

# Dayton's Bluff District Forum

Volume 38, No. 2

March 2024

"The Voice of the Community"

## Gold Line BRT Construction Update

Compiled from information provided by Metro Transit  
[metrotransit.org/gold-line-project](http://metrotransit.org/gold-line-project)

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

### Construction Update – Midwinter 2024

Gold Line construction wrapped up for the 2023 construction season. Over the winter, work continues, including retaining walls, noise walls and bridges. Highlights from 2023 include:

#### East St. Paul

\* Sections of the noise wall along Hudson Road between Mounds Boulevard and Johnson Parkway were removed in spring as crews prepared the area for construction. In the fall, crews began rebuilding noise walls and will continue noise wall construction over the winter.

\* The Maple Street Pedestrian Bridge closed in 2023. Crews demolished the Maple Street Pedestrian bridge in the summer and placed new bridge beams in the fall. The pedestrian bridge is expected to reopen in summer 2024.

\* The Earl Street bridge closed in spring 2023, and in the summer crews retrofitted the existing bridge and built new retaining walls in the area. The bridge reopened last summer.

\* Hudson Road between Maria Street

and Frank Street was reconstructed, underground utilities were replaced including water main, sanitary, and storm-water sewers.

\* Crews continued construction on the new bus-only bridge near Etna Street in East St. Paul. When completed, the bridge will connect Hudson Road by carrying Gold Line buses over Etna Street, Highway 61 and Interstate I-94 ramps.

\* The Ruth Street bridge was closed last year while a new section of the bridge was constructed, and the westbound I-94 on-ramp was reconstructed to accommodate new bus-only lanes. The future Gold Line route will run underneath the bridge. The bridge reopened to traffic last fall.

### What to Expect in 2024

Construction activities continue over the winter. Expect activities throughout the project corridor to ramp up early spring 2024. Highlights of 2024 activities include:

\* In Downtown St. Paul, crews will begin work at the five platform locations in Downtown St. Paul and continue bus shelter construction at areas worked on in 2023.

\* In East St. Paul, crews will work in new areas constructing bus-only lanes, build bus-only and pedestrian bridges, replace sidewalks, and construct station platforms. The Maple Street pedestrian bridge will reopen in 2024. Expect closures at Johnson Parkway, McKnight Road and White Bear Avenue while crews construct bridges.

\* In Maplewood, crews will construct bus-only lanes and the Maplewood Station.

For updated information on the Gold Line project, questions, comments or concerns visit [metrotransit.org/gold-line-project](http://metrotransit.org/gold-line-project), email [goldline@metrotransit.org](mailto:goldline@metrotransit.org) or call 651-602-1919.

*Photos to the right provided by Greg Cosimini*



## NOTICE

Moving into the new year, the *Forum* would like all our readers to know that we do not endorse anyone in politics. Just because we are not paid for a politician's ad does not mean we support that person.

We have had two politicians within the last year decide not to pay their outstanding ad invoices. The money that is owed to the *Forum* could pay for a month's worth of printing. This is why ads and donations mean so much to us!

Moving forward, we will require all businesses and anyone wanting to take out an ad in the paper to pay for it in full before going to print.

Ads will also run as they are submitted—whether they have typos, the coloring is off, photos are stretched, etc.

## Faith City Gala to be Held May 10

*Faith City Church*

We invite you to join us for an evening of celebration as we look forward into the life of Faith City Church. Our annual Faith City Gala will be held on Friday, May 10 at 6:30 p.m. at the MN Humanities Center in Saint Paul, Minnesota and we would love for you to join us!

After five years in the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood, we have rooted ourselves in the work of not only temporary and immediate nourishment for our neighbors but sustaining and working towards generational change!

As we move into 2024, we look forward to the official launch of our Social Kitchen Fellowship — a paid fellowship with direct employment and self employment opportunities! Our final hurdle is to invest in a food truck. We would love the opportunity to tell you more about what it looks like to create sustainable change through youth culture and design a pathway for young adults to build transferable skills and generational wealth.

