

Calling All Artists and Performers to Art in the Hollow

Brad Griffith

Art in the Hollow 2022 will take place on **Saturday June 4 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.** in Swede Hollow Park.

If you would like to participate either as an artist or performer, email artinhollowmn@gmail.com or visit artinhollow.org.

Art in the Hollow (AITH) is a multidisciplinary arts festival run primarily by artists and entirely by community members. Established in 2010 by members of Friends of Swede Hollow (FOSH), AITH has since encouraged visitors to discover the natural amenities while engaging with local artists, small businesses, and the diverse cultures of the East Side. When possible, AITH brings artists into festival leadership positions who have experience overcoming barriers of language, economics, disabilities, and culture.

Donations Needed for Us to Print

We are Printing the April Issue!

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 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 Seventh Street.

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

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



@daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com

Menards is Leaving But Will Return

Greg Cosimini

East Siders will have to temporarily find a new place to save big money when shopping for "plumbing, electrical, appliances too." Our local Menards located at the intersection of Highways 61 and 36 in Maplewood will be closing on March 18. It will be torn down, along with six nearby houses, but will rise again in about a year as a much larger single level store, which unlike the current store, will have space for a full grocery section and other merchandise not always available at that store.

All current employees have been placed at other Menards locations. East Side customers will have to find their way to other Menards such as the ones in Oakdale on Hadley Ave., in West St. Paul on Robert St. and in the Midway at Prior and University.



Benjamin Mason

A photo from last year's Art in the Hollow shows Ryan Werbalowsky selling his artwork.

High School Students Can Earn Free College Credit & Personalize Their Education

Joe Nathan

West 7th Street high school students and families have terrific opportunities to earn free college credit and/or personalize their education in the next two months, thanks to many free public school options. Partly because of family encouragement, Minnesota legislators and educators have created many great opportunities. They can help youngsters identify and develop their gifts, talents, and interests. Options also can help young people develop vital basic and applied life skills.

In the next month, St. Paul families and students can select their school and high school classes for the 2022-23 school year.

One of the most valuable options for high school students, starting for some in ninth grade, is to earn free college credit via courses taught in high school, on-line, or on college campuses.

Free Minnesota Post-Secondary Enrollment Option (PSEO) courses are available in "hands on" vocational and traditional academic subjects. Though not as well known, starting in 10th grade, students can take free vocational courses at two-year public colleges such as St. Paul and Century Colleges and the Finishing Trade Institute. Students in 11th or 12th grade can take academic courses at those and other colleges/universities, including Metro State. Admission requirements vary.

Students can take PSEO courses on college campuses or via internet. State law requires that high schools let students use school computers to take PSEO courses. Students must register for PSEO classes by **May 30**. Visit: education.mn.gov/mde/fam/dual/pseo/. PSEO is one of several ways students can earn free college credit, explore their interests, and prepare for employment and life.

Students in 10th through 12th grades who are proficient in any of the 27 world languages can earn free credit at Minnesota State Colleges and universities by passing tests (they don't need to take a course). Languages include ASL, Arabic, Chinese, Dakota, German, Hmong, Karen, Ojibwe, Somali, and Spanish.

Visit: education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/stds/world/seals/.

Virtually every St. Paul district and charter high school offers some college level courses — called Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, or Concurrent Enrollment/College in Schools. College credit for AP and IB is based mostly or entirely on how well a student does on the final exam. College credit for other courses depends on a student's work throughout the course. Minnesota's Office of Higher Education explains dual credit college/university acceptance policies here: ohe.state.mn.us/mPg.cfm?pageID=2236.

Minnesota requires every student, working with their family and educators, to develop a post high school plan: revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/120B.125.

St. Paul Public Schools (spps.org/choosespps) offers other valuable options such as language immersion, Montessori, and project-based learning.

West 7th families also have free charter school options, such as Cyber Village Academy, Nova, St. Paul School of Northern Lights, Upper Mississippi Academy, Urban Academy and others. A map shows where charters are available: mncharterschools.org/directory/index.php?intDirectoriesCatID=1#filters.

Fortunately, Minnesota families have more and more opportunities for a free, public, personalized education.

Joe Nathan has been a St Paul Public School educator, parent and PTA president. He directs the Center for School Change, based in St Paul. Questions/reactions welcome: joe@centerforschoolchange.org

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.

Our next meeting will be on March 15 starting at 6:30 p.m. at 668 Greenbrier Street. Anyone interested in Swede Hollow is welcome to attend. Discussion will include Art in the Hollow (which will be June 4), park clean up, etc.

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

Dayton's Bluff District Forum Board Meeting

The *Forum* is seeking writers and help with online content, idea generation, and ad sales — join us at our next meeting on Thursday, March 3 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 Dayton's Bluff Library.

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 are held at 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month. Bring your neighbors!

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

SNAP Food Program at Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio (CLUES)

¿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 to 3 p.m.



THE HISTORIC
MOUNDS
THEATRE

Visit moundstheatre.org to get more information on upcoming events.

The Historic Mounds Theatre is located at 1029 Hudson Road, St. Paul, MN 55106; 651-772-2253; historicmoundstheatre@gmail.com

Free Health and Human 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.

