

The East Side Skate Park of Dreams

Mandy Okonek

If you build it, they will come. Members of the Eastside Skate Park Taskforce have lofty aspirations way cooler than a ball field in the middle of nowhere. My apologies to the baseball fans, wait — no, y'all have two fields, I take that back, it's time for alternative sports to get some love. The Eastside Skatepark Taskforce don't want just any skate park, they want THE skate park. A destination recreation space, a community hub celebrating skate-culture that puts Heritage Park on the map while honoring the historical and cultural significance of the space. To solicit design bids from contractors outside of the City of Saint Paul, the crew of skateboard enthusiasts took their case to the Senate and won! Supported by members of Saint Paul City Council, (Thanks, Jane Prince) and Saint Paul Parks and Recreation, The Taskforce pleaded their case to The Minnesota Senate who passed bill S.F. No. 433. Here's the technical verbiage of the bill penned by Senator Foug Hawj.

S.F. 1433 allows the City of St. Paul to solicit and award a design-build contract for a skate park in Eastside Heritage Park in St. Paul. [Note Senator Hawj considers Eastside one-word, it's a thing] Under the municipal contracting law, a city is not authorized to use a design-build contracting process. Due to the unique design and construction characteristics of a skate park, firms specializing in these projects generally oversee both the design and the construction of the project.

So, what does this all mean? Well, Heritage Park is going to transform into a destination skate park. After this bill is signed into law early May, it's game on.

Grand Old Day is Back!

Festivities Slated for June 4

Jennifer Gascoigne

It's been a few years in the making, but Grand Old Day is officially back, and you can be a part of it on **Sunday, June 4, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.**

Grand Old Day is a 100% volunteer-run event, showcasing the best of the neighborhood and surrounding area's cuisine, shopping, and tourism — all along St. Paul's historic Grand Avenue.

The beloved street fair began back in 1973 and invites the community together to enjoy the many small businesses that call this neighborhood home with shopping from local vendors, food, beverages, and activities for all ages and



species (well-behaved pets are extremely welcome). According to taskforce member Eric Salinas, this Senate bill saved the day. Salinas or "Skatepark Eric," as many folks will call him, has been a vocal member of the Taskforce since its inception nearly two years ago. Eric finds time to attend meetings and promote pop-up events in between his full-time chef gig at Can Can Wonderland and DJ-ing at White Squirrel Bar. Eric attended the Senate hearing and shared some thoughts about the next moves of his Taskforce crew:

"Last week there was a rally at the Capitol to get funds for skate parks in the state trying to raise upwards of 18 million dollars. If this passes, we could apply for that program. I think we could get up to a million dollars and whatever money you get from that program the state will match it too."

Spearheaded by nonprofit City of Skate, The MN Skate Park Grant program will fund the construction of world-class skate parks throughout Minnesota with matching grants. It just needs to pass the senate. According to cityofskate.org, there are currently 35+ skate park projects planned in the state in need of funding. Please visit CityofSkate.org for more information on this grant program and to access a template to request the Senate pass bills SF677/HF670 and SF1944/HF2030.

Eric and his crew worked with Alice Messer, Saint Paul Park and Recreation's Construction Manager, and Senator Hawj to present their bill to the Minnesota Senate. The forward momentum of the Taskforce is not only relying on the potential of the grant program passing; it is looking into every avenue of potential funding. They plan to work with artists and environmental nonprofits to incorporate design elements to balance the unique juxtaposition of nature while providing skateboarders the park of their dreams.

Activities include a Fun Run, which for a fee of \$25, gets you a two-mile run, commemorative t-shirt, and unlimited bragging rights (visit grandave.com to register). If running isn't your cup of (iced) tea (hey, this is a summer event, after all), you can kick off your Grand Old Day experience with the Grand Avenue Business Association's (GABA) parade, which is the official start to the day's festivities at **9 a.m.**

If running isn't your thing, grab a treat, a beverage, and your leashed dog, iguana, pig, or other animal buddy and enjoy live music all along the avenue. For more information on vendors and attractions as it becomes available, visit the Grand Old Day page on Facebook, [facebook.com/Grand.Old.Day.mn](https://www.facebook.com/Grand.Old.Day.mn).

See you on the Avenue!
Photo provided by Grand Old Day Facebook Group

See you on the Avenue!
Photo provided by Grand Old Day Facebook Group



Eastside Skatepark Taskforce

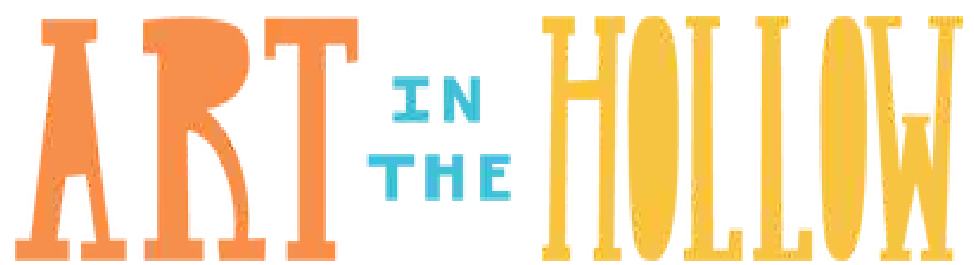
Members of the Taskforce with Senator Foug Hawj. From left to right, Brenda Hoppe (Midwest Skateboarding Alliance), Alice Messer (Saint Paul Parks & Recreation), Senator Foug Hawj, Lindsey Lyford, and Eric Salinas.

