

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

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daytonsbluffdistrictforum.org
"The Voice of the Community"

Yo! East 7th Street, Bring on the Art

Mandy Okonek

There's something to be said for seeing the physical manifestation of creativity. It makes you feel good, inspired even. I have been a big fan of the burgeoning art scene appearing on the sides of buildings like the "Better Together" mural on the Checks Cashed building on East 7th Street.

One of the artists who painted this mural, Thomasina Topbear, curated an art show at Indigenous Roots Cultural Center (I-Roots) early in April featuring not only her pieces, but many other artists with the theme Reclaim Spaces.

This was my first time visiting Indigenous Roots and I'll definitely be back. The atmosphere was inviting and there were artists painting out back and a DJ blasting music from the garage. After

taking in all the art on display, I got to thinking about how cool it is to see different words, symbols, and ideas reclaimed with fresh perspectives.

My personal favorite piece was the skateboard deck painted with a brown Bigfoot and the word honesty. Please note, Bigfoot is my word, the artist referred to the giant brown furry monster-man creature as Sabe.

Indigenous Roots hosts art shows and events all the time and the jam-packed schedule is available on their website, indigenous-roots.org/. The joy of I-Roots is multifaceted. They have brought so much art to East 7th Street, it's literally bleeding out onto all the surrounding buildings, even into the once dark and forlorn alleyways. There's nothing like a pop of color to brighten the vibe of old, dirty cement. Walking around to soak it all in made for a fabulous afternoon as I rediscovered my neighborhood.

I highly recommend supporting the cool folks who have dedicated their time to make Dayton's Bluff something to be proud of. The opposite of gentrification.



Mandy Okonek

The photos above are Thomasina Topbear's pieces that were on display at the art show, Reclaim Spaces, at Indigenous Roots Cultural Center in early April. Topbear curated the art show, featuring other local artists.

Bette J. Johnson, Lifelong East Side Resident Dies

Karin DuPaul



Bette J. Johnson died peacefully on March 10 at the age of 93. Bette lived in her family home on Reaney Street before moving into an apartment building on Greenbrier Street in Dayton's Bluff, across the street from upper Swede Hollow Park many years ago. She moved to Cerenity Marian by Mounds Park around a year ago. Bette was a proud lifelong East Sider.

She was a lifelong member of First Lutheran Church and did a lot of volunteering at the church.

One of the things she told me about her childhood was she liked to go into Swede Hollow and get a bucket of white sand. She would then go home and

using food coloring on the sand and put layers of different colors of sand in glass jars. They were beautiful and she would sell them.

During her time living on Greenbrier she was a member of Friends of Swede Hollow (FOSH) and helped out with many FOSH projects and events including being a greeter with visitors at Art in the Hollow each year and Swede Hollow Park cleanups. Bette will be missed by many of us.



DNR Eagle Cam

The baby eaglets hatched at the end of March. Read more about the eagles on page 6. You can also view the live feed on the EagleCam on the Minnesota DNR website.

A Bridge to Somewhere

Mark Schwister

It's the longest bridge in Saint Paul. It's one of the most used, carrying around 14,000 vehicles every day. It's a primary connection from Dayton's Bluff to downtown. And it's currently one of the most structurally deficient in the area. Prepare yourselves for over two years of construction to replace the Kellogg and 3rd Street bridge!

The bridge was first built in 1982 by MnDOT, and ownership immediately passed over to the city upon completion in 1983. Over 30 years later in 2014, a review of the bridge determined deficiencies in its structure due to age and wear, and traffic was removed from the outer edges of the bridge to compensate. It would take the state legislature another six years to pass a bonding bill that would include enough funding to replace the ailing structure.

With the \$52 million in funding secured, not including a potential \$7 million federal grant, planning and design began almost immediately. Public input, gathered beginning in 2020 until now, has been used to influence the design and layout of the new bridge, the roadway approaches to the bridge, and detour plans.

Construction is slated to begin a little over a year from now, once the project gains state approval and contracts are

awarded. The project has a timeline extending into early 2025, but regular traffic on the new bridge would likely resume prior to that in early winter 2024, with final touches occurring afterward.

Vehicle traffic would potentially be detoured onto 7th Street, while pedestrian and bicycle traffic might have the option to take Commercial Street off Mounds Boulevard down to 4th Street beneath the bridge and past the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary, reaching downtown at the LRT terminus in Lowertown on Prince Street and Broadway.

Some changes to anticipate with the new design: Dedicated right and left turn lanes to Mounds Boulevard for traffic on the bridge and on 3rd Street to reduce congestion, addition of crosswalks at Mounds Boulevard intersection to accommodate pedestrians at all cross points, 12-foot wide bike/pedestrian trails on the outer edge of both sides of the bridge. Install traffic signal and crosswalks at Lafayette, dedicated bus lanes on Mounds Boulevard and a bus station for Gold Line bus rapid transit, lantern light poles in place of regular cobra-head-style road lighting, and integration. Incorporate integration of aesthetic design points with planned Wakan Tipi Center beneath the bridge, Dakota Culture inspired pier shapes, and ornamental railings, with potential for artist-designed panels and parapet imprints.

