

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

Volume 37, No. 7

August 2023

"The Voice of the Community"

National Night Out Set for August 1

Michel Taylor



For 45 years the community has gathered for National Night Out. The tradition will continue this year on **Tuesday, August 1, from 6-9 p.m.** at Upper Swede Hollow Park.

It's sponsored by Friends of Swede Hollow and co-hosted by St. John's Lutheran Church.

There will be plenty of food for everyone, donated by local businesses and neighbors. Live music will be provided by

the Eddies along with games for all ages.

Children can enjoy cotton candy while having their photos taken with the local police or firemen.

Stop by, it should be a lot of fun!



Andrew Zalewski

BOGA, the restaurant that took over the location formerly known as the Dari-ette, is now officially open for business as of early July. The restaurant has several kinds of burgers, a few flavors of milkshakes, many flavors of gelato, and hot and iced coffee. They have a couple dairy free gelato options as well as gluten free buns, if asked. You can either get just the burger or a meal. The restaurant opens at 9 a.m. Tuesday through Sunday and is closed on Mondays. There is no indoor seating, but they have picnic tables for customers.

Support Our Local Businesses

Greg Cosimini

The construction of the Metro Gold Line BRT on Hudson Road is wreaking havoc on the businesses located near the Earl St.-Hudson Rd. intersection. The total closure of Hudson Road for the next

three to four months, plus dirt, noise and a lack of parking will be making access very difficult.

Our friends in that area would be grateful for your continued patronage. Please support the Mounds Theatre, Saint Paul Saloon, MNS Grocery & Tobacco, Overall Beauty Bar, Leo's Chow Mein and Cheers Pub during these trying times. And don't forget Jumbo Wash Laundromat at Hudson and Cypress.

Photos below provided by Greg Cosimini.



Forum Staff Member, Karin DuPaul, Awarded Certificate for Outstanding Volunteer Work Throughout East Side

Michel Taylor

At Party for the Parks at Phalen Park Pavilion on June 21, Karin DuPaul, Forum staff member, was awarded a certificate acknowledging her outstanding volunteer activities for our group, Friends of Swede Hollow.

Even though this award only recognizes the previous year's contributions, over many years Karin has done more for Dayton's Bluff, Swede Hollow Park, and the East Side community than anyone who comes to mind. From saving the Hamm's Brewery from demolition to preventing the building of condos on the Upper Swede Hollow Park site, she has tirelessly advocated for this district. Congratulations Karin, you certainly have earned it!

Photo below provided by Michel Taylor.



Meet the New Dayton's Bluff Library Manager, Ruqia Abdi

Hello Dayton's Bluff Community!

My name is Ruqia Abdi, and I am the new manager at Dayton's Bluff Library, located on the Metro State campus at 645 East 7th Street. I was the Arlington Hills Library manager before joining the Dayton's Bluff team, so I have established ties already with the East Side. It has been wonderful to meet many new people here at Dayton's Bluff, and if you haven't visited the library lately, please come in and say hello!

I believe libraries are the bedrock of democracy. It's important to me that the community is aware of the programs and services available here. Libraries are a safe space for kids, teens, and families to play and learn together. There is support for students to succeed in school. Staff can help people connect to information and resources.

I remember the moments and milestones that enabled me to connect with my community as a new immigrant, and I want to create a similar experience for everyone who enters the Dayton's Bluff Library.

Coming up this month, Dayton's Bluff is featuring free photography camps for

youth ages 11-15 on **Tuesdays from 2-3 p.m. through August 15**, and there are Teen Dungeons and Dragons gaming nights on **Tuesday, August 1 and 15 from 6:30 to 8 p.m.** Kids ages 7-11 can drop in for hands-on fun and creation at Fun Lab on **Saturdays 2-4 p.m.**

Saint Paul Public Library has several locations throughout the city, and there is so much going on at all of them. Another East Side library, Arlington Hills Library, 1200 Payne Avenue, is hosting an exciting ToshCon on **Saturday, August 26, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.** that celebrates Asian pop culture with open mic karaoke, cosplay, J-pop and K-pop, themed photo booths, a manga lounge, and more.

