

# Dayton's Bluff District Forum

Volume 37, No. 2

March 2023

"The Voice of the Community"

## Dayton's Bluff Co-Ed Flag Football Team Selected

Mario Stokes

Dayton's Bluff Co-Ed Flag football team was selected in partnership with the Vikings to go to the NFL Pro Bowl Flag Football Championships.

There were eight boys and two girls on our team. We left February 1<sup>st</sup> and flew in to Las Vegas. Our team played four games all which were hard fought.

We got to tour Allegiant field and meet professional players such as Justin Tucker (Kicker Baltimore Ravens), Jared Goff (QB Lions), Danielle Hunter (DB Vikings), Andrew DePaola (Long Snapper).

The kids had an absolute blast and would like to say a big thank you to The Minnesota Vikings for the opportunity.

Flag football is like regular football, but there is no tackling people, and the defense has to remove a flag or flag belt from the ball carrier. There are several other teams in St. Paul. The Minnesota Vikings paid for all the Bluff teams expenses.

Photos provided by Jane Prince and Mario Stokes.



## Metro Gold Line Construction Open Houses

Compiled from Information on the Metro Transit Website

[metrotransit.org/gold-line-project](http://metrotransit.org/gold-line-project)

The Metro Gold Line will be Minnesota's first 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.

The route through Dayton's Bluff and the rest of the East Side will be on Hudson Road and Old Hudson Road with construction of several new connecting bus lanes and bridges.

There will be two stations in Dayton's Bluff, located at Mounds Blvd and Third St., and Earl St. and Hudson Road. The three other St. Paul stations will be at Etna St., Hazel St. and Sun Ray. There will also be a Park and Ride at Sun Ray.

Join us at an upcoming open house to learn about what to expect with con-

struction in 2023! Information about construction throughout the entire corridor will be available at all meetings. Stop by anytime throughout the meeting time frame to talk with staff one-on-one about any of your questions. There will be no formal presentation. Information on the full line will be available at all open houses.

### Landfall/Oakdale/Woodbury Open House

Thursday, March 16, 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.  
Grace of God Lutheran Church  
420 Hayward Ave. N., Oakdale

### East St. Paul Open House

Tuesday, Feb. 28, 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.  
Dayton's Bluff Elementary  
262 Bates Ave., St. Paul

### East St. Paul/Maplewood Open House

Wednesday, March 1, 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.  
Eastern Heights Elementary  
2001 Margaret St., St. Paul

### Downtown St. Paul Open House

Tuesday, March 9, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Metropolitan Council Chambers  
390 Robert St. N., St. Paul

For more information on the Gold Line including detailed plans, videos and interactive maps, visit [metrotransit.org/gold-line-project](http://metrotransit.org/gold-line-project).



Greg Cosimini

This giant pile of snow, which covers a giant pile of sand, is part of the Gold Line-project. The sand was hauled in last fall. Mother Nature provided the snow this winter. It is located at the intersection of Hudson Road and Griffith St. near Johnson Parkway. Attend one of the Gold Line construction open houses to learn what will be happening in this area in the coming year.

## Friends of Swede Hollow Hosting Descendants of Connemara Irish

### Free Film Event for All

Brad Griffith

The mission of the Friends of Swede Hollow is to protect the natural beauty of Swede Hollow Park and remember its past.

The next Friends of Swede Hollow Meeting will be held on March 21 from 6:15-8:00 p.m. at St. John Lutheran Church, 765 Margaret Street, in Dayton's Bluff's Upper Swede Hollow neighborhood.

Joining us will be descendants of the Connemara Irish.

The film, *Graceville*, The story of the 'Connemaras' & Bishop John Ireland in Minnesota will be shown. This is a FREE event and all are Welcome!

About the film, by Leslie Thomas, a descendant:

**GRACEVILLE:** The story of the 'Connemaras' & Bishop John Ireland in Minnesota.

Researched and narrated by Seosamh Ó Cuaig

Written by Bob Quinn (Gail Media 1997).

The Irish residents of the Connemara Patch community came from the western coastal areas of Counties Galway and Mayo, Ireland. They were small tenant farmers, fishermen, and kelp gatherers who had recently suffered from the Forgotten Famine that gripped the area between 1879 to 1881. Most of the early inhabitants traveled to Minnesota under the sponsorship of two assisted emigration programs: the Graceville Catholic Colonization Scheme (1880) and James Hack Tuke's Fund (1882-1884).

The Graceville emigration program was coordinated by Father James Nugent, an English Catholic social reformer, and Bishop John Ireland of the Diocese of Saint Paul. The Catholic Church sponsored the passage of over thirty destitute families and set aside hundreds of acres of farmland near the community of Graceville in Big Stone County, Minnesota.

Unfortunately, the program largely failed. One factor was that the emigrants did not arrive in Graceville until early July of 1880 — far too late in Minnesota's short growing season. Some other issues included language barriers, the emigrants lack of large-scale farming experience, and familiarity with western Minnesota's deep prairie soil, and a record-breaking cold and snow event during the winter of 1880-1881. In the spring of 1881, Bishop Ireland released most of the settlers from their obligations and helped them resettle in St. Paul in the area that became known as Connemara Patch. This film tells their story.

## Family Coaches Now Available Through Ramsey County

### American Indian, African American/Black Families

Ramsey County

Family coaching services for American Indian families and those caring for American Indian children are now available through Montessori American Indian Child Care Center. Family coaches offer strength, motivation and holistic support for up to one year to help families thrive.

How do families receive coaching? Community providers and staff from Ramsey County and Family Values for Life and can initiate a referral. Families can also request a referral. The completed referral will be sent to Family Values for Life who will contact the interested person with more details.

What do family coaches do?: Imple-

ment Kellogg Family-Centered Coaching Model to meet families where they are and help them work towards stability. Provide a safe space for families to access and navigate culturally responsive, community-based resources and services for themselves and children, resolve challenges, and develop their own solutions needed to reaching their personal goals. Offer voluntary, flexible, holistic, trauma-informed, follow-along support to assist families in acquiring skills and setting goals. Provide support for families for a minimum of six months.

Community providers and staff from Ramsey County and Montessori American Indian Child Care Center and can initiate a referral. Families can also request a referral.

Who can receive family coaching services? We welcome African American/Black identifying, American Indian/Native American and multiracial parents/guardians of children 0-8 years old who are Ramsey County residents and able to commit to a coaching partnership.

You can reach the Early Childhood Coordinator at 651-266-3798 or [Early-Childhood@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US](mailto:Early-Childhood@CO.RAMSEY.MN.US).

You can also visit [ramseycounty.us/residents/assistance-support/support-families/early-childhood-education-resources/family-coaching-services/family-coaching-blackafrican-american-residents](http://ramseycounty.us/residents/assistance-support/support-families/early-childhood-education-resources/family-coaching-services/family-coaching-blackafrican-american-residents).