More information including diagrams, videos, and updates to the project can be found on the Saint Paul city website at stpaul.gov/kellogg-3.

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.

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, May 6 at 11:00 a.m.** If you'd like to attend, call 651-776-0550 or email daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com for more information. We are currently meeting at the Cambic, 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. or 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 April'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, MN 55106; 651-772-2253; historic-moundstheatre@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.

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. In-

dividuals 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 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

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: 800-895-4999. Power Outage: 800-895-4999.

Call Before You Dig: 811 Before starting that roto-tiller or heaving that shovel into the ground for *anything*, call 8-1-1. 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, SMRL may be able to help through its volunteer attorney panel.

If an interpreter is needed, SMRL will provide one.

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

Pathways on the Park Offers Affordable Rent

Allison Lund-Zalewski

Looking for affordable housing on the East Side? Pathways on the Park is an adult living community that caters to people 55 years and older. Currently, 80% of the residents at Pathways are 55 and older and about 20% are adults that are 18 years and older.

"We have many amenities and activities for a variety of interests. To name a few, we will continue to serve coffee and pastries every other week starting this month. East Side Elders delivers catered meals each week and meals are free to residents. We are enjoying virtual Bingo four times a week," Neosha Thompson, leasing agent, explained.

Pathways was established by The Goodman Group, having built their building which is located at 170 Ruth Street North, in 1984. Their mission is to provide each community with quality, platinum service standards. Serving their residents, building connections, and keeping everyone satisfied is their goal.

The staff at Pathways genuinely enjoy planning events and activities for their residents. They sing songs with residents throughout the day, making the workday go by quicker.

"We love seeing everyone happy and sharing experiences," Thompson said.

The complex offers laundry services on each floor, as well as a solarium, fitness center, and a community room. Pathways is walking distance to a number of stores and fast-food restaurants; however, if residents need a ride, Pathways offers transportation services to local markets. The building also offers a controlled entry system.

There are also plenty of walking trails within the area, as well as Battle Creek Park.

Pathways is currently offering one- and two-bedroom units, ranging from \$1,030 to \$1404 per month. The units allow pets, as long as they meet the 35-pound weight limit. They also are offering move-in specials for veterans and active-duty service members. Specials include waived application fee, security deposit, administration fee, plus \$300 off the first month's rent.

For more information and to view the photo gallery, go to mypathwayshome.com/.

Photo below provided by Neosha Thompson.



Renters Belong in St. Paul Campaign to Put Rent Stabilization on November 2021 Ballot is Launched

Shaquonna Jackson and Clara Ware

Last month, community-based organizations with deep roots in neighborhoods across the city have launched a campaign to collect 10,000 signatures to put rent stabilization on the November 2021 ballot in St. Paul.

Having successfully advocated for the state's strongest tenant protections' ordinance in 2020, Housing Equity Now St. Paul (HENS) is mobilizing a broad coalition of organizations and renters to end harmful rent spikes that disproportionately impact Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) households and drive displacement across the city.

"Because of generations of economic exploitation and exclusion from homeownership, 82% of Black households in St. Paul are renters, compared to just 39% of white households," said Danielle Swift, anti-displacement organizer for the Frog-town Neighborhood Association. "We also know from our organizing that BIPOC households are far more likely to experience the impact of predatory and unscrupulous landlords who demand unreasonable rent increases to intentionally price families out — or simply boost their profits."

To address this issue of landlord exploitation, the coalition is advocating for a rent stabilization policy that applies to all rental units across the city and limits the rate of rent increase in a 12-month period to 3%. There is a state law preventing cities from passing rent stabilization ordinances — unless they pass by ballot measure. HENS is now collecting signatures to put the policy on the ballot.

"Rent stabilization is a proven policy that protects tenants from unreasonable rent spikes, accounts for the operating expenses of landlords, and is cost effective for our city and taxpayers," said Tram Hoang, Policy Advocate at The Alliance. "Yes, our housing crisis is the result of many issues, including a lack of deeply affordable housing and vast inequities in homeownership. Rent stabilization is just part of the solution, but we will never solve the housing crisis without it."

In the midst of the pandemic and during the George Floyd uprisings, we have seen how St. Paul community members care for each other. Residents across the city agree that everyone should have a safe and stable place to call home. They recognize that our community is stronger and more prosperous when families, children and workers can put down roots and invest their energy and love in their neighborhoods.

"From students to seniors, renters belong in our neighborhoods because they contribute to our community in countless ways," said Brian Rosas, Advocacy Manager for the Minnesota Youth Collective. "This past year, as we have organized with young leaders, we have seen residents across St. Paul come together to meet the needs of our neighbors and live into a vision for a more just and equitable city. Now it's time to step into our community power and Keep St. Paul Home for everyone."

Learn more about rent stabilization and the campaign at housingequitystp.org. Shaquonna Jackson and Clara Ware are renters in Dayton's Bluff and members of the "Keep St. Paul Home" campaign committee.