Please join us, May 10, for music by local artist America Y Los Sentimientos, a silent auction and a delicious dinner! Come hear more about how you might partner with Faith City Church.

Get your tickets at [eventbrite.com/e/faith-city-church-spring-gala-tickets-797990068777](http://eventbrite.com/e/faith-city-church-spring-gala-tickets-797990068777).

## Easter Events Happening in St. Paul

March 30

### Easter Egg Hunt

@Trinity City Church, 1849 Marshall Avenue, Saint Paul.

Join us for our annual Easter egg hunt! Free and open to the community. The egg hunt starts right after 10 a.m. so be on time to get in on the fun! After the hunt there will be games and activities and light refreshments. The event is held in the church and will be on rain or shine.

10 a.m.-12noon

March 30

### Giant Egg Hunt

@Kaposia Park, South St. Paul.

This event features candy, a petting zoo,

and a GIANT EGG HUNT! The Easter Bunny will be there, and the egg hunt will begin at 10 a.m. sharp. Stop by the Police tent to grab a donut! 9-10 a.m.

March 30

### Easter Egg Hunt

@Edgerton Community Gym, 1929 Edgerton Street, Maplewood.

This event features candy, a petting zoo, and a GIANT EGG HUNT! The Easter Bunny will be there, and the egg hunt will begin at 10 a.m. sharp. Stop by the Police tent to grab a donut! 9:30-10 a.m.

March 31

### Indoor Easter Egg Hunt

@RiverLife Church, St. Paul Campus, 520 Howard Street, North Saint Paul.

Massive indoor Easter egg hunt, bounce houses, balloons, candy, and crafts! More family fun than we

could squeeze into a small plastic egg. 12noon-1:30 p.m.



## Easter Events from Our Past

G.B. LeRoy

The following is from one of my great estate sale buys from The Kitchens of St. Ambrose Parishioners published in 1978. It is filled with great recipes from members of the Italian Catholic Church that was located for many years at Burr and Minnehaha in the Railroad Island neighborhood.

It's hard to pick from the various pastas, rich sauces, candies, and cookies that are available. In keeping with the holiday theme, I had originally included Christmas Beer Cake, but as long there was a rewrite, it seemed better to take a different, more-timely recipe from another St. Ambrose member. Besides, it probably wouldn't have been the same now that Hamm's Beer is gone.

Take a look to the right at the delicious Easter recipe I found.

Read about this event:

On March 22, 2006, the St. Paul Human Rights Director requested that the Easter Bunny, and other holiday decorations be removed from City Hall. He found that a secretary had decorated her desk with a cloth bunny, some Easter eggs, and a handmade sign that read "Happy Easter." He was concerned that this message would offend citizens that didn't celebrate the holiday. Opinion was divided. Some agreed that a public building shouldn't display any particular religious holiday items. Others said they couldn't see how people would be offended by something as harmless as a bunny and eggs.

The dispute was the topic of local and even national discussion. A local radio station sent a staffer dressed in a six-foot pink bunny suit holding a "Bring Back the Bunny." The story even hit the Internet and 92% of those taking a poll supported the holiday tradition.

One Council Member hung a bunny sign that said "Happy Easter" on his door. Unfortunately, it was not all fun and games. Those supporting the removal received hate mail, with complaints about their decision coming from as far away as Singapore. In a somewhat ironic action, the house of the Human Rights Director was egged.

## Recipe Easter Bread

Dorothy Peterfeso  
Compiled by G.B. LeRoy

- 2 dozen eggs
- 15 cups flour
- 4 cups sugar
- 3 tablespoons salt
- 1 ½ cups melted shortening
- 1-2 ounces bottle lemon extract
- 1 large yeast cake (dissolved in 1



cup warm water)  
Beat eggs well; add sugar and mix well. Add cooled shortening, lemon extract, and yeast mixture. Put flour in a large pan and mix in salt. Make well in center; mix in egg mixture and work and knead well until smooth, medium hard dough.