MN DNR Eagle Cam

Congratulations everyone, we have our first eggs of the 2023 season! The first egg came around 12:30 p.m. February 15 and the second egg on February 18 at 11:40 a.m.. The pair has been preparing the nest hole with soft grasses and leaves for a few weeks. The female has been slowing down, spending more time in the nest and the male has been bringing food to her in the nest. These are signs that an egg was imminent. Average time between egg laying is 63 hours (between 2-3 days). How many eggs do you think she will lay this year? Tune in and watch at [dnr.state.mn.us/features/webcams/eaglecam/index.html](http://dnr.state.mn.us/features/webcams/eaglecam/index.html).

Dayton's Bluff

Greater East Side

## I Saint Paul's East Side!

Payne Phalen

Southeast (Battle Creek - Highwood)



Brad Griffith, Realtor® - Edina Realty  
Proudly Serving Saint Paul's East Side  
call or text (651) 263-2830



## Friends of Swede Hollow

The mission of the Friends of Swede Hollow is to protect the natural beauty of Swede Hollow Park and remember its past.

Friends of Swede Hollow will hold their monthly meetings on the third Tuesday of each month. For more information call 651-776-0550

The next Friends of Swede Hollow Meeting will be held on **March 21**.

Preliminary plans for 2023 events in the Park will be discussed. The Friends of Swede Hollow Facebook Group is an excellent resource for Park updates and neighborhood events.

For more information, email [karindupaul@comcast.net](mailto:karindupaul@comcast.net) or call 651-776-0550.

## Dayton's Bluff District Forum Board Meeting

The *Forum* is seeking writers and help with online content, idea generation, and ad sales — join us at our next meeting on **Friday, March 31 at 11 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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 Pre- vention 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, March 20, 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 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 [\[s.org\]\(http://s.org\) 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.](http://smrl-</a></p>
</div>
<div data-bbox=)

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

## 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 651-484-8241 or email [naps@2harvest.org](mailto:naps@2harvest.org) and someone will assist you with your application.

Visit [moundstheatre.org](http://moundstheatre.org) to purchase tickets and get more information on upcoming events. The Historic Mounds



THE HISTORIC  
MOUNDS  
THEATRE

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

Skidmore Park Community Garden has 24 raised bed plots that are available to the public. Located near Earl Street and East 4<sup>th</sup> Street. Cost is \$20 per season. Grants are available. For more information or to request an application, email Steve at [SkidmoreGarden@gmail.com](mailto:SkidmoreGarden@gmail.com).

## St. Paul Company is Recognized

Mitchell Lallier

Ninoska Salinas Lallier and Mitchell Lallier from S & L Team Cleaning have worked hard at developing a working relationship with many community groups. They have built a strong company that this year received awards because of their work with the disability community and recognized for their dedication and hard work in the community.

Each award cites the company's effort to hire handicapped, older workers, Veterans, and people from the immigrant community. S & L Team Cleaning has a work force that has 40% of their workers have some type of disability but perform their work every day providing cleaning in many areas of the metro area.

Hennepin County Mike Freeman recognized Mitchell's dedication and hard work in the community. Besides the cleaning of libraries and other offices in Hennepin County, S & L Team Cleaning was responsible for two COVID centers and three homeless shelters during the pandemic.

S & L Team Cleaning is always trying to find new employees to meet the goals of the company and to help their 55 employees to reach their goals. Mitchell says that everyone has talents, and he helps everyone to shine and be successful.

Frank Herd, Placement Coordinator for Vocational Rehabilitation Services of the Minnesota Employment and Economic

Development Department and Alanna Rice Career Consultant said S & L Team Cleaning genuinely deserves the award from the agency. Mitchell works with each employee to make sure they understand their jobs from the daily cleaning that they need to accomplish, and he makes sure they understand their jobs from the daily cleaning they need to accomplish. Mitchell also wants to make sure they can get to work to adjusting the job duties for each individual worker.

Ramsey County Commissioner, Mary JO McGuire, is very impressed with S & L Team Cleaning's energy and charisma that is a given for each employee. It seems that Mitchell and his staff have a "We Can Do Anything" attitude when we set our minds to get something done.

Tracy Chineth, the Operations Manager, has worked with S & L Team cleaning for 11 years. She started out as a part time house cleaner and has moved up in the company to Operations Manager because of her positive attitude and helping everyone gets to where they want to be.

At Ramsey East Government Center, more than 50% of the workers have some type of disability. So, Ramsey County along with S & L Team Cleaning, helped set accounts up so that cleaners that have a disability or were limited on income earned were able to work.

Ramsey Commissioner Rafael Ortega was impressed with Ninoska because being an immigrant (Peru South America) she has helped diversify S & L Team Cleaning employees. Ninoska helps with translation and reaching out to people from other countries to invite them to work with S & L Team Cleaning.

S & L Team Cleaning cleans libraries, Federal, State, and County offices. During the pandemic, they cleaned COVID centers, homeless shelters, and other loca-

tions. There are five different languages that are spoken in the company, so the company gets job coaches to help translate for each cleaner. Most of the workers are part time with different abilities and needs.

Cortez Smith, the building supervisor at Ramsey East government Center says that the company is easy to work for because they listen to the employees and work with them to be successful.

State Senator John Hoffman of Brooklyn Park says, "With Mitchell, people of disabilities they find a place where they can thrive and do a good job".

Like his mother, the late Edith Lallier, Executive Director for Ramsey Action Program

(Antipoverty program) in the 1970s and a founder of Head start, Mitchell Lallier finds pathway to success for the people he hires. Hoffman says Mitchell sees potential in every person he meets. He creates flexibility in places where his employees need it, Hoffman explains.

Mitchell Lallier is a fixture in the St. Paul area because of his work with the YMCA in their aquatic program, running the state youth handball program, being part of the Friendship Club, Chairing the neighbor advisory for the HHH Job Corps. He stays involved to help anyone that needs a helping hand to build their future.

Mitchell and Ninoska Lallier feel very honored to be awarded for their work to help and build a better place for persons of disability and providing the opportunity to prove anyone given the chance can be successful in work and the community.



## March Events Happening in Ramsey County

**March 1, 2:30-6 p.m.; COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic-Consulate of Mexico** — Ramsey County Public Health offers free COVID-19 vaccine clinics throughout the community.

**March 2, 9, 16, 23, 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; Career Services in Roseville** — Stop by the library in Roseville for drop-in job search assistance and career planning services.

**March 2, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; Open Senior Skate at Aldrich Center** — Senior Skate is open to 55-plus.

**March 4, 9-10 a.m.; Mid-Winter Bird Discovery Walk** — Join our experienced birding volunteers to learn about birds of the area.