If I haven't seen you at the library already, I hope you stop in soon!



Dayton's Bluff Library

The Dayton's Bluff Library's new library manager, Ruqia Abdi.

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.

Friends of Swede Hollow

If you have a passion for history and preserving nature, please join us for our monthly meeting on the third Tuesday of every month.

Our meetings are held at the historic William Hamm's mansion, 668 Greenbrier St.

In the spirit of the area's past, we serve Hamm's beer along with other beverages and snacks. The meeting is **August 15** and starts at **6:30 p.m.** and is an excellent resource for park updates and events.

For more updates email taylor672@comcast.net or call Michel at 651-442-3366.

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, August 3 at 11 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.

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.

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.

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

New National Suicide Prevention Hotline

Number

988 has been designated as the new three-digit dialing code that will route callers to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. Text or Dial. 988 just launched as an alternative to calling 911.

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 make 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!

Dayton's Bluff Community Council Board of Directors Meeting

The Dayton's Bluff Community Council is inviting everyone to attend the Annual Meeting on **Monday, August 14, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.** at the East Side Enterprise Center at 804 Margaret Street.

Come meet your neighbors, share your ideas, hear from others, and elect board members. Your voice matters!

Welcome address from the Board President, remarks from other local officials, open discussion with your neighbors, and

St. Paul Farmers' Market at Union Depot Shop Local This Summer!

Visit St. Paul

The Saint Paul Farmers' Market will be popping up at Union Depot. Grab a friend and shop for fresh favorites!

Come get lunch from food vendors, grab a recipe card with directions using items from our vendors, and support local businesses.

This is a free event to attend and is inside the Head House of Union Depot near Station 81 Restaurant. Union Depot, 214 4th St. E. St. Paul. Questions? Contact 651-202-2700.

Upcoming dates: August 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20, 26, 27

board members. Looking forward to seeing you and serving your neighborhood needs. All are welcome.

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, SMRLS will provide one.

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



THE HISTORIC
MOUNDS
THEATRE

Visit 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

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.**

Night of the Living Nonprofit

Mandy Okonek

Lured by a love of zombies, I meandered one block to the East Side sculpture park to watch *Night of the Living Dead* on an outdoor screen. Sitting on a blanket with my family eating mini chocolate-coated vanilla taffy, we watched the small former budget tire lot begin to fill with people. A large family sat next to us. They had small children in a stroller, grade-schoolers, and mom, dad, grandma, and grandpa all sitting on one big flannel blanket. They posed for a family selfie in between bites of hot dogs. Grandpa commented on how cool it was to have his whole family together for a free outdoor movie. I could not agree more.

TriLingua Cinema is a small group of good people doing cool stuff in our neighborhood. Sharing their love of cinema with free outdoor movies, they are bringing people together to enjoy a family movie night in a derelict corner lot reclaimed by art. Movies are a great ice-breaker. Nothing brings people together like a shared love of zombies. But for the folks at TriLingua Cinema, it is more than the glorious camp of ghouls. George A. Romero's *Night of the Living Dead* was one of the first horror movies to cast a person of color as the lead protagonist. In 1968, when the original movie dropped, this was controversial. One could say it is controversial today. This movie selection was intentional. Every TriLingua movie aims to spotlight the cultural diversity of our community. Think of the ecosystem at the intersection of Bates and East 7th Street, then

distill that vision down into a simple syrup of our one common ingredient: Place.

TriLingua's name is a homage to the three most common languages spoken by East Siders — English, Spanish, and Hmong. Dedicated to creating space for Black, Indigenous, Karen, Karenni, and East African filmmakers, they boast a love for delivering movies to the community and a goal to open a brick-and-mortar theater. Their summer movie schedule is a carefully curated blend of genre-pleasing hits with an eye toward tasteful art.