Cover and let rise until doubled or more. Form into loaves and braid. Grease pans with solid shortening. Let rise to double in size.

Bake in oven at 275 degrees for 1/2 hour and 300F degrees for 1/2 hour.



Greg Cosimini

The Evie Community Carshare station on Conway St. near the Dayton's Bluff Rec Center has become very popular for both using the Evie cars and charging private vehicles. Recently four Evie electric cars were seen at the station. For more information visit: [eviecarshare.com/](http://eviecarshare.com/).

## Friends of Swede Hollow

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

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

In the spirit of the area's past, we serve Hamm's beer along with other beverages and snacks. The meeting is **March 12** and starts at **6:30 p.m.** and is an excellent resource for park updates and events.

For more updates email [taylor672@comcast.net](mailto:taylor672@comcast.net) or call Michel at 651-442-3366.

## Dayton's Bluff District Forum Board Meeting

The *Forum* is seeking writers and help with online content, idea generation, and ad sales — join us at our next meeting on **Friday, March 1 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.

## Need Groceries?

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

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

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

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

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

care options.

Visit [Metroaging.org/volunteer](http://Metroaging.org/volunteer) to learn more.

## Police Community Meetings

The Eastern District Saint Paul Police hosts their monthly meetings for community members at the Eastern District Police Office at 722 Payne Avenue, on the corner of Payne and Minnehaha Avenues.

The meetings are intended as a time to learn, listen, and address people's concerns about crime and other issues on the East Side. Policing meetings are held at **9 a.m. and 6 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 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 was recently launched as an alternative to call-

ing 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 11 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 are on the schedule. 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](http://smrls.org) to see if you qualify for free legal assistance with: family law, government benefits, housing, education, seniors, and more. You can also call if you're behind

on your bills, having problems with credit or creditors, or have other civil legal issues, etc. If an interpreter is needed, SMRLS will provide one.

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

Visit [moundstheatre.org](http://moundstheatre.org) to purchase tickets and get more information on



upcoming events.

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

## Chess Club

Come join us at Karibu Grocery and Deli, located at 719 Payne Ave. in St. Paul for a weekly game of chess. All levels are welcome. We play every **Wednesday from 6-9 p.m.**



## Community Garden Plots Available

Skidmore Park Community Garden has 24 raised bed plots that are available to the public. Located near Earl Street and 4<sup>th</sup> Street E. 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).

## Saint Paul Public Library Invites Residents to Join the Read Brave Citywide Book Club

Saint Paul Public Library (SPPL) launched Read Brave 2024, its annual citywide book club that invites teens, their families, and community members to read the same young adult book and have brave conversations about issues important to the city. This year's theme is "Celebrating Identities," and the book selection is *Man o' War* by Cory McCarthy.

"This year's Read Brave theme puts our vision for a city that works for everyone into action," said Mayor Carter. "I am excited to be 'Celebrating Identities,' as we emphasize our city's commitment to inclusivity and provide a platform for meaningful dialogue around our values of diversity and understanding."



### About the book:

A recipient of a 2023 Stonewall Book Award Honor, *Man o' War* follows the story of River McIntyre, an Irish Lebanese American trans teen on a journey of self-discovery amid the confines of a small Midwestern town. A high school student and competitive swimmer who works at the local aquarium, River seems to find more in common with the captive sharks and isolated man o' wars at SeaPlanet than with peers at school. After an unexpected run in with an old classmate, Indy, a self-assured non-binary teenager, River begins to ask questions about their own identity and dives headfirst into uncovering who they really are.

This deeply intimate and emotional young adult novel explores the layers and complexities of coming out and transitioning, grappling with dysphoria, internalized transphobia and racism, bias, and rejection, and acceptance, self-love, true love, and joy. Told over the span of several years, *Man o' War* is as much an honest coming-of-age story as it is a love story that balances the heartache and pain that comes with learning to love all aspects of yourself and the joy that comes from being free to be who you

truly are. "Read Brave is meant to encourage readers to discover books that spark intergenerational dialogue and build empathy around an issue important to our Saint Paul community," said SPPL Director Maureen Hartman. "This year's book invites residents to dig into the complexities of who we are, how we relate each other, and what it means to create a city where all identities belong."