**March 6, 20, 12:15 p.m.; St. Paul City Hall-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.

**March 6, 13, 1-2 p.m.; Virtual Job Club** — Career Direction: assessments and job searching tips.

**March 8, 11 a.m.-noon; Youth Works! Orientation** — Come learn about Youth Works!, a county-wide youth employment partnership initiative.

**March 11, 25, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Building Your Own Future: Trade Up** — Union job opportunities for Ramsey County residents.

**March 11, 18 noon-4 p.m.; Sap to Syrup** — Join us as we celebrate the season by tapping maple trees, boiling sap and enjoying maple treats.

**March 14, 28, 11 a.m.; Union Depot Tour** — Tour Union Depot to learn about the history, recent renovation, sustainability initiatives, expanding transit options and much more.

**For more information about these events, go to [ramseycounty.us/calendar](http://ramseycounty.us/calendar) and choose March dates on the left-hand side.**

### 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)

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 April issue of the *Forum* is March 10, 2022.**

**Join us!**

**Sunday Worship/10:30am**

**Multi-Lingual All Church Service**  
March 26 ~ 10:30am

**Lenten Midday Worship**  
Wednesdays 3/1 ~ 3/29 ~ 12noon

**Good Friday** April 7 ~ 7:00pm

**Easter** April 9 ~ 10:30am

**Adult Sunday School** 9:15am

**Confirmation Class** Sun. ~ 4pm

**1049 Euclid St. St. Paul,**  
**651-774-8736**

**Mounds Park United Methodist Church**  
Sunday worship is live-streamed, accessible anytime, at: [moundsparkumc.org](http://moundsparkumc.org)

JOIN Connemara to MN in the 1880s & Friends of Swede Hollow for a FREE showing of the film

**GRACEVILLE**

The Story of the 'Connemaras' & Bishop Ireland in Minnesota

Researched and narrated by Seosamh Ó Cuaig  
Written by Bob Quinn (Gail Media 1997)

March 21, 2023  
6:15 p.m. to approximately 7:45 p.m.  
St. John Lutheran Church  
765 Margaret Street, St. Paul, MN 55106  
ALL are Welcome!

In 1880 the Catholic Church, under the direction of Father James Nugent and Bishop John Ireland, sponsored the passage of over thirty destitute families from the west of Ireland. Hundreds of acres of farmland near Graceville, Minnesota were set aside for these new settlers. Unfortunately, the program largely failed. This film tells their story. Questions? Contact Karin DuPaul: (651) 776-0550, Brad Griffith: (651) 263-2830, or Leslie Thomas: (651) 231-1411

## February and March Calendar Dates

Steve Trimble

Dayton's Bluff History Calendars were made in the early 1980s. I took a look at some of them recently and thought they might be interesting. What you will be reading are short narratives that were pared down to fit into calendar date squares. If some of them interest you, you could find out more because most of them were found by reading newspapers at the Minnesota Historical Society. Maybe you have family members who remember some of the things mentioned.

Here are a few examples from three of the old Dayton's Bluff calendars:

February 1, 1975: The new Dayton's Bluff Elementary School opens. It was a merger of the Van Buren and Mounds Park Elementaries that were closed.

February 3, 1948: The first television program was seen in Dayton's Bluff on a set made by John Young. It was shown in Tower Radio on East Seventh Street.

February 4, 1926: Ramsey County Commissioners promise Dayton's Bluff Improvement Association to make improvements on Johnson Parkway.

February 4, 1926: The Dayton's Bluff Post Lady's Auxiliary Post #515 entertained 1,000 veterans.

February 5, 1942: The Harding High School Band gave a concert to the Founders Day meeting of the Harding PTA.

February 5, 1925: There was a proposal for a new road to run from Point Douglas to the Fish Hatchery.

February 11, 1965: There was a Lincoln Day dance at the Dayton's Bluff American Legion Post #515.

February 11, 1926: An East Side woman speaks on radio about "Home Women in Politics."

February 12, 1925: Mounds Park School PTA group votes 37-8 in favor of child amendment to the federal constitution.

February 13, 1920: A union card was proudly placed in the window of John Peyton's barber shop at 789 E. 7th Street.

February 15, 1966: William C. Figge retired as president of Hamm's Brewery.

February 24, 1925: H. P. Keller speaks to neighborhood residents on "Dayton's Bluff 50 years Ago." (Keller grew up in Dayton's Bluff and became a city council member, the city's mayor, and a County Commissioner).

February 26, 1927: Dayton's Bluff Grocery was advertising a 98-pound bag of Gold Medal Flour for \$4.09.

February 26, 1942: A four-week strike ends at 3M (then known as Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing) Installers Union wins contracts.

February 28, 1930: St. John's Men's Club holds card party with prizes for high scores in bridge and 500.

February 27, 1925: Large minstrel program and basket social sponsored by the Big Brothers Class of the Dayton's Bluff

M. E. Church.

March 1, 1978: Dayton's Bluff neighborhood joins the Citizen's League to fight Dutch Elm Disease

March 6, 1873: Marie Scheffer-Hamm's birthday.

March 8, 1935: Harding High School boys write a letter to the newspaper protesting the 21 girls enrolled in metal shop classes.

March 12, 1925: The Dayton's Bluff Improvement Association adopts motto: "Remember, united we stand, separated we fall."

March 14, 1930: the Philately Club organization (stamp collectors) meet at the East Recreation Council.

March 15, 1939: "New Salem Silverware" were given to women moviegoers the Radio Theater.

March 19, 1904: The Sacred Heart

sisters occupy their new home.

March 21, 1930: St. John's Rosary Society sponsors a series of card parties to raise funds for a school building.

March 3, 1930: Sacred Heart Church ordered a 1,000 pound church bell from St. Louis, Missouri.

March 4, 1960: Independent Citizens' Committee meets at the Dayton's Bluff Commercial Club.

March 11, 1930: T N T players Miss Aimie Grandmaitreas was cast as the lead actress in "Miss Lulu Bett."

March 12, 1921: Herman C. Wenzel, a

Dayton's Bluff barber, begins campaign for city councilman.

March 21, 1929: the East Side Association was pushing for a four-year curriculum for the new Harding High School at a City Council meeting.

March 25, 1919: The Lind shoe company founded by Eric Lind. (The company stayed at 712 East 7th until 1970, when they moved to Stillwater).

March 26, 1927: The degree of "Order of the Mystic Arabs" is conferred on some members at Odd Fellows Hall at 4th and Reaney, serving refreshments and cigars.

March 28, 1930: The Van Buren School PTA presented a play "Sewing to the Hea-then."

March 4, 1935: Home for the Friendless at 753 E. 7th changed its name to The Protestant Home of St. Paul.

March 6, 1955: A group of men meet in home of Bob Wylie of Johnson Parkway and formed plans for Parkway Little League.

March 7, 1917: Vesuvius Club holds sleighing party at home of Edmund Lesman, 893 Margaret, with refreshments at A. J. Reinhardt's at 850 Fauquier.