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!



St. Paul Farmers' Market at Union Depot Shop Local for Spring

Visit St. Paul

Ready for spring? The Saint Paul Farmers' Market will be popping up at Union Depot each month on the first Wednesday. Grab a friend and shop fresh spring favorites!

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

Other activities include a thematic photo op, spring-themed coloring stations, and spin-the-wheel for prizes!

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: **May 7, June 7, and July 5.**



Post Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) Information Gap Deprives Minnesota Students and Families of Info Required by Minnesota Statute, Costing them Millions

People for PSEO

A new report shows most Minnesota districts and charter school websites are withholding information from families and students that can save them millions of dollars and is required by state law. Annual reminders from the Minnesota Department of Education to school district leaders since 2015 are not working. This information is found in a report released by People for PSEO in its 2023 *PSEO Information Gap Report*. Earlier research demonstrates that PSEO saves Minnesota families almost \$60 million per year, and MN taxpayers about \$15 million a year. Withholding the required information robs Minnesota families of hugely valuable opportunities. Data pulled from the MN Department of Education (MDE), cited in the study, shows PSEO is a very valuable tool for choosing high school graduation gaps.

The report measures PSEO information on all 390 school district and charter school websites across Minnesota and finds widespread non-compliance with state law requiring schools to share up-to-date PSEO information with students and families.

The majority of district and charter school websites in Minnesota (57.18% of 390) don't meet their legal obligations. People for PSEO informed MDE of this noncompliance in 2022. This lack of compliance deprives students and their families of essential information needed to make informed decisions about PSEO participation, which can save thousands of dollars in college tuition costs and provide a head start on careers. This report finds that 223/390 of school districts are not in compliance with PSEO state law. Overall, 70% of charter public schools are in compliance with the law compared to 37% of traditional districts.

About People for PSEO: People for PSEO is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting access to Post-Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) programs for Minnesota high school students. PSEO is a program that allows eligible high school students to take free college courses, earning both high school and college credits at the same time. Established in 1985, PSEO has since provided tens of thousands of students with a head start on their education and career paths while saving millions of dollars in college tuition costs.

PSEO Page Status	2022	2023	Difference
PSEO Page is up to date	153	161	+8
PSEO Page is up to date and has inaccurate information	4	6	+2
PSEO Page has missing information	175	140	-35
PSEO Page has missing and inaccurate information	31	35	+4
PSEO Page cannot be found	25	38	+13
PSEO Page link is broken	2	10	+8
Total	390	390	



Greg Cosimini

The new Menards on Highway 61 in Maplewood opened on March 28th, just a little over a year after the old one was closed and torn down. The new store is much larger and has complete food and clothing departments, not to mention plumbing, electrical and appliances, too.

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 **May 16**.

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 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, May 5 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.

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 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, May 15, 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 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, SM-

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



THE HISTORIC MOUNDS THEATRE

April 28 & 29 and May 1, 5, 6, 7, 11, 12 & 13: No Small Parts. Have you ever wondered what the actors in the back-grounds of musicals are going through? Meet Bernice and Betty, and the rest of the ensemble of *Hills of Love*. This play is a funny, cute, and heartwarming musical of why these actors do what they do. All performances at 7:30 p.m. except Sunday May 7 at 2:00 p.m. Tickets: General Admission \$15 (including fees)

May 19, 20, 21, 25, 26 & 27: Mueyhepen. Based on a folktale that has been passed down for generations by the Karen people of Burma, the play tells the story of Mueyhepen, a woman with supernatural powers who sacrificed for her people. This is her story of resilience and resistance, which lives on today. All performances at 7:30 p.m. except Sunday May 21 at 4:00 p.m. Tickets: General Admission \$7, \$12, \$17 (sale ends on May 19); \$22 (after May 19).

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.

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 4th Street. Cost is \$20 per season. Grants are available. For more information or to request an application, email Steve at SkidmoreGarden@gmail.com.

The Friends of Swede Hollow 2022-2023 Winter Photo Contest Winners Announced

Brad Griffith

On April 7 the winners of the Friends of Swede Hollow 2023 Winter Photo Contest were announced.

First Place: Mandy Okonek — Through the Looking Glass.
Second Place: Wolfie Browender — Among Ice and Water.
Third Place: Doug Champeau — Winter Walk.

Honorable Mention: Mandy Okonek — Before Sunrise
Honorable Mention: Kathy Sidles — Northern Cardinal in the Sun

The rules of the contest were that the photos must be taken within Swede Hollow Park between December 21, 2022 and March 20, 2023 and submitted by March 25, 2023.

Judging expertise was provided by the East Side Arts Council. Sarah Fehr, Executive Director of the East Side Arts Council noted that "the quality and variety was really great and made it hard to choose the winners."

The next photo contest has already begun. The Friends of Swede Hollow 2023 Spring Photo Contest began for photos taken in Swede Hollow Park between March 21 and June 20, 2023.

Prizes awarded are \$100 for First Place, \$50 for Second Place, \$25 for Third Place, and Neighborhood Bragging Rights for Honorable Mention.

Submit your photos in a .jpg format to bradgriffith@me.com no later than **June 25**.

