

# Dayton's Bluff District Forum

Volume 35, No. 4

May 2022

"The Voice of the Community"

## Metro State Celebrates Its 50th Anniversary

Mark Gallagher

Metro State University had its humble beginning in 1971 as Minnesota Metropolitan State College with a mission to educate nontraditional students from the St. Paul and Minneapolis areas. It offered bachelor's degrees to working adults, but students could only complete their junior and senior years of college at Minnesota Metropolitan State College.

It was founded with the entire Twin Cities and surrounding metro area as its campus, so students attended classes at many locations. In 1975, Minnesota Metropolitan State College officially changed its name to Metropolitan State University (Metro State University or Metro State) and began admitting freshmen and sophomores, implemented general education requirements, and instituted a grading policy with grade point averages (GPAs) in 1994.

Current President of Metro State University, Ginny Arthur explained, "The late 1960s were a time of ferment in higher education. There were many people coming back from the Vietnam War, and most colleges and universities were

not set up to serve veterans — and they weren't set up to serve adult students.

"It was a time when students were revolting against the structures of the universities. They wanted them to have a more informal educational curriculum and to be engaged with the community. These ideas were circulating, and there were a group of colleges that came into being at about the same time as Metro State. We and Antioch College in Ohio are the only ones in the Midwest with a similar approach to education."

Chancellor Ted Mitau and David Sweet, then Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, worked together and conceived the radical idea that the Twin Cities needed another university. The new university would have some unique characteristics and be able to serve adult learners. David Sweet, the Founding President said, "I want Minnesota Metropolitan State College to be the kind of college which produces a significant change in its students. I am certain we can do this by remaining open to all who come. We must accept students where they are and help them become who they would be."

In the late 1960s, Ted Mitau was the chancellor of the Minnesota State University system (the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system was formed in 1995 through merger of the State university and two-year college systems and has since been rebranded as Minnesota State in 2016).

*Continued on page 3, Metro State*



Metropolitan State University

The topmost photo shows the old design of the name above an office. The photo directly above shows the new design on Metropolitan State University's New Main building.

## Donations Needed for Us to Print We are Printing the June 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 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 Seventh 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!

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



St. Paul Police Department

From left to right: Deputy Chief Jeremy Ellison, Ofc. Keng Her, Ofc. Sean Higgins, Ofc. Nathan Kinn, Ofc. Dao Vang

## East Side Police Officers Recognized for Life-Saving Actions

Sage Holben

Eastsiders have long known they are right to be proud of their Saint Paul Police Department's Eastern District. A 2021 shooting incident brought this home in a major way when officers Keng Her, Dao Vang, Sean Higgins, and Nathan Kinn responded to a 6 p.m. 911 call — a 19-year-old woman was shot in the neck while sitting in her car outside an East Side apartment building.

Officers Keng Her, Sean Higgins, Dao Vang, and Nathan Kinn, with 21 years of experience among them, were honored recently for their life-saving action. Deputy Chief of Police Jeremy Ellison presented Life Saving Awards at the SPPD Grove Street headquarters. Following is the incident as posted on the SPPD Facebook account:

The call for help came into the Ramsey County Emergency Communications Center at 6 p.m. A woman had been shot in the neck outside a Wilson Avenue apartment building on Saint Paul's East Side. She was semi-conscious and losing a lot of blood.

Officers rushed to the scene, lights flashing, sirens sounding. They got there fast and found the 19-year-old victim slumped into the driver's seat of a Chevrolet Impala. She had a bullet hole in her neck and was bleeding. A crowd gathered. It was chaotic, with people running around, screaming and panicking, trying to reach the woman. Somewhere, someone had the gun.

In the swirl of tumult, the officers were collected and calm. A couple began looking for the gun; others gently removed the victim from the car and laid her on the ground while putting pressure on the wound. Blood kept pouring onto the pavement, pooling. They cut her shirt open and found the exit wound. It was under her armpit. They wrapped her in gauze and kept applying pressure. The woman cried and told the officers she thought she was going to die. They reassured her, told her medics were on the way, that she would be OK. Soon she was in the back of an ambulance and whisked off to Regions Hospital, where she underwent emergency surgery — and survived.

*Continued on page 5, Police*



## Art in the Hollow Set for June 4

Benjamin Mason

Swede Hollow Park will once again welcome summer with the Art in the Hollow festival on **June 4**. It had been a tradition for 10 years leading into the pandemic, and the art will now return to the hidden forest between Payne and 7th Street the first Saturday of June. Plans are underway to bring the event all the way back to its full footprint from the 7th Street bridge up to the old Hamm Brewery site.

Artists will fill the area with tents, and two stages will host performers the entire festival day, from **10 a.m. until 5 p.m.** The stage under the 7th Street Improvement Arches will be active with poetry, music, and performers from the Urban Journal and the TAP organization. The center stage near the Swede Henge sculpture will be busy with a wide variety of local artists to provide rhythm and energy in the middle of the festival.

New this year will be plein air painting activities. Visitors will come across



painters creating art in the wild, scattered around the park. Plans are in the works to create an exhibit at the local ArT@967 Payne gallery the following month, but festival goers can watch the art being created on site.

St. Paul Brewing will be the entry point for the festival once again. Their patio will serve food, and the passage behind the patio that winds through the ruins of the brewery will hopefully be open to the public for special entrance to the park during the time of the festival. It's a rare opportunity to see the area and experience some of the East Side's physical history.

Art in the Hollow combines history, art, nature, and community. It is a convergence point for the East Side communities to come together, share stories of the past, discover local artists of all ages, and experience, enjoy music, food, and take in the picturesque setting of the park while enjoying the summer weather. It is a unique neighborhood experience unlike any other art festival or block party.

The festival is very welcoming of local artists, performers, and community members who would like to be involved. Anyone interested can email or visit the website to sign up, volunteer, or reach out for any reason.