March 13, 1936: Harding High's Beacon newspaper reports the formation of a school madrigal singing club.

March 16, 1902: 'The St. Paul Globe reports a visit to Connemara Patch, calls it "St Paul's most unique settlement."

March 19, 1942: Joan Pepin, 375 Bates Avenue, is a winner in the children's art class sponsored by WPA Red Cross.

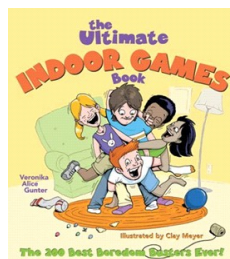
March 25, 1957: Homes along Commercial Street and southern 4th, 5th, and 6th were taken the by construction of highway I-94.



## Kids Corner

Suggested Titles by Dayton's Bluff Library Staff

We've had a really snowy winter and we might get more in March, BUT the official first day of spring is March 20<sup>th</sup>. Snow will start to melt, trees will start to have buds on them, and it's going to get MUDDY! But all of this means that the weather is getting warmer and it's easier to play outside. Until then, here are some books that will make the long winter days go a lot faster. You can find more activity books at [spl.org](http://spl.org) or by coming into the library.



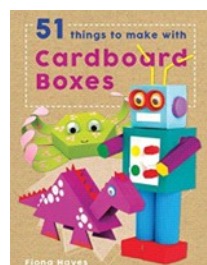
*The Ultimate Indoor Games Book: The 200 Best Boredom Busters Ever!* by Veronika Alice Gunter

Are you looking for something to do. Have your adults told you to get off the electronic devices? This book comes to the rescue will all kinds of ideas to have fun and be active inside.

*The No-cook Cookbook: More Than 50 Heat-free Recipes for Young Chefs* by Rebecca Woollard

Cooking can be so much more than using the stove. Here are delicious and safe recipes for anyone.

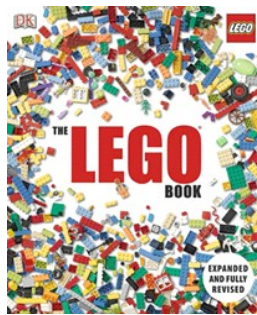
*51 Things to Make with Cardboard Boxes* by Fiona Hayes



Does your family get a lot of boxes that just go into recycling? Here's a book full of ideas of what you can make out of them before you toss them.

*The Lego Book* by Daniel Lipkowitz

If you are looking for ideas on how to use your Legos, this is a great book to start with. The library has many more in this series too so you won't run out of ideas any time soon!



## JB Vang Partners, Inc. to Be Recommended as Tentative Developer of Former Hamm's Brewery Complex

City of Saint Paul

A selection committee comprised of staff from several City departments will be recommending JB Vang Partners, Inc. as the tentative developer for the original Hamm's Brewery Complex following an extensive request for proposals (RFP) and review process.

JB Vang is an experienced, Saint Paul-based developer of housing, commercial, and historic rehab projects. Their proposal most closely aligned with the RFP review criteria and the vision of the Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) to create an East Side anchor development.

Specifically, the JB Vang plan proposes: 259 affordable housing units, with one- and two-bedroom rentals and ownership live/work studios in the renovated brewery complex and family-sized ownership rowhomes and rental apartments in a new construction building; 56,000 square feet of commercial space, including a two-story marketplace in the former brewhouse; and an outdoor public plaza, indoor community space and greenspace adjacent to Swede Hollow Park and Bruce Vento Trail.

The proposal from JB Vang considered the cultural and economic needs of the neighborhood and offered the largest number and greatest variety of affordable

housing types and a balance of residential, and commercial uses. Multiple opportunities for wealth building through homeownership and entrepreneurship are also part of the plan.

"I am thrilled to see the Hamm's Brewery reimagined in a proposal that celebrates its history and strives to serve the cultural and economic needs of the surrounding community. This once-in-a-generation opportunity can provide needed affordable housing for Saint Paul and serve as a catalyst for the burgeoning Payne-Phalen neighborhood," said HRA Chair Chris Tolbert. "JB Vang is an experienced developer of affordable housing and has a history of undertaking complex projects that will move Saint Paul forward."

"The redevelopment of the historic Hamm's Brewery is a landmark project for Saint Paul's East Side that will enable this site to again serve as a hub of vibrant community activity," said Ward 7 City Councilmember Jane Prince. "This project will restore what was once the beating heart of the East Side and create a thriving, vibrant destination in our neighborhood. Additionally, this location connects Payne and Arcade's popular business districts that are undergoing their own successful revitalization efforts."

"There couldn't be a better choice for master developer than JB Vang Partners, who have an exceptional track record of housing, commercial, and institutional development throughout Minnesota," continued Councilmember Prince. "Company principal Kou Vang, who is well known to East Siders as a community leader, delivered a proposal that listened to this neighborhood and reflected back our diverse multicultural community's values and aspirations."



@Dayton's  
Bluff  
District  
Forum

## What's Happening at the Dayton's Bluff Library?

Show your work in our **Micro Gallery**. 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 – especially East Side residents!

**Volunteer** with us! Whether you love the quiet and calm of the fiction stacks or the joyful fun of our children's programming, there is a place for you to help. Volunteers are integral part of the work we do and we have a wide range of opportunities for you to get involved. Reading mentors, homework tutors, tech assistants, teen mentors, garden helpers, and library assistants are a few ways you can support your neighborhood libraries. We invite you to be a part of our team as we connect, learn, discover, and grow with the communities we serve. Tell us a little about yourself in an email to [DaytonsBluff@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:DaytonsBluff@ci.stpaul.mn.us) and we will contact you to learn about your volun-

teering interests and skills.

Stop in and play at our new **game table**. Challenge your friends to a chess match, a round of cribbage, or a hand of cards.



**Teen Tuesdays @Dayton's Bluff library:** Join us every Tuesday evening from 6:30-8 for a safe and fun space to hang out, eat snacks, and meet new people. Stop in for Dungeons and Dragons on March 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, Teens Know Best Book Club on

March 14<sup>th</sup>, and Teen Writers' Guild on March 28<sup>th</sup>.

We play Teen Dungeons and Dragons at Dayton's Bluff library in the Zone every first and third Tuesday of the month. We welcome seasoned campaigners and people who are curious to learn about the game. There will be hot chocolate and snacks! Masks are welcome but not mandatory. For more information go to: [sppl.org/teen-tuesday-dungeons-dragons/](http://sppl.org/teen-tuesday-dungeons-dragons/).