COVID Saliva Tests Available

Minnesota is offering at-home COVID-19 saliva testing for any person 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. You will then send the test to the lab in Oakdale, MN, using the pre-paid package. Once it arrives, you will get your results by email in 24 to 48 hours. This saliva test is available at no cost.

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

Business Classes

The Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Microentrepreneur Class program helps startup and young businesses on the East Side. All East Side en-

trepreneurs 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 fee based on a sliding scale. Class sizes are limited, so enroll now. Please call 651-379-8432 for a current application.

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

Dayton's Bluff Library

The library is hosting plenty of fun activities. Listed below are some March events:

March 2 — Dayton's Bluff Book Club: A great fit for folks who love reading books by local authors and discussing them, 6-7:30 p.m. via Zoom.

March 2, 9, 23, 30 — Storytime: Join us for a fun storytime and stay for a craft for caregivers and kids! We'll read stories, sing songs, and learn rhymes together, 2:30-3 p.m.

March 4, 11, 18, 25 — Senior Lounge: Senior Lounge is a program for older adults to spend time socializing, painting, doing crafts, or completing crossword puzzles, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

March 5, 12, 19, 26 — FunLab STEAM steam for ages 7-11: Join us for a fun drop-in session for crafts, engineering projects, science experiments, or relaxing boardgames and movies, 2-4 p.m.

March 8 — Teens Know Best: Teens Know Best is for teens, ages 12-18, who want to read and review YA books that aren't available to the public yet. The review are used to influence the future of the publishing industry, 6:30-7:45 p.m.

March 16, Read Brave Storytime — Join us for a fun Read Brave storytime and stay for a craft for caregivers and kids! We'll read stories, sing songs, and learn rhymes together, 2:30-3 p.m.

March 16, Game Night — Play a variety of video games on Nintendo Switch or PlayStation 4, or try one of our board games! 5:30-7:30 p.m.

April 1 — Senior Lounge: Senior Lounge is a program for older adults to spend time socializing, painting, doing crafts, or completing crossword puzzles, 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Visit sppl.org's calendar for more.

Xcel Phone Numbers

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

Call 811 before you dig: Before starting that roto-tiller or heaving that shovel into the ground for anything, call 811. At no charge, Xcel will have 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 'no-dig' area with painted lines...and everyone is safe!

Need Groceries?

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

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

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

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

Make a difference in your community by becoming a State Health Insurance Assistance Program certified Medicare Counselor. Help people understand their Medicare options.

Visit Metroaging.org/volunteer to learn more.

Financial Assistance

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

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

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

Free Legal Services for Low-Income People

Call 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, and more. You can also call if you're behind on your bills, having problems with credit or creditors, or have other civil legal issues, etc. If an interpreter is needed, SMRL will provide one.

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

Changes Coming at the East Side Freedom Library

Peter Rachleff and Beth Cleary

Co-Founders, Co-Executive Directors

Dear Sisters, Brothers, and Kin,

We are writing to share with you the exciting news that we, as co-founders, will be turning the reins of the East Side Freedom Library over to a new, full-time Executive Director in Spring, 2022. The ESFL Board, assisted by Anne Jin Soo Preston of Sahng Sahng LLC, has been preparing this transition for several months, and they will launch the public phase of its search process this month, with the release of the job announcement. The Board's process in preparing for this transition has involved great integrity, and we are excited about the next stages in ESFL's development.

Almost eight years ago, we negotiated a 15-year lease for Saint Paul's historic East Side Carnegie Library. Through a visioning process with community members and collaborators, ESFL defined its mission: "to inspire solidarity, work for justice, and advocate for equity for all." Through public programs — author events, open forums, film screenings, puppet shows, picnics — ESFL has invited thousands of participants, of all backgrounds and ages, to consider complex ideas, talk with each other across differences, and dream their neighborhoods, and our world, forward.

We understand that ESFL's address is not simply 1105 Greenbrier Street in Saint Paul. The Library, both place and purpose, is a crossroads of histories and communities. Built in 1917 by an initia-

tive among European immigrants and their descendants, the Library building sits on land that has actually been stewarded, for centuries, by Dakota people. The more recent histories of this area have been determined by new groups of migrants: job-seekers from other parts of the U.S.; Hmong, Bhutanese, and Karen refugees from southeast Asia; Ethiopian, Oromo, Eritrean, and Somali groups fleeing war and climate disaster in East Africa; people fleeing violence and employment deprivation in central and South America. ESFL's programming lifts up the vivid histories and cultures of the East Side and creates ways for people to tell their histories, share and develop cultural practices, and forge a democratic, dignified future together.

Our reliance on volunteer labor has been driven by economic realities and also because *how* we advance our work shapes the ends we attain. Collaborators have cataloged and shelved books, built shelves, gardened, fixed plumbing, blogged, prepared mailings, organized and hosted events. Through their work, they have deepened ESFL's mission and laid a path for its future. So, too, have our Board members and our staff colleagues, Clarence White and Kimberly David. We know that this project is in good hands.

With confidence and optimism, we prepare ourselves and ESFL for the next stage in the Library's journey. We will remain involved, enthusiastically, as guides and collaborators. The new Executive Director will work with an engaged and expanding Board, a talented staff that will surely grow, and superb community partners, funders, and collaborators. We have been honored to establish the East Side Freedom Library in our neighborhood, Saint Paul's East Side. The people here share an inspiring vision of community and world, where love and solidarity are at the center of everyday life.