Visit [artinthehollow.org/events/art-at-the-park](http://artinthehollow.org/events/art-at-the-park) or email: [artinthehollowmn@gmail.com](mailto:artinthehollowmn@gmail.com)

## WaterFest Set for June 4

WaterFest will take place at Lake Phalen Park in St. Paul on **June 4 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

Join us for a fun-filled day at WaterFest 2022. This free, family festival celebrating our clean lakes provides an opportunity for outdoor hands-on learning about clean water, wildlife, and land and water conservation.

Experience activities on and around the water with Voyageur canoe and sailboat rides; paddleboats, canoes, and kayaks for checkout, fishing lessons, a fishing contest with prizes, water games, climbing walls, a jump castle, arts and crafts, face painting and lawn games, a Water Bar featuring water flights from our communities, the Passport Odyssey with wonderful prizes, performers, food trucks and lots more!

More information to come soon.

Find more information at [rwmwd.org/get-involved/waterfest/](http://rwmwd.org/get-involved/waterfest/) or their Facebook event page.

Photo provided by WaterFest.



## 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 **May 17** 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](mailto:karindupaul@comcast.net) or call 651-776-0550 for more information and the meeting's location.

## Dayton's Bluff District Forum Board Meeting

The *Forum* is seeking writers and help with online content, idea generation, and ad sales — join us at our next meeting on **Thursday, May 5 at 11:00 a.m.**

If you'd like to attend, call 651-776-0550 or email [daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com](mailto:daytonsbluffdistrictforum@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](mailto:robyn.brewin@ci.stpaul.mn.us) to ensure the meetings have not been canceled.



THE HISTORIC  
MOUNDS  
THEATRE

**April 29-30, May 2, May 6-8, May 12-14:** *Much Ado About Nothing* presented by Fearless Comedy Productions. *Much Ado* is one of Shakespeare's most beloved comedies and forces two of his snarkest characters, Beatrice and Benedick, to go head to head. Come see as they both navigate all of the trappings of wit and love! Tickets: \$15 in advance; \$20 at the door. Performances at 7:30 p.m. except Sunday May 8 at 2:00 p.m. Monday May 9 – pay what you can.

**May 20-21:** Nudie Nubies is thrilled to host the inaugural *Nudie Nubies Nationwide Weekender* amateur burlesque competition. This two-day competition will bring together some of North America's finest up and coming performers and give them the opportunity to show off their best stuff for panels of judges and future fans. Join us for both nights of our tassel twirling tournament! With cocktails crafted with spirits from Du Nord Distillery and talent from across the nation, this competition is NOT one to miss. Tickets: \$30 (Standard), \$50 (VIP). Performances at 8:00 p.m. Friday May 20; 7:00 p.m. Saturday May 21.

Visit [moundstheatre.org](http://moundstheatre.org) to purchase tickets and 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](mailto:historicmoundstheatre@gmail.com)

## Community Garden Plots Available

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

Skidmore Park Community Garden (1085 4th St E, near Earl) has 24 raised bed plots that are available to the public.

Cost is \$20 for the season. Grants are available.

For more information or to request an application, email Steve Lee at [Steve12743@yahoo.com](mailto:Steve12743@yahoo.com).

## Family Homeless Prevention Assistance Program

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

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

Neighborhood House: 651-789-2500  
MN Community Care: 651-266-1290  
American Indian Family Center: 651-793-3803, CLUES: 612-746-3550,  
YMCA: 763-493-3052, Face-to-Face: 651-224-9644

## Xcel Phone Numbers

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

Call 811 before you dig: Before starting that roto-tiller or heaving that shovel into the ground for *anything*, call 811. At no charge, Xcel will have a trained techni-

cian 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!

## Free Legal Services for Low-Income People

Call Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services at 1-888-575-2954 or go to [smrls.org](http://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.**

## 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.



## Metro State, Continued from Page 1

There were just six universities in that system: Mankato, Winona, St. Cloud, Moorhead, Bemidji, and Southwest State (Marshall). Minnesota Metropolitan State College was added in 1971, and a few years after that — on February 1, 1973 — the first graduating class of the college received their degrees.

"It was in the early 1990s when the university acquired the former St. John's Hospital property," President Arthur said. "This property had been abandoned because St. John's had moved to Maplewood. I find it hard to believe that no one wanted such a beautiful site for development and that Metro State University is fortunate to occupy this site."

President Arthur got her start in higher education as a faculty member for twenty-four years at another college, and during that time, she was a department chair for almost 10 years. She also became the faculty chair, and that meant Ms. Arthur served on the Board of Trustees. When she was finished with that position, the board chair suggested that she should think about becoming an administrator.

Before she became president, Ms. Arthur participated in a professional development group for women who were going into administration, and they urged her to apply for a vacancy. She got the position of associate provost at the University of Northern Iowa. She was there four years, and someone pointed out that Metro State was looking for a provost (a provost is the chief academic officer who oversees all the academic departments at the university). Ms. Arthur decided to apply for that

position and became provost of Metro State in 2012. The chancellor was looking to hire a new president and because Ms. Arthur hoped to stay at the university — she applied, accepted their offer, and became president on July 1, 2016.

President Arthur believes the most important accomplishment in Metro State's history is the work they do with the students. One of the things that is really important about the university's work is this idea of a measure that is called "social mobility." Metro State helps its graduates move from the lowest income levels to the middle class or better, and they rank very well — number 37 in the country — for moving students into another economic or social class. President Arthur believes that is the most important accomplishment because students go out and make a difference in the community. Eighty-five to ninety percent of Metro State graduates stay in Minnesota and the great majority of those graduates stay in the local community.

"I think Metro State is unique and an extraordinary university because of the students we serve and the real difference we make in people's lives," President Arthur said. "I have been at other universities in my career, which served a more traditional student population and I mean traditional in terms of age in that 18-to-24-year-old range with residential housing and athletics. And, of course, I believe in the power of higher education for everyone, but Metro State provides opportunities for students who might not otherwise grasp that opportunity. It's just a unique mission and the university has a positive impact on its students, their families, and our communities."