Pathways on the Park

A 55+ Independent Living Community

170 Ruth Street North
St. Paul, MN

*Your New Home Is
Waiting For You!!*

#bestHOMEever

Call Us At 651-731-6418

www.mypathwayshome.com

At Pathways on the Park We Offer...

1 Bedroom and 2 Bedroom
Apartment Homes Available with
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Platinum Service
Community Room
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Two Elevators
Transportation to Local Markets
Fitness Center
24-Hour Emergency Maintenance
Much More..See For Yourself By
Visiting Us Today!

Rents Starting At
\$1000



Swede Hollow: A Series Dayton's Bluff Take a Hike

Karin DuPaul

About 30 years ago, railroad tracks were removed, and train cars were gone from Swede Hollow. Meeting discussions began to focus on the possibility of a recreational trail or light rail. As I remember it, the idea of a recreational trail in Swede Hollow was favored by both the Task Force, the Upper Swede Hollow Neighborhoods Association, and Friends of Swede Hollow. The idea was that a trail system would be developed that would connect Mounds Park, Swede Hollow, Phalen Park, and points north.

Eventually, the recreational trail concept was selected. The plan that developed was exciting. People walking north from Swede Hollow would pass by the Old Hamm Brewery buildings. Next, the path would go through the little Wells and Wadena neighborhood. A little further east, the trail would pass along the old, abandoned Whirlpool building number seventeen. I pictured, in my mind, the idea of developing a café along the trail at this point, sitting on the old deck area. This would be a very nice stopping point for hikers and bikers alike. But all of the Whirlpool buildings were removed, and they moved out of Saint Paul.

Once the trains stopped running through the area, the Dayton's Bluff Community Council initiated a monthly "Dayton's Bluff Take a Hike" from help get the community interested in having a recreational trail through Swede Hollow. The hike went from Mounds Park all the way to Phalen Park. By the third month, and to meet the needs of people not accustomed to a lot of walking, we came up with a plan to have a car at Phalen to give hikers the option to walk back to Mounds Park or get a ride back.

Over the years we have continued the "Dayton's Bluff Take a Hike" from Mounds Park through Swede Hollow Park, and we have a car there to take people back to Mounds Park for those who do not want to hike back. Due to COVID-19 concerns, we have not hiked the trail since March 2020, but we hope to get it going again in the months to come. Look for updates and information on page 2 of the *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* for updates.



Karin DuPaul

Pictured above are 98 Swede Hollow Park visitors heading in to Swede Hollow through the Brewery Tunnel from Beaumont Street. The picture below shows 25 hikers on the Bruce Vento Regional Trail under the I94 6th Street bridges.



Remembering Manuel "Manny" Cervantes

Steve Trimble

Dayton's Bluff and all of St. Paul should remember the story of Manuel "Manny" Cervantes who recently passed away at the age of 70 years. Born in Albert Lea in 1951, his young boyhood was spent on St. Paul's West Side Flats for a time. Starting in the 60s, he grew up on Maria Avenue in Dayton's Bluff, attended the Sacred Heart Elementary School, and graduated from Harding High School.

Cervantes was nine years old when his father died, and he stepped into the role of helping his mother and six younger siblings navigate life in St. Paul. They were brought up with their mother's emphasis on family, faith, and education.

That emphasis on education took him to Macalester, the first person in his family who graduated from college. He did well in academics and played on the soccer team. His next stop was at the University of Minnesota where he earned a degree from the Law School in 1980.

Governor Perpich appointed him to the Minnesota Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals. Later, Manny was on the Ramsey County District Court and then was St. Paul City Attorney from 2002 until 2006. Governor Dayton brought him

back to the Minnesota Workers' Compensation Court.

I remember meeting him first at Macalester College where I was teaching. I gave him an independent study to go to Mexico to engage in an oral history project with his grandfather who once rode with Pancho Villa. After that, I would meet him now and then when he came to visit his brother Juan, who still lived at the old house on Maria, or at DFL events.

Toward the end of his stellar career, the Minnesota State Bar Association presented



Manuel Cervantes with the Rosalie E. Wahl award in 2018 for the way he improved the state's quality of justice. He retired and was diagnosed with cancer that doctors said would overcome him in a few months. However, he fought the long, hard battle and lived another four years.

As his brother Juan said, "Manuel broke barriers that many who have followed." His involvement in the community at large and Latino community was felt with every issue he was involved in. An advocate and voice for those could not speak, was his character."

His family, including his wife Patricia and his five children, was the center of his universe. From the old West Side Flats to a life in Dayton's Bluff, leading to a remarkable history of working in the judicial world is quite a story. Manny will be missed and his story needs to be remembered.

Grab Your Camera and Head to Swede Hollow

Friends of Swede Hollow

The Friends of Swede Hollow 2021 Spring Photo Contest began on March 20 and continues through **June 20**.

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.

