Dayton's Bluff DistrictForum

Volume 35, No. 7 August 2022

"The Voice of the Community"

Summer of Sparky Around St. Paul

Allison Lund-Zalewski

Looking for some unique, summer fun? Como Zoo is hosting the free Summer of Sparky event. You can search for all 21 custom-painted Sparky statues throughout St. Paul. Each statue has been hand-painted by local artists and features a water conservation theme. To name a few locations, you can find these six-foot seal statues at locations such as the Science Museum of Minnesota, Minnesota Children's Museum, CHS Field, Rice Park, Harriet Island, Minnehaha Park, Como Park, and the Minneapolis RBC Gateway.

The Summer of Sparky event is to celebrate the return of the Sparky the Sea Lion shows at Como Zoo's new Como Harbor.

Visit comozooconservatory.org/summer-of-sparky/ for the full list of Sparkys and the map on where to find them. Be sure to snap photos of each Sparky and tag your photos with #SummerofSparky.

Maplewood Needs Reading, Math **Tutors to Serve in Area Schools**

Reading Corps, Math Corps, and Early Learning Corps

In response to the unprecedented educational challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, seven reading tutors and one math tutor are being sought to begin serving in Maplewood schools in August. Overall, Reading Corps, Math Corps and Early Learning Corps are recruiting 1,700 tutors throughout Minnesota.

Reading Corps, Math Corps and Early Learning Corps Managing Director Sadie O'Connor said, "After approximately two years of disruptions, more students than ever need a proven solution like Reading ing on success in Minnesota, the pro-Corps and Math Corps to help get back on track."

O'Connor said no teaching experience Corps tutors are fully trained and serve on-site at the school 35, 25 or 18 hours a week. All tutors receive a stipend every more information, please visit two weeks, plus up to \$4,500 to pay for

college tuition or student loans. Those who are 55 or older may choose to gift their education award to their child, grandchild, stepchild or foster child. Many tutors also qualify for additional benefits like free individual health insurance and childcare assistance.

Candidates are encouraged to apply now to begin helping students in August. Visit join.readingandmath.org to learn more or apply.

About Reading Corps, Math Corps and Early Learning Corps: Reading Corps, Math Corps and Early Learning Corps are evidence-based AmeriCorps programs dedicated to helping all children become strong learners. Tutors placed in local schools, work one-on-one or in small groups with students to help improve their skills. Rigorous third-party evaluation has consistently shown that students who have Reading Corps, Math Corps and Early Learning Corps make greater gains and faster progress. Buildgrams are replicated nationally in 13 states and the District of Columbia. Reading Corps, Math Corps and Early is needed. Reading Corps and Math Learning Corps are administrated through a national nonprofit, Ampact (formerly Reading & Math, Inc.). For

readingandmath.org.



Reading Corps, Math Corps, and Early Learning Corps

Sumee Lee, a reading tutor, is shown working with children in the area.





Anne Lund (top) and Greg Cosimini (above)

Top: East Side artist Emilee Lund, right, and her sister and Forum editor, Allison Lund-Zalewski and her son Frankie, left, pose with Emilee's Sparky in front of the Science Museum. Above: A Sparky located near the lakeside pavilion at Como Park.



National Night Out Set for August 2

National Night Out (NNO) is always on the first Tuesday of August. This year it will be on August 2. National Night Out is an annual nationwide event that encourages residents to get out in the neighborhood with their neighbors and meet members of the Police Department. There is still time to organize an event for your neighbor-

Many Block Clubs and/or neighborhoods have held National Night Out events for years. Here in the Dayton's Bluff community, a number of neighborhoods have celebrated for many years like the Mounds Park neighborhood and the Upper Swede Hollow neighborhood.

For over 34 years the Upper Swede Hollow neighborhood held NNO in the upper area of Swede Hollow Park at Greenbrier and Margaret. For many years we have had a band and the last couple years we were lucky enough to have John Knowles perform at National Night Out.

In the years before COVID, everyone often brought something to share at the event. If people are concerned about it, another option is bring food for their own group.

To get move information about National Night Out call Sagal Abdirahman 651-266-



Brad Griffith, Friends of Swede Hollow

On July 2, the Friends of Swede Hollow, the Minnesota Dragonfly Society, the Saint Paul Audubon Society, and the Saint Paul Parks Conservancy sponsored Dragonflies and Flycatchers in Swede Hollow Park. Led by John Arthur from the Minnesota Dragonfly Society, 21 attendees braved a morning drizzle identifying dragonflies and other creatures that inhabit Swede Hollow Park. For more adventures in Swede Hollow Park, follow the Friends of Swede Hollow Facebook Group.



@Dayton's Bluff District Forum

Friends of Swede Hollow

Friends of Swede Hollow watch over, restore, and celebrate the history of Swede community at their monthly meetings.

starting at **6:30 p.m.** at 668 Greenbrier corner of Payne and Minnehaha Avenues. Street. Anyone interested in Swede Hollow is welcome to attend. Discussion will learn, listen, and address people's coninclude National Night Out, Pickup Truck cerns about crime and other issues on the Opera, and other upcoming events.

For more information, email karindupaul@comcast.net or call 651-776-0550 for more information and the meet- neighbors! ing's location.

Dayton's Bluff District Forum Board Meeting

The Forum is seeking writers and help with online content, idea generation, and ad sales — join us at our next meeting on Friday, August 5 at 1:30 p.m.

0550 or email daytonsbluffdistrictfo- folks, too. rum@gmail.com for more information. We are currently meeting at the Dayton's Bluff Library.

Twin Cities Mobile Market

The Twin Cities Mobile Market is a grocery store on wheels that brings affordable, healthy food directly into neighbor-

The Mobile Market stops at Parkway Gardens Apartments, located at 1145 Hudson Road, on Wednesdays, from 2 to 3 p.m.

Police Community Meetings

The Eastern District Saint Paul Police Hollow Park. Join the Swede Hollow hosts their monthly meetings for community members at the Eastern District Po-Our next meeting will be on August 16 lice Office at 722 Payne Avenue, on the

> The meetings are intended as a time to East Side. Policing meetings are held at 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. on the third Bring your Tuesday of each month.