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

Sen. Foug Hawj Elected Senate Chair of Key Commission that Recommends Funding for Important Minnesota Environmental and Natural Resources Projects

New LCCMR Role Is Third Key Leadership Position Senator Hawj Has Assumed Since January, A First for Any Senator of His Cultural Heritage

Marc Kimball

Senator Foug Hawj has been elected as the Senate Chair of the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR), giving him an important role in making funding recommendations to the State Legislature on important environmental and natural resource projects across Minnesota.

His election as Senate Chair of the LCCMR is the third leadership position that Senator Hawj has assumed. Earlier this

year, he also was re-elected by his colleagues as an Assistant Leader of the majority DFL Caucus, and was named Chair of the Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee starting in January.

"I am honored to be elected Senate Chair of the LCCMR. It's an important position that requires an understanding of how critical our state's land, water and environmental resources are to Minnesota's quality of life," said Sen Hawj, who was already serving on the commission before being elected Senate Chair. I am pleased to be able to play a key leadership role in how our state funds those resources."

The 17-member LCCMR, recommends projects — funded primarily from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) — that help maintain and enhance Minnesota's environment and natural resources. The LCCMR is made up of five Senators, five Representatives, five citizens appointed by the governor, one citizen appointed by the Senate, and one citizen appointed by the House.

Sen. Hawj said that since 1963, approximately \$1 billion has been appropriated to more than 2,400 projects recommended to the legislature by the LCCMR to protect and enhance Minnesota's environment and natural resources.

Senator Hawj Now Serving in Three Key Leadership Roles
The new LCCMR position is

the third leadership role Senator Hawj has assumed during the current Legislative Session, something that is unprecedented for someone of his cultural background.

Senator Hawj, who is Hmong, left war-torn Laos in the late 1970s due to persecution of his people for supporting the United States in the Vietnam War. His family first settled in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, moved to Kansas before coming to Minnesota in 1991. An avid outdoorsman, he's worked as a small business owner, and artist and filmmaker. He was first elected to the Senate in 2012 and been re-elected three times.

"I am a proud American, but I'm even prouder as a Hmong person in Minnesota — the Clear Blue Water — alongside people of Irish, Swedish, and Norwegian descent, as well as African American, Hispanic, Lakota, Anishinaabe and others who make up our state's diversity," said Sen. Hawj. "It's not always been easy, but I'm honored to have the opportunity to serve in leadership positions when important decisions are being made. It's because of the support of my Senate colleagues and the people of the East Side of St. Paul who elected me. I know I have a lot of responsibility to make decisions about the future of our state's environment and natural resources and I'll do my best to honor those decisions."



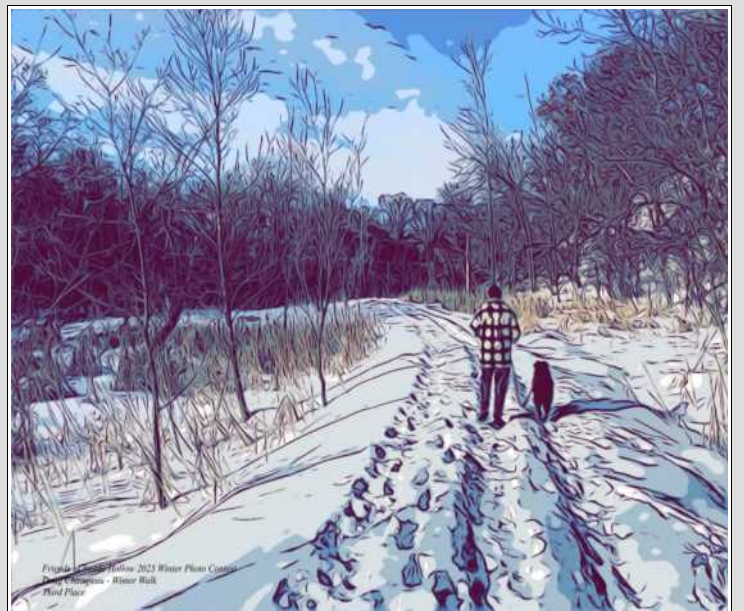
Mandy Okonek

First place winner, Through the Looking Glass.



Wolfie Browender

Second place winner, Among Ice and Water.



Doug Champeau

Third place winner, Winter Walk.



Kathy Sidles

Honorable Mention, Northern Cardinal in the Sun.



Mandy Okonek

Honorable Mention, Before Sunrise.

Congratulations to the Winners of the Friends of Swede Hollow 2022-2023 Winter Photo Contest!

Bits and Pieces

G.B. LeRoy

James Ranstrom posted this following about old St. Paul, Minnesota, on Facebook that features a creek not far from Phalen Creek.

"One of the greatest folly's of early St. Paul was idea to dam up Trout/Phalen Creek in 1850. Promoters used brush and wood to plug the stream so that a area of slack water would allow steamboats to go two miles up Trout Creek. Such was the idea of competing entrepreneurship. Promoters further claimed this landing would be further north than St. Paul's lower landing or Cheevers Landing in St. Anthony (pretty close to being true). Of course, you would have to deal with the bottomless quagmire of the surrounding area. Fortunately, nobody really bought into this scheme and Baptist Hill came to the rescue supplying nearly endless fill to make the area somewhat habitual and provide solid land for railroads. This 1884 map still shows the hemorrhaging effects of trying to modify the early landscape of St. Paul. Bad idea, Sir!"

