friends of the Forum 2021 donors:

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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 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

Yes, I will become a *Friend of the Forum*. My tax-deductible check is enclosed, for:

\$100 \$50 \$25 Another amount _____

Or give online: givemn.org/organization/Hopewell-Communications-Incorporated

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Make checks payable to: *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* and mail to 668 Greenbrier St, St. Paul, MN 55106. For more information, contact 651-776-0550 or daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com.

Thank you for your support!