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

Family Homeless Prevention Assistance Program

Family Homeless Prevention Assistance If you'd like to attend, call 651-776- Program (FHPAP) funds can help single

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

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

New National Suicide Prevention Hotline Number

SOLIDARITY STREET GALLERY Set for September 9, 10

We are pleased to invite all to SOLIDARITY STREET GALLERY 2022, the third edition of our community-centered arts and cultural festival held along Payne Avenue in St. Paul, September 9 and 10.

The aim is to bring together artists and the community for important exchanges about justice, equity, and resilience — and to celebrate all the diverse groups who call the East Side of St. Paul their home.

The focus this year is on RESILIENT GENERATIONS, which is centered around Southeast Asian communities and other displaced groups. Visual artists, performers, poets, storytellers, and community leaders — most of them Southeast Asian — will reflect on the immigrant experiences of being forced from a homeland, often in traumatic circumstances; rebuilding lives in a new diaspora home; and establishing a new identity while revitalizing culture, language, and history across generations. Celebrating Southeast Asian people is especially important with the rise of anti-Asian violence and the need for #StopAsianHate.

SOLIDARITY STREET GALLERY is a family-friendly event open to all! Invite your family and friends, explore the high-quality art exhibitions, enjoy and learn from the community activities. Witness the stories and talent of the performers, shop and dine at the Southeast Asian Street Market, and gather in solidarity, strength and resilience.

For more information about the festival, including many opportunities to get involved and participate, please go to solidaritystreetgallery.org/ or @SolidarityStreetGallery. Both sites will be updated in the near future to reflect 2022 festival plans.



tion Lifeline. Text or Dial. 988 recently agement; Transportation; Animal Serlaunched as an alternative to calling vices; Criminal Justice, Legal Services;

Xcel Phone Numbers

age: 800-895-1999.

Call 811 before you dig: Before starting given options to waiting on the line. that roto-tiller or heaving that shovel into the ground for anything, call 811. At no charge, Xcel will have a trained technician 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, marking the 'nois safe!

Dayton's Bluff Community Council Board of Directors Meeting

The DBCC Board of Directors meet the shop-series-registration-337482247487. third Monday of every month. The next meeting is August 15, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. rostate.edu. Meetings are open to the public and are currently being held via Zoom. Visit daytonsbluff.org or call (651) 772-2075 for more information.

Free Health and **Human Services**

United Way 211 provides free and confidential health and human services information for people in Minnesota, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, connecting you at 1029 Hudson Road, St. Paul, MN with the resources and information you 55106; 651-772-2253; historicmoundsthe-988 has been designated as the new need: Alcohol & Drug Abuse; Child Care; atre@gmail.com three-digit dialing code that will route Consumer Regulation; Financial Assis-

callers to the National Suicide Preven- tance Programs; Healthcare; Money Man-Employment; Food and Housing/Shelter; Tax Organizations & Services; Utilities (includes phones); Mental Health.

When calling 211 you will need to enter your ZIP code and then will hear a Gas Leak: 800-895-2999. Power Out- menu of services. Be patient, please. With COVID-19, lines are busy. You may be

Free Summer Workshops

Metro State University and Urban dig' area with painted lines...and everyone Roots are co-hosting a series of summer workshops on the second Wednesday of each month from 5-7 p.m.

Events are free and open to the public. They will take place at GROW-IT Center at 445 Maria Ave., Saint Paul. August 10's will be Boulevards & Rain Gardens: Minimizing water use.

Register at Eventbrite.com/e/urbanroots-metro-state-university-work-

For questions email **GROW-IT**@met-



Visit moundstheatre.org to purchase tickets and get more information on upcoming events.

The Historic Mounds Theatre is located

Happening at the **Dayton's Bluff** Library

information.

Need

ble to get it. Use interlibrary loan (MN-LINK) to request items that are not in the for the Affordable Connectivity Program library catalog. Library staff will search here: GetInternet.gov for your request in the collections of other libraries in the metro area and beyond. an integral part of the work we do, and If it is out there somewhere in Minne- we have a wide range of opportunities sota, we will get it for you! If the item for you to get involved. Reading menyou are looking for has been published in tors during the school year, youth prothe last six months, make a suggestion gram aides, and library beautification are for purchase instead and we will consider a few ways you can be part of Dayton's purchasing the item and adding it to the Bluff Library and support our communicollection: brary-loan.

Dayton's Bluff Library will be hosting a more information. **Summer Spark Celebration — August** 20 from 2-4 p.m. to celebrate all of the time. excellent reading, exploration, and fun will be activities, snacks, and games.

Have you seen our Teen Area recently? We have computers exclusively for teen access, comfortable seating to hang out with your friends, and tons of things to read. We have board and card games to play in the library such as: Unstable Unicorns; Exploding Kittens; Here to Slay; New Phone, Who Dis?; Bears vs Babies; and Taco Cat Goat Cheese Pizza. There's a question of the week, Polaroid wall, gi-

ant coloring page, and more.

Get Affordable Internet

There is a new Affordable Connectivity Program to help you pay for broadband internet service. Your household may qualify for up to \$30 per month off their broadband costs if:

You receive Women, Infants, and Chil-Dayton's Bluff Library, 645 East 7th dren (WIC) supplemental nutrition bene-Street, is a public library branch located fits or SNAP, you participate in free and inside the Metropolitan State University reduced school meals or Pell grant pro-Library and Learning Center. We are grams, you receive Supplemental Securiopen six days a week offering books, ty income (SSI), Medicaid, Federal Pubmovies, music, internet stations, pro- lic Housing Assistance (FPHA), SNAP, grams, and services for all ages. Call or Veterans Pension and Survivor Bene-651-793-1699 or visit sppl.org for more fits, you participate in the Lifeline program, your income is below 200% of the Get (Almost) Any Book or DVD You federal poverty guidelines, you participate in Bureau of Indian Affairs General If Saint Paul Public Library doesn't Assistance, Tribal TANF, and Food Dishave the book you want, it is still possi- tribution Program on Indian Reservations

You can learn more about and sign up

We love our volunteers! Volunteers are sppl.org/interli- ty. If you are interested in volunteering at the library, go to sppl.org/volunteer/ for