St. Paul and Maplewood Students Recognized as Graduates and on Dean's List

The University of Wisconsin-La Crosse has listed these students on the Dean's List: Kamilah Gobran and Joseph Hinzman of Maplewood. Connor Hainfield, Lizzie Nelson, Jack Parker, and Abby Steigauf of St. Paul.

Bethel University has listed these students on the Dean's List: Kim Tran of Maplewood. Trey Adelsman, Sydney Mitchell, Htoo Paw, Luisa Rubianes, and Apasara Thao of St. Paul.

Gustavus Adolphus College has listed these students on the Dean's List: Isabella Bowlin, Elise Gunderson, and Andrew Gusafson of Maplewood. Veronica Kemna, Youa Thao, and Bao Xiong of St. Paul.

The University of Wisconsin-Platteville has listed these students on the Dean's List: Alex Blizzard of Maplewood and Anna Ebert of St. Paul.

St. Cloud State University has listed these students on the Dean's List: Darrick Theng and Cha Vue of Maplewood. Alondra Aguilar, Zamzam Ayub, Sakai Kelly, Yoshi Thoj, and Francois Yang of St. Paul.

Drake University has named these students on the Dean's List: Mac Brandt, Soe Oo, and Grace Scanlon of St. Paul.

The University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire has named graduate Alanna Espinoza of St. Paul to the Dean's List.

The University of Wisconsin-River Falls has named graduates Jade Butler-Miller of Maplewood. Kwashon Collins, Alexandra Lasso, Katelyn Rick, Dallie Sim, Jeremy Simon, and Samuel Wondrasch of St. Paul to the Dean's List.

Minnesota State College Southeast President's List recognizes Logan Haan and Charles Troester of St. Paul.

St. Olaf College has named these students on the Dean's List: Graham Beech, Candy Hernandez, Selena Rodriguez, Cheng Vang, Anabell Xiong, and Mailao Xiong of St. Paul.

The University of Wisconsin-Stout has named Giselle Rodriguez Barragan of St. Paul to the Dean's List.

Minnesota State University, Mankato has named these students on the Dean's List: Hailey Saniti, of Maplewood. Nimo Ibrahim, Samiya McCaa, Devon Minke, Cecelia Newbauer, Nicolas Prescott, Becca Stark, Arriayn Thao, Kyra Thor, Charllene Vang, Kabao Xiong, and Paja Yang of St. Paul.



East Side Freedom Library

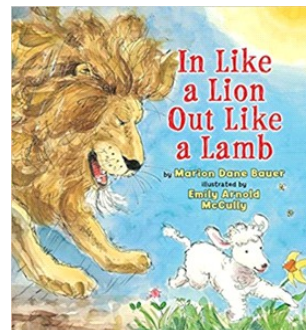
Peter and Beth pose with Mike Alewitz's "Bread and Roses" mural at his Red Square Museum and Studio in Connecticut.

DONATE TODAY

Kids Corner

*Vio Nikitina,
Dayton's Bluff Children's Specialist*

In Like a Lion, Out Like a Lamb by Marion Dane Bauer



There is a saying that March weather comes in like a lion but goes out like a lamb. Spring weather

can be unpredictable and is full of changes that bring us closer to summertime! The lively text and paintings illustrate the ways in which we personify spring weather, making this book a perfect introduction to figurative language — and lots of fun to read as well.

The Lion & the Mouse by Jerry Pinkney

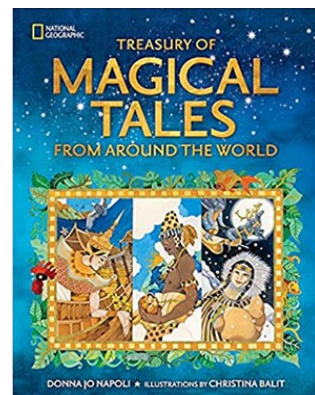
In award-winning artist Jerry Pinkney's wordless adaptation of one of Aesop's most



beloved fables, an unlikely pair learn that no act of kindness is ever wasted. Set in the African Serengeti, this book won the Caldecott Medal which is awarded picture books for exceptional illustrations.

Jerry Pinkney is also one of the authors who passed away in 2021. He will be missed, but his legacy will live on.

Treasury of Magical Tales From Around the World by Donna Jo Napoli



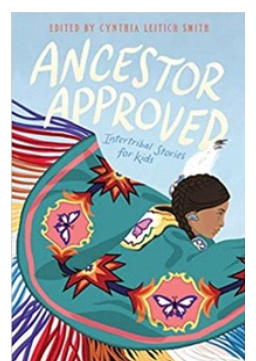
A flower-spouting princess, gobbling prince, emerald-winged fairy, foolish giants, fear-

some ogres, and talking frog and fish are just a few of the captivating characters found in this anthology of beloved stories from 29 places around the world, from the Arctic to Africa to Asia to Australia to Europe to the Americas. These short stories are a perfect way to explore the world for young people without the expense of travel!

Ancestor Approved: Intertribal Stories for Kids edited by Cynthia Leitich Smith

Edited by award-winning and best-selling author Cynthia Leitich Smith, this collection of intersecting stories by

both new and veteran Native writers, bursts with hope, joy, resilience, the strength of community, and Native pride. This collection is a mixture of poetry and short stories for elementary to middle school readers.