### Get a copy of the book:

Residents can get their own copy of *Man o' War* to keep by stopping by any SPPL location during open hours while supplies last. Print copies, e-books, and audiobooks are also available for check out. A limited supply of book club kits to keep are also available at all library locations. Participating book clubs can sign up for a chance to host Mayor Carter at their book club discussion of *Man o' War*.

SPPL will also drop books around town at grocery stores, barber shops, parks and other community gathering places. One of these copies will include a "golden ticket" inside, which can be redeemed

for a free e-reader.

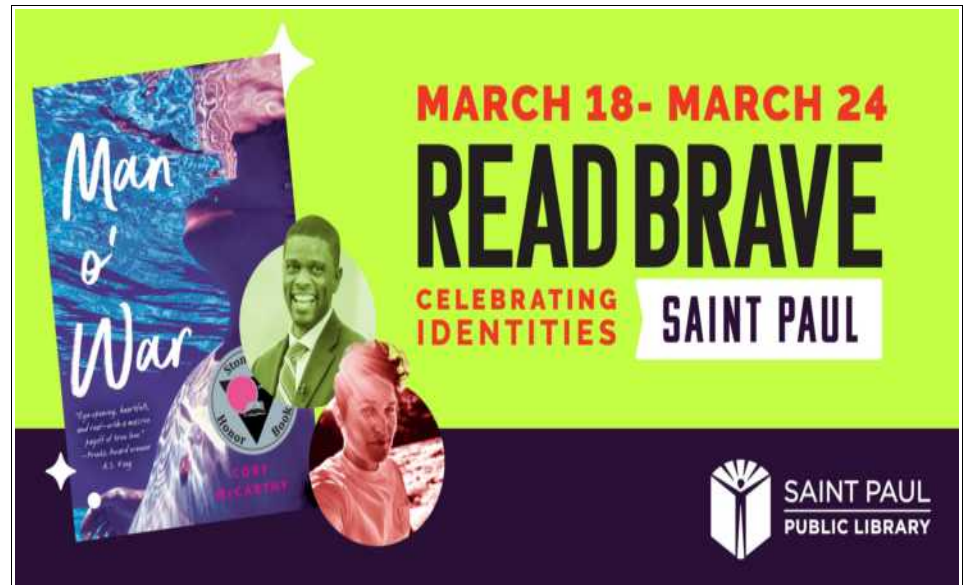
### Book-based events:

Expanding on the books, SPPL will host free events that are open to the public March 18-24, throughout libraries in Saint Paul. Events include "Read Brave, Talk Brave," a panel discussion with Mayor Carter and author Cory McCarthy on March 21, 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Arlington Hills Library; a traveling art exhibit on the theme of identities by InProgress; a community volunteer event; and a storytime with Mayor Carter. McCarthy will also visit select Saint Paul Public School classrooms. More information can be found online.

"Join us for an event, read this book in your book club, or connect with your neighbors to celebrate who we are and the beauty in likeness and difference," Hartman said.

Read Brave 2024 is brought to you by the Saint Paul Public Library, The Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library, and the City of Saint Paul. This program is funded with money from Minnesota's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund, with special support from a Saint Paul Public School Community Partnership ARP Grant.

*Photos to the right provided by SPPL.*



## Language Services Coming to 8500 Phone Line and Maplewood Mall Service Center

Ramsey County

To better serve the needs of our non-English speaking residents, Ramsey County will begin a phased-rollout of language-specific staff support through the Ramsey County Call Center 651-266-8500 and the Maplewood Mall Service Center.

Starting in February, Spanish and Hmong staff support will be available through the Ramsey County Call Center.