Since 2015, the Student Center, the parking ramp, and the Jason Carter Science

Center have been built on the Metro State St. Paul campus. President Arthur mentioned this has made it seem more like a college campus. There are more buildings now, and the parking ramp was critical to be able to get the Science Center — that was a requirement of the City of St. Paul. They said the university is going to generate more traffic with the Science Center, and there was just a surface parking lot. So, Metro State is going to have to be able to accommodate more cars because the neighborhood would sometimes be filled with cars parking on the street.

"Without the parking ramp," President Arthur said, "we could not have had the Science Center, and the Science Center, of course, is very important. We just didn't have a very good science lab to offer science majors—we offered science courses. In fact, we had a special exemption from Minnesota State. The General Education requirement is for two science courses, but because we didn't have the facilities, we were allowed to require only one science course to fill that requirement."

"You know, those three buildings, the Jason Carter Science Center, the Student Center, and the parking ramp have really extended the opportunities for students here. Because of the Science Center, we were able to develop majors in biology, chemistry, biochemistry, and environmental science. We don't have a physics major, but we offer courses in physics, which are needed for other majors." Few regional universities have physics majors these days.

"We don't get money directly from the legislature; everything comes through the Minnesota State system," President Arthur said. "I wish we could get more financial support for the university from the legislature and from our business and philan-

thropic community because the work we do is extremely important. It benefits the state; it benefits the community; it benefits the employers, and we serve students who are really in need. We could use more resources to be able to provide the services the students need to become successful."

Students are changing, and that may have been accelerated by the pandemic. In the next 50 years, President Arthur imagines that Metro State will continue to evolve and be flexible to meet the needs of its students. It will fulfill what the legislature originally wanted from Metro State, which was to meet the needs of Twin Cities' residents for higher education.

Metro State University will expand its majors because there will be new kinds of work emerging. They will continue to be very flexible in terms of the way courses are structured because Metro State will respond to the needs and preferences of its students, which may include more online and hybrid course instruction.

"I think I have already mentioned it," President Arthur said, "but Metro State is a unique university that enables any person to achieve their educational goals. You know, some of the people who are thinking about higher education might think it is not possible to get a college degree, but Metro State can and will do its part to make it possible. Again, I think Metro State University makes it possible for people's higher educational dreams to come true."

— Mark Gallagher

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



### Dayton's Bluff District Forum

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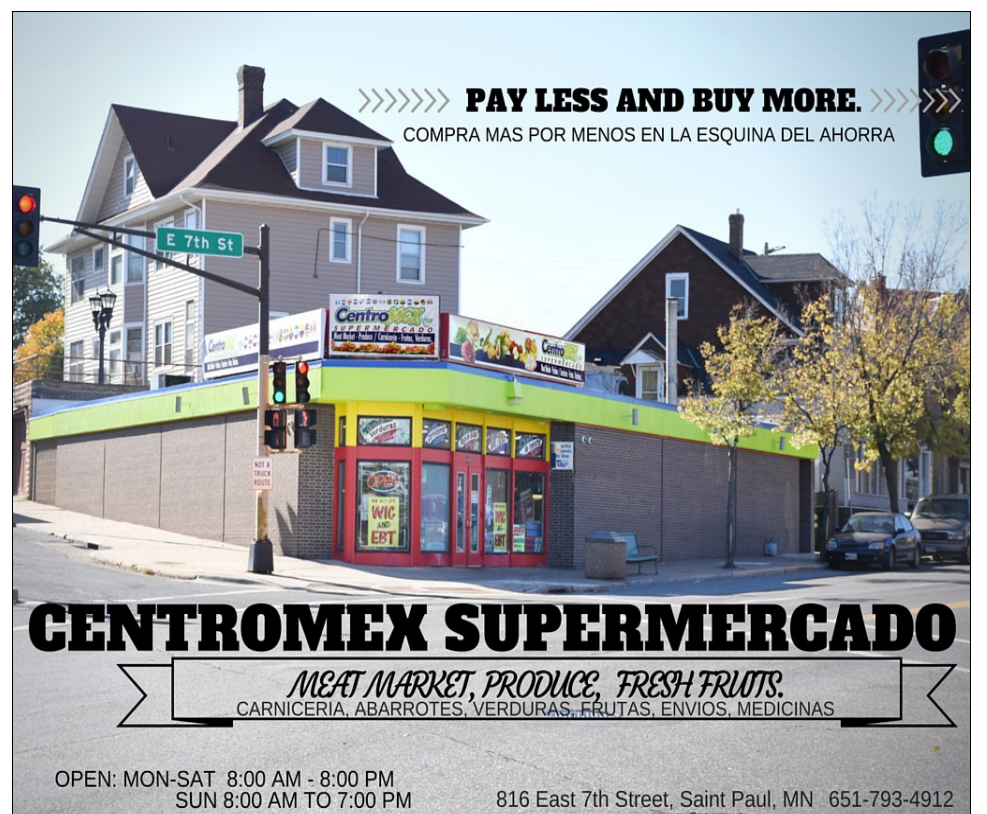
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 Editor/layout: Allison Lund-Zalewski; Editorial Associate: Mark Gallagher  
 Staff: Mandy Okonek, Clare Howard  
 Next issue: June 2022. **Deadline for material: May 10, 2022.**

### Senator Foug Hawj Pushes Legislation to Increase The Number of Farmers of Color in Minnesota

Senator Foug Hawj pushed his legislation to award grants to Minnesota groups working to expand the number of farmers of color in the state, saying the measure would provide resources and tools for African American farmers needing help in their farming operations, while also increasing access to fresh food and cutting the number of food deserts in communities of color.

Sen. Hawj told the Senate Agriculture Committee that farmers of color currently operate less than one percent of farms in Minnesota. The state's communities of color make up a much higher percentage of the population. Beyond that, people in these communities are at least twice as likely as white Minnesotans to experience food insecurity.

Sen. Hawj's measure would provide Department of Agriculture funding to the African Growers and Producers Alliance and African American urban agriculture initiatives to help break down barriers to getting into farming by providing resources such as mentorships, and assistance in finding land and financing for their operations.





# Yarusso's Bocce Part II

Brad Griffith

The *Chatterbox* was a newspaper, published during World War II as a way to keep the residents and those in the service informed about the comings and goings of Saint Paul's Railroad Island Neighborhood.