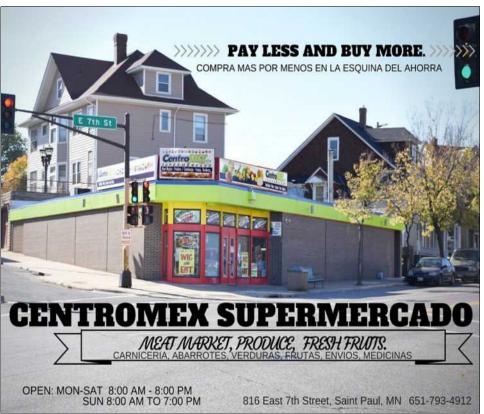
The outdoor book drop is open all the

Current hours are available online at spthat you have had this summer! There pl.org/locations/DB/ or call 651-793-

Dayton's Bluff Library Hours

Mondays & Wednesdays noon to 8 p.m. Tuesdays & Thursdays 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Fridays & Saturdays 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.







Allison Lund-Zalewski

The Dayton's Bluff Library is offering free meals for kids 18 and under Mondays through Saturdays.

Life, Love, **Beauty:**

The Art of Shia Yang

Mandy Okonek

Art @967 Payne Ave. featured local Hmong artist Shia Yang in an exhibit on display this July. Photographer Shia Yang's pictures tell the story of Saint Paul's Hmong community, a culture of people historically displaced by war, and many of them found their home on Saint Paul's East Side. Many Saint Paul Hmong residents arrived as refugees and were forced to adapt to a Western way of life that they never fully embraced, and we are lucky for it. In fact, Yang's visual journey of vibrant photos are in many ways a celebration of the intersection of Eastern and Western culture. From an upclose image of traditional Hmong clothing with bright red embroidery and white bead work adorned with dangling silver coins, to photos of Hmong military dignitaries and political officials sharing

their cultural traditions with local and national government officials, Yang's visual journey was not about assimilation but strength in diversity.

This is Yang's first public art installation; however, his work spans a career in photojournalism and a life-long love of art. Trained as a graphic designer, Yang stumbled into photography when he accepted a position out of college that involved taking photos. I think it's safe to say Yang veered off in just the right direction. His sense for imagery is intuitive and intimate. He captured the "Life, Love and Beauty," of his culture through framed moments in time. Yang's preference in camera reveals his adherence to representing the interconnectedness of Hmong and American communities.

He states, "For most of my photographic work, I use a Leica M9 digital rangefinder camera as my instrument of choice, especially for portraits and landscapes. This camera is unique in that it utilizes a viewfinder focus mechanism consisting of two images overlapping each other for focus accuracy."

With his distinct focus on duality, Yang reveals the inherent beauty in contrast. Join the local celebration of Saint Paul's bourgeoning art scene and stop by 967 Payne Avenue. You can follow the art gallery on Facebook Art@967 to keep taps on updated showings and event times.



Mandy Okonek

Art @967 Payne Ave. featured local Hmong artist Shia Yang in an exhibit on display this July.

Save the (Native) Bees!

Jeff Borden and Kathleen Hoffer

Bees on the Bluff

When I tell people I am a hobby beekeeper, they sometimes say, "Thank you for saving the bees!" While I appreciate the sentiment behind the remark, the gratitude is misplaced. It's a bit like thanking someone with a backyard chicken coop for saving the endangered California Condor.

The bees we tend, European honeybees, were brought here in the 17th century. They are livestock, bred and cared for by humans. Yes, beekeepers in recent years have had problems with colony collapse disorder, overuse of pesticides, and varroa mite infestation. But the US Department of Agriculture, many universities, and private breeders are working hard to create hardier honeybees.

Honeybees are fine.

The 400 species of bees native to Minnesota are not doing quite as well. They are threatened by habitat loss, climate change, pesticides, and diseases. Luckily, people are learning about the issue, and they are looking for ways to help.

Several weeks ago, a friend sent me the following message:

"I'm not seeing many of my bee buddies yet and was thinking about what more I could do to roll out the welcome mat for them and it occurred to me that I don't have a home for them to roll that welcome mat in front of."

Ah yes, the bee house. Charming little structures intended to give solitary native bees access to nesting materials. If you've been in a hardware store or home-improvement center you've probably seen them. The internet is full of blue-prints and advice for building them. Over the years I have built or been given many different kinds of bee houses. I have never once had a nesting bee use any of them.

Not. Once

One day I was lucky enough to witness

a leaf-cutter bee carve a perfect circle from one of my serviceberry bushes. These bees use leaves to line their nesting cavities and package each larva in a little leafy envelope with enough pollen to nourish it until it emerges as an adult. Because this particular bee was carrying a slab of leaf the size of her body I could easily see where she was going, and I was excited to see which of my nesting houses she had chosen. Imagine my dismay when that bee took her leaf and dragged it into a burrow in my yard. That bee was telling me, "I'd rather live in a hole in the ground than in any of your cutesy bee houses."

And lest you think I am just bitter because my houses were rejected, I can quote our best local experts on pollinators, the University of Minnesota Bee Lab:

"The best way to provide nests for native bees is to provide undisturbed areas where they can make their own nests. Some key elements to provide are standing, dead stems, downed logs, brush piles, and most importantly, undisturbed ground (both bare and covered with thatch)."

You see, the most important lesson of building for native bees is, you don't need to. Simply make your yard more hospitable to them.

Your most important asset is a willingness to coexist with insects. If you notice the perfect circles a leaf-cutter bee removed from the leaves on your shrub, don't spray them with pesticide. The plant is not damaged. Make peace with a slightly less tidy garden. And if a bumble bee queen decides to nest under the floor of your yard shed, let her! Bumblebees are not aggressive, so you won't have a problem accessing the garden tools.

Plant those pollinator-friendly plants. Participate in No Mow May. Go ahead and put up some cute bee houses. But be sure to also give those native bees space to do their own thing.

Here's a link to the U of M Bee Lab website: **beelab.umn.edu**. They are a great source of information about native bees

Also, check out these beautiful photographs of 13 native bee species: dnr.s-tate.mn.us/mcvmagazine/issues/2015/jul-aug/web-exclusive.html.