There were four St. Paul educators in-

cluded out of only 11 finalists for Minnesota Teacher of the Year. The four who teach in St. Paul schools are Michael Houston (math) and Molly Keenan (social studies) from Harding High School, Sorcha Nix (science) from Open World Learning and Fathimath Eliza Rasheed (theatre) from Global Arts Plus upper campus.

Another recent item that Mike Ries put up on Facebook was about the old Viaduct Inn that was on 1056 East 7th Street.

"One of many East Side bars that fell victim to changing times. When the large employers on the East Side, Hamm's, Whirlpool, 3M went out of business or relocated, the bars their employees frequented fell on hard times. The Viaduct was purchased by the Saint Paul Port Authority, in July 2008 and using their usual great public relation skills, had the Viaduct demolished in the fall of 2008 without any public notice. To be fair to the Port Authority, the building had some issues with mold and the previous owner had sold off most of the interior that was of any value. The Port Authority did give the East Side what it needs most, another vacant lot."



MN Historical Society

Topmost Photo: "A viaduct over a set of railroad tracks. A stairway leads down from the viaduct to a bar. It is snowing."

Photo above: "Canoeing on Phalen Creek."



Kids Corner

Suggested Titles by Dayton's Bluff Library Staff

In May, we celebrate Asian American and Pacific Islander month. There are so many amazing children's books by AAPI authors, and this month we're excited to share some written by authors who live right here in Minnesota!

A Map Into the World written by Kao Kalia Yang and illustrated by Seo Kim

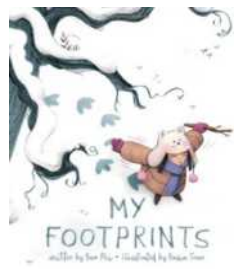
Paj Ntaub, a young Hmong American girl, spends a busy year with her family in their new home, and seeks a way to share the beauty of the world with a grieving neighbor.

The Most Beautiful Thing written by Kao Kalia Yang and illustrated by Khoa Le

Drawn from Kao Kalia Yang's childhood experiences as a Hmong refugee, this heartfelt picture book offers a window into the life of a family with little money and a great deal of love.

My Footprints written by Bao Phi and

illustrated by Basia Tran



Upset after being bullied, Thuy, a Vietnamese American, pretends she is different creatures, including an especially strong, wonderful being made up of her two mothers and herself. Includes note about the phoenix and the Sarabha.

Astrid and Apollo written by V.T. Bidania and illustrated by Dara Lashia Lee

Astrid and Apollo are heading to the farm with Grandma and Uncle Meng! The twins enjoy Grandma's funny stories and Uncle

Meng's magic tricks while picking vegetables to sell at the farmers' market. But Uncle Meng is looking for something else to pick—a magic pepper! Can Astrid and Apollo help make Uncle Meng's long-held wish to find a magic pepper come true? Readers will love joining the twins on their adventures in this chapter book series about a Hmong American family.

Suni Lee by Jon Fishman

Suni Lee won the gymnastics individual all-around gold medal at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021. Learn how this US gymnast achieves her remarkable routines and explore what her life is like outside of gymnastics!



City Council Approves Deeply Affordable Housing Funds for Ashland Apartments

City of St. Paul

The Saint Paul City Council approved using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding for the Ashland Apartments, a supportive housing development by RS EDEN for extremely low-income residents.

The project involves the rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of an existing, vacant building at 532 Ashland Avenue in the Summit-University neighborhood. The repurposed property will feature 17 single room occupancy units for individuals with incomes restricted to 30% Area Median Income (AMI) or below for the next 40 years. 10 of the units will be specifically reserved for homeless individuals and all 17 units will be reserved for persons with a disability and will have supportive services provided.

Prior to 2021, RS EDEN operated this site as a group residential facility. They will continue to serve as the owner, property manager and service provider.

"This investment in supportive housing is vital for our growing city, and I'm proud that it found its home in Ward 1," said Councilmember Russel Balenger. "The Ashland Apartments have served vulnerable members of our community for years, and I'm thrilled that it will continue to do so in partnership with RS EDEN."

The rehabilitation work should begin in April and will involve external renovations (including roofing, siding, windows and security improvements) and interior improvements (such as plumbing, boiler, flooring and an expanded commercial kitchen).

Once the upgrades are complete, resident referrals will come through Ramsey County Coordinated Entry as well as from a network of local residential providers.

Ramsey County has also allocated capital funding support from their Inclusive Housing Development spring 2022 solicitation and all 17 units were awarded Housing Support subsidy from Ramsey County Community Human Services.

"Investing into Ashland Apartments represents our dedication to serve our residents, including those previously homeless or incarcerated, in order to build a resilient and equitable community," said Ramsey County Housing Redevelopment Authority Board Chair Mai Chong Xiong. "We are extremely grateful for our partnership with the City of Saint Paul and the commitment we've made together to ensure investments into deeply affordable housing infrastructure are strategic and provide safe, stable, and permanent housing for our residents who need it most."

The City of Saint Paul and Ramsey County pledged to dedicate \$74 million in federal ARPA funding for deeply affordable housing in December 2021. This is among the largest public investments in deeply affordable housing in the country. The City's investment of \$37.5 million into the 30% AMI Deeply Affordable Housing Fund will support multiple recommended projects, and once approved, should create 225 new units of housing for Saint Paul families earning 30% or less of Area Median Income.