### 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.

*Current hours are available online at [htsppl.org/locations/DB/](http://htsppl.org/locations/DB/) or call 651-793-1699.*

*Dayton's Bluff Library, 645 East 7th Street, is a public library branch located inside the Metro State University Library and Learning Center. We are open six days a week offering books, movies, music, internet stations, programs and services for all ages. The outdoor book drop is always open.*



## Brief Bluff Pieces

G.B LeRoy

Did you know that there is a Dayton's Bluff Family Center inside the Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center? I didn't until I recently found it while delivering the *Forum* newspaper in mid-February. I happened to see a space that included the names including Neighborhood House, and the Dayton's Bluff Family Center. It has some relation to the West Side organization. They have a wide range of offerings and it can help local people to various community resources.

Their resources include a food pantry, free household items, hygiene/personal products, and a clothing closet. There are resources that can help people find furniture, there is telephone and computer access, and some sources such as assistance searches, resumes, and resources including MNsure health coverage.

It is open Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. inside the Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center on Conway Street. Contact Tiffany Ramirez for more information at 651-793-7342.

I also recently ran across something posted on the internet that I thought some East Siders would find interesting. Thursday May 19, 1881, it was reported to Saint Paul Police Headquarters about 9:30 p.m. that a group of tramps had taken possession of the North Star Brewery

located on Commercial Street between Plum and Hudson. SPPD Officers Rouleau, Nygaard and Murphy were dispatched. Arriving at the brewery they found a mess and the proprietor Reinhold Koch reported that earlier in the evening six tramps had paid him a visit and threatened injury if interfered with, drank a large quantity of beer, got drunk, and left without paying. These were veteran police officers, and they knew to search nearby Carver's Cave in Dayton's Bluff which was a known hangout for tramps. The trio found four men there whose drunken condition seemed to prove police instincts correct. They were arrested and swapped the comfort of the cave for the city jail. The four would get 10 days in jail.

Note: The North Star Breweries Brewmaster was Jacob Schmidt. Schmidt would go on to take over North Star and when it burned down purchase the Stahlmann Brewery on West 7th where it became the Schmidt Brewery.

Another Bluff piece was on the internet lately. The East Side Business Association announced that the East Side's own Kendall's ACE Hardware & Hardware, located on Payne Avenue, has been selected for the major award in the ACE coop. Only two stores out of the 5,000 receive this honor. They were named "Coolest Store on the Planet." I have to say that is so apt. Congratulations! A picture shows Ashley and Matt in Las Vegas presenting their Silver Saw Award to the President of Ace, John Vanheizen.

## St. Paul Housing and Redevelopment Authority Announces Next Round Of Inspiring Communities Developers

Saint Paul Housing and Redevelopment Authority

The Saint Paul Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) Board announced finalists to redevelop the latest batch of Inspiring Communities properties.

The Inspiring Communities program provides focused investment in neighborhoods most impacted by foreclosure and vacancy and supports developers and homebuyers to create new, affordable homeownership opportunities and rental units on land owned by the HRA.

The most recent request for proposals (RFP) included twelve vacant lots available for developers to construct housing

on HRA-owned properties and resell the homes to buyers with low and moderate household incomes.

The City of Saint Paul received proposals for 11 of the 12 properties and the following have now been identified as finalists to be awarded developer rights.

Nine emerging developers responded to this request for proposals. This is an increase of 50% over any prior Inspiring Communities RFP and the result of a concerted effort by the HRA, the City of Saint Paul, the Incremental Development Alliance, NEOO Partners, Family Housing Fund, LISC Twin Cities, the Greater Minnesota Housing Fund and others to engage emerging developers and developers who are Black, Indigenous and people of color and address barriers to their participation in publicly subsidized real estate development. Four of the finalists identified above are emerging developers.

"I was pleased to see the number of emerging and BIPOC developers directly in response to our efforts to incorporate more developers into our RFP process," shared Commissioner Rebecca Noecker during the December 14 HRA meeting.

"And just the number of multi-unit responses as well...it's really, really exciting to see these innovative models come forward."

"How wonderful it is for us to be bringing forward all these emerging developers on projects where they can really learn

the process and reenter in the future with experience and knowledge," said Commissioner Jane Prince. "The boot camp that was held, and the various things

that we've done to reach out make me very proud."

Construction could start as soon as spring 2023, with homes reaching the market 12 to 18 months later. Financing for these projects will come from federal, state, and local sources, including the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency's Community Homeownership Impact Fund, Community Development Block Grant funds made available through the City's Capital Improvement Budget and

the City of Saint Paul's Housing Trust Fund.

"With home prices and interest rates on the rise, affordable homeownership opportunities are more important than ever," said City of Saint Paul Housing Director Tara Beard. "Supporting the growth of emerging and BIPOC developers while creating those opportunities makes this good news even better."

People interested in buying a home constructed through the program should first contact a nonprofit homeownership advisor. Contact information for homeownership advisors and additional information about the Inspiring Communities program can be found at [www.stpaul.gov/inspiringcommunities](http://www.stpaul.gov/inspiringcommunities).

Since its creation in 2013, the Inspiring Communities program has added over 230 affordable homeownership opportunities and over 50 new affordable rental units to the City's housing stock. Nearly two out of every three homebuyers and more than three out of every four renters served through the program are people of color.

The HRA may offer additional properties for sale or redevelopment in the future. Subscribe to our email notification list to receive updates regarding future requests for proposals.



**SAINT PAUL MINNESOTA**

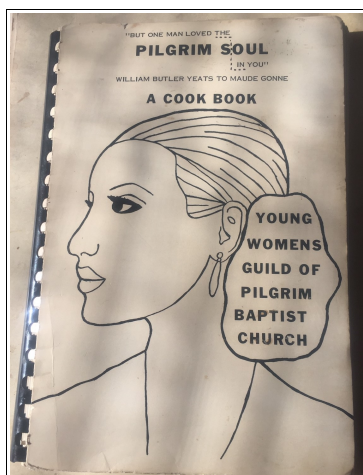
## Recipes from Rondo

Put together by Steve Trimble

If I had found the cookbook in my piles, I would have put this in the *Forum* for February, which was Black History Month.

The Pilgrim Baptist Church in Saint Paul is the oldest African American church in the state of Minnesota. A group of enslaved people left Missouri and began worshipping in 1866 under the leadership of escapee Robert Thomas Hickman.

This cookbook was created by the Young Women Guild of Pilgrim Baptist in 1975 and these are a few of its recipes:



Minnesota Historical Society

The Pilgrim Baptist Church, located at 732 Central Ave. West, St. Paul.

## Shrimp Creole

Submitted by "A Friend"

Shrimp Creole owes its sweet, spicy thickness to tomato sauce with tomato tidbits.