Upcoming Shows at East Side Sculpture Park, 705 East 7th Street East Saint Paul, MN:

- August 12 *Pan's Labyrinth*
- August 26 *Everything Everywhere All at Once*

- September 8 *The Goonies*
- September 29 *Good Burger*

Movies project onto a large inflatable screen beginning with the setting sun. These events are free to the public and served with a welcoming vibe, free snacks, and a restroom. Founded by East Sider Geordie Flantz, TriLingua Cinema's mission is to utilize multilingual films to build community among the diverse residents of Saint Paul's East Side. Funding for this summer's movie nights is provided by Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Housing Services with support from Indigenous Roots.

I seek inspiration from the good people in my community doing cool stuff. It is contagious—like the zombie virus. I encourage you to get out and support local movies while you can. Because if we learned anything from George A. Romero's *Night of the Living Dead*, our existence is finite. For more information on TriLingua Cinema please visit their website at trilinguacinema.com/.



Mandy Okonek

The above photo shows Co-directors of TriLingua Cinema, Geordie Flantz & Ismail Khadar.

Sen. Hawj Celebrates Groundbreaking of The Heights Redevelopment Project on East Side

Marc Kimball

Senator Fong Hawj joined legislators and community leaders at the official groundbreaking of The Heights redevelopment project. Senator Hawj, who was recognized at the groundbreaking for his years of work to redevelop the 112-acre former Hillcrest Golf Course site, was the chief author of legislation securing \$11 million in state funding for The Heights project.

"This project will be a transformational opportunity for the residents of St. Paul's East Side as it creates new jobs, affordable housing, and economic growth for our community," said Senator Hawj. "Our state funding will create an incredible return on investment, and is exactly the type of project that benefits most from state bonding dollars. I want to thank Senator Pappas for including it in her bill and for making this a reality."

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

Want to write about something that interests you? We want to hear it! Submit your stories and articles to the email above.

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

Deadline for the September issue of the *Forum* is August 10, 2023.

Upper Swede Hollow National Night Out
Co-hosted by the Friends of Swede Hollow and St. John's Lutheran Church
 August 1st, 6-9 p.m.
 665 Greenbrier St.
 The Hamm Mansion site
 Upper Swede Hollow Park
 Live Music by the Eddies
 Fun - Food - Games



@Dayton's Bluff District Forum



Mandy Okonek

Visitors up at the North Shore were enjoying the *Dayton's Bluff District Forum*.

Contest: Where in Dayton's Bluff?

Send your guess to daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com with the location of the neighborhood curiosity pictured on the right.

The reader who submits the correct entry will be notified, and the winner(s) will be announced in the September edition of the *Forum*.



View From My Porch Service with a Smile

Sage Holben

I was calling several resources on behalf of a neighborhood friend to get preliminary information on how a person gets a state ID without a birth certificate. I knew, being the day after Independence Day and a long weekend for many, that I might be on hold for longer than usual times; but I experienced little waiting for any of the six calls I made. I did, however, come across staff who seemed very new to processing the questions I had and the help I needed. I did display in these cases the better side of myself, with patience and understanding being the end of a holiday, short staffed, and people filling in at unfamiliar stations.

Yet I would still appreciate being transferred in such cases, to another person who might be more knowledgeable in the help I needed; able to give me more definite answers rather than "maybe, likely, I'm guessing". Perhaps the more seasoned employees were out on extended holiday.

The department for which I have the biggest complaint is St. Paul Social Security office. Though the one time I visited their former St. Paul office upon my retirement, I received competent, pleasant, and efficient service. This time, not so. I explained I was calling for ID information for someone who had never had an ID; I laid out the unusual extenuating circumstances. The Social Security person demonstrated immediate impatience that ID could not be provided under the circumstances laid out. She searched under a first name which took only a few seconds, but she kept cutting me off when I asked if she could search under a

variation of the name. "I can't be searching a list of names!". I told her (nicely) that the person for whom I was calling would never survive her onslaught; on the other hand, my friend, with a less monitored social/communication filter, might have just put this woman in her place.

Years ago at a customer service training, we were taught to smile while talking on the phone — the physical formation of the mouth in a smile translated to a more pleasant sound than a "flat" face. Upbeating our speaking voices also helps create a pleasant atmosphere for the customer whether in person or on the phone.