The Frozen Greenhouse

Mandy Okonek

The promise of viewing living plants and flowers in the cold winter months lured me into downtown to view an art installation featuring an actual greenhouse surrounded by ice. This particular exhibit was a part of many public art pieces curated by The Great Northern Festival whose mission statement is geared to celebrate our subzero winter months with art and activities aimed to invigorate the mind and body.

Like a typical Minnesotan, I jumped up and down to stay warm while I waited in line to see the inside of the ice castle-like structure that was temporarily erected in the alley between the painted parking lot and historic Pioneer Endicott building on 141 E. 4th Street. I noticed a glow of purple lighting that radiated through the ice walls as I worked to recall the last time I had waited to get into an alley. As I proceeded to move forward, I could see the glass structure housed within walls of ice and an array of thriving plants with a distinct darker-than-green hue, and I recognized a few of the plants as black petunias and black coneflowers, some of my favorites. When I reached the front of the

line and had the opportunity to chat with the woman manning the door, I learned the color palette of the plants was no coincidence. The greenhouse was a metaphor for black lives.

My family entered in silence, grateful to feel the warmth of a community of plants and flowers thriving within walls of thick ice. Speakers inside the greenhouse amplified the sounds of the ice as it melted and cracked. Seeing anything grow in the winter is generally a cause for jovial celebration. However, the dark purplish plants thriving within sheets of thick ice reminded me of all the wildflowers that I see in the summer sprouting through cracks of broken pavement, and I emerged outside into the bitter cold filled with empathy. My family discussed ways we can be allies to our community members frozen in metaphorical ice on the car ride home. This exhibit did more than invigorate our minds and bodies. It was a call to action.

The Greenhouse was a collaboration between artists, Jovan C. Speller and Andy DuCett, who received grants to fund their work from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation and the City of Saint Paul Cultural STAR program. The Great Northern Festival has concluded for this season, but you can get the jump on next year's festivities with a visit to their website, thegreatnorthernfestival.com.



East Seventh St. and Arcade St. Improvement Project

MnDot Website

MnDOT is improving safety for all users along East 7th St. (Hwy 5) and Arcade St. (Hwy 61) from I-94 in St. Paul to Roselawn Ave. in Maplewood. Design and engineering are underway, and construction is anticipated to begin in summer 2024. Improvements for this project area include: ADA accessibility improvements, safety improvements for people walking and rolling, curb and sidewalk improvement, lighting improvements, traffic light replacements, roadway resurfacing, and stormwater drainage updates. In 2021, we gathered community feed-

back on desired improvements on East 7th St. and Arcade St. Shortly after, we successfully applied for a federal RAISE grant, for additional funds to support the community vision of better access for all. Using community feedback in 2021, we have put together some design ideas for improvements along East 7th St. and Arcade St.

We recognize that areas along East 7th St. and Arcade St. are unique and vary depending on the neighborhood character, property uses, road design, and people's interest in walking, biking, rolling, and riding buses. To reflect these differences, we have broken up the project area into seven sections and are providing different design ideas for each section.

For more information, detailed area maps, and to take a survey about this project, visit: talk.dot.state.mn.us/e7tharcade



Some St. Paul Trivia

Sixty-two people met at Macalester College in Saint Paul at a three-day event initially called the "Committees of Correspondence." They talked about "empowerment", "neighborliness" and "connection with the earth." What political party came out of the meeting?

- Charles Rogers of Saint Paul is best known for what?
- A. He is the youngest mayor of Saint Paul
- B. He won the Medal of Honor while serving in WWI
- C. He received the first automobile license in Saint Paul
- D. He was the first person to commit suicide by jumping off the High Bridge

On June 9, 1898 the first golf course in Minnesota was opened for play. Where was it?

True or false: Saint Paul has more shoreline on the Mississippi than any other city.

What year was Saint Paul named the capital of the Minnesota Territory?

Send your answers to daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com for a chance to see your name in our April issue!

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Happening at the Dayton's Bluff Library

Dayton's Bluff Library, 645 East 7th Street, is a public library branch located inside the Metropolitan State University Library and Learning Center. We are open six days a week offering books, movies, music, internet stations, programs, and services for all ages. Call 651-793-1699 or visit sppl.org for more information.

Storytime at the Library is back! Family storytimes are on Wednesdays at 2:30-3 p.m. in the Children's Area of the library! Join us for a fun storytime and stay for a craft for caregivers and kids! We will read stories, sing songs, and learn rhymes together. Storytimes are created to have a mix of developmentally appropriate books and activities for toddlers and pre-school aged children, but older siblings and babies can have a blast too! *We encourage caregivers to participate fully and actively to make storytime fun and enjoyable for everyone! Storytime will be held indoors. Masks are currently required.*

New magazines for all ages are here at Dayton's Bluff Library! Come in and browse the new titles, which include: *Ladybug, Muse, Faces, Smithsonian, People, Essence, People En Español, Vanidades, Minority Business Entrepreneurship, and Consumer Report.* Magazines are available for checkout or for relaxed reading here in the library.

Join **Teens Know Best!** TKB is for teens, ages 12-18, who want to read and review young adult (YA) books that aren't available to the public yet. YA publishers read TKB reviews and use them to influence the future of the publishing industry. We are a safe space to meet other teens from around the city who love books too. TKB is sponsored by Metropolitan State University and Saint Paul Public Library. For more information visit our website sppl.org/teens-know-best or contact us at teensknowbeststpaul@gmail.com.