Email your photograph(s) to bradgriffith@mc.com on or before **June 27, 2021**

Submit your photograph(s) in a .jpg format. Put FOSH 2021 Spring Photo Contest in the subject line and your contact information along with the title(s) of your image(s) within the body of the email.

We ask that contest participants allow their photograph(s) to be printed and sold as a fundraiser for the Friends of Swede Hollow.

Spring is a great time to visit and capture the beauty of one of the gems of Dayton's Bluff, Swede Hollow Park.

If you need more information call Brad at 651-263-2830 or Karin at 651-776-0550.

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

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Staff: Mandy Okonek, Clara Martin

Next issue: June 2021. **Deadline for material: May 10, 2021.**



Dayton's Bluff Library

Dayton's Bluff Library

The Dayton's Bluff Library is now open for Library EXPRESS! Stop by for an hour-long visit to use a computer, access WiFi, make copies, fax and print documents, browse for books and DVDs, pick up holds, and request notary services.

Mondays and Wednesday — 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesdays — 1 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Saturdays — 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please follow the arrow signs to the temporary side entrance. During open hours, the door is open and a doorbell is available. Masks and social distancing are required. The outdoor book drop can be accessed at any time at the front of the building. Returns are being quarantined, so they may stay on your account for up to a week.

Learn more at sppl.org/locations/DB/. If you have experienced job loss, a reduction of hours, change or loss of household income, or health, safety, or other uncertainties in your industry due to COVID-19, Career Labs can help. To make a Career Labs appointment, please call 651-793-1699 or book an appointment online at sppl.org/career-labs/. Appointments are offered on Tuesdays,

Wednesdays, and Thursdays at Dayton's Bluff Library.

The library is offering a free online learning circle on crafting your cover letter the first three Tuesdays of May (**May 4, May 11, and May 18**) from **6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.** Register here: learningcircles.p2pu.org/en/signup/online-1612/.

In addition to Library EXPRESS and Career Labs, Dayton's Bluff Library has many other exciting ongoing programs. The Dayton's Bluff Book Club just wrapped up its season with a visit from Shannon Gibney, local author of the young adult novel *Dream Country* and will resume discussions in the fall. Visit here to learn more: guides.sppl.org/db-bookclub.

Teens Know Best, a book club for teens led by teens, is currently meeting online every second Tuesday of the month through Zoom from **6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.** Books can be picked up at Dayton's Bluff Library during Library EXPRESS hours. Visit sppl.org/teens-know-best/ or contact teensknowbeststpaul@gmail.com for more information. Keep an eye out for updates on summer programming soon!

Dayton's Bluff Library will be closed **Thursday, May 27** for staff training and **Saturday, May 29 through Monday, May 31** for Memorial Day weekend. Check sppl.org for current hours.

Both photos to the right provided by Dayton's Bluff Library.



Child Abuse During COVID

Clara Martin

Surprisingly, child abuse statistics during the time of COVID have been in steep decline. On the face of it, there should be reason to celebrate, but the whole story is hidden behind mandatory reporting. Teachers, physicians, and social workers are mandated by law to report any indications of abuse. Because of COVID, of course, there has been limited, if any, contact with these officials.

“... official reports to child protection agencies have declined across the United States by 20–70 percent, attributed to decreased in-person contact between children and mandated reporters (e.g., teachers, social workers, and physicians). Lack of timely data on child abuse and neglect in the context of COVID-19 highlights the value of near real-time data from National Syndromic Surveillance Program (NSSP), which provide the opportunity to examine trends in ED visits and hospitalizations for suspected or confirmed child abuse and neglect before and during the (pandemic).” (MMWR CDC, December 20, 2020).

Anxiety, depression, helplessness, unemployment, anger, and hopelessness during this long period of isolation are all factors in the rise of child abuse. Families have been quarantined with each other under one roof and forced to live with multiple feelings and personalities. Some family members can't cope, and for children who haven't developed coping mechanisms at a young age, acting out becomes their modus operandi. This presents heightened challenges for parents, who may or many not have high-level coping mechanisms themselves.

This report written by Chris Serres from the *Star Tribune*, January 11, 2021, confirms what authorities across the country have suspected:

“Reports of child abuse and neglect in Minnesota have dropped sharply during the

coronavirus pandemic, which has eased strain on the child welfare system while spurring fears that problems are going unnoticed while children are away from school.”

New data from the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) show that, during the first eight months of the pandemic, local child protection agencies received 22 percent fewer reports of child maltreatment over the same period in 2019. That, in turn, has contributed to a sharp drop in the number of children being separated from their families and placed into foster care.

The numbers confirm what many educators, families and child welfare advocates had suspected: that shutdowns of schools and fewer eyes on children during the pandemic would lead to fewer reported incidents of maltreatment. Teachers and school staff are among the leading reporters of abuse, calling for help when they spot abnormal bruising or other signs. Now many educators only see kids online, and the cameras are often turned off.