Instructions: Dial number (651-266-8500), follow audio directions to select language option, and select desired service extension. If Spanish or Hmong option is requested and staffing permits, staff will respond in the resident's preferred language.

For additional information please contact Melinda Donaway, Manager - Enterprise Services.

## Recipe

### German Potato Salad

Sage Holben

To be the *best*, vinegar and sugar measurements *must* be exact!

- 1 pound bacon
- ½ cup bacon drippings
- 2 teaspoons salt
- Chopped onion to taste
- ¼ teaspoons black pepper
- ½ cup white vinegar (do NOT use cider vinegar)
- ½ cup sugar



- 3 tablespoons flour
- 1 cup water

Cut bacon into small pieces and brown. Toward end of browning, add onions and cook until golden. Remove onion and bacon from drippings. Save drippings.

Blend together in a small pan, the flour, salt, pepper, and sugar. Add drippings to make a paste. Add the water and vinegar; stir and bring to a boil, boil over low heat until the desired thickness, stirring constantly.

Combine sauce with bacon and onion. Generously mix and coat 2-5 pounds of boiled, cut up potatoes. Amount of potatoes depends on how saucy you like the potatoes.

**Join us!**  
for Easter Breakfast  
9:00am and  
Easter Worship  
10:30am ~ March 31  
(and every Sunday at 10:30am)  
1049 Euclid St.  
St Paul 55106

Sunday services also live-streamed at: moundsparkumc.org

- Lent Midweek Worship**  
Wed. ~ 12 noon
- Palm Sunday**  
(w/skit and special music)  
March 24 ~ 10:30am
- Good Friday**  
(Tenebrae)  
March 29 ~ 7:00pm
- Easter**  
March 31 ~ 10:30am
- Adult Sunday School**  
9:15am
- Children's Sunday School**  
11:00am

**Mounds Park United Methodist Church**  
Sharing the love of Christ with our community • moundsparkumc.org

# View from My Porch City of Saint Paul Passive Agressive-Driven Policies

Sage Holben

A neighbor, local resident, or passer-by calls in or emails DSI/General number 651-266- 8989 to report code non-compliance, i.e. broken windows, grass becoming weeds, unshoveled public sidewalk, or garbage piled in heaps against an outside house wall and/or overflowing garbage or recycling bins.



Many residents seem to not read the many notices of "how-to" recycle, what to recycle, when to place recycling and/or garbage bins to the curb, and spacing of bins. Worst yet, are those residents with inadequate quantity or size of bins for the apartment units. Garbage and recycling are the topics I will rant about in this issue. Specifically, garbage in residential areas and how the City of Saint Paul

avoids solving a problem.

When I moved to Saint Paul just over 20 years ago I was instructed that when on my political or community-related door knockings, and noted a weedy yard, unmanaged garbage and litter, apparently abandoned cars, tires, etc. visible on property, etc. to fill out a form and leave it in the door of the property. Knocking on the door and actually talking with the resident wasn't encouraged. I can see now why the



"Next Door" media thread is rife with alarmist comments of "OMG, someone rang my doorbell at 4:30 p.m. yesterday! Whatever could they have wanted? I didn't answer the door — they could have robbed me!!" I realized a large number of residents were more threatened in facing everyday life than I ever could imagine; and apparently, quite a few of these people set the policies of DSI (Department of Safety and Inspections).

Not to say it is the best in all situations, but my practice was to consider the offending issue (noise, free-range garbage, tires, etc.), asking myself: am I just in a sucky mood, is safety or health an issue, quality of life for those who live nearby? Depending on the answer I'll decide to wait a day or two or go to the door and ask if they need help (i.e. weeds or snow), or just a "hi, great music you're playing, but I can hear it in my place, windows closed; would you mind turning it down

just a bit?" When I approach a very loud group of people on the street at 11:30 p.m. I will often offer a bag of cookies with my ask. No problem.