### Ingredients:

- 2 Cup sliced celery
- 3 tablespoons cornstarch
- 1 Cup chopped green pepper
- 1 lb. (2 C.) cooked shrimp, shelled and de-veined.
- 3 tablespoons salad oil
- Hot cooked rice
- 1 can (15 oz.) tomato sauce
- 1 Cup chopped onion with tomato tidbits
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 pkg. (10 oz.) frozen cut okra
- 2 1/4 Cup water
- 1 tablespoons sugar
- 1 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1/4 teaspoons thyme
- 1 teaspoons salt
- 1 bay leaf
- 1/4 teaspoons pepper
- 1/4 Cup chopped parsley

**Directions:** Saute celery, onion, green pepper and garlic in hot oil until tender. Add 2 cups water, tomato juice, okra and seasonings. Dissolve cornstarch in remaining 1/4 cup water; stir into tomato mixture. Cook, stirring constantly, until thickened. Add shrimp and parsley; heat. Serve over rice. Makes 6 servings.



Shrimp Creole

## Barbecue Sauce

Submitted by Marie C. Matthews

### Ingredients:

- 1 large can tomato puree
- 1 tablespoons salt
- 1 large onion, blended
- 1 tablespoons garlic powder
- 1 Cups water
- 2-3 drops liquid smoke
- 2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
- 1 teaspoons Cayenne pepper
- 1Cups Brown sugar
- 2-3 teaspoons Barbecue spice
- 1 tablespoons Dry mustard
- 2 Cups vinegar

**Directions:** Combine all ingredients. Cook for 30 minutes on low heat. This sauce can be kept sealed or in refrigerator.

## Chitterlings

Submitted by Margaret Rinehart

### Ingredients:

- 10 pounds chitterlings
- 1 diced onion
- 4 whole white potatoes (to cut down odor)
- 1 whole onion
- salt and pepper to taste
- garlic to taste

**Directions:** Simmer until done, 2 1/2-3 hours.



Chitterlings

## Cornbread Dressing

Submitted by Mary Blakely

### Ingredients:

- 1 pan cornbread
- 1 green pepper, chopped
- 4 pieces toast
- 1 chopped gizzard, cooked
- 6 eggs
- salt, pepper, and sage to taste
- 1 Cup onion, chopped
- 1 Cup celery, chopped
- 1Cup Brown sugar
- 2-3 tablespoons barbecue spice
- 1 tablespoons dry mustard
- 2 Cups vinegar

**Directions:** Cook onion, celery in the liquid of the chicken gizzards. Save the remains of the liquid. Mix all ingredients together. Add liquid until desired consistency is reached.

## Corn Bread or Corn Muffins

Submitted by Mrs. Dorsey

### Ingredients:

- 3/4 Cups corn meal
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1 Cup flour
- 2 tablespoons melted shortening
- 2 heaping tsp. Baking powder

**Directions:** Mix above ingredients, add 1 egg and milk until of running consistency. Pour into 8 x 8 inch greased pan. Bake at 400 degrees until brown.



## Save the Date for Art in the Hollow

Mark your calendar, Art in the Hollow will be on **June 3 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.** in Swede Hollow Park.

For more information call 651-776-0550.

Come find this hidden gem of St. Paul's park system, and we'll open the summer by filling the park with local art! You can park your car at Saint Paul Brewing and wander through the reimagined ruins of city history en route to the park, winding the path under the shadow of the old Hamm Brewery buildings. You'll find art, nature, food, history, and community!



@Dayton's Bluff District Forum

## Dayton's Bluff District Forum

1368 Minnehaha Ave. E., St. Paul, MN 55106

phone: 651-776-0550 E-mail:

daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com

We are currently printing and distributing our newspaper quarterly. The paper is available online at [daytonsbuffdistrictforum.org](http://daytonsbuffdistrictforum.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 [daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com](mailto:daytonsbuffdistrictforum@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: April 2023. **Deadline for material: March 10, 2023.**

**PAY LESS AND BUY MORE.**  
COMPRA MAS POR MENOS EN LA ESQUINA DEL AHORRA

**CENTROMEX SUPERMERCADO**  
MEAT MARKET, PRODUCE, FRESH FRUITS.  
CARNICERIA, ABARROTES, VERDURAS, FRUTAS, ENVIOS, MEDICINAS

OPEN: MON-SAT 8:00 AM - 8:00 PM  
SUN 8:00 AM TO 7:00 PM  
816 East 7th Street, Saint Paul, MN 651-793-4912

## April Easter Events Happening In the Cities

Family Fun Twin Cities

Although Easter is a month away, it's not too early to think about what fun events you and your family can attend.

**April 1, 1-3 p.m.; Free; Harrison Spring Egg Hunt** — Family-friendly fun, including springtime activities, games, giveaways, and an egg hunt. Activities are best for ages 1 – 12, but all families are welcome. Located at: *Harrison Park, 503 Irving Ave N., Minneapolis.*

**April 1, 1-4 p.m.; Free; The Giant Egg Hunt** — This annual event will also have carnival games, activities and giveaways. Drop-in, no registration. Located at: *McDonough Recreation Center, 1554 Timberlake Rd., Saint Paul*

**April 4, 5-6:30 p.m.; Free; Hop Along the Bunny Trail** — Follow the bunny trail to spot bunnies hidden at this fun event, then decorate your bunny before taking it home. For ages 5-17. Located at: *East Phillips Park, 2399 17th Ave S, Minneapolis.*

**April 8, 9-10:30 a.m. or 1-2:30 p.m.; \$15; Easter Egg Hunt at the Castle** — An Easter egg hunt in a castle! Hunt high and low for colorful eggs hidden in nooks

and crannies in the Turnblad Mansion. Register for one of two sessions. Located at: *American Swedish Institute, 2600 Park Avenue, Minneapolis.*

**April 8, 9:30-11:30 a.m.; \$6; Bunny Party & Egg Hunt** — While Windom Park hosts the bigger kids, Audubon Park hosts a fun-filled morning for kids ages 6 and under, which includes an Egg Hunt, crafts and breakfast goodies. Egg Hunt is at 11am. Pre-registration is required to receive a treat bag. Located at: *Audubon Park Rec Centers, 1320 29th Ave. NE, Minneapolis.*

**April 8, noon-2 p.m.; Free; Bunny Party & Egg Hunt** — Windom Park hosts ages 7-12 with games, a bounce house, children's egg hunt and more. (See Audubon Park for the little kids). Registration Required. Located at: *Windom Park NE, 2251 Hayes Street N.E., Minneapolis.*

**April 8, 10 a.m.-noon; Free; Phalen Eggstravaganza** — Egg hunts by age for crawlers through fifth grade, crafts, spin art, field games, photographs with the Easter Bunny. All Ages. Located at: *Phalen Recreation Center, 1000 E. Wheelock, Saint Paul.*

**April 8, 9:30-11:30 a.m.; Free for egg**

**hunt, \$5-\$8 for brunch; Bunny Brunch and Egg Hunt** — Begin the day with a bunny brunch consisting of pancakes, fruit and beverages. Egg Hunts for different age groups at 11am (ages 0-5), 11:15 (ages 6-12) and 11:30 a.m. (ages 13+). Pre-registration required. Located at: *Sibley Rec Center, 1900 E 40th St. Minneapolis.*