My impression is its purpose was to bring the community and those in service together in order to establish some sense of normalcy and also to honor those in service and those lost in service to their country.

As a followup to the April 2022 article in the *Dayton's Bluff District Forum*, "Bocce at Yarusso's," here's an excerpt from the October 1944 issue of the *Chatterbox*.

A Saturday Evening on Payne Avenue

"As I neared the Square Deal Cafe, I could hear cinque, due, tre, quattro, uno, sei, nove. The old "morra" game was in progress. The lights shown bright on the "Bocce" alleys. A large crowd was playing. I could hear Sam Mondo's voice high above the others - "Boccie la sua, baccie la sua", he kept shouting. On another alley Nick "Garboon" Savino was measuring a close ball. Scrutinizing the measuring with Nick were "Frenchy", "Bob, the Painter", "Shorty" Saturnini and several others. In front of the tavern several groups of older men were discussing the topics of the day. Inside a large crowd drinking beer and eating good old Yarusso spaghetti. "Murphy" was busy serving customers in the booths. You should see how fat "Murphy" is getting. Joe Yarusso and Joe Madia were bartending. "Skinny" Frascione had the night off and was to report for work early the next day.

On the opposite side of the street at the head of the stairs that lead down to the creek there sat a group of men leisurely talking (and drinking). You boys know what I mean and know what they drink."

A day in the life on Railroad Island at the Square Deal Cafe (Yarusso Brother's Italian Restaurant) - October, 1944. Special thanks to Steve Trimble and Fred Yarusso.

## Chatterbox

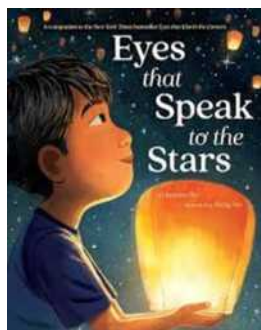
St. Paul 1, Minn., October, 1944

Number 6

# Kids Corner

Vio Nikitina,  
Dayton's Bluff Children's Specialist

May is Asian-American Pacific Islander month. Check out these books that teach us about our neighbors and our neighbors' cultures.



*Eyes That Speak to the Stars* by Joanna Ho  
A young boy notices that his eyes look different from his peers after seeing his friend's drawing of them.

This beautifully illustrated children's book allows readers to develop a deeper empathy and understanding.

*The Most Beautiful Thing* by Kao Kalia Yang

Drawn from Kao Kalia Yang's childhood experiences as a Hmong refugee, this heartfelt picture book offers a window into the life of a family with little money and a great deal of love. When young Kalia is tired of making do without, she receives help from her grandmother to see the true beauty in those we love most.



# Dayton's Bluff Take A Hike

Karin DuPaul

In 1988 people started talking about turning the abandoned Burlington Northern railway along the western and northern edge of Dayton's Bluff into a recreational trail. On December 8, 1990, a hike took place to demonstrate the potential of this walkway connecting Mounds Park to Swede Hollow Park and on to Phalen Park. Soon the Dayton's Bluff Community Council decided to continue the monthly hike and named it the Dayton's Bluff Take A Hike.

The hikes started at Indian Mounds Park, continuing down Commercial Street and onto the old rail corridor through Swede Hollow and all the way to Phalen Park. Then the hikers walked back to Mounds Park where there their cars were parked. After that first couple hikes we had some people leave their cars near Phalen Park so the walk would not be so long.

Over time we shortened the hike and had cars left at the Drewey Lane entrance to Swede Hollow Park, rather than go all the way out to Phalen Park. Friends of Swede Hollow led the hikers and told the visitors about the rich history of neighborhoods and Swede Hollow that was at one time home for many new St. Paul residents. Swede Hollow Park is a wonderful place to hike and see many kinds of birds, deer, and other kinds of wildlife. For years on the first Saturday of each month hike leaders would go to the Mounds Park Pavilion at 10:30 a.m. to see if there were any hikers. We stopped the hike two years ago because of COVID.

For more information call 651-776-0550.

Photos below provided by Karin DuPaul.



# Key Environmental Committee Advances Sen. Foug Hawj's Bill

## Establishing a Task Force to Clean Up Pig's Eye Landfill on St. Paul's East Side

Minnesota State Senate

St. Paul Senator Foug Hawj DFL-St. Paul said today that his legislation to establish a task force to explore ways to accelerate the clean up of the Pig's Eye Landfill, located on St. Paul's East Side, has been advanced by the Senate Environment Policy Committee.

Senator Hawj said the landfill, which contains harmful contaminants that leak

into nearby waterways, including the Mississippi River, is a threat to the people and wildlife in the area. The site contains high levels of pollutants, including metals, mercury, and PFAS/PFOS. The contaminants, especially the PFAS, have impacted wildlife in the area and threaten all downstream communities that rely on the Mississippi River for their water supply.

"For many decades, the city and community have been hoping to get the Pig's Eye Landfill cleaned up and restored so that it can be turned into a park that can be enjoyed by citizens," said Senator Hawj. "This legislation will establish a task force made up of representatives from city, county, state, and federal agencies and other stakeholders and give them the resources to make that vision a reality. I am pleased my bill is moving in the Senate."

Under Sen. Hawj's bill, the task force must begin work by October 2022 and report annually on the task force's work.

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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 Metro State 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](http://sppl.org) for more information.

Our main entrance has opened up again! Visitors can use the doors facing the parking lot. Metro State is also open to the neighborhood, and community members can use campus library computers and check out materials. For more information about Metro State services available to the community call 651-793-1634.

Did you know you can check out wi-fi Hotspots from the library for up to two weeks? Borrowers must have a Saint Paul Public Library card and must be a resident of the City of Saint Paul. Call the library to put one on hold.

Use your library card to checkout e-books, e-audiobooks, and e-magazines with the Libby app. Visit [sppl.org/libby](http://sppl.org/libby) or contact us for help getting started.

Introducing...Teen Tuesdays at the library! Join us at Dayton's Bluff on **Tuesdays** from **6:30-7:45 p.m.** for free Teen programs.