Read Brave Saint Paul (through March 2022) is a citywide, intergenerational reading initiative that centers the power of books to ignite empathy and help us think of big ideas to build a bet-

ter Saint Paul. Read Brave connects readers of all ages to one another through five different books, their authors, programs, and a call to action. This year's titles are: *The Magic Fish* by Trung Le Nguyen, *What We Hunger For* edited by Sun Yung Shin, *Maya and the Robot* by Eve L. Ewing, *Planet Omar: Accidental Trouble Magnet* by Zanib Mian, and *Thank You, Omu!* by Oge Mora. Talk about the books and the theme of community care with your neighbors, friends, and family. Use our toolkit that provides resources for digging in and facilitating brave conversations that push our city forward. Resources in the toolkit can help you host a conversation, your own event, or incorporate Read Brave into a classroom, book club, or another group. Learn more at sppl.org/read-brave.

Club Book brings best-selling and award-winning national and regional authors to library communities throughout the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan region. This spring's featured author line-up is: Maggie O'Farrell, Brendan Slocum, Victoria Christopher Murray, Julie Otsuka, Maggie Shipstead, Jason Mott, James Rollins, Tia Williams, and Rebecca Roanhorse. Each author is hosted by a different library system, and this year Saint Paul Public Library is excited to host Rebecca Roanhorse. For more information about featured books and authors and live-stream events go to club-book.org. A program of Metropolitan Library Service Agency and coordinated by Library Strategies, Club Book is funded with money from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

Game Night for all ages will be held at Dayton's Bluff Library on **Wednesday, March 16** from **5:30-7:30 p.m.** Play a variety of video games on Nintendo Switch or PlayStation 4, or try one of our board games! This program is offered in partnership with Metropolitan State University.

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.
The outdoor book drop is open all the time.

Current hours are available online at sppl.org/locations/DB/ or call 651-793-1699.

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

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Next issue: April 2022. **Deadline for material: March 10, 2022.**

Recipe

Frozen Peanut Butter Torte

Sage Holben

Ingredients:

- Graham crackers
- 2 8 oz. Cream cheese packets
- 2 C. powdered sugar
- 1 C. milk
- 1 C. creamy peanut butter
- 18 oz. Cool Whip

Directions:

- Make a graham cracker crust in a 9x13 inch pan.
- Beat together the two packages of cream cheese. Add the powdered sugar, milk, and peanut butter.
- Beat and fold in 18 oz. Cool Whip



-Put into pan and freeze
If you'd like to submit your favorite recipe, please send it to: daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com.

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

March 9, 10 a.m.-noon, \$24; Battle Creek Rec Center — Peppa Pig KidCreate: For ages 3 to 6. Your little one will get to create an adorable mixed media Peppa Pig! We'll draw, paint, snip, and glue to create Peppa Pig frolicking in one of the place she loves best — a muddy puddle! Children must be accompanied by a caregiver.

March 12, 10 a.m.-noon, \$24; Battle Creek Rec Center — How to Draw a Horse: For ages 5 to 12. In this popular class the kids will learn how to draw a horse using a simple step-by-step process. The final project will then be painted on a real canvas board! Their artwork is sure to win a blue ribbon!

March 14 through April 18, 5-7 p.m., Free; Dayton's Bluff Rec Center — Crafts Galore: For ages 5 to 12. Let the artist come out in you! Participants will create a different art projects using a variety of materials.

March 16, 6-7:30 p.m., \$25; Battle Creek Rec Center — Paint Night for Teens: For ages 11 to 16. Let the artist come out in you! Teens will create a masterpiece on canvas and be able to take it home.

March 28, 5:30-7 p.m., \$5; Battle Creek Rec Center — Science Night: For ages 10 to 15. Let the artist come out in you! Participants will create a different art projects using a variety of materials.

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Steve Trimble

Forum staff member, Sage Hoben, poses with Klondike Kate at the American Legion on Arcade at a holiday event that was held in January.

Birds Migrating Through Here Soon

Kathy Sidles

I look forward to birds that go south for the winter coming back. Year-round resident chickadees, downy woodpeckers and American crows are great. But after a long, cold winter it would be fun to see different birds. Which birds pass through our neighborhood first as they migrate north to have their babies? To find out I downloaded the bird-watching data I entered over the years into eBird and sorted it by date.

Twelve species in my data have shown up in the East Side of Saint Paul by mid-to late March. The arrival time of common mergansers, common goldeneyes, red-breasted mergansers and common loons depends on when ice on the local lakes melts. In 2014 ice went out early at Lake Phalen but not up north. That year my husband Paul and I counted 56 loons on Lake Phalen as they waited for ice farther north to melt. I read they send scouts north to check! Red-winged blackbird males come back early to claim nesting territory in wetlands for females who arrive later. They sing "Conk-a-ree!" I see ring-billed Gulls eating fish frozen in the ice. Song sparrows eat seeds from plants and backyard feeders until its warm enough for insects. They sing

"Maids maids maids put on your tea kettle-ettle" from the shores of Lake Phalen. If the ice melts by late March, I should look for blue herons fishing at pond and lake shores, and double-crested cormorants fishing at Lake Phalen or flying overhead. Cormorants are big and all black, and when flying their wings are halfway between head and tail. By late March chipping sparrows — "Chip chip chip chip" — might be heard in neighborhood trees.