**April 8, 10 a.m.-noon; Free; Annual Spring Egg Hunt** — Egg hunts in the



park with two different age categories (at 11 and 11:45 a.m.), includes snacks, egg decorating and baskets, tissue paper flowers and spin art. Register for the Van Cleve spring hunt. Located at: *Van Cleve Park, 901 15th Ave SE, Minneapolis*

**April 8, noon-3 p.m.; Free; Fairview Spring Egg Hunt** — Plenty of activities to celebrate spring, including games, giveaways, food, and an exciting egg hunt. This event is for all ages but activi-

ties are designed for ages 1 – 12. All families are welcome. Located at: *Farview Park, 621 N 29th Ave., Minneapolis.*

**April 8, 10 a.m.-noon; Free; Kids Easter Egg Hunt** — Live music, egg coloring, bunny photos (bring your own camera), balloon art, kids crafts and egg hunt. Located at: *Midtown Global Market, Lake Street and 10th Avenue South, Minneapolis.*

**April 8, 10 a.m.-noon; Free; Mill City Church Northeast Easter Egg Hunt** — All are welcome to join in the annual hunt with check-in at 10am. Located at: *Logan Park, 690 13th Ave. NE, Minneapolis*

**April 14, 4:30-6 p.m.; \$5; Stewart Park Egg Hunt Night** — A fun evening outside – families will design their own eggs. Bring a basket to collect them. Arts & crafts, games and prizes. Registration required. Located at: *Stewart Park, 2700 12th Ave S, Minneapolis.*

**April 15, 1-3 p.m.; \$10-15; Eggscellent Doggy Adventure** — Bring your dog to the park for an egg hunt and take home a basket for your pet. All Ages. Located at: *McRae Park, 906 E 47th St, Minneapolis.*

For more information about these events and to register, go to [familyfuntwincities.com/twin-cities-easter-egg-hunts/](http://familyfuntwincities.com/twin-cities-easter-egg-hunts/).

Note: There will be more events added to the website in the next few weeks. Check back on the website for more information.

## Cheniqua Johnson Seeks to be Our Next City Council Woman of Ward 7

Cheniqua Johnson

Cheniqua Johnson is a Minnesota native, philanthropic leader, former congressional staffer, and long-time community organizer. Cheniqua is running for Saint Paul City Council in Ward 7 to bring new leadership to the East Side of Saint Paul. She aims to bring forward a robust city-wide public safety plan, invest in climate justice action, sustainability, foster local economic development, and bring strong advocacy for more access to affordable housing and protection for renters. As a proud daughter to two parents that worked essential jobs, one at a pork production plant and another as a certified nursing assistant, Cheniqua also stands quite strongly with our unions, educators, nurses, and essential workers.

As you may know, our councilwoman Jane Prince will not be seeking re-election. Ward 7, a ward that includes Dayton's Bluff, Battle Creek, Highwood, Conway, Swede Hollow, Mounds Park, and Eastview, is a diverse, powerful, and beautiful community. Cheniqua is running to really be that coalition-based leader to amplify and bring East Side to the forefront of all city conversations.

Dayton's Bluff resident, Cheniqua Johnson is a trailblazer, in her community and in her family. She has continued to pave the way for her family and holds a bachelor's degree in Family Social Science from the University of Minnesota - Twin Cities. She was the first person in her family to graduate with a 4-year degree and first person in her family to own a home. Cheniqua has also served the past two years for the Minnesota State Demo-

cratic-Farmer-Labor Party as the State DFL Outreach & Inclusion Officer and as Program Officer with the Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation. She also serves on the City of Saint Paul Cultural STAR Board, East Side Funders Group, and served on the City of Saint Paul Police Chief Examining Committee.

**Saint Paul DFL Ward 7 Caucus will be held on Mar 19, 2023, 1pm at Harding High School. Registration at 12:30pm.** Cheniqua will be seeking the DFL endorsement because she has been a long time DFL'er. Cheniqua has secured the endorsement of Attorney General Keith Ellison, former Ward 7 Councilwoman & Council President Kathy Lantry, Councilwoman Mitra Jalali, Ramsey County Commissioners Rena Moran and Victoria Reinhardt, and many other DFL leaders because of the relationships she has built and the work she has put in over the years.

Born and raised in rural Minnesota, Cheniqua has lived in rural, urban, and suburban Minnesotans and knows what it takes to bring people together from all political, racial, socioeconomic, religious, and cultural backgrounds. Since moving to the Twin Cities in 2013, Cheniqua has spent the last decade in community, public service, and political organizing. Cheniqua served as a congressional staffer for Attorney General Keith Ellison. She was his education and youth outreach coordinator. She oversaw the way the office interacted, maintained relationships with, and advocated for our public schools, libraries, recreation centers, and the needs of families and chil-

dren. Right now, this is what we need to better relationships between City Hall and our School district. Cheniqua is onboard with ensuring our students, educators, and families feel safe in their schools and throughout our neighborhoods.

Her second position with the United States Congress was with the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Aviation. The Subcommittee on Aviation served as the point for the Congressional Boeing 737 MAX Investigation and led a lot of the aviation industry pandemic response.



“I want to see East Side leading in shaping and defining just what City Hall looks like and I look forward to building with you to do that. When I say, I want to work to provide access to affordable housing, I mean investing into strong housing development that includes working across the spectrum to create new homes, affordable housing units and rental properties, and to have an East Side leadership chair on the City of Saint Paul's Housing and Redevel-

opment Authority (HRA). I mean increasing funding for the Department of Safety, Housing, and Inspections for more inspectors and union jobs to ensure our rental properties and developed land is well maintained and gives our families the quality of living we need here on the

East Side. I mean intentionally working with union workers, our building trades, and local developers to create jobs, keep developments happening, and ensuring that folks are being priced out of their homes as a result of bad business, but instead that the development is funded, hiring local, and using our land here in Ward 7.”

When Cheniqua says, she wants to see a comprehensive, community first public safety plan, she intends to work with our law enforcement, our community leaders, and our city to ensure that we are adequately addressing theft, gun violence, domestic violence, and mental health pandemic here on the East Side directly. She wants to ensure that we continue to have a strong Office of Neighborhood Safety (ONS) and deep partnership with our local schools, libraries, recreation centers, City Staff, and Eastern District Commander Kurt Hallstrom as well as our new Saint Paul Police Chief Axel Henry.

“As we head into March 19, April 30, and election day on November 7, I think it is really important to prioritize and vote for a candidate that has the experience and knows how to govern. It's important to vote for the candidate that has the track record and ability to dive deeper into the issues with you and I care mostly about. I am running for City Council because I sincerely understand the responsibility and intend to lead with intent and purpose to better our East Side. I intend and commit to working towards an East Side that serves and reflects us all. I humbly ask for your support to be our next City Council member of Ward 7. I also ask for your participation in the Saint Paul DFL Ward 7 endorsement process. My campaign website is [cheniquajohnson.com](http://cheniquajohnson.com) - my campaign email is [campaign@cheniquajohnson.com](mailto:campaign@cheniquajohnson.com). I truly want to hear from you about your views on the state of our students, safety, housing, rental expenses, snow removal, environment, green space, and more.