St. Paul Farmers' Market

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

The St. Paul Farmers' Market (SPFM) allows only fresh, locally grown produce to be sold directly from the grower to he consumer, making it unique among many farmers' markets. The baked goods, artisan foods, confections, and other products offered are produced locally as well.

The Saint Paul Farmers' Market is located at 290 5th Street East downtown St. Paul. The SPFM will run every Saturday through the summer from **7 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

You got somethin' to say? Say it here!

The *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* welcomes all opinions and neighborhood anecdotes – send yours to:

daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com

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

Deadline for the September issue of the *Forum* is August 10, 2022.





Kathleen Hoffer

The topmost photo is a rusty patched bumble bee on a purple coneflower. The bottom photo shows where a leaf cutter bee harvested these perfect circles from my service berry bush.

Bonus Checks Coming For Frontline Workers

Senator Foung Hawj said that the Senate approved \$500 million in long-awaited bonus checks for 667,000 Minnesota frontline workers — including thousands of workers in St. Paul — who got the state through the past two years of a deadly pandemic. The measure, which at the same time replenishes the state's Unemployment Insurance (UI) Trust Fund, also passed in the House and was quickly signed into law by Governor Walz.

Sen. Hawj said the legislation will send \$750 to Minnesotans working in health care or long-term care facilities, child-care workers, grocery store staff, and re-

tail employees.

"I fought hard for the frontline workers because they put their health and safety on the line to get us through a deadly pandemic. A word of thank you is not enough." said Sen. Hawj. "These bonuses reward workers who did not have the option of working from home, and their sacrifices got Minnesota through this health and economic crisis. They deserve these bonuses and have waited far too long for them"

Sen. Hawj said that among the frontline workers eligible for bonus checks are: home care and long-term care workers, building maintenance, janitorial and security workers, school workers, food service workers, public health workers, retail workers, hotel and temporary shelter workers, ground and air transportation workers, manufacturing, and vocational rehabilitation workers.



Kids Corner

J. Mason Dayton's Bluff Library Staff

Summer may be wrapping up, but there's still lots of fun to be had. Read a book about going to the park and then have your own fun at the park with your friends. Or do the crossword and find a great new series of books to read.

What Does Little Crocodile Say at the Park? By Eva Montanari

In this charming book of sounds, Little Crocodile visits the park and experiences a wide range of feelings. Adults and their toddlers will enjoy reading the fun sounds and looking at the beautiful illustrations together.



Interesting August Days

Steve Trimble

August 1, 1913: A group of boys from the Parental School and Detention facility at the Mayall Building at 75 East 7th Street walked a few miles on this day to reach their new location at a farm in for small crimes to help them reform.

and losing privileges.

produce and forage and cared for horses, more. cattle, pigs, as well as chickens, geese, problems.

composition of the boys that the all-white tative to the Saint Paul Charter Commisstaff sometimes didn't understand and the sion and was involved in church work growing seriousness of their crimes. In and civil rights activities. 1975, there were numerous changes in Ramsey County judges voted to stop widely mourned after his death in 1923. sending boys there and Totem Town His home still stands at 419 Sherburne in closed August 1, 2019.

concrete arches.

built in 1884-1885, that was inadequate met by four local policemen with two for the demand of increased traffic of sawed-off shotguns and two Thompson cars and streetcars. The day of the open- sub-machine guns. ing, a grand procession with five bands wound through the streets featuring floats Meter bolted, firing shots from a 38 Colt and "other symbols of progress."

The daughter of Louis Robert, for whom plane under the bridge to celebrate the gang that went on a crime spree.

That evening there was a dinner at the

Riverview Commercial Club for the West Side group that had pushed for the bridge that completed the day of festivities. The bridge is distinguished by its characteristic rainbow arches and rises 30 feet above the roadway so trains and ships could go

August 8, 1902: Around 100 men and women, members of various St. Paul unions, gathered at a meeting hall on Wabasha Street on this day. They were Highwood called Totem Town. It was a delegates from the city's working people, place where boys were sent by the court and they made history by electing 35year-old Charles James as the president The intent at Totem Town was to change of the Saint Paul Trades and Labor Asa boy's behavior. The treatment philoso- sembly. James was the first African phy included a system of earning rewards American to assume that leadership post in the city and perhaps the first in the na-For decades, the boys grew their own tion. He ended up being re-elected twice

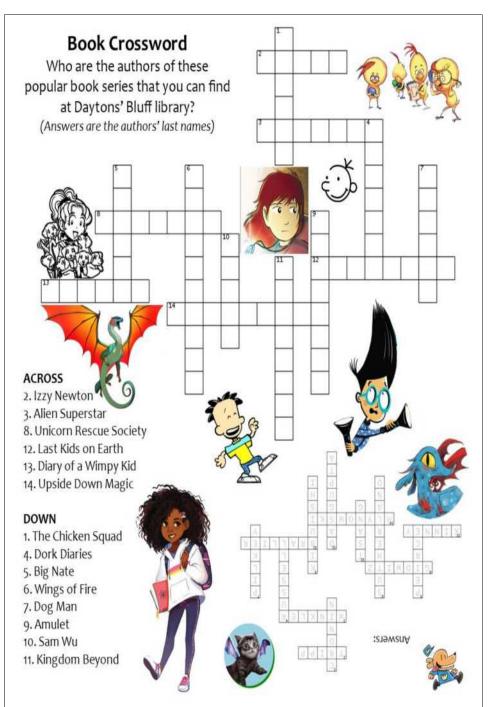
James was a leader in the Boot and ducks, and other poultry along with crops Shoe Workers Union, an important labor and flowers. Many kids weren't there group at the time. He was a St. Paul nabecause they did something bad, but tive, part of a prominent African Amerisome of them came because of home can pioneer family, although they preferred the name Afro American at the Over the years there were changes in the time. James was also the labor represen-

James was later elected to seven terms policies. Better counseling was intro- as the recording secretary of the Assemduced, there were fewer runaways and bly. He was one of the most admired acfighting was reduced. Still, in 2016, tivists in the labor movement and was the Frogtown neighborhood.