Eighteen more species of birds arrive on the East Side as early as the first two weeks of April, with 12 more by the end of April. It's fun to see red-breasted mergansers, with their head feathers sticking



up, stopping to fish at Lake Phalen. Golden-crowned and ruby-crowned kinglets eat bugs in our woods on their way farther north. They are small birds flitting in bushes — sometimes they flash their golden or red crown. Yellow-rumped warblers are the most common wood-warbler I see on the East Side. The wood-

warblers migrate through our neighborhood from the Mississippi River flyway. Most of them are on their way to have babies in the northern forests of Minnesota and Canada.



My data shows 21 more bird species migrating through the East Side in May or staying to nest here. Eight species are in the wood-warbler family. The wood-warblers live in the southern U.S., Mexico, and Central and South America depending on the species. They are small birds but evolved to sail and fly with south winds and find their way to northern woods to have their young. With very long summers, there are lots of insects for high-protein food on the trees. They like to stop at blooming native plum trees at Frost Lake Park east of Lake Phalen to sip nectar and eat insects.

It's hard to believe that spring is right around the corner and millions of birds will be migrating north through our neighborhood soon. They pay their way by keeping bug populations down on trees

and by spreading seeds for new plants. I hope we can have good habitat for the birds as they stop on the East Side to eat and rest.

Anyone can be a birder. Just keep your eyes and ears open for birds around you. For more information, Allaboutbirds.org, has migration maps and bird calls. The book *Sibley Birds East* by David Allen Sibley can help with bird identification and is available used or half-priced. iNaturalist.org and ebird.org have free cell phone apps to ID birds you see and upload pictures for citizen science. audubon.org recommends binoculars and has articles about birds. Saint Paul Audubon is on Facebook and at saintpaulaudubon.org.



All are welcome on guided bird walks, with binoculars to lend, and to attend monthly meetings with speakers (now virtual). A walk is being planned for Swede Hollow in May. UrbanBirdCollective.org has information and events to help everyone feel comfortable birding.

Photos by Kathy Sidles.

March Events Happening in Ramsey County

March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 12:30-2 p.m.: Tuesdays with a Scholar: Join scholars from area colleges and elsewhere as they share their specialized knowledge and enthusiasm. Hosted by Ramsey County Library.

March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 1-3 p.m.: Community Resource Advocates: Social workers, advocates, and county navigators will be in the library to help individuals and families with questions relating to housing resources, shelter and more. Presented by Ramsey County Library.

March 1, 3, 2-6 pm: Free COVID Testing — Frogtown Community Center: Free COVID-19 testing is being offered at Frogtown Community Center.

March 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24, 29, 30, 3-5 pm: MakerTeen: MakerTeen is all about being creative, making new things, and using high-tech and low-tech tools to change your world. Hosted by Ramsey County Library.

March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Career Services: Stop by Ramsey County Library — Roseville to get job search assistance and career planning and more.

March 3, 10, 17, 24, 10:30-11 a.m. Zoom Family Storytime.

March 3, 10, 17, 24, 5-7 p.m. Gaming Thursdays for Teens: Please join us on Zoom for a variety of fun board games and video games virtually! Come game with us! Hosted by Ramsey County Library.

March 7, 1-2 p.m.: Virtual Job Club — Resumes and Interview: Interviewing Success plus open forum.

For more information about these events, go to ramseycounty.us/calendar.





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Book Review:

The Keepers of Metsan Valo

by Wendy Webb

Allison Lund-Zalewski

I finally got to tackle my Christmas gift, *The Keepers of Metsan Valo* by Wendy Webb.

She is a Minnesota-based author who writes Gothic fiction that takes place up in Duluth, Superior, and in this case, a small island just off Lake Superior.

Overall, I really liked the book. It was one of the more well written books, in my opinion, that she's had in the past year or so. I feel the characters were more developed than a few of Webb's most recent books. Last year

I read her other two, *Daughters of the Lake* and *The Haunting of Brynn Wilder*. To me, both of those fell a bit flat. While they had their spooky story, I was waiting for the "wow" factor. Don't get me wrong, I will devour any of Webb's books and am eager to read her new book she's releasing in October.

The Keepers of Metsan Valo is about a family who is called to their grandmother's mansion after her unexpected passing. The main characters, Anni and Theo Halla, are twins and were the closest to their grandmother. While waiting for the rest of the family to come to the mansion for the will reading, Anni and Theo are constantly encountering spooky happenings in the home and out on the large, forested land.

The story they had been told since they were little was that the *vaki*, or Finnish spirits, roamed the lands to protect the family. If the *vaki* weren't controlled, they'd cause disturbances throughout the home and family — some worse than others.

Anni and Theo's family members encounter near-death experiences and it's up to Anni to figure out why this happening, and so soon after her grandmother's death.

The Halla family finds out that there are supernatural secrets that surround them and their home, Metsan Valo.

Overall, I give this book a four out of five and can't wait to see what else she has in store.

I recently attended a webinar with Wendy Webb as the guest.

I got to hear about where some of her ideas come from in her books. It turns out, she has an Easter egg in each of her books. One of her dogs is the character's dog, and she has written about personal encounters she's had, etc.