Normally a steep drop in child maltreatment reports would be welcome news. But the decline could be a sign that abuse and neglect are going undetected behind closed doors, and scores of children may be trapped in dangerous households during the pandemic. Many of the stresses resulting from the pandemic — isolation, job loss and rising levels of hunger — can overwhelm families and lead children to experience more harm at home, not less, say child welfare experts. Research from the last economic downturn in the late 2000s showed a link between financial hardship and child abuse, particularly cases of abusive head trauma.”

With this in mind, we all must be mandatory reporters now, even within our own families and our neighborhoods. We must notice changes in a child's behavior, any bruising, or mention of trips to the ER. Children are defenseless and vulnerable. They count on adults to care for them. Let's all do our part to keep our children safe. During these trying times, when it comes to our kids, it truly does take a village!



Greg Cosimini

Area sports have begun after a long year of postponement due to the pandemic. Shown above is baseball practice at Parkway Little League.

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Please note: we work one month ahead of time and our deadline is the 10th of each month. If you have any questions or would like to take out a small ad, please email daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com.

A 1958 Look at the East Side, Part Two

Steve Trimble

In the April edition of the *Forum*, I wrote a story featuring two pieces from *St. Paul Is My Beat* that was served up by Gareth Hiebert. For his newspaper columns and books he always used the pen name Oliver Towne. (Get it? All Over Town). For the May on-line newspaper, I looked at two other offerings in *St. Paul Is My Beat*. Any of the quotations in this article are the writings of Hiebert.

The following from "Bricks and Opera" (pp. 20-21) He begins, "I drove down a winding stretch of old brick paving on the East Side of the city the other day. And there would be those who would scoff at the idea that a row of bricks could spawn even the haze of a memory." He was at Old Point Douglas Road near today's Obb's. "This was St. Paul's most imposing entry from the southeast for nearly 40 years — leading into Hastings Road [now Hudson Road] that skirted the bluffs."

The story goes on to say that Point Douglas was built many years ago. in the days of the horse and wagon. The workers were mostly Italians. "Each day at 5 A. M. the wagons would go down to Earl and Hastings and pick up the laborers" and go to the brick-laying sites. One local woman told Hiebert that "Those Italians would begin to sing operatic airs. It was the most beautiful music I ever heard. I used to lay in my bed and listen to it and it sent chills up and down my spine."

Later, after the road was completed, there were other visitors in a hollow near Johnson Parkway. There was a group of Romani people who came once a year. "In the evenings they built their cooking fires and sat around playing musical instruments."

"The three saloons over at Earl and Hastings were 'halfway' houses for farmers who came from Hastings to sell their produce down in the city... There is only one mark of its former glory — at the Burns and Clarence intersection. An ancient highway sign with arrows, and one which reads — "Hastings 19 mi." (pp. 20-21)

Another of the memories of the East Side is revealed in "Legend of Highwood In the Hills." (pp. 53-56). Hiebert begins, "Ride out from the heat of the city, on a sticky summer's afternoon...South, but suddenly, east on the broad sweep U. S. 61 where it

bends with the wide Mississippi. And who can say exactly where it is, but suddenly the air changes, turns fresh and sweet and cools the city fever. Then, they say, you will know you are in Highwood, that little community stringing out like a crooked forefinger of the city, nestling long the obscured roads in the folds and crevices of the Highwood hills.

The Union Land Company was mentioned. In the 1880s, Highwood had two depots for the Burlington Railroad. People could use them to go to and return from the city, an early version of today's commuter rail travel. Tickets were 25 rides for \$1.50 on the Burlington "Motor" as they called it.

Hiebert mentioned the Rocky Inn, Gene Marien's gas station that served as a community gathering spot. He also interviewed Mrs. Jim Bovee who said, "I was born right over here on the southbound lane of Hwy. 61, only it wasn't a highway then of course. Some of the settlers here were French-Canadians. My father, Louis Bougie, was born in 1863 here the tracks now run."

Some of the community institutions included the old Taylor School, the Brick Block, the biggest business building. It housed, among other things, Marien's grocery, the library, and a barber shop on the first level. Apartments graced the second floor and on the third there was a hall where they danced on Saturday nights. Social groups flourished. "Who can forget the Highwood Commercial Club dramas, or the *Kom-mu-ter* newspaper published through the 1920s and 30s. And the OK-E-Hi club for unmarrieds and the Highwood Park Women's Club."

At the end of his article Hiebert mentions a sort of hall of fame for the sons and daughters of the neighborhood. Among them are Walter Greaza, a stage and TV actor. "But," he said, "I have saved the queen for the last. Sara Ellen Tandy... who so loved Highwood in 41 years that she put it down in verse. White-haired now and pretty as a portrait, her eyes warm to a youthful glow as she reads to you about Highwood,

Highwood at twilight
Between dusk and the night,
Home loving hearts gather
To talk and to see
The lights of the city
Shine out o'er the lea."

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DNR Eagle Cam

A pair of eagles are back in their nest. They are located in a top secret location on the East Side. There are now two fuzzy eaglets that hatched in late March and are being fed from the beaks of the male and female eagles. Thanks to the local Minnesota Department of Natural Resources you can see them any time of the day on-line by putting DNR eaglecam in your search engine.