August 6, 1926: After more than two August 23, 1934: Gangster Homer Van years of construction, the new Robert Meter was shot to death by St. Paul po-Street Bridge was opened with a dedica- lice near the corner of Marion Street and tion and a gala celebration on this day. University Avenue on this day. Unaware Designed by architect Roy Childs Jones, that he was being tracked that late afterthe structure featured Modern style de- noon, he stepped out of an auto dealertailing and had monumental reinforced ship where he has been looking at new cars, fully expecting to meet a pal who It replaced a wrought-iron structure was holding his money. Instead, he was

At the words, "Stick Them Up" Van over his shoulder. The pursuit was Robert Street was decorated with red, short-lived because the fugitive turned white, and blue streamers and thousands into a blind alley and was trapped. A lined the streets along the parade route. shotgun blew Van Meter into the air.

Van Meter was the right-hand man for the bridge is named, was there. Local John Dillinger. He met Dillinger in stunt pilot Charles "Speed" Holman prison in Indiana. They were both wowed spectators when he flew his bi- paroled in May of 1933 and formed a





Dayton's Bluff District Forum

1368 Minnehaha Ave. E., St. Paul, MN 55106 **phone**: 651-776-0550 **E-mail**: daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com

We are currently printing and distributing our newspaper quarterly. The paper is available online at daytonsbluffdistrictforum.org. This publication of Hopewell Communications, Inc., a nonprofit organization, is intended to provide a forum for the ideas and opinions of its readers and to be an instrument for developing community awareness and pride. Signed articles do not necessarily represent the views of the Forum. Material from this paper may be republished if it is attributed to the Dayton's Bluff District Forum and to the author, if any. Articles and letters to the editor are welcome and may be emailed to daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com, or mailed to the address above. The Dayton's Bluff District Forum is delivered to businesses in the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood when the budget permits. To find out where you can pick up a printed issue, send an email to the address above.

Board of Directors: Greg Cosimini, Karin DuPaul, Sage Holben,

Jennifer Gascoigne, Steve Trimble

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

Staff: Mandy Okonek, Clare Howard

Next issue: September 2022. Deadline for material: August 10, 2022.

Memories of Mother's Meals

G,B. LeRoy

I was looking at another cookbook that brought back memories of the smells of my Mother's kitchen. Those olfactory memories were those like French writer Marcel Proust, who wrote Remembrance of Things Past and suggested that a smell conjures up events. The cookbook was From Creative Cooks Who Share and was published by St. John's Hospital in Dayton's Bluff, but there was no date.

The first recipe that caught my notice was "Pear Salad." My mother made pear salads that I remember. The one in the cookbook started with pear juice, two and a half cups of mashed pears, and added lime Jell-O You had to heat the pear juice and blend it into a handful of ingredients and put in a mold. Submitted by Monica Hagen.

My mother made it through the Depression and WWII and cooked more simply. Her pear dessert was far less complicated. She added hot water to a lime Jell-O package put in pear halves from a can or two. She also concocted an offering that was made with cherry Jell-O and added in a can of fruit cocktail and put it in the refrigerator.

Next I found a recipe for "Molasses

Baked Beans" from Pat Gray. Much like my mother's, it started with two 16 oz cans of pork and beans, with molasses and chili and/or catsup, chopped onions, and brown sugar. But I can't remember if Mom included dry mustard or Worcestershire sauce like the recipe. I'm pretty sure she didn't add pepper or chopped up bacon.

My mother did put hers in the oven for a time but not in a qt. casserole. She had a special baked bean pot with a lid. I try to be traditional with my baked beans, but I decided to include bacon and add regular mustard. By the way, I still have her brown baked bean pot.

The final memory-evoking recipe in the cookbook was "Liver Baked with Onions." Again, my mother lived through the rationing of meat during WWII when people had to use alternative meat as most prime beef went to the military. We were frequently served liver and onions but also tongue, heart, and kidneys. Her approach was somewhat different than the recipe shared by Ruth Loucks. She didn't put the liver in hot water and if I remember correctly, cooked the liver and onions in a cast iron skillet on the stove. We also used to put ketchup on the plated liver, making it quite tasty.

Readers, how about sending in some menu memories of your own to share and we can put them in a Forum? A photo would be great.



G.B. LeRoy

My mother's brown baked bean pot.

Recent Group Tour Helped Strengthen Relationship Between Rural and Urban Farming

Marc Kimball

Senator Foung Hawj said that a reban farming sites by officials from the Minnesota Corn Growers Association (MCGA) helped strengthen the relationunderstanding of the diversity and the needs of urban farming and its potential to address "food deserts," or areas where residents have little access to grocery the future." stores or markets that sell affordable, healthy food.

and the Minnesota Farmers Union on the tour. Sen. Hawj said the group not only saw the potential that urban agriculture ers market.

has to address food deserts, but also the need for partnerships to provide the training and expertise to allow urban agriculture to expand.

"The East Side of St. Paul has many diverse and growing urban agriculture sites that have the potential to reduce the number of food deserts in our urban areas," said Sen. Hawj. "I was very cent visit to several East Side St. Paul ur- pleased that the Minnesota Corn Growers Association and other farm groups were able to join me and to tour some of these sites and see their potential, divership between Minnesota's rural and ur- sity, importance in ensuring all Minban farming interests. He said the tour nesotans get the food and nutrition they allowed MCGA leaders to get a better need. The relationships between rural and urban farming resulting from this tour will help strengthen Minnesota farming — both urban and rural — into

The group visited four urban agriculture sites, including Community Garden The MCGA officials were joined by - Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servileaders from the Minnesota Farm Bureau cio (CLUES), the GROW-IT Center at Metro State University in St. Paul, Urban Roots, and Hmong Village indoor farm-

St. Paul and Maplewood Students Recognized on Dean's List and **Honors List**

The University of Wisconsin-La Crosse recognizes graduates Kamilah Gobran, and Joseph Hinzman of Maplewood. Houadraa Lee of St. Paul. The Dean's List has named Joseph Hinzman of Maplewood. Connor Haindfield, Lizzie Nelson, Jack Parker, Ana Radoc, and Abby Steigauf of St. Paul.

Rockhurst University recognizes graduates Sam Lindahl of Maplewood.