Second Tuesday — Teens Know Best. Read books before they're published, write reviews that help influence publishers, and connect with other teen book lovers in this monthly book club.

Third Tuesday — Dungeons and Dragons. Dive into the epic fantasy world of D&D — first time and more experienced players are welcome! Learn the game and play epic campaigns.

Fourth Tuesday — Teen Writers' Guild. Meet other teen writers, share your writing, and experiment with new writing exercises.

Programming for first Tuesdays is coming soon. For more information check out our website [sppl.org/events](http://sppl.org/events) and select Dayton's Bluff or call the library.

May is Mental Health Awareness

Month. If you have questions about mental health, we have resources for you at the library! We have books and movies about various mental health topics for all ages, and information about local resources. We also have a social worker, Carolyn Hockey, who can help connect you with specific resources and long-term support. Contact her at [carolyn.hockey@wilder.org](mailto:carolyn.hockey@wilder.org) or 651-280-2190 to set up an appointment. If you are currently in crisis, call the Ramsey County Crisis Line at 651-266-7900.

Come see the May Display of art and poetry by local artist Sierra Cammie Tuma in the Micro Gallery! "A warming rebirth — a biting frost to a hopeful spring. Seen in nature and in new beginnings, led through words and art, serving as proof that the weather can give one a blooming heart."

Dayton's Bluff Library is looking for artists, crafters, and collectors to display their work to the community. Our Micro Gallery is a lit, locked, glass display case in the hub of our library.

Items can be no larger than 12" w X 15" d X 15" h and there are four shelves available. Displays rotate monthly. Please keep content suitable for the general public. While we will list contact information for artists, we cannot sell artwork.

Submit a sample photo of what you would like to display to [daytonsbuff@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:daytonsbuff@ci.stpaul.mn.us) or call 651-793-1699 for more information. Artists of all ages and talents are wanted. We are especially interested in featuring East Side residents.

The outdoor book drop is open all the time. Current hours are available online at [sppl.org/locations/DB/](http://sppl.org/locations/DB/) or call 651-793-1699.

### 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.

All Saint Paul Public Library locations will be closed May 12 for staff training and May 30 in observance of Memorial Day.

## Police, Continued from Page 1

Officers Keng Her, Sean Higgins, Nathan Kinn, and Dao Vang were honored for their work that day. Deputy Chief Jeremy Ellison presented each with a Life Saving Award from the Saint Paul Police Department.

"We're incredibly grateful for and proud of their actions that day (as well as those of our partners at Ramsey County, Saint Paul Fire and Regions Hospital). And we're incredibly thankful the woman survived her injuries."

"That's our ultimate goal as police officers," Her said. "To save people's lives and leave them better off than what they

are when they left... For me, it's just another day, another job, another person that we saved. You just move on to the next call."

"The work that they do every day is obviously exemplary," Senior Commander Kurt Hallstrom said. "We're very fortunate they don't have to do this every day, but it's reflective of what they do day in and day out."

*Writer's note: As a 20-year resident of Dayton's Bluff and having had many police interactions, I find the perspectives of Officer Her and Commander Hallstrom to be positively reflective of our Eastern District police officers and staff. Police Community meetings are held the third Tuesday of each month, 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. at the Eastern District Office, 722 Payne Avenue.*

## May Events Happening in St. Paul

**May 1, 2-3:30 p.m., Free, All ages welcome: Nature Walk:** Meet at the Drewery tunnel on Preble Street just south of Payne Avenue. Guided walk in Spanish and English. Open your eyes (and bring your phone) to see the birds, animals and plants on Swede Hollow. Paseo guiado en español e inglés. Abra los ojos (y traiga su teléfono) para ver las aves, los animales y las plantas en Swede Hollow. Edades 10-110.

**May 1, 7:30-11:30 a.m., All ages welcome: May One Run:** Meet at Upper Landing Park. Pick the race that is right for you: half marathon run, skate, or run the 10M, 5M, 5K or Kids Run. The May One Run supports Hope and Homes for Teens. Your donation will be split evenly between two awesome organizations in the Twin Cities. All races start and finish at Upper Landing Park More race day.

**May 1 through 15, 6-10 p.m., Free, All ages welcome: Saint Paul Art Crawl:** Art is shown at various locations and dependent upon the date that is attended. Visit [visitsaintpaul.com/](http://visitsaintpaul.com/) and go to the events section for the full itinerary.

**May 3, 4-5:30 p.m., Free, All ages welcome: Metro State University History Day:** Join us as we celebrate the stories of impact that have shaped the university. Light refreshments served.

**May 7, 11-11:45 a.m., All ages welcome: Wabasha Street Cave Tours:** You will explore the original mined caves and see the finished caves (once a romantic nightclub called The Castle Royal). Hear the legends of the mobster massacres and ghostly lore in the most unique setting from Chicago to San Francisco.

**May 13, 12noon to 12 a.m., Free, All ages welcome: Open House at Indigenous Roots Cultural Arts:** There will be music and food at the fundraiser.

**May 14, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Free, All ages welcome: Inaugural Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) Small Business Expo:** It will be a full-day job fair with speakers, panel discussions, and exhibitions. at Metropolitan State University, 700 E. Seventh Street.

To register, visit [aapibusinessexpo.com](http://aapibusinessexpo.com).

**May 25, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Free, All ages welcome: Games Galore:** 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, at The Union Depot. The games are free and open to the public and you're also invited to bring your own games!

For more information and a full list of events going on throughout St. Paul in May, go to: [visitsaintpaul.com/events-calendar/day/2022/05/28/](http://visitsaintpaul.com/events-calendar/day/2022/05/28/).



## @Dayton's Bluff District Forum



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Kristenza and Alex Nelson

Kristenza and Alex found themselves reading the April issue of *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* while they were on their trip to New York City.