Some transactional irritations have occurred at my local food store and Target. One day as a new cashier (we had never before interacted) rang up my food purchases, she commented in a dry voice, without looking at me, "most people buy actual food, not frivolous items", as she glared at my orange fig cracker spread, pate, and lemon wafers.

Lastly there is the non-existent "thank you" as I give my money in exchange for merchandise. My purchase may not be bank-breaking, but in its own small way, keeps a worker's job and keeps a business in the area. When I receive my change and/or receipt, almost without exception I hear: "Here you are", Have a good day, See you, or nothing. In my passive-aggressive way, I say "You're welcomed". One day at Target, I asked the young man if cashiers were trained to not say "thank you". He said "yes"! Was he kidding? I wanted to know. In my car, I called the store manager and asked (in my pleasant voice) about thanking the customer in cashier training. She hung up on me. Good-bye.

Thank you for reading our District Forum newspaper. If you send a contribution to help us print more hard copy issues, we will definitely send a sincere "thank you"!



Steve Trimble

A small band was part of a parade that took place on Urban Place and Maria Avenue on the Fourth of July.

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

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

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

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

Staff: Mandy Okonek

Next issue: September 2023. **Deadline for material: August 10, 2023.**



Gold Line BRT Construction Schedule Update

Compiled from information provided by Metro Transit
metrotransit.org/gold-line-project

The Metro Gold Line will be a bus rapid transit (BRT) line that operates primarily within bus-only lanes. Gold Line will provide frequent, 10-15 minute, all-day service in both directions, seven days a week. The planned 10-mile route is between St. Paul and Woodbury with bus-only lanes being constructed generally north of and near Interstate 94. It will become operational in 2025.

As of July 16, here is the Gold Line BRT construction schedule for Dayton's Bluff:

* The Earl St. bridge over I-94 opened on July 13.

* The pedestrian bridge at Maple St. over I-94 was removed during the night of July 14/15. It will be rebuilt later this summer.

* Hudson Road is now closed from Maria Avenue to Earl St.

* Hudson Road between Earl Street and Griffith Street is expected to close on

July 24. At that time, Hudson Road from Maria Avenue to Griffith Street will be closed through fall 2023. Crews will reconstruct the road and sidewalks, replace underground utilities, and construct bus-only lanes.

* Crews are expected to begin pile driving by late July on Hudson Road and Pacific Street at the north and south ends of the Maple Street pedestrian bridge.

* The westbound I-94 ramp to Mounds Boulevard closed July 14 through fall 2023.

* Northbound Mounds Boulevard between the eastbound I-94 on ramp and Kellogg Boulevard closed starting July 14 through fall 2023.

* Expect lane closures on southbound Mounds Boulevard between 6th Street and Kellogg Boulevard/3rd Street starting July 24.

* Ruth Street is closed over I-94 and the westbound I-94 entrance ramp from Ruth Street is also closed. The closures will continue through fall 2023. Follow the posted detour route along Old Hudson Road, White Bear Avenue, and Suburban Avenue.

This is a very complex and dynamic project so changes to this schedule could occur. For updated information on the Gold Line project, questions, comments or concerns visit metrotransit.org/gold-line-project, email goldline@metrotransit.org or call 651-602-1919.



Greg Cosimini

In preparation for Gold Line BRT construction, a century-old streetcar rail is dug up from Hudson Road while traffic zooms by on I-94 in the background. Hudson Road was part of a major streetcar line until the early 1950s when the system was abandoned. The rails and bricks below the asphalt often appeared when potholes formed on Hudson Road during winter.



Greg Cosimini

Hundreds of old iron streetcar rails have been removed from Hudson Road in preparation for Gold Line BRT construction. This pile of rails will soon be hauled away from the construction area.



Greg Cosimini

Wooden cross ties were laid underneath and perpendicular to iron streetcar rails in a manner similar to railroad track construction. Many hundreds of these cross ties also had to be removed from Hudson Road in preparation for Gold Line BRT construction. Here are just two piles of cross ties that will be hauled away from the area.