Share your input



Safety and accessibility improvements are coming to Hwy 5/East 7th St. and Hwy 61/Arcade St. in 2024.

We want your ideas!

Take our online survey:
mndot.gov/metro/projects/hwy5-hwy61stpaul





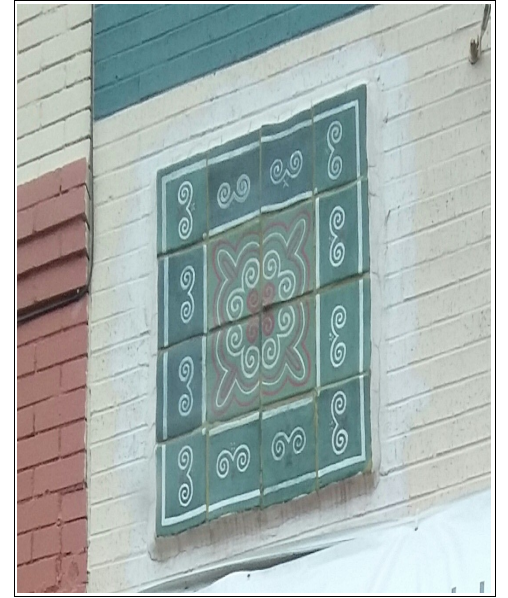
Greg Cosimini

The photo above shows the ongoing renovation at the American Indian Magnet School at Earl and Third.

Contest: Where in Dayton's Bluff?

Send your guess to daytonsbuffdistrictforum@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 May edition of the *Forum*.



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Minnesota's Mapping Prejudice Project

Clara Martin

Check out the *Star Tribune's*, startribune.com/these-minnesotans-renounced-the-racial-covenants-for-their-homes/600042723/ story (Wednesday, April 7, 2021, Section D), regarding racial covenants on a home's history.

Homeowners across the Twin Cities are discovering racial covenants that have been attached to homes in their communities since as early as 1910.

Working with the University of Minnesota's Mapping Prejudice project with legal support from Just Deeds, residents in eight cities are discovering these covenants and removing them from their homes history.

You can do it, too. Read "RACIAL COVENANTS HIT HOME" and make the call. We can work together to eliminate racist practices in our state.

View From My Porch

Sage Holben

Where are the chickens? The rubber chickens. Several years ago, one of our area U.S. postal stations was known for its knowledgeable, good-humored customer service. On one of my first visits, I asked about the rubber chicken resting on a side counter. I joked about "going postal" and to my relief, the clerk laughed and informed me the chicken was there for customers, also. Until a year ago, I knew only great service at what I will call "Station E". Then, something changed. It was well after our new Postmaster General. It was as if a mail sack stuffed with job frustration, hate, and self-loathing tore at the sack's seams and burst out, creating a toxic environment.

My frustration with the postal service began blooming just over five years ago when I became a retiree and was home when mail deliveries were supposed to happen and weren't. Four apartments in one house, and we had no mail for almost five weeks. It especially worried me because I should have been receiving retirement and year-end financial information.

I contacted Manager "Ess" at our zone's "Station M". He would not acknowledge that there likely was a problem. When I asked if the carrier might be offended, and not delivering, because our porch had a rainbow flag, Manager "Ess" called me a racist. I replied that since I had not ever seen our new carrier, didn't know their name or gender, I didn't know how I that made me racist...but since mail wasn't being delivered, could the carrier be homophobic. Manager "Ess" hung up on me.

Several weeks later, I witnessed a customer service clerk refuse to help or get further assistance for a Spanish-speaking couple. When I got back to my phone in my car, I called Manager "Ess" and told him of the incident. I informed him there are available, user-friendly computer programs that can present information in several languages; I also suggested that some common Q&As could be printed in various languages. Manager "Ess" indicated it wasn't his job to "fix" things and hung up on me. I called many USPS phone numbers to make complaints and pleas for help, including one that gave me the message "not a working number".

My last contact with "Station M" was a few months ago when I made a call about the substitute carrier, once again, not locking the door when leaving. They have a key, unlock the door to enter, but do not secure it when leaving. I dialed the direct number...and dialed...again and again, for three hours. No one would answer the phone. This was not the first time.

There had been a friendly, helpful, professional customer service person at "Station E"...I haven't seen her for a couple months now. Unfortunately, the one who has usually been there is the one who I was told is the manager. She is reminiscent of the *Seinfeld* Soup-Nazi. I have been sending books by media mail for many years, and know the rules of no personal notes, letters, memos, etc. I have even taken boxes opened so they can check if desired.

"Manager N", as I will name her, never just asked me to verify if it was "books only", but interrogated me...each time I was in with books, only books, ma'am. She put extra spark into her spiel one day and I told her it really wasn't necessary every time I came. She replied that she received \$25 an hour to say it. I responded, "nice, but it is really tedious and annoying, considering I know the rules". The next time I went in and she interrogated me, I repeated the basic "media mail notice 121" about minimal pages, no additional info included beyond book blurbs or invoices...She interrupted my spiel.