## Today's Harvest A Free Grocery Store Aimed To Reduce Food Waste

Mandy Okonek

Imagine going to a grocery store fully stocked with tables of neatly assembled fresh fruit and vegetables; coolers filled to the brim with dairy and meat products. You happily shop away visualizing the delicious healthy dinner you will prepare for yourself or your family, and leave without paying a dime. Go ahead and gently pinch yourself, the good folks behind Today's Harvest have made that dream a reality. Today's Harvest is not your typical food shelf. Their free grocery store model aimed to help bridge the hunger gap was inspired by one of the many volunteers donating time and energy to help run the local organization Christian Cupboard Emergency Food shelf (CCES) — the people behind Today's Harvest.

In conversation with CCES executive director Jessica Francis, I asked where the vision of a free grocery store model came from. I wanted an origin story; every superhero has one. Francis credited their innovative idea to one of their volunteers. On a trip to Australia, a CCES volunteer was inspired by the free grocery store model food bank utilized by OZHARVEST. OZHARVEST was founded by Ronni Kahn in 2004 and quickly grew to become Australia's leading food rescue organization. Their mission is simple yet effective. They rescue food close to its expiration date, partnering with grocery stores to collect and offer this surplus of ready-to-consume food for free to those in

need. This idea to help mitigate food waste by saving perfectly edible produce from the garbage and make it available to feed hungry families inspired the folks at CCES to model their foodbank to echo the work of OZHARVEST. They are working hard to eliminate food waste locally by partnering with grocery stores to collect food that would otherwise become rubbish and destigmatizing the often less than glamorous trip to a traditional food bank. Francis hopes the innovative approach of Today's Harvest will inspire other food shelf organizations to adopt the same practice.

Eating a healthy meal is expensive, as the price of fresh produce has increased exponentially in recent months. However, Today's Harvest offers a solution that just may keep you out of the drive-through line. There are currently two locations where you can shop for fresh produce, meat, and dairy products for free: The newly opened store located at 8264 4th Street in Oakdale, and their original location at 5703 Hadley Avenue. Both stores are open **Monday through Friday, from noon to 6 p.m., and Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.** Francis states, "Now, with rapidly rising food costs and living expenses, there is a growing number of people in the Twin Cities and beyond who are struggling to afford fresh and healthy food. Today's Harvest grocery store model provides a much-needed connection for free, fresh food that otherwise would go to waste."

Today's Harvest gladly accepts produce donations from farms and community gardens. Now you know what to do with that surplus of summer zucchini. For more information about Today's Harvest or to become a volunteer please visit their website, [todaysharvestmn.org](http://todaysharvestmn.org).

*Photo below provided by Today's Harvest*



***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](mailto:daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com)

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

**Deadline for the June issue of the *Forum* is  
May 10, 2022.**

## Letter to the Editor

Does Anyone Care?

Dawn Keller

Does anyone care about the major construction that is about to begin that is going to demolish the entire atmosphere, tranquility, and family-oriented neighborhoods that might be left along Highway 94?

The "Gold Line" is about to begin major construction for the bus stations/hubs on Earl Street and "Etna Street," among others. It is not going to be on "Etna Street," it is going to be on Wilson and Clarence Street.

When I moved into a house on those streets, there was one other house on the street, as it is a cul de sac and there is a field across the street. It was a shock when Jessie Ventura broke ground behind us to build the 4 Habitat for Humanity homes that are there. Although there are major erosion problems that the city refuses to address, we have survived.

Years ago, my house got caught up in the Predatory Lending scheme. I lost my home to foreclosure and it was given away to someone who claimed to have been a "charity." Within months it was condemned and torn down.

I was fortunate enough to have had a kind neighbor who rented out his upper floor to me and my black Golden Retriever. Over the years, I had taken it upon myself to do my part and keep my little corner of the world clean. I had lined the entire boulevard with day lilies, constantly picked up any trash and blew the leaves, mowed, and shoveled the majority of the cul de sac.

The field across the street was used by the cross-country ski team at Harding High School for practice. My nice, quiet little cul de sac, for the most part, was just that. I had a family of three deer that would come and eat the grass/leaves, wander in the field, and sometimes lay in the sunshine merely feet away from my front door.

Over the years I would see city vehicles coming and going, construction trucks doing their surveying. Suddenly trees were being cut down in the field, the hill that blocked the noise from the highway was quickly eroding. I once was not able to even see the streetlights on the highway, now I can see the cars from my second story window!

Not only was my cul de sac the future entrance to a new "bus station", the major bus hub is about to be built at the end of my driveway!

I was, and am, devastated beyond words. Somehow my "single family dwelling" had magically been "rezoned" to "multi family" and there is going to be

a huge, noisy, public transportation center (with all of its amenities of crime, litter, pollution, traffic, and etc.), and I have nothing I can do about it.

I have had to provide my own lighting for my street and in order to deter the people who want to park on my little street to do their selling, buying, or smoking of drugs, I put up a VERY bright motion detector light. Between the garbage on Wilson Street, the vacant lot, and the field, I average picking up at least one full garbage bag every one to two weeks, sometimes more, and that doesn't include the other refuse that gets dumped on a semi-regular basis.

I had seen in some of the plans for this catastrophe, that they plan on putting up a "sound barrier," this is going to do absolutely no good since the entire area that they are building this station is open directly to the freeway! The "environmental studies" that they say have been done notes that this project will have, get this... "zero impact" on the residents nearby. WHAT?!

My home is 122 years old. The heavy machinery vibration damage to my foundation should be interesting. Furthermore, the city decided to send me a document informing me that it is possible that my water lines could be damaged, and I should have my lines replaced in case such an instance should occur. Then within that week's period of time, my water pressure decreased to just over a trickle.

I am a disabled person, and out of the blue, without any care or concern for someone's peaceful right to enjoy their own property, I am going to be forced to handle hordes of construction vehicles, people, noise, pollution, dust, and vibrations. I was given no choice in this matter. My needs or concerns are not cared about.

You would think that they might offer to buy me out or something considering that this is all right outside my door, but no. I am expected to happily accept all of this insanity and the enjoyment of having my property taxes go up by 26.5% this year and my property value dropping \$6,000!