She was so passionate about her writing, it was infectious! I am eager to hear if she writes a book like *The Vanishing*.



EV Spot Network Comes to Dayton's Bluff

Greg Cosimini

You may have seen a couple of Chevy Bolt electric cars parked between two strange looking blue monoliths on Margaret St. across from St. John Lutheran Church and wondered what that was all about. This is the start of the new EV Spot Network which has come to parts of the East Side, including Dayton's Bluff.

According to the Evie Carshare website, "The EV Spot Network is built by the Twin Cities for the Twin Cities. It includes an on-street electric vehicle charging network called EV Spot Charging, and on-street shared electric vehicles, called Evie Carshare. EV Spot Charging is 100% renewably powered and enables charging for personally owned and Evie Carshare vehicles within Saint Paul and Minneapolis."

In other words, the Chevy Bolts are electric vehicles that can be rented for

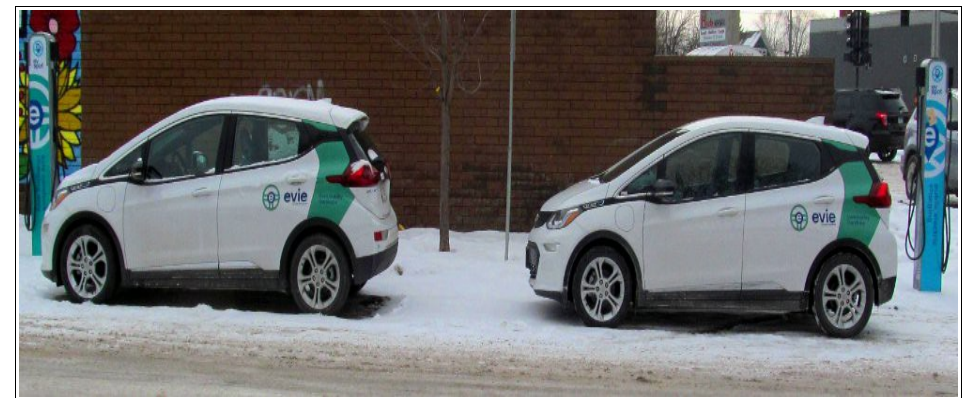
use in Evie's service area. They are charged at one of the blue charging stations. The other blue charging station is available for charging a driver's own electric vehicle with capacity for two vehicles at a time.

The Evie service area in Saint Paul, which includes parts of Dayton's Bluff and the Payne-Phalen neighborhoods, is bounded by Maryland Ave. on the north, Earl St. on the east and Hudson Road on the south. From there it extends to downtown and farther west into Minneapolis.

The installation on Margaret St. is the first to be built in Dayton's Bluff. Two more will follow at Conway and Bates near the Dayton's Rec Center with another at Bates and E. 7th Street. There are also two in the Payne-Phalen area with two more to follow.

Again from the website: "The City of Saint Paul, in partnership with the City of Minneapolis, Xcel Energy, HOUR-CAR, and others, is rolling out EV Spot Charging starting this week [the first week of February] and continuing through 2022 to support increased access to and the use of electric vehicles."

For more information regarding the whys and wherefores of the EV Spot Network, visit eviecarshare.com.



St. Paul March Events in History

Steve Trimble

March 12, 1902: Newspapers called her "the girl in whom everyone is interested." Her body was discovered just west of the railway station at Dayton's Bluff. It had been run over by a train on this day. Her neck was nearly cut off and one foot had been amputated.

It was determined that she was four foot nine, weighed 135 pounds and appeared to be a Scandinavian. She had been wearing a cowboy hat and all the clothing described as cheap but nearly new. Physicians could only estimate her age and couldn't tell if her death was accidental, a suicide, or even a murder. No one from the immediate area was reported missing. Visitors flooded the morgue to look at the body, but no one recognized her.

One person donated a plot from her family cemetery plot. A committee of St. Paul club women arranged the funeral and purchased a headstone for the burial in Oakland Cemetery.

She was "laid at rest by strangers hands," as one paper put it, "her head pillowed gently to one side, her still fair and comely forehead, half concealed by white roses and pink carnations and the long ringlets of her gold brown hair." She was never identified.

March 25, 1888: The first of a series of investigative articles called "Among the Girls Who Toil", appeared in the St. Paul Globe. Revealing the lives of working women in the Twin Cities, they were written by Eva McDonald Valesh, under the pseudonym of "Eva Gay." One of her early articles revealed long hours, unhealthy conditions, and low wages faced by women who worked in a local garment factory. When the women there went on strike less than a month later, her writing was credited with setting off the protest.

Born in Maine in 1866, the daughter of a politically active father, Valesh moved to Minnesota as a child. As a typesetter in a print shop, she joined a typographer's union, sparking her interest in labor issues She continued writing for the *Globe* for more than a year, going undercover as a factory worker, a domestic worker, and a store clerk.



Screen capture from the MNDNR Eaglecam.

The eagle eggs have landed. Our local eagle pair are the proud parents of two eggs. The first was laid on February 12, the second on February 16. The eggs should hatch towards the end of March. The eagles can be watched 24/7 at: dnr.state.mn.us/features/webcams/eaglecam/index.html.