"The support from both the City of Saint Paul and Ramsey County is allowing RS EDEN to further propel its mission by better responding to the community need for safe, affordable and supportive housing," said Caroline Hood, President and CEO of RS EDEN. "As we work to tackle the growing homeless population in our community, our partnerships are that much more critical."

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

Check out a new read from Dayton's Bluff Library

Saint Paul Public Library staff at the Dayton's Bluff branch connect visitors to great books every day. Not everyone is aware of the wide variety of titles available at the public library that are free to check out and take home.

Here are some collections to explore:

If you ever crave a book that honestly represents life in the city, browse our newly refreshed and expanded **Urban Fiction** collection to find your next read. Urban fiction is known for not shying away from socio-economic struggles, violence, and sex, but is a diverse genre that has been around since the early 20th century and can overlap heavily with both romance and crime fiction. Our Urban Fiction collection features mostly contemporary and Black American voices in the genre.

Graphic Novels aren't just bound collections of action-packed superhero comics, they're all kinds of stories told in all kinds of ways. No matter your age or genre, there is a graphic novel out there for you. Here are a couple recommendations from our staff to get you started:

Teen Tuesdays @Dayton's Bluff library: Join us every Tuesday evening from **6:30-8 p.m.** for a safe and fun space to hang out, eat snacks, and meet new people. Stop in for Dungeons and Dragons on **May 2 and 16**, Teens Know Best Book Club on **May 9**, and Teen

Writers' Guild on **May 23rd**.

Teens Know Best (TKB) is a youth-driven book club that is co-hosted by Dayton's Bluff and Metro State University. We are one of only 15 book clubs in the country that is part of YALSA's Teen Top Ten Awards and are open to ages 12-18. At TKB, youth get access to Advanced Readers' Copies (copies of books that haven't been published yet!), write reviews that get passed on to publishers, vote on the Teen Books Awards, talk about books, make friends, and eat pizza.

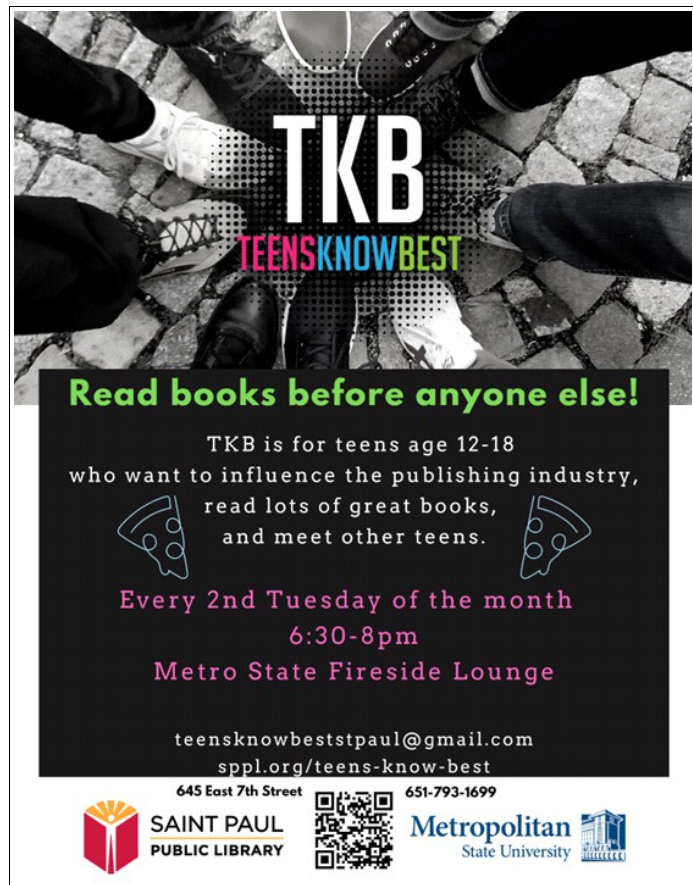
Dayton's Bluff Library Hours

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 <https://spspl.org/locations/DB/> or call 651-793-1699.

All Saint Paul Public Library locations will be closed Thursday, May 11 for staff training and Sunday, May 28 - Monday, May 29 in observance of Memorial Day.

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.



TKB
TEENSKNOWBEST


Read books before anyone else!

TKB is for teens age 12-18 who want to influence the publishing industry, read lots of great books, and meet other teens.

Every 2nd Tuesday of the month
6:30-8pm
Metro State Fireside Lounge

teensknowbeststpaul@gmail.com
spspl.org/teens-know-best

645 East 7th Street
SAINT PAUL PUBLIC LIBRARY



651-793-1699
Metropolitan State University



@Dayton's Bluff District Forum



Greg Cosimini

The April Fools' Day blizzard brought with it some very heavy snow that damaged many trees in Dayton's Bluff. This tree on Euclid at Cypress lost a large limb that blocked the street. The tree will need to be removed due to the extensive damage done to it.

View From My Porch

ARISE! Speak Up! Act Up!