I wouldn't be able to sell my home for a price that would be able to get this one paid and buy another. Who, in their right mind would want to live right next to a bus station!? Is Metro Transit going to help me pay for all of the things that I am going to have to do to ensure the safety of myself and my property? Are they going to pay for the damage that is done both material wise as well as my health, both mental as well as physical?

I know that life is full of changes. Had I known that it was going to be a commercialized area, I would not have struggled and worked, putting my heart and soul into what I thought was going to be the home I spent my final years in.

The East Side has changed; it is going to keep changing, and I am afraid that it is all for the worse.



[@daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com](mailto:@daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com)



## Spring Into Art Upcoming East Side Gallery Events

Mandy Okonek

Creativity is my favorite catalyst. As the frigid air of winter acquiesces to change, the melting earth softens washing away the monochromatic darkness of cold allowing new life to break through the soil, brightening our color pallet. Our Dayton's Bluff community is in a similar pattern of rebirth. I'll even go as far as to say we are experiencing a renaissance. Forward-thinking entrepreneurs have been hard at work transforming buildings forgotten to industry and filling them with new life — with art. It's impossible to take a stroll down East 7th Street without appreciating all the murals on the sides of buildings and throughout the alleyways. Our community is in bloom. This month there are three new exhibits that I'm excited to attend. All of them are free and family-friendly. Maybe you'll join me?

The featured artist of the month at local gallery Art@967 is Dan Tran. According to the event description, "His work offers a fresh look — through the eyes of a child — at socio-political contemporary issues (climate destruction, criminal injustice, human rights, racism) and subject matters of eternal human interest (friendship, love, hope, healing). His paintings express horror, shock, and revulsion at what we as a community seem to have lost; but also joy, hope, and wonder at what we have collectively found and can create." Tran's work will be featured at the gallery through May 16. Visit Art @967 on Facebook for gallery times or to book a private viewing.

Swede Hollow Café has proudly displayed local artists on their brick walls for as long as I've been treating myself to a giant Cubano with an extra shot of espresso. Years. This month's featured artist is local photographer, leather arti-

san, and fellow Halloween aficionado Rick Carey. Carey's artist statement explains his inspiration to create, "My work is inspired by the deep connection, interplay, and counterbalance between the places that define modern civilization and the natural world on which civilization depends. The world is often conceived in terms of urban, world, and wild places and my work seeks to challenge and explore the relationship, rather than the division, between these spaces."

I've been following Carey's work on Instagram and his unique perspective stemming from the intersection of city and nature reminds me of why I love my neighborhood. The intoxicating beauty of Dayton's Bluff has me firmly rooted on North Street. My sincere apologies to all the realtors constantly offering to buy my house. Carey's photo series #Minnesotascapes is currently on display at Swede Hollow Café located at 725 7th Street East.

Second Shift Studio, formerly a linoleum shop, is located at 1128 Payne Ave. It was purchased in 2017 by East Side residents, Chris Larson and Kriss Zulkosky. According to their website, the new owners were determined to fill an artistic void in our community. "Second Shift is a space for making, for gathering, for listening, and for experimenting. We operate under the belief that helping one artist can help an entire community. When artists are provided the resources, they need to fully engage their practice, they produce more relevant and challenging work, art that can promote conversation, generosity, and engagement with the world around it." This month, Second Shift Studio features their Artist in Residence Galilee Peaches' new body of work, Mountain Theatre. For more information about Second Shift Studio please visit their website, [secondshiftstudiospace.org](http://secondshiftstudiospace.org).

This spring there will most likely be more inclement weather. Minnesota never disappoints. Yet there are at least three good reasons to get out in our community and be inspired. Soak in the creativity of others and see where it takes you. The world needs more artists and there are plenty of venues here in our neighborhood welcoming, encouraging, and facilitating fellow creators.



Secondshiftstudiospace.org

Second Shift Studio, formerly a linoleum shop, is located at 1128 Payne Ave. It was purchased in 2017 by East Side residents, Chris Larson and Kriss Zulkosky

## Briana Lyn Studios

### Offering In-Home or Online Music Lessons for All Ages

Allison Lund-Zalewski

Looking for a new hobby for yourself or your child? Perhaps you've always wanted to learn an instrument or broaden your instrumental talents. Briana Lyn Studios is a multi-teacher music studio that provides in-home music lessons such as piano, voice, and guitar. These teachers provide lessons to students of all ages and skill levels.

Briana Lynn Studios and its teachers have been teaching music students across the Twin Cities since 2013.

"I have been a singer-songwriter my whole life and wanted to help other musicians and singers find their voices and discover how much fun learning music can be," Briana said.

The philosophy behind Briana Lynn is that the teachers want to give their musicians and singers the skills and knowledge to play the songs they love. They don't just want to teach their students how to be a good musician, they want to help them become a great person through personalized lessons from teachers who really care about their students as a person — not just what they can produce.

"When you learn music you learn about posture, poise, personal beauty, fine motor skills, positive attitude, positive self-

worth (healthy self-esteem), great character, work ethic, personal accountability, perseverance, and creative expression. Music lessons teach delayed gratification which is something often not instilled in young people today. This is something we want to instill in the students we work with," Briana explained.

Each day, Briana and the teachers see students light up when they finally understand something and when what they've been working on finally starts to click — it makes their workday fun and interesting. The teachers see the students' confidence go up, feeling proud of themselves. There is something special about their gratification that they can't find through electronics.

Briana's biggest inspiration comes from having amazing teachers and music/vocal coaches she's worked with throughout the years.

"They were amazing people and were often a listening ear when I needed one growing up. I want our studio to be a place where musicians and singers can be mentored and inspired to go after their dreams, whatever path they decide to take. Being able to inspire and help the next generation is one of the best jobs there is!" Briana stated.

Briana and her teachers have one message for those interested in taking music lessons, "We know everyone's lives are busy which is why we make learning music convenient for you. We have two options for your busy schedule. Teachers will travel to your home, or you can do online lessons!"

Visit [brianalynstudios.com/contact-us/](http://brianalynstudios.com/contact-us/) for more information or to inquire about music lessons today.

"We are excited to connect with you and help you grow musically! We want to give you the skills and knowledge to sing and play the songs you love!" Briana exclaimed.