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View From My Porch

Sage Holben

Have you become increasingly more aware of changes in attitudes? Attitudes of drivers on streets or in parking lots; customers and store clerks; care providers in clinics or hospitals, etc. I'm guessing you try to adjust your patience and attitude with consideration of fewer staff and service workers, many staff filling in without the knowledge base of the "regulars"; offering a more patient attitude because we might assume the person helping us has been working long hours, extra shifts, perhaps is suffering through their own shortage of family and household help.

All that left me earlier this week when I came home to find a car parked on the street, with its nose partially in my drive. I began to turn into the drive, thinking I could make it around the nose, except my car's wheelbase doesn't make such a sharp turn, plus, I would be in danger of hitting a solid ice berm at the side of the drive apron. I backed up next to the car, a black sport convertible with a 20-something male, heavy metal shirt, on his phone, behind the wheel.

"Hi, I need to get into my drive, would you mind backing up a bit, please?" Except for a police car in front of my neighboring house and a vehicle across the

street, there was plenty of space for him. But he refused, immediately yelling at me that if I could drive a car, I could get past him...that he was fine where he was, and I could go f— myself. I replied that actually, the law states that he needs to be five feet from a driveway. He yelled again, swearing, and then I raised my voice, told him to go talk to the officer (if in the squad); told him what an idiot he was. Of course, when he threw open his car door and jumped out screaming at me, I quickly rolled up my window and locked the door. But he did go over to the squad (I doubt the officer was there); at the same time, the person he was apparently waiting for came across the street and they both got into the car...the driver pulled away, still screaming out his window at me with the last words: "I hope you climb some high steps and fall down them and DIE!"

My anger left me, as I suddenly felt I was on a playground with six-year-olds. I was sorry I joined in his initial yelling. Maybe he had been on the phone with bad news. Though I felt a brief release in yelling, I mainly regretted it because I felt I lost something of myself in going to that level. I gave him points for the "hope you die" curse as I watched the sports car being driven off by a six-year-old (in my mind) and I could laugh.

I followed up with a conversation with my sister, readjusting my own attitude, letting go, facing up, and laughing. Whatever happens in life, whether a major event or day to day pandemic instances, will help shape us, but does not need to define us at our worst.

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.

Gorditas el Durango

990 Payne Ave.
St. Paul MN. 55130
Phone: 763-363-4399
Hours: Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Saturday: 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and
Sunday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Website: gorditaseldurango.com
Facebook: @Gorditaseldurango

I dropped by the Plaza Del Sol to see how things were going and to see if the Tamali restaurant was still there. They were not and neither was the former steak house. In its place was a new Mexican

restaurant and a sign saying *Beniz Tamales* soon or *Muy Pronto*. So, I was off on another "taste trek" a few days later.

Gorditas el Durango was originally on Lake Street in Minneapolis and in the last few years, the family faced challenges. The pandemic hurt and "sales bottomed out." Then, during the unrest following the murder of George Floyd, people broke windows and damaged the place. They had already been looking for a larger space at a reasonable rent, so they decided on St. Paul.

Gordita el Durango is in an open space with six tables for four and another spot with a table and chairs for six. A row of padded benches are along two walls. There were some decorations like painted skulls and a map of Durango on the wall. There are a few red poinsettia plants and four padded stools along a counter area with a small television.

At the counter where you order there are large photos of most of the menu items. The restaurant is proud to say on their Facebook that they have "the one and only flour & corn gorditas in the Twin Cities." Gorditas el Durango serves traditional Mexican cuisine.

Gordita means "chubby" in English and the name fits the dish, which is a corn or flour pastry filled with meat and/or vegetables such as beans and cheese. Gorditas el Durango offers over 10 filling options along with other traditional Mexican dishes.

In addition to gorditas, the establishment has tacos, Huevos Rancheros, Menudo, a Mexican tripe soup, pozole, a traditional soup or stew from Mexican cuisine, made from hominy with meat, burrito de deshebra, and pozole burrito de deshebrada asado. There is picadillo rojo (ground pork w/red salsa) and picadillo en verde in green salsa.

I decided on getting a couple of corn gorditas since they are in the name of the restaurant, and I found out on-line that they are very popular in the Mexican state of Durango. I decided I should try the family's specialty. I got one filled with shredded beef and one with shredded pork. They came with sides of refried beans and rice. Since they have no beer yet I opted for a bottle of lime Jaritos drink.

In my initial visit I talked with Manuel Rutiaga, the owner, who named the restaurant after his state in Mexico. He put a map of Durango in the restaurant "to represent the authentic taste of Durango." It really is a family-run restaurant. After my meal I also talked to Nathalia Medina, Rutiaga's sister. She emphasized that they valued giving customers an experience with their own hometown.

When I was there at 4 p.m. there were only a few people. I was told that it was most busy from 10 a.m. until 2 or 3 p.m. All of the staff were wearing masks. There seems to be quite a bit of street parking and I got lucky and found a spot right in front.



Steve Trimble



Steve Trimble

A photo of my dinner, a pork and beef gordita.

The woman in front of the counter is Nathalia Medina, my server.

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Diane May
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- Make checks payable to *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* and mail to: 668 Greenbrier Street, Saint Paul, MN 55106
- Donate by going to: givemn.org/organization/Hopewell-Communications-Incorporated-.

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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.

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The Dayton's Bluff District Forum

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