The last postal incident started at "Station E" and ended in a very small California

township. I had sent a large carton containing glassware — wrapped individually with bubble wrap, and boxed in two small boxes (one small box being a used Priority Mail box I had previously received in the mail; I cut off the flaps to accommodate my packing) within the larger box, all surrounded by more bubble wrap and miscellaneous non-fragile, cushiony items. I will add here, that in all my years of sending fragile items through the mail, I've never had anything break or crack. On this particular box, on each side of the box I wrote "fragile" and "glass". I took it to "Station E".

The clerk, who seemed to be new, took the three packages I was mailing: one was a large manila envelope — I had stamps on it, and expected it to require additional postage. The clerk looked at it and tossed it aside, saying it was fine. It still has not arrived at its destination, nor has it been returned to me marked with "insufficient postage". It's been about three weeks now.

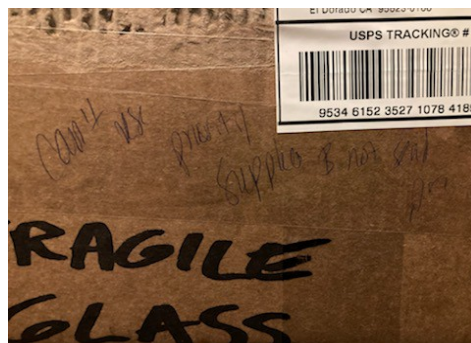
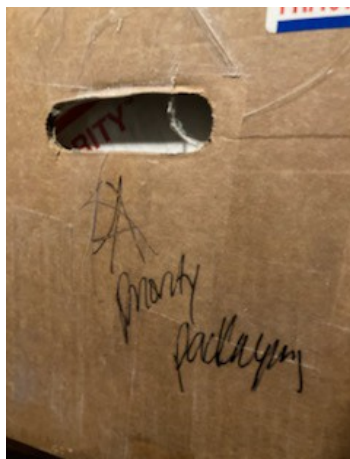
The second package was media mail, which my son received. The third, the box marked "fragile" and "glassware" met a different fate. The clerk, I realized much too late, had not asked me if I wanted insurance; with the tensions I've been feeling going into the post office, I neglected to even think about adding insurance. A week later the box arrived in California with four of the 18 crystal goblets broken. There was no sentimental value to them, so, not bad, I thought. Then my sister told me a scenario that we see as a possible sitcom episode which would include a Cliff Clavin from *Cheers* and Newman from *Seinfeld*.

When my sister picked up the package, she was told there was an extra charge. This is where my laughter was uproarious. The outside box was thick and had two cut-out handles. A postal worker "happened" to notice that there was a postal "priority" box inside the large cart. What we imagine happening involves two workers enjoying a morning coffee break notice "fragile" and "glass" written on the package...the handles were tempting, so they, with boyish energy, toss the box between them. Then perhaps "Cliff Clavin" poking around, notices an opening in the box (a cut-out handle). "Hey, Newman, looky here...they're shipping a US Postal Priority box, and not paying the \$15.50 required for that size. Make a note on the box."

Newman, checking the postal charge of \$54.90 registered on the large box, replies, "Who do they think they are, giving a free ride to a Priority box?" Newman peers inside the peephole and scrawls a note on the box below the handle/peephole, to indicate a rogue Priority box resides within (see photo). "Hey, uh, Cliff, should we charge more for damaging U.S. property since the Priority box looks like it's been reused and the box flaps appear to be cut off?"

"Naw," Cliff says, adding a note to the box flap: "Can't use priority supplies not..." (the rest illegible).(see photo) In the end, they did not charge my sister the \$15.50 for the inner, reused Priority box, because that would include an automatic \$50 damage insurance they would have to pay. I lost about \$30 in glassware but had the biggest laugh ever about the post office system.

And I am reminded of now retired Clerk J at "Station A", who wouldn't let me buy insurance for a large photo in a mailing tube because I couldn't provide a sales receipt for the value.



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 daytonsbuffdistrictforum.org: click on "East Side Eating" at the top of the home page. Steve Trimble can be reached at daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com.

Cheers Pub

Phone: 651-340-0319

Email: info@esbstp.com

1067 Hudson Road

St Paul, MN 55106

Hours: Monday-Saturday 8:00 a.m.-11:00 p.m. (for now)

Sunday 8:00 a.m-noon (for now)

Facebook: @Cheerspub2021

A while back I saw that the Mounds Park Sports Bar had a new sign saying Cheers, but it was in the midst of the COVID-19 outbreak, so I didn't know if it was a re-branding effort or if there was a new owner. I was told that a woman with two other bars had purchased the business. I had both of my vaccine shots and decided to make a new item for my Taste Trek.

They open the kitchen each day at 4 p.m., so I drove to the scene around 5:30 p.m. I found a note on the door that said because of the county curfew, with concerns of demonstrations, the kitchen was closed, and the bar had to close at 7 p.m. I realized I had to come back the next day.