## Recipe Almond Bars

Sage Holben

### Bottom layer:

- 1 ½ C. flour
- ¾ C sugar
- ½ C butter
- ¼ tsp. salt
- Mix until crumbly.
- Pat into 9" x 13" pan.
- Bake:** 350 degrees for 15 minutes

### Second layer:

- 12 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 3 eggs
- ¾ C sugar
- 1 ½ tsp. almond extract
- extract
- Mix and pour over bottom layer. Bake again at 350 degrees for 15 to 20 minutes.

### Frosting

- 2 ½ C powdered sugar
- ½ C butter
- 2 ½ T. milk
- 1 ½ tsp. almond extract
- Beat until smooth. Spread on cooled bars. Top with sliced almonds.

*If you'd like to submit your favorite recipe, please send it to: [daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com](mailto:daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com).*



@Dayton's Bluff District Forum

## Some Historical May Events

Steve Trimble

May 3, 1970: Jimi Hendrix brought his Cry of Love Tour to St. Paul on this day. His concert began at 8 p.m. on a Sunday in the St. Paul Auditorium. Tickets sold for \$4.50, \$5, and \$5.50. The sound system would be run by McCune of San Francisco. The two groups that appeared in support of Hendrix were Savage Grace and OZ.

Here is the set list from the event: "Fire," "Room Full of Mirrors," "Lover Man," "Hear My Train a Comin'," "Ezy Ryder," "Machine Gun," "Freedom," "Foxy Lady," "Red House," "The Star-Spangled Banner," "Purple Haze," and "Voodoo Child."

Hendrix explained some of Voodoo Child: "I'd like to do a slow blues about this cat who feels kinda down, 'cause his old lady put him down, and his people and family don't want him around, so he had this big old long frown, and had to drag his ass down to the railroad station, waitin' for the train to come take him away on the road."

After the main concert Jimi headed toward the back stage, completed his solo with his teeth and the show was over.

May 4, 1985: Today starts the first Cinco de Mayo on St. Paul's West Side neighborhood. The festival celebrates the Mexican heritage, culture, and history that has united the Saint Paul Mexican-American community.

The day is observed to commemorate the Mexican army's victory over French forces invading the country at the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862.

In 1985, community members and business owners gathered together to create a celebration in Saint Paul. The goal was to celebrate the community and its businesses, but also to establish the West Side of Saint Paul as a destination place. The festival helped preserve culture, no longer have fear of displacement again, and preserve the memory of the community. In doing so, a vision of cultural economic stability, maintenance and ownership grew.

The most highly attended event, and one

of the best reasons to go, is the Cinco de Mayo — West Side Parade. Thousands of individuals come from all over to witness the West Side floats from local organizations within the community and authentic Mexican dancers as they trek down Cesar Chavez Street in Saint Paul.

May 15, 2007: The Payne Avenue State Bank at 961-63 Payne Avenue was placed on the National Register of Historic Places today. Constructed in 1923, with its four large classical columns, it probably is the most impressive building on this commercial corridor of the East Side.



Minnesota Historical Society

A group of people stand outside the Payne Avenue State Bank at 961-63 Payne Avenue.

The fact that there was a streetcar line on Payne Avenue was an important part of the street life.

The building served as a center of commerce on a street that has been a major contributor to the city's immigrant history. When it opened, the streetscape was filled with Scandinavian businesses and the structure became known as "The Swedish Bank Building." Over the years, it was important to Germans, Italians, and other groups.

The Beaux-Arts style building was designed by William L. Alban who began practice in St. Paul in 1906, specializing in church and school architecture. After many years the bank was closed and the structure fell into disrepair.

In 1999, a neighborhood group bought the building and by 2007, they had completed an award-winning renovation of the historic bank. They brought finance related institutions like those in its former days, including counseling, economic development, and individual asset building. The structure was placed on the National Register of Historic Places 2007.

May 18, 1893: Charles Rogers became

first person to commit suicide by jumping off St. Paul's High Bridge on this day. J. M. Karl, a young workman, passed him and they chatted. The conversation seemed odd to Karl, and he walked off but turned around and saw Rogers climbing over the protective railing. He rushed back and grabbed the man's arm to get him back to safety. Rogers handed Karl a paper with the address 419 S. Grove. "I want you to take this horse and buggy home for me," he said, asking the young man to tell his wife what happened. Rogers twisted his arm away, jumped and dropped two hundred feet into the Mississippi River.

Rogers was one of the city's wealthiest businessmen who hadn't seemed to be troubled. However, a newspaper said he had been busy night and day getting his plant in production and surmised that "this severe work" may have "unbalanced his mind."

Karl gazed over the side of the bridge to the water where Rogers had disappeared. There was a whirling eddy, and in a few moments, he saw the body come up. The body floated down about 20 feet from where it struck the water, and then sunk from Karl's view.

May 23, 1965: After years of heated debate, the State of Minnesota decided to begin to adopt Daylight Saving Time and the Legislature passed the bill on this day that set in motion the plan to make the change statewide. There were strong opinions on both sides of the issue, some thought it was necessary for businesses to be successful, while others thought that it was a terrible idea. Farmers thought it wasn't needed and wouldn't change the way they farmed, because, one said, "the morning sun does not dry the dew on daylight savings time." Even movie theaters got involved into the conversation, predicting that the change would hurt them because no one would go see a movie while it was still light out.

However, the city of Saint Paul decided to make the change two weeks earlier on May 9, while the rest of the nation stayed on Standard Time. So, for two unusual weeks, Saint Paul was an hour in front of the time in Minneapolis. Most local businesses in the Capital City moved their clocks ahead, while Government offices stayed on Standard Time. One short-lived result was that mail arrived at homes an hour earlier in Saint Paul.

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-**Website** at [daytonsbuffdistrictforum.org](http://daytonsbuffdistrictforum.org)

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Dear Reader,

**The Dayton's Bluff District Forum has been a volunteer-run newspaper since the 1980s and has always operated on a minimal budget. Each issue costs around \$1,000 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:

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