Greg Cosimini

This is all that remained of the Maple St. pedestrian overpass on the morning of June 15 after being rapidly and very noisily removed during the previous night. I-94 from Hwy 52 to I-694 was closed in both directions for the weekend. A new overpass will be built later this year after the Gold Line BRT lanes along Hudson Road are constructed.

All-Abilities 2050 Transportation Plan Seeks Resident Feedback in an Online Survey

Ramsey County

As a part of our All-Abilities 2050 Transportation Plan, we are seeking your valuable input on the goals that matter to you and the transportation challenges you face.

Share your thoughts and concerns by participating in our online survey and exploring the interactive wikimap until August 31.

The All-Abilities 2050 Transportation plan will shape the investment priorities for upcoming transportation projects in the county. Working closely with the Minnesota Department of Transportation, Metro Transit, county municipalities, and transportation users, we aim to gather input through a variety of engagement opportunities, including online, virtual, and in-person sessions, all offered in multiple languages.

Find the survey here:
survey123.arcgis.com/share/3f92dfc34c2a45cfb23f6e37aa2096d4.

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Events Happening in Ramsey County

August 1, 8, 15

Tots Tuesday at Waterworks

An hour set aside for kids five years and younger to enjoy splashing around before the park opens to the general public.

Time: 9:30-10:30 a.m.

August 1, 7

Learn and Earn Info Sessions

Learn more about our new young adult workforce program, Learn and Earn.

Time: 10-11 a.m.

August 1, 8, 22, 29

Housing and Conciliation Court Self-Help Center

Free legal consultation from volunteer attorneys at the Ramsey County Law Library is available for those with Conciliation and Housing Court issues.

Time: 1-4 p.m.

August 2

COVID Vaccine Clinic — Consulate of Mexico

Saint Paul — Ramsey County Public Health offers free COVID-19 vaccine clinics.

Time: 2-6 p.m.

August 4, 6, 18

Free Adult Open Hockey — TCO Sports Gardens

Time: 9-10 a.m.

August 5, 19

Drop-In Discovery Stations

Tamarack's Discovery Hosts will be on-hand on Saturday mornings with nature's most wonderful surprises!

Time: 10 a.m.-noon

August 5, 9, 19, 26, 30

Free Open Skate at Highland Arena

Sharpen your skating skills or just get out on the ice for some exercise! Open sessions are free and open to all ages and skating abilities.

Time: 3:30-5 p.m.

August 6, 13, 20

Autism Friendly Hour at Waterworks

A sensory-friendly hour designed for individuals who are on the autism spectrum or with various sensory needs.

Time: 9:30-10:30 a.m.

August 7, 21

Ramsey County Courthouse Tour

Hour-long public tours are offered twice a month of Saint Paul City Hall — Ramsey County Courthouse, a 21-story art deco high-rise.

Time: 12:15 p.m.

August 7

Virtual Job Club — Networking

Join this job club session to learn job networking methods.

Time: 1-2 p.m.

August 8

Power Within Us

Power Within Us helps support young adults who are currently on probation in Ramsey County connect to paid job training and education programs.

Time: 4-5:30 p.m.

August 8, 23

Seasoned Job-Seeker Roundtable

An in-person event offering the latest tips on resumes, cover letters, networking and responses to tough interview questions.

Time: 10-11 a.m.

August 9

Youth Works! Orientation

Come learn about Youth Works!, a county-wide youth employment partnership initiative.

Time: 11 a.m.- noon

August 10, 17, 24, 31

Free Open Skate for Seniors at Highland Arena

Sharpen your skating skills or just get out on the ice for some exercise! Open senior skate sessions are free and open to seniors of all skating abilities.

Time: 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

August 13, 27

Free Youth Open Skate — TCO Sports Gardens

Sharpen your skating skills or just get out on the ice for some exercise! Open sessions are free and open to all ages and skating abilities.

Time: 3:30-5:30 p.m.