## View From My Porch

### Risking and Trusting

*Sage Holben*

Though we had visited by phone, talking for sometimes two hours, we had not seen each other (other than photos), hugged, looked into each other's face for about 40 years. (This is where my heart always drops). My sons were about eight and 12 when their father and I divorced. When my older son graduated from eighth grade, I had just graduated from NWTC with a degree in Marketing Communications. I was sending my resumes from Alaska to the east coast, desperate for employment. My ex had not been paying child support for most of our divorce, nor was he paying the mortgage as he had agreed — the bank was allowing the boys and me to live there until I graduated.

Will had asked me if he could live with his dad in Ohio pending our graduations. A first child, he had been the only child for four years and he and his dad had a close father/son relationship, sharing a sports-based bond. I had to say yes to his living with his dad in another state, against my better judgment, or deny his request and have him stay with me where he felt on the perimeters of his younger brother's and my relationship. His younger brother and I have complementary temperaments and similar interests. Rob and I, he, missing his dad, and our too often adversarial personalities, were often at odds. In the years between our divorce and Rob's asking to live with his dad, I had been a full-time student, was a student intern in a hospital PR department, was Will's Webelos den mother, took them to their hockey practices and games, and held a part-time job. Their dad lived in Ohio; he did not visit often or long.

With all that, I left my sons alone quite a bit. It helped that we lived in a semi-ru-

ral area, had caring and helpful neighbors, and the boys had learned to be self-sufficient, doing laundry, some meal prep, safety measures, decision-makers, and assertiveness. No matter what my decision, I felt I was abandoning my older son. I knew his relationship with his dad would not be as fulfilling as he imagined. Yet I couldn't offer him a belonging he didn't feel. As he said to me, "...it doesn't mean I love Dad more than you; or you any less." At 14 years, my son demonstrated great wisdom.

Though I thought he lacked positive efforts as a husband, and some as a father, making questionable decisions for our family, I knew he loved them, and they loved him. I agreed to his wish. Life with Dad was not what Will had thought it would be. His dad was home less often; he resented that Will would call me to talk about his day, eventually putting an end to calls except in his presence. It was a difficult position for a young boy. Time went by, he joined the Air Force, learned technical skills, served in Afghanistan and Saudi Arabia, and once out, always has had head-hunters calling. I was and am very proud of him. We kept in touch, but not personal visits. In all our contact, Will never challenged my past decisions. This I can laugh about now, but several years ago we would occasionally end our calls in anger and me bawling tears (nothing about our past; we disagreed vehemently on politics, gun control, and civil disobedience/protests closing highways — his mother among them). After a few of these experiences, we agreed we could NOT bring up these subjects. I kept wondering if he would have these beliefs had he lived with me and gone to protests with me. But, with all this, I knew he had a truly caring heart, helped strangers or friends in a heartbeat, and had a heart and soul that wept and loved.

Just before Christmas, as we were chatting on the phone, Will invited me to visit. Kell, his beloved, had been encouraging him, I later learned, to take this step. She told me later she hadn't known anyone to write so many letters and notes as I did to Will, therefore deserving to be responded to in re-establishing a relation-

ship. My younger son arranged my flight. I arrived on Friday, visited Saturday and Sunday, returned home on Monday. We focused on each other. I was admittedly nervous, perhaps expecting recrimination for my decisions in life (over the years, I've invited both boys to ask me why I've made the choices I have in life if they want any explanation); Will, Kell, and I spent much time over coffee and photos and letters I had brought, filling in pieces, recounting stories, snuggling with each other and the three dogs, and asking questions that were more easily asked with shared pictorial histories.

Several times before my visit I thought about cancelling. I didn't know what I was going into. I was, I admit, a bit scared. Would the joy of visiting my son be as great as the possible blame and anger that might be exposed? I had no need to worry. When he was a child and I was an even older child, our personalities sometimes stormed at each other. Neither of us knew how this would go. I was so gracefully received and never felt a tense moment between us. It was such a perfect visit. I had talked with Kell a bit over the phone over the last couple of years and after meeting her, felt as if I had known this creative, smart young woman all my life. I loved watching my son cook (and totally enjoy it) and we chatted about family recipes I had sent him over the years. When they were young and when either had fallen asleep on the living room sofa, I used to sit on the floor and just watch them as they slept. They were (and are) soooo beautiful. Is that creepy? I still find myself gazing at their faces. It filled me with joy to absorb Will's face with his crinkles at the corners of his eyes and mouth. Both sons laugh easily, know how to make their way through life, and are thoughtful, caring men.

I know I am not alone in this kind of situation. Life creates uncomfortable, challenging, painful choices...sometimes we feel unique in our decisions. Most of the time we are not; we just don't know what others are holding within their hearts and souls. We are not alone in personal pain; with trust, it can be shared.

Many thanks to our Friends of the *Forum* 2023 donors:

Jane Kennedy

David Lyons

Connie Peltier

### We Have Three Easy Ways for You to Donate!

If you'd like to see future issues printed again, please consider donating. We have three ways for you to do so:

-Donate electronically via PayPal at: [daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com](mailto:daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com)

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

-Donate by going to: [givemn.org/organization/Hopewell-Communications-Incorporated-](http://givemn.org/organization/Hopewell-Communications-Incorporated-)

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

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

-**Facebook** at Dayton's Bluff District Forum

-**Instagram** at Dayton's Bluff District Forum



@Dayton's  
Bluff  
District Forum

### Friends of the *Forum*

Dear Reader,

The *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* has been a volunteer-run newspaper since the 1980s and has always operated on a minimal budget. Each issue costs around \$1,000 to produce per month. We have found a new printer and have adjusted the cost to print each month.

For the past three years we have been soliciting donations through our Friends of the *Forum* program. Thanks to the donations from readers like you, we have been able to keep the paper up and running. If you value this community source of information, please consider filling out the form below. Any amount is appreciated; you may also make memorial donations, or include the *Forum* in your legacy planning. **If you have been our Friend in the past, please consider making a donation in 2023. Our goal for 2023 is \$2,500; will you help us reach our goal?**

Yes, I will become a Friend of the *Forum*. My tax-deductible check is enclosed, for:

\$100 \$50 \$25 Another amount \_\_\_\_\_

Or give online: [givemn.org/organization/Hopewell-Communications-Incorporated](http://givemn.org/organization/Hopewell-Communications-Incorporated)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

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

Thank you for your support!

Read our paper online at [daytonsbluffdistrictforum.org](http://daytonsbluffdistrictforum.org)