Sage Holben

My Councilmember proclaimed to the recent "Community Conversation" group of residents gathered at the Dayton's Bluff community/rec center that Saint Paul is in great shape and doing very well. I haven't found anyone in my area who agrees with that, but I guess it's all in one's perspective. Dayton's Bluff district council director gave a half-hearted list of what residents could do on their own to make Dayton's Bluff a better place to live and work while our district council continues to create order within the organization. Suggestions include everything from picking up other people's trash and discarded furniture from alleyways [my description, not hers], creating pleasant neighborhood moments, to creating and installing a traffic calming circle. FYI the circle is not a kumbaya gathering of friendly people, but a permanent structure that requires Public Works to bless the intersection and install the circle.

Most of the suggestions already happen simply because our local residents have largely found we cannot rely on support from our city-funded departments. I'm not saying ALL departments are not helpful or resistant. Sometimes getting help appears to be having a helpful connection, a rapport, perhaps how *equity* comes in to play. Perhaps it's simply how one person *thinks* the person with power views the requestor or situation.

I used to think differently about something and have come fully around now. I think someone who serves the public (i.e. policing, traffic or noise control, or otherwise helps make decisions that affect the quality of life in the city s/he serves and collects a paycheck), should live *in* the community. While using a three-ring binder of data and guidelines that work in other states, cities, and districts, one size does not fit all. One does not get a full picture or understanding of how crimes and offenses, such as robberies, midnight noises, animal abuse, dumping a car's trash or a sofa off truck onto someone else's boulevard — again and again; drug exchanges, music blasting.

When it's not dealt with *i.e. broken window theory*, residents become numb to it, but not immune to the emotional and internal health erosion. These disturbances become normal to our residential areas and the city then holds back any public service because they see "normalized" be-

haviors. Residents, victims, actually, die a bit inside living with this stress. Dying, according to studies, is literal, not just figurative dying. Sometimes it is named as depression or loss of interest in life. As humans we often close ourselves off from what is destroying us or causing grief — even worse is when professionals won't recognize the mental and physical destruction our beloved city is causing us.

On a lighter note, I was pleased that the participants numbered around 25, not 50 or more. A smaller group of people have a greater chance to be heard and follow-up done. I was relieved that none of the panel referred to the attending residents as "their audience" as is sometimes done. Residents who attend such meetings, whether or not they have an opportunity to speak or be heard, are participants in this living experiment; so thank you, organizational reps, for not calling us your audience. And, participants, if we have heard any words or ideas of inspiration, it is up to each of us to carry it to fruition.

Here is my suggestion — no endorsements accompanying this: 1) You do NOT need permission to have a lawn party or neighborhood party. The city DOES SAY you need permission to use/close off the street, getting written permission from other residents to do so. Whether you do so or not, well, that could be another story. 2) If it's speeders, drug dealers, stray animals whether two or four feet, but no

police or public work vehicles around your neighborhood, consider it more opportunity to have fun — at your own risk, of course: art installations in your intersection, maybe some potted plants (plastic pots, no concrete, wood, metal which can damage the vehicles that don't stop at stop signs); register for a permit and submit a desired painting, collect money from neighbors for permit, rollers don't coat the pavement as well as brushes do. Paint the Pavement events bring kids and adults together, and for a day or two traffic is slowed; then it's back to normal.

With that, I've noticed STOP having been painted on some streets, apparently with a stencil; so whatever works in your neighborhood, keep it nice. Be creative. Wish, desire, even ask for help from organizations such as your district council, but don't expect it. Yes, they generally do have funds or expertise available, but more often than not these days. You, as a neighborhood resident (YES, EVEN AS A RENTER) have more organization, creativity, and know-how than most subsidized community organizations. Be respectful within the parameters of community health, safety, and well-being. Be bold, be aware. SEE what and who are around you. Reach out. Your neighbors are waiting for your guidance and to help you. Coffee on the porch, anyone?

Art on Payne Avenue

Steve Trimble

Kimchi Hoang, an artist working in oil and watercolor, created abstract paintings in a group called exhibition "ECHO IN SPRING" that was recently shown at a venue at 967 Payne Avenue. She lived in Viet Nam while the war was raging and eventually came to the Twin Cities of Minnesota. She went to Minneapolis Community and Technical College and then onto the University of Minnesota, earning a Bachelor of Arts.

Here are some of Hoang's thoughts about her creations: "My artworks reflect my soul, my feelings, my inner work. Look closely and you can see images of the traditional culture that surrounded me in Vietnam and that is still a part of me. I engage with the world around me through art. I guide people to look inward and to reflect that surrounds them."

Another quote on the art leaflet said "My life has been shaped by many forces has moved in unintended directions. This is true of my paintings too. My ideas come to me in dreams or in fleeting memories. As quickly as, I commit the images to paper, and then I feel free and fortunate. I feel boundless happiness." Hoang says that images seem to be random, but they come together "suggesting movement in the natural world" in these paintings, and viewers see "brush strokes moving like a gust of wind."

Hoang continues that she engages with the world through art. "I guide people to look inward, and to reflect on the environment that surrounds them. You can see that the artist strongly believes that "Art is an expressive language."

Photos to the right by Steve Trimble



May Events Happening in Ramsey County

May 1, 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.

May 1, 1-2 p.m.; Virtual Job Club: Resumes and Interviews — Create a resume that gets you the interview.

May 2, 9, 1-4 p.m.; Housing and Conciliation Court Self-Help Center — Free legal consultation from volunteer attorneys is available for those with Conciliation and Housing Court issues.