Okay, there is always the possibility these days that whoever answers the door may be one of the "OMG" people holding a gun. This and the time it takes for a one on one chat apparently discourages DSI in their process of teaching residents about rats and mice being drawn to garbage in heaped against the outside walls of a Fifth Street East house or the trailer usually with a tire or two parked in the front yard



next house up; or the mattresses, garbage, and miscellaneous items in the drives of two Maria and Fifth Street East residences. Many area neighbors have noted how embarrassing it is to have visitors drive through this area with garbage strewn across the sidewalks and street as well as the yards. Yes, litter blows around from other sources, and people from the 'nicer' areas dump their Wendy's take-out trash on our streets, males seem to visualize the retaining walls and shrubbery as the local urinal, no matter if there are no walls. Demoralizing? YES. Remember the broken window theory? We are living in it.

The public's reporting process of DSI code enforcement is as follows:

Note the accurate street address (including a cross-street helps); state the issue/problem; call DSI: 651-266-8989 OR email DSIComplaints@ci.stpaul.mn.us. You can (in theory) remain anonymous. In the case of the above problems, staff have indicated to me that on receiving the complaint a DSI inspector will, within a few days go out and inspect the situation, taking photos of what they find. A letter of abatement is then sent out letting the recipient know how to correct the situation. The recipient is given an amount of time to correct or a fine may be assessed; the recipient has a certain amount of time to appeal.

In the meantime, the garbage usually re-



mains, with the mattresses and whatever else vermin like to eat or nest in. I questioned DSI reps about having an actual conversation with residents/owners/property managers. It was indicated to me that DSI does not seek out conversations; only if someone approaches the DSI person out inspecting or taking photos. This lack of effective communication could be a reason the cycle continues — well over two years of the same problem on an endless loop.



@Dayton's Bluff District Forum

## Absentee Voting Open for Presidential Primary

Ramsey County

Ramsey County voters may choose to vote early by using an absentee ballot in advance of the presidential primary on Tuesday, March 5. Residents can cast their ballot in person or vote by mail from Jan. 19 to March 4.

In-person voting is available at three locations:

**Ramsey County Elections** Plato Building: Through Mar. 1 Weekdays: 8 a.m -4:30 p.m. Saturday, Mar. 2: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Monday, March 4 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

**Ramsey County Library-Roseville and Ramsey County Library-Shoreview:**

Through Mar. 1  
Weekdays: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Saturday, Mar. 2: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.  
Monday, Mar. 4: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

To vote by mail, voters can submit an online presidential primary application or a paper president primary absentee ballot application (PDF).

### Selecting a ballot

Only presidential candidates from a major party will appear on the presidential primary ballot. A voter must request the ballot of the party of their choice. If a voter refuses to select a party, they will not be able to vote in the presidential primary. A voter's choice of party ballot will be recorded and is private data. However, a list of who voted in a presidential primary and the political party each voter selected will be provided to the chair of each major political party. How a voter voted on the ballot will be secret.

Additional early voting locations will be available through March 4.

View additional information at: [ramseycounty.us/residents/elections-voting/voters/vote-election-day](https://ramseycounty.us/residents/elections-voting/voters/vote-election-day).

### 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, 2024.**

## The Historic Women of Dayton's Bluff

Steve Trimble

March has been designated Women's History Month for some time now. I have mixed feelings about having separate times to celebrate part of our heritage. I prefer to see women's history integrated in our celebrations, talks, and texts throughout the year. However, it did seem a good opportunity to remember a few of the women who have contributed to our neighborhood's development.

So whom do you write about? Traditionally, early pioneers are popular choices. One of our female pioneers was Maria Bates Dayton. She and husband Lyman arrived from the East in 1849. Maria is first mentioned taking care of ill people on the arriving steamship. The Daytons built their "suburban residence" above today's Mounds Boulevard between Conway and Third in 1854.

Maria was a major figure in the fledgling First Baptist Church. Lyman died in the early 1860s and Maria soon married their gardener, a man around two decades younger. They moved to Dayton, Minnesota and Maria lived at least into her late eighties. Remember her the next time you walk down Maria or Bates Avenues.