The University of Wisconsin-Stout recognizes graduates Marcella Jalbut, Meng Thao, and Tyler Yang of St. Paul.

The University of Wisconsin-River Falls recognizes graduates Samuel Anderson, Kathryn Garhofer, Lauren Huschka, Katerina Kolar, Ian MacNeil, An Phan Bryce Phillips, Julia Schultz, Catherine Smith, Marisa Thompson, Ker Vue, Andrew Willett, and Zong Xiong.

Saint Mary's of Minnesota recognizes graduates Tzolquin Pinedo and Grace Ziemer of St. Paul. The Dean's List has named Vincent Hurley of Maple wood. Tzolquin Pinedo and Alyssa Smith of St. Paul.

St. Cloud University recognizes graduates Karen Ortiz of Maplewood. Chao Her-Carrie Irwin, PaJa Lee, Nong Vang, Houa Yang, Houache Yang, PaJa Lee, and Samantha Yang of St. Paul.

Bemidji State University recognizes graduates Daniel Merseth and Jennifer Merseth of Maplewood. Shue Fang, Pang Vue, and Htee Ler Hgay of St. Paul.

Northwest Technical College recognizes graduates Po Aye and Andrew Tarnows

Whitman College recognizes graduate Samuel Dale-Gau of St. Paul.

The University of Northern Colorado recognizes graduate Holly Abel of St. Paul. Drake University's Dean's and President's Lists have named Mac Brandt, Soe Oo, and Grace Scanlon of St. Paul.

The University of Wisconsin-Green Bay's Dean's List has named Srisawang Lee

Gustavus Adolphus College's Dean's List has named Elise Gunderson and Andrew Gustafson of Maplewood. Veronica Kemna and Bao Xiong of St. Paul.

Minnesota State University, Mankato's Dena's List has named Hailey Saniti of Maplewood. Aicha Abdulaziz, Na Fang, Rediet Hailemichael, Alan Hernandez Riatiga, Htee Moo, Ywah Moo, Cecelia Newbauer, Becca Stark, Jue Thao, Kabao Xiong, Paja Yang, and Panghoua Yang of St. Paul.

Central Lakes College's Dean's List has named Thomas Jones of St. Paul.

The University of Wisconsin-Platteville's Dean's List has named Alex Blizzard of Maplewood. Anna Ebert and Bond Yunusov of St. Paul.

August Events Happening at Battle Creek and Dayton's Bluff Recreation Centers

August 4, 1-4 p.m, Free; Battle Creek Rec Center—Field Day: For ages 6-12. Kids will compete in multiple sporting events to earn certificates mimicking the

August 4-25, 6-7:30 p.m., Free; Dayton's Bluff Rec Center—Wax-On, Wax-Off: Creative Crayon Art: For ages 8-14. Create different masterpieces using crayons in ways you may have never used them before!

August 8-10, 6-7:30 p.m., \$10; Battle Creek Rec Center—Summer Basketball Camp: For ages 10-12. This camp the participants will work on their dribbling, passing, shooting and court sense. This activity includes a t-shirt.

August 8-15, 9:30-11:30 a.m., \$60; Battle Creek Rec Center—Pickleball Camp: For ages 8-14. Pickleball Camp is designed to provide beginner and intermediate level players ages 8-14 with the fundamental skills of a sport that is growing in popularity. Participants are taught proper grip, footwork, volleys, overheads and serves. We will also cover the basic rules and etiquette of the game. Please bring sunscreen, water bottle, snack and appropriate dress/shoes.

August 16, 5:45-6:45 p.m., \$18; Battle Creek Rec Center—Among Us with Kid-Create: For ages 5-12. Among Us fans, we're getting all our crewmates together to create some out-of-this-world art. We'll sculpt, paint, draw, and more as we create projects that are all inspired by this popular game. Please pack a nut free snack and drink for your

August 22, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Free; Dayton's Bluff Rec Center—Paint Night for Teens: For ages 12-18. Let the artist come out in you! Teens will create a masterpiece on canvas and be able to take it home.

Visit stpaul.gov/facilities/battle-creek-recreation-center for the full list of events. You can also choose Dayton's Bluff Rec Center when searching.



@Dayton's Bluff District Forum

August Events Happening in St. Paul

August 1-31, Various times: Summer Music and Events at Dock and Paddle, Free: We are looking forward to a summer of live music, great company, and delicious food and beverage at Dock and Paddle @the Como Lakeside Pavilion in 2022! Check out the calendar of shows. All shows are FREE unless noted! Located at 1360 Lexington Pkwy N., Saint Paul.

August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 5:30-6:30 p.m.: Yoga Sculpt, Free: Reservations are not required for attendance. Participants are asked to bring a yoga mat, water and towel if needed. All classes are taught in the Waiting Room. If the Waiting Room is closed for a private event, classes will take place in the Head House under the East clock, unless otherwise noted. Located at 214 4th Street East, Saint Paul.

August 2, 11 a.m.-noon: Union Depot Tours, Free: This tour will explore the history of Union Depot, allow you to experience the beauty and majesty of the historic renovation, and will inspire you to embark on your next journey from Union Depot. Tour is located at 214 4th St. E, St. Paul.

August 2, 4-7 p.m.: National Night Out at Union Depot, Free: Shop local artists, jam to a live DJ, enjoy food options, interact with chalk murals, create your own design with chalk, spin-the-wheel for free prizes, stay for giveaways and meet your neighbors! Everyone is welcome. All events are happening on the North Plaza near the Green Line. Located at 214 4th St. E, St. Paul.

August 3, 10 a.m-11 a.m.: St. Paul Walking Tours, Free: Stand where Saint Paul began and walk through its origin tales and historic towers into its anticipated future. Reservations required. Located at 62 W Kellogg Blvd., Saint Paul.

August 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25, 31, 5-7:30 p.m.: Margaritas on the Mississippi, \$35: A great way to wind down after a long day at work or to catch up with friends and family! Cash bar with 2 for 1 margaritas available. Reservations reguired. Located at 201 Dora Ct. W., Saint Paul.

August 3, 5, 7, 10, 12, 14, 17, 19, 21, 24, 26, 28, 31, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.: Music Makers Zone, Free: Here you will have opportunities to interact with instruments from across the globe. Located at 75 W. 5th Street, Saint Paul.