May 2, 6, 4-5:30 p.m. and 6-7:30 p.m.; 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.

May 4, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; Open Senior Skate at Aldrich Center — Senior Skate is open to 55-plus.

May 4, 8 a.m.; Spring Bird Discovery Walk — Join our experienced birding volunteers to learn about birds of the area.

May 4, 10 a.m.-noon; Drop-In Discovery Stations — Tamarack's Discovery Hosts will be on-hand on Saturday mornings with nature's most wonderful surprises!

May 7, 3:30-5 p.m.; Free Open Skate at TCO Sports Garden— 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

May 8, 1-2 p.m.; Virtual Job Club: Networking — Join this job club session to learn job networking methods.

May 9, 11 a.m.; Union Depot Tour — Tour Union Depot to learn about the history, recent renovation, sustainability initiatives, expanding transit options and much more.

May 10, 11 a.m.-noon; Youth Works! Orientation — Come learn about Youth Works!, a county-wide youth employment partnership initiative.

For more information about these events, go to ramseycounty.us/calendar and choose May dates on the left-hand side.



@Dayton's Bluff District Forum

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.

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Some Interesting May Events from the Past

Steve Trimble

May 2, 1914: "Sounding their battle cry of "Votes for Women," 1,500 suffragists stormed the St. Paul Auditorium at noon on this day, "waving their colors of yellow and black," a newspaper wrote. It was a major event designed to rally support for ratification of the amendment allowing women to vote. The goal of this day was to demonstrate commitment to the cause and to showcase the group's organizational capacity to affect male lawmakers.



MN Historical Society

Women suffrage meeting at Rice Park.

The St. Paul Auditorium was decorated with large banners that said, among other things, "Our Government is of the People By Half the People" and "Convicts, Idiots, Lunatics and Women Cannot Vote." A band and a chorus of forty girls from

Humboldt High School led those assembled in singing the suffrage hymn and patriotic songs. There were several speeches from local and national leaders.

The action later continued outside. Five cars abutting the park were used as platforms for people to exhort the crowd. Then Dr. Mary Hartman, president of the St. Paul Political Equity Club, hoisted an American flag and led the suffrage parade out of Rice Park and through downtown St. Paul. The participants then boarded the streetcars to Minneapolis for a parade led by Mrs. A. R. Colvin of St. Paul.

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

Here is the set list from the event: "Fire," "Room Full of Mirrors", "Lover Man," "Hear My Train a Comin'," "Ezy Ryder," "Machine Gun," "Freedom," "Foxy Lady," "Red House," "The Star-Spangled Banner," "Purple Haze," and "Voodoo Child," Hendrix explained some of Voodoo Child: "I'd like to do a slow blues about this cat who feels kinda down, 'cause his old lady put him down, and his people and family don't want him around, so he had this big old long frown, and had to drag his ass down to the railroad station, waitin' for the train to come take him away on the road."

After the main concert Jimi headed toward the back of the stage, completed his

solo with his teeth and the show was over.

May 4, 1985: The first Cinco de Mayo celebration on St. Paul's West Side was started today. The festival celebrated the Mexican heritage, culture, and history and united the local Mexican-American community. The day is observed to commemorate the Mexican army's victory over French forces invading the country at the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862.

In 1985, community members and business people gathered together to create the celebration. The goal was to celebrate the community and businesses, but also to establish the West Side as a destination place.

The festival helped preserve culture, no longer have fear of displacement again, and preserve the memory of the community. In doing so, it had a vision of cultural economic stability, maintenance and ownership grew.

The most highly attended event, and one of the best reasons to go, was the Cinco de Mayo - West Side Parade. Thousands of individuals came from all over to visit the West Side and see the floats from local organizations within the community and authentic Mexican dancers as they trek down Cesar Chavez Street in Saint Paul.

Highlights from this late event featured three stages of live entertainment, local dance groups, traditional ensembles and popular tunes, and dozens of vendors selling local goods and food.

May 10, 1958: A USS Ward ship canon was installed as a memorial on the Capitol grounds on this day during the year of

the Minnesota Centennial. *The Ward* was an old destroyer recommissioned and sent to Pearl Harbor to operate on local patrol duties in Hawaiian waters. It was crewed by 115 reservists and at least eighty-five were from St. Paul. On the morning of December 7, 1941, the *Ward* was patrolling off the entrance to Pearl Harbor when she was informed by a minesweeper of a periscope sighting and a search was started. They found that a submarine was attempting to get into the harbor by following a ship through the anti-submarine nets at the entrance

They found their prey and fired several times from the main guns, hitting the conning tower of the submarine, and dropped several depth charges that sunk the sub. It was confirmed years later that it was a Japanese two-man midget submarine. They reported "We have attacked, fired upon and dropped depth charges upon submarine operating in defensive sea," All of this occurred a few hours before the Japanese carrier aircraft attacked Pearl Harbor. Sometimes this event is called "the first shot of World War Two" for the United States.



MN Historical Society

A painting of the USS Ward.

Gold Line BRT Construction Begins in Dayton's Bluff

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

Metro Gold Line bus rapid transit (BRT) line construction has begun in Dayton's Bluff.

In early April the noise wall along Hudson Road was removed in most areas from Earl St. to Third St. along with the hill it was sitting on from Earl to Cypress. The outside lane of westbound I-94 from Etna St. to Mounds Blvd was closed and a temporary barrier was installed to facilitate work on the Gold Line route.