August 13, 20, 27

Free Open Skate — TCO Sports Gardens

Sharpen your skating skills or just get out on the ice for some exercise! Open sessions are free and open to all ages and skating abilities.

Time: 3:30-5:30 p.m.

August 14

Virtual Job Club — Interviewing

Interviewing Success plus open forum.

Time: 1-2:30 p.m.

August 17

Union Depot Tour

Tour Union Depot to learn about history, renovations, sustainability initiatives, expanding transit options and more

Time: noon

August 19

Prairie Wildflower Discovery Walk

Join us to see what's blooming in the prairie throughout the summer.

Time: 9 a.m.

August 21

Virtual Job Club — Job Search

Interviewing Success plus open forum.

Time: 1-2:30 p.m.

August 28

Virtual Job Club — Career Direction

Career Direction: assessments and job searching tips.

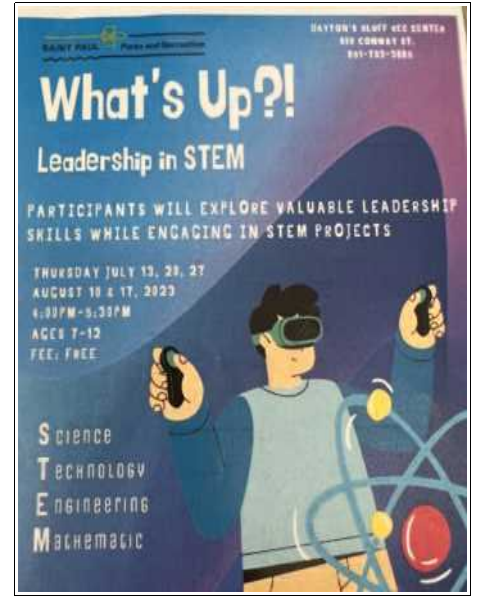
Time: 1-2 p.m.

For more information and locations go to ramseycounty.us/calendar.



Mandy Okonek

Visitors up at the North Shore were enjoying the Dayton's Bluff District Forum.



Dayton's Bluff Rec Center

Check out some of the fun classes the Dayton's Bluff Rec Center is offering in August.



Jane Prince

On Thursday, July 13, the Swede Hollow Cafe hosted KARE-11 TV Sunrises's Jason and Alicia for a Coffee Meet Up.



@Dayton's Bluff District Forum

Some Interesting August St. Paul Events

Steve Trimble

August 1, 2019: After more than a century, Totem Town in Highwood was closed. When it first opened, a group of boys from the Parental School and Detention facility at the Mayall Building at 75 E. Seventh Street walked a few miles to reach their new location. It was at a farm in Highwood called Totem Town.

It was a place where boys were sent by the court for small crimes to help them reform. Many kids weren't there because they did something bad but came because of home problems.

The intent at Totem Town was to change a boy's behavior. The treatment philosophy included a system of earning rewards and losing privileges.

For decades, the boys grew their own produce, cared for horses, cattle, pigs, as well as chickens, geese, ducks, and other poultry along with crops and flowers.

Over the years there were changes in the composition of the boys that the all-white staff sometimes didn't understand and the growing seriousness of crimes. In 1975, there were numerous changes in policies. Better counseling was introduced and there were fewer runaways and fighting was reduced. Still, in 2016, Ramsey County judges voted to stop sending boys there and Totem Town closed.

August 3, 2010: The National Poetry Slam, a.k.a. "The Super Bowl of Slam," or "The World Cup of Words," arrived in Saint Paul for a five-day event on this day. The National Poetry Slam arrived for the first of a multi-day event in St. Paul. When the 2010 National Poetry Slam was decided the hometown team, "Soap Boxing," took the honors for the second year in a row. This year's national competition attracted teams from around the world and the organizers estimated the audience totaled about 15,000 over the several days.

Slam poetry or the "competitive art of performance poetry" started in Chicago around 1986. Unlike more traditional poetry, it stresses performance as equal to writing. Competitors aim at winning over their audience, and the judges who listen and watch. They are encouraged to vote for the performance that gets the loudest audience response. The topics are often family or friend's issues.