August 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, noon-4 p.m. or noon-7 p.m.: Games Galore, Free: Guests of all ages are invited to play giant-size versions of many of your favorite games including Chess, Checkers, Connect Four, Dominoes, Jenga, Tic-Tac-Toe and others. The games are free and open to the public and you're also invited to bring your own games! Located at 214 4th St. E, St. Paul.

August 4, 6 p.m.: Cat Video Festival, \$10: Join myTalk 107.1 and the St. Paul Saints at CHS Field. Videos featuring silly, heartwarming and lovable cats from Twin Cities' residents, TikTok and America's Funniest Home Videos! Located at

For a full list of August events, go to visitsaintpaul.com/events-calendar/.



Obb's Sports Bar and Grill at 1347 Burns Ave. has installed new metal canopies over its two patio areas. They are not solid but actually louvered so that the canopies can be opened or closed depending on sun and rain conditions. They also eliminate the need for large umbrellas at each table which could get in the way of guests and servers and be a problem on windy days.

Donations Needed for Us to Print

Help Us Deliver to Your Door Again!

The Dayton's Bluff District Forum staff is asking you to support our newspaper! Just a small donation can help us get our newspaper back to the printing press each month, so that you can read a hard copy!

Your donation will go toward printing costs. We miss having our newspaper displayed in the businesses on 7th Street. We have found a new printer and are able to print for less each month.

We are so close to meeting our goal to print each month, and we know your donations would bring us one step closer to printing your favorite paper! We are also working toward enough donations for our mailing permit so that the post office can deliver our monthly newspaper right to your door again!

Own a business? Consider taking out an ad with us for a future issue.

View From My Porch: Letters From the Heart

Sage Holben

I heard a soundbite on NPR inviting listeners to submit a poetic line or two about letter writing. The program poet would then create a longer, cohesive poem using all submissions. I am not a poet, but I am a letter writer, and a saver of letters written to me. In fact over the last few months, I have shipped hundreds of handher permission before sending the many a way for Bobbi and me to fill in our own blank spots.

I set aside letters with mention of my items from them to me. I sent the remainder to Bobbi. I was with her in California when she began to read through the misbut the earliest I found were dated 1959; correspondents from 63 years ago were back, telling me to get over it and to get friends and strangers. my Great Aunt Ella Langaas and my over myself, and Jeanette's more empa- I pulled a note from a plain white enve- comes from you!

how, we started writing. Ella was a aging me to find my way out of my about me and other AFSCME union through these letters and "puzzle out" the kept, if they exist. family connections.

ents' family members — grandparents, Working in Ackemann's department store ed she will start regularly writing notes to child, I knew when to keep my mouth job that I got through my mother. And...it change a life. Are you ready? trove. Yet he is also a notewriter, so un- anything she found that they might want. I others' sensitivity.

letters. I held back only a few in which easily recognizable tight script of Jinny, I love cursive writing, the beauty of fine

I was the family chronicler to my par- ship on her fine stationery caught my eye. couragement of handwritten letters, deciduncles, aunts, cousins — many of whom I in Elgin, Illinois was my first paycheck people. Handwritten words in a short note had never known. My guess is that as a job that I got on my own, not a restaurant can brighten a day....sometimes even

I pondered this with more contemporary Sam's angular, energetic, lefty scrawl, the isn't an English assignment.

Great Uncle Bill Pelto. I may have "met" thetic letter of six modest stationery lope. I didn't recognize the sender's name them when I was a baby, but my parents sheets. The third, a note from my then- or address. The note was one of encournever kept close ties with family. Some- long distant boyfriend, Mohinder, encour- agement, in reference to a NYT article schoolteacher and from a photo I have of morass, that he was there for me. It's cor- workers and health care. The note writer her I see a woman of quiet elegance and respondence like this that to me is more had enclosed a check for 100 dollars. I assertiveness. I hope to learn more about like a shared diary. Unknown is where the held it in my hand, 14 years later. Had I her and Uncle Bill as my grandnieces read other writer's pages, the rest of a story, are not seen it, embarrassed to receive it? It's a treasure now, snug among old letters. Elizabeth Ackemann's elegant penman- Bobbi, touched by the thoughts and en-

shut and not tell family secrets. That may was in Ackemann's stationery depart- Find a comfy chair and table (remember have been because I found that my dad ment! Elizabeth and co-worker, Catherine the feet on the floor rule?). Don't let yourhad opened a few letters coming and go- Lee were two gracious ladies. Certainly, it self become intimidated by the paper. written note cards and letters, 63 years ing. Handing over the letter collection to was about 1965 when women still dressed Start small — perhaps a blank note card worth, to my sister Bobbi. Yes, I did ask Bobbi, I see it as a living history. We had up to shop downtown, and gloves and hat with a brief sentiment. Use a pen that long been piecing together family myster- were still common daytime wear. I was flows well on paper and feels comfortable boxes, with more to go. I was recently ex- ies; perhaps this would shed some new reminded of the day's culture when I read in your hand — a Zen relationship. Who periencing puzzling health issues and it light. I asked my sons if there was any a note from my co-workers after I gave are you writing to? Choose someone who crossed my mind that my son would prob- correspondence they particularly wanted. notice to Mr. Kroll, our manager, and I has come to mind recently; you may not ably feel overwhelmed by this paper I asked my sister to pass on to my sons prepared to move to Houghton, Michigan. know why. Tell them you've been think-Do you save tweets, emails, from ing of them; write what your heart tells derstands my connection to personal cor- am not the person who intends to burn all friends? I'll bet none of the fonts elicit a you. Just a few words. Don't be conrespondence; and this correspondence was my journals before I die, but I do respect memory or reminder of the writer's per-cerned about filling space — white space sonality? Elizabeth's serif flourishes, is ok. Don't worry about phrasing. This

sons, and a few other significant related another family member entrusted on paper with the defined "J". Jinny (Jeanette) is calligraphy. But I'm aware that it is no a very difficult time in their life. Included, the only non-family who ever called me longer being taught and that many people also, were two letters from close girl- "Cookie". I never realized that until I cannot read cursive. Hand print your note, friends since sixth grade. We were now came across her letters. Letters to us, as or scrawl it, just don't email it! After you sives. They were in no particular order, just graduated from high school and each well as those we've written, remind us of write a few starter notes, you may find going our own way, still writing on a reg- our dreams and sometimes emotions of a yourself spilling your thoughts and grabmy summer Girl Scout camp leader had ular basis. Apparently, I was doused with certain time. They remind us of our past, bing any blank paper to finish a letter. It's written me a note of encouragement when despair and angst. These letters — eight what we have made of our present and YOU, not the spelling, not the handwrit-I was 14 years old. Two other significant legal pad pages from Wendy, no holding they remind us of being uplifted by ing, not the perfect phrasing that will be long cherished — meaningful because it