Preparations for the Mounds Blvd. station and BRT lanes have begun from Third St. to the dead end on Conway St.

On April 17, Earl St. was closed over I-94 between Hudson Road and Pacific St. The closure will continue until early summer 2023. At the same time, Hudson Road was closed between Cypress St. and Earl St., including the Earl-Hudson intersection. This closure will be in effect until at least May 1 as crews remove pavement and excavate the area for utility construction.

Work on the storm water holding pond near Griffith St. and Johnson Pkwy., beginning with the installation of the clay liner, should begin by late April assuming ground conditions are dry enough.

The staging area near Hudson Road and Griffith St. has begun to fill up with building materials and construction equipment. A section of the noise wall has been removed to allow heavy machinery to move from the staging area onto the closed westbound lane of I-94.

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.

Photos below and to the right by Greg Cosimini



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

Deadline for the June issue of the *Forum* is May 10, 2023.

The Story of the Hot Dish

Put together by Steve Trimble

Minnesota is well known for the use of the term of one food as Hot Dish instead of Casserole. Some other places that do the same are areas of western Wisconsin and eastern North Dakota. There is a question about when the use of Hot Dish began. At least people have been researched and up until now the earliest written record of Hot Dish has been found in a cookbook in Mankato published in 1930. There may be some older writings discovered and we might never know if people were using the phrase in discussions. Here is the 1930 recipe that you might want to try.

I have found some early St. Paul Hot Dish recipes. Notice they also include some canned ingredients.

Hot Dish

Mrs. C. W. Anderson, Grace Lutheran Ladies Aid, Mankato, p 49.

Directions: Fry two pounds of hamburger. Fry, but not till brown, two large onions. Boil in salted water until tender one box Creamettes. Put in baking dish the fried hamburger, onions, Creamettes, and add one bunch of celery cut up, one can of peas, 1 can of tomato soup, and 1 quart tomatoes, salt and pepper. Stir all together and enough water so liquid covers all. Bake.



A variation of "Dad's Hot Dish" from the top-right corner recipe



Tater Tot Hot Dish

Hot Dish

The Four Circle Cook Book, Ladies Aid Society of Fairmount M. E. Church, St Paul Minnesota, 1935, p. 23

Ingredients:

- 1 cup rice, cook and drain
- 1 can Golden Bantam cornstarch
- 1/2 cup cubed American cheese
- 1/2 cup milk
- 1 green pepper, cut fine and simmer in 1 tablespoon butter
- 1 1/2 red pimento chopped
- 1 pound lean pork steak, diced and browned in butter

Directions: Mix all and bake one hour. Serves 8.

Hot Dish with Tater Tots

Mrs. E. Santa, Be Our Guest, Memorial Lutheran Church, 1212 Earl Street, St. Paul, Mn., 1979, p. 80.

Over the years the recipes changed as cooks created new taste treats with the dish. One example is the introduction of the Tater Tots that were invented in 1953. Soon after that Tater Tots were being used in Hot Dishes.

Ingredients:

- 1 package frozen tater tots
- 16 ounce water chestnuts, sliced
- 1/3 cup uncooked rice
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 1 1/2 cup cooked celery
- 3/4 cup water
- 1 can peas, drained and save juice
- 1 can mushroom soup
- 1 1/2 pound ground meat, thinned with pea juice
- 1-2 1/2 ounce bottle button mushrooms

Directions: Preheat over 325. Mix all ingredients together (except mushroom soup and pea juice) in large 9x13" casserole the day before you are going to serve. Before baking pour mushroom mixed with pea juice (1 cup) over mixture. Then cover with tater tots and then sprinkle with grated cheese. Bake 1 hour and 15 minutes at 325. Serves 15.

Hot Dish

Mrs. W. S. Kindle, Favorite Recipes Ladies Auxiliary, Cherokee Heights Presbyterian Church, St. Paul, Mn. Ca. 1930's, p. 29

Sometimes the recipe mentions Dad or Grandma or other names as part of the recipe. Here's one for Dad:

Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 pounds ground beef
- 1 1/2 quarts sliced potatoes
- 1 onion
- a little celery and green pepper
- 1 can tomato soup

Directions: Place potatoes in baking dish alternating with beef and onions, celery and pepper. Pour tomato soup over top. Bake in slow oven 1 hour. Serves 8 people.

Tuna Fish Hot Dish

Mrs. Tom Dolan, Recipes and Household Hints, Presbyterian Ladies Aid Society, Maynard, Minnesota, 1937, p. 84

There are a lot of different ways of making Hot Dish. The one below has tuna instead of hamburger or pork and suggests side dishes of rolls and a salad.

Ingredients:

- 1 package cooked elbow spaghetti
- 1 7 ounce can tuna fish
- 1-3 pounds grated cheese
- either 1 tablespoon chopped green pepper or stuffed olives, sliced
- Medium white sauce

Directions: Make enough white sauce to cover the spaghetti and melt the cheese in it, combine the other ingredients and the tuna fish, flaked, and salt and pepper to taste. Pour in a casserole and bake 3/4 hour at 375 degrees. This is a delicious hot dish when served with hot rolls and a salad.



Tuna Fish Hot Dish

Many thanks to our Friends of the Forum 2023 donors:

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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.

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?**

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