Soap Boxing was ranked third in the nation according to some critics. Here's part of what Soap Boxing's Sierra DeMulder

offered in front of the crowd: "Child/When your father and I fought at night Did you mistake it for love making/? Did I teach those fingers to pluck families apart like flower petals. I love you."

August 7, 1938: A Saint Paul V. F. W. post held a booya at the Highland Park picnic grounds on this day. The name of this event is thought to have derived from the Belgian Walloon word "bouyu." The Walloons came to Wisconsin and apparently Czech neighbors adopted the tradition and brought it to Minnesota, which welcomed it into their own food heritage.

Booya is both the food and the event, sponsored by churches, schools, or other local organizations. People usually gather the day before to cut up meat and vegetables that will be put into in one or more of the six kettles that accommodate 600 gallons in the Highland Park booya shack.

Shifts of volunteers cook and stir throughout the night. At a critical point, a secret recipe of spices in a cloth bag is lowered into the pot on a string. The next day, usually around noon, people show up to buy booya and socialize.

August 8, 1902: Around 100 men and women, members of various St Paul unions, gathered at a meeting hall on Wabasha Street on this day. They were delegates from the city's working people and they made history by electing 35-year-old Charles James as the president of the Saint Paul Trades and Labor Assembly. James was the first African-American to assume that leadership post in the city and perhaps the first in the nation. He ended up being re-elected twice more.

James was a leader in the Boot and Shoe Workers Union, an important labor group at the time. He was a St. Paul native, part of a prominent African American pioneer family, although they preferred the name Afro-American at the time. James was also the labor representative to the Saint Paul Charter Commission and was involved in church work and civil rights activities.

James was later elected to seven terms as the recording secretary of the Assembly. He was one of the most admired activists in the labor movement and was widely mourned after his death in 1923. His home still stands at 419 Sherburne in the Frogtown neighborhood. The three-story house remains a silent and somewhat shabby reminder of this remarkable man.

August 11, 2018: The Karen Community

of Minnesota celebrated the 68th anniversary honoring Karen Martyr's Day today and the next at McDonough Fields by the Mississippi Creative Arts School in St. Paul. Karen Martyr's Day is officially on August 12 and commemorated the anniversary of the death of Saw Ba U Gy, the first president of the Karen National Union, in 1950. Others who have fought for the Karen are also honored in remembrance of the Karen resistance. This is an important holiday in the Karen calendar that tells the history of the Karen struggle and honors the leaders who gave their lives in the name of freedom.

The events kick off with a memorial ceremony at 7 a.m. and continued through the weekend, a singing competition, food vendors, and a resource fair. There were tournaments including men's soccer, women's volleyball games, and men's cane ball.

The Karen people were refugees from Burma in Southeast Asia where they were persecuted by a new military government and thousands came to St. Paul.

They started Karen Organization of Minnesota, the first social services agency in the country founded by Karen refugees. They soon offered a variety of programs to help refugees transition to life in a new country.

August 13, 1973: The cover of *Time* on this day showed a flannel-shirted Governor Wendell "Wendy" Anderson, a St. Paul native, hoisting a northern pike with the headline, "The Good Life in Minnesota." The magazine article started with images including "Under the overhanging oaks, their fathers labor with hand mowers and rakes. On one lawn up the street, a rummage sale is in progress. Station wagons, laden with children, groceries,"

His parents emigrated to the U.S. from Sweden and their son was a proud Swede his entire life where he grew up on the city's blue-collar East Side. Anderson attended Johnson High School and played on their hockey team and then went to the University of Minnesota for a B. A. in 1954.

Anderson received a law degree from the University of Minnesota in 1960. He successfully ran for the Minnesota House of Representatives and later the Minnesota Senate. In 1970, at the age of 37, he was the youngest Governor in the country. Anderson then served a short time in the U. S. Senate.

Following his Senate service, Anderson remained active in the DFL Party and served for a number of years on the University of Minnesota Board of Regents.

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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.

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