East Side Eating Trimble's Taste Trek

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

There are more restaurants than there is room for in the monthly paper, but at least 60 may now be found online at daytonsbluffdistrictforum.org: click on "East Side Eating" at the top of the home page. Steve Trimble can be reached at daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com.

El Pollo Felix

1905 Stillwater Ave. E. St. Paul, MN 55119 Phone: 651-222-4992

Hours:

Mondays-Thursdays 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Fridays-Sundays 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. Facebook: @PolloFelixMN mcsauza@gmail.com

I was driving on Stillwater Avenue headed to an estate sale and I saw that a restaurant I wrote about over two years ago had a new name. That might mean a new owner, so I had to see if there needed to be an addition to the list on the Fo-



rum's Taste Trek. I got there around 7 p.m. and saw there were new decorations on the building's outside.

Inside I found out there was a new owner and a new menu. It has a sizeable interior with an arch that separates two sides of the restaurant. Both the walls feature a

metallic looking covering and above there are a red walls with decorations with featured food, with chickens on them. There was loud Latino music playing from a machine of some kind and I sat near it.

The name of the place, El Pollo Felix, translates "The Happy Chicken. There are

four small tables for two. There are large and cilantro. windows across the restaurant that face Stillwater Avenue.

room for a sample of what is also on the fries and Torta Cubana.

cheese and a variety of toppings. Chicken con, American cheese, chipotle mayo, described as creamy dip made from avocado. Cheese Fries are fried potatoes topped with cheese and chili.

lettuce, sour cream, and pico de gallo. Tacos Combo use three tacos with your



Steve Trimble

Cruz the waitress in the foreground and owner, Marcelo, in the background.

Chicken with fajita peppers, cheese, with lettuce, tomato, and guacamole on top. Quesadilla Shrimp Combo or Quesadilla de Maize with melted cheese, choice of meat, lettuce, and sour cream. Enchilada Callejera with four baked corn tortillas stuffed with Mexican cheese, topped with salad, sour cream, with grilled chicken on top. Tamales Flautas Combo with three fried corn tortillas stuff with chicken and cheese.

CAIDOS (Soups): Caldo De Camaron O Pescado that consists of shrimp, fish or both, onion celery, served with tortillas with bread. Birria De Res O Chivo that is slow cooked beef or goat stew served with onion, cilantro, and jalapenos. Menudo, Honeycomb tripe soup made with beef tripe, herbs and spices, served with tortillas.

TACOS; Taco Salad with crispy fried tortilla filled with romaine lettuce, your choice of meat, beans, cheese, pico de gallo, sour cream, and guacamole, Fish Tacos Baja California style with lettuce, tomato, and chipotle sauce, Birria Tacos made with six-inch corn tortillas, slow

seven tables for four, four nice booths, cooked beef, mozzarella cheese, onions,

TORTAS: Torta with choise of meat or veggies with cheese, lettuce, pico de gal-When I describe the food, I only have lo, mayo, and guacamole. Served with

HAMBURGERS: Mex Burger is a sin-APPETIZERS: Nachos Chips with gle patty stuffed with ham, chorizo, ba-Wings — six of them — with your choice served with fries. BURGERS: Single patof Buffalo or BBQ. Chips & Guacamole ty with American cheese, lettuce, tomato, served with fries or a Buffalo Burger.

VEGETARIAN: Choice of a Veggie Veggie Enchilada, COMBOS: Combos are served with rice, Chimichanga, Veggie Burrito Bowl or Veggie Ouesadilla.

> KIDS MENU: Kids Chicken Fingers & Fries, Kid's Burger served with fries and Kids Quesadilla

DESSERTS: Churros Felix, Tiramisu Cake, Oreo Cake, Corn on a Stick or Street Corn.

BERBIDAS (Drinks): Mexican Coke, Red Bull, Agua fresca Horchata, Rice water, several flavors of Jarritos, and six kinds of fountain drinks.

SEAFOOD: Tostada De Ceviche De Camaron, Shrimp ceviche, Tostada De Ceviche De Pulpo, Octopus ceviche, Tostada De Ceviche Mix, Shrimp and octopus, ceviche, Coctel De Camaron, Shrimp cocktail and Octopus cocktail.

I decided to order a Mexican Hamburger with the side of French fries bechoice of meat. Quesadilla Fajita Combo cause I never had that kind of burger before. I also never had a hamburger with a large jalapeno cooked on top of the bun. They don't have liquor at this time so to fit in with the food I had a Mexican Coca

> I was helped by Cruz, who came from Colorado and now lives on the East Side. She was at the counter where I ordered and was brought my order to the table.



She let me know that the owner and cook is Marcelo Corona. They do not accept checks. There is street parking as well as a lot in the back. They do cater and have arrangements with various groups for deliv-

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Donate electronically via PayPal at: daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.-

-Make checks payable to Dayton's Bluff District Forum and mail to: 1368 Minnehaha Ave E, Saint Paul. MN 55106

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Be sre to keep up with us online in one of three ways:

-Website at daytonsbluffdistrictforum.org

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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 \$1,000 to produce per month. We have found a new printer and have adjusted the cost to print each 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 consider making a donation in 2022. Our goal for 2022 is \$5,000; will you help us reach our goal in 2022?

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 City, State, ZIP Address_

Make checks payable to: Dayton's Bluff District Forum and mail to 1368 Minnehaha Ave. E., St. Paul, MN 55106. For more information, contact 651-776-0550 or daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com.

Thank you for your support!