I looked around on my second arrival, armed with the required face mask. The room is large and clean. There are currently eight socially spaced tables that seat four or five and quite a few more against one wall for later use. The bar, topped with a string of colorful lights, has stools for more than a dozen people. The pub has a dropped ceiling with lights and the floor was made of both tiles and wood. Lots of flat screen televisions on three of the walls. There is one remnant of the former bar—a huge mirror behind the bar that is etched with the words "Mounds Park Sports Bar".

Gambling with pull tabs behind the bar, a serve-yourself tab machine, E-tabs, electronic bingo, and an electronic bowling alley. WiFi is also available. Music from a juke box was going when I was there. Behind the bar is a generous selection of

liquors. They also have several kinds of beer, domestic and craft beer on tap, with others in bottle or cans. Coffee and some soft drinks are available.

The Cheers menu includes: In the sample platters (appetizers) there are nachos or tachos, egg rolls, chicken strips, jalapeno poppers, onion rings, and French fries. There is a build your own burger choice. Some of the ingredients for it are American or Swiss cheese, tomato, Jalapeno, bacon, and fries. There are a few different sandwiches—chicken club, chicken bacon and Swiss, Rodeo chicken, and BLTs.

One of their prides is Home Made Pizza that is made in ovens that were bought from the recently closed Savoy's on 7th. And yes, there is a build your own pizza. First choose either a 10- inch regular or large at 14 inches. They do offer their own "House Special" with sausage, pepperoni, mushrooms, onion, and green pepper for a fixed price. You can have your own pizza for an extra cost for each of many toppings, including sausage, pepperoni, Canadian bacon, chicken, ground beef, bacon, green peppers, onions, green or black olives, mushrooms, Jalapenos, Banana peppers, pineapple, or sauerkraut.

I decided to try the House Special, since it had been a long time that I tasted pizza. I also opted to have some onion rings since I have been without onion rings for months. I added a Michelob Gold Draft (MGD) that is my daughter's beer even though her

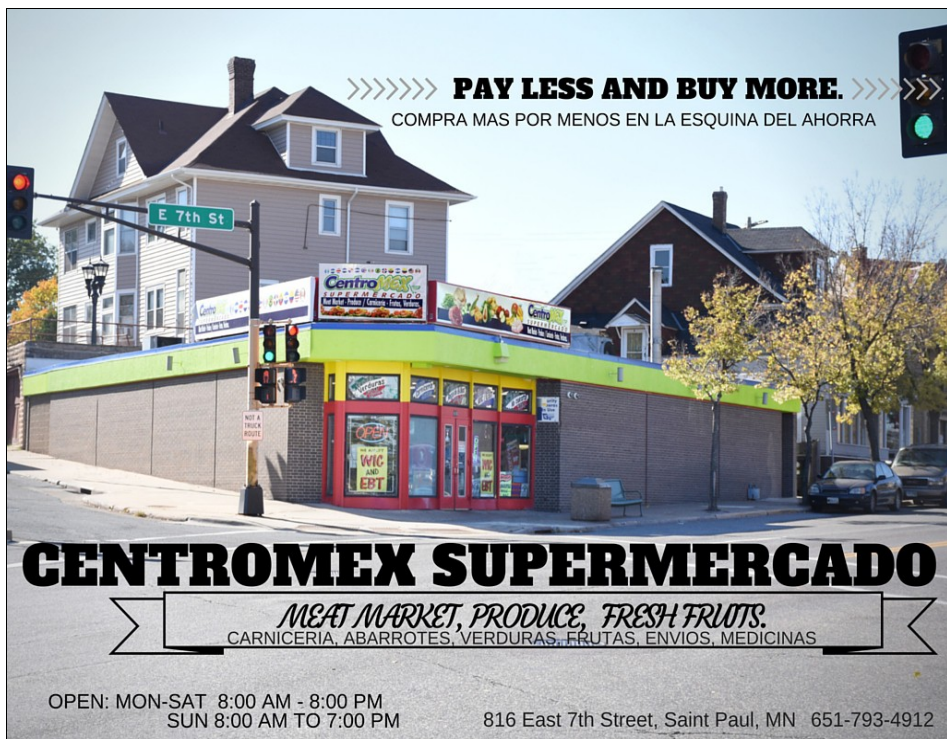
friends in Chicago pay more for trendy ones. Since it was Happy Hour, I received two beverages for the price of one.

Their Facebook is interesting. They list different days when there will be things like Taco Tuesday or a meat raffle on Friday and Saturday. Then they say who will be slinging the drinks on the day and at what time. When there are local sports events they have specials.

Future things may be coming. There is a full basement that in the past has been used for parties

or banquets and this may return. One summer event will be a corn hole tournament.

Now a bit about parking. Of course, you could take a bus or bike over, but there is plenty of off-street parking on Hudson Road and some on Earl. But after 7:30 p.m., when Leo's Chow Mein closes, it is all right to put your car, motorcycle, or vehicle there. But DO NOT park there overnight or you will likely be towed in the morning.



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The Dayton's Bluff District Forum

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Thank you for your support!