Another early resident was Louisa Hamm, a German immigrant, who arrived in Minnesota with her husband Theodore in the 1850s. If she had not kept him from leaving for the California gold fields, a St. Paul institution may never have existed. In 1865 Theodore bought a small brewery along Phalen Creek and over the years produced the nationally known Hamm's Beer. Initially, while her husband made the beer, Louisa ran the boarding house, cooking, and cleaning, where many of the brewery workers lived.

One difficulty is finding historic documents that describe the lives and contributions of women. But our

neighborhood remembers Martha Willius Clausen. In the 1870s and 1880s, the Willius family lived in a house on the bluff where Metropolitan State University now stands. "Those were the days when we had horses," she said. "The barns were for the horses, a pair for carriage use...and a pony which I could use."

"We had a cow and plenty of good milk, and chickens so we always had fresh eggs." Her friends, almost all of German heritage, used to gather at various homes on Saturdays to sew and crochet while their mothers read to them. They were known as W. O. R. B., which stood for "wreath of rose buds."

In the early years, women's history looked for "important" females. Sometimes called "women worthies," they were prominent in a male dominated world. A good example would be Mrs. Bergemeir, who lived with her husband on Fountain Place. He was publisher of the *Volkszeitung*, an important German language newspaper. When he died, she took over and successfully published the paper for another two decades.

Recent writers feel that more attention should be given to "woman-defined" history — not looking for women who made it in business or politics but measuring success within the restricted realm left open to them. These jobs often reflected the domestic life that revolved around family, cooking, and caring for the sick.

Ebba Kirschbaum, a midwife who delivered hundreds of babies, lived for a time on Euclid just off Maria. Ilma Scheffer, who grew up in our area, ran the well-known Cafe Ilma in downtown St. Paul across from the Lowry Medical Arts Building.

Some women ran specialty shops on East 7th Street, selling women's clothing or hats. Most piano teachers were women, including Meta Seibold of East 6th Street, who even wrote a book called *Happy Songs for Happy Children*. Nursing was a common profession with training received at St. John's and Mounds Park Hospitals.

Educating children was the almost exclusive preserve of women. One of the most revered local educators was Miss Laura Hand, who taught and was principal at Van

Buren School (today's Dayton's Bluff Elementary) from 1893 until 1927. She introduced many innovative programs. After her death, friends and former students collected money and established a St. Paul library branch in the school basement named after her. Maybe we should make sure there is a photograph of her in the new Dayton's Bluff Public Library.

It is harder to find information on the everyday life of less prominent women, since few of them left information for historical archives. But a few years ago, a man told the story of one such woman. It was his grandmother, Emma Dieter, who in 1911 at the age of 56, was called upon to raise him after his mother died. She lived in a large but not luxurious home at 331 Maple Street.

"I can still see her on her hands and knees scrubbing the oak floors in the large kitchen, the two pantries and the hall," he wrote. "She did the laundry in the cellar, literally by hand in those early days.... Long after I was in bed, I remember her singing gospel hymns while running her Singer treadle sewing machine."

Though not wealthy or well educated, she successfully ran the home. "Her will was strong and she drove herself to accomplish what she had set out to do, often to the point of exhaustion," her grandson remembered. "The daily routine of housekeeping and rearing children probably prevented her from being a crusader in causes she believed in," he thought. "In family gatherings however, she was outspoken and uncompromising in her views on woman's suffrage and prohibition."

Women's history does not end in the 1920s, of course, but I get only so much space. There are many other women whose stories should be told. You may know some of them. I hope you will send them in. Maybe your mother or grandmother wrote a diary or letters that reveal interesting history. Photos would be great. And there is a whole generation of young women who will someday look back and remember that they got their start in Dayton's Bluff. It could be my daughter or one of yours.

## Happening at Area Rec Centers

### Creative Art and Play

March 1 through 29  
@Battle Creek Rec Center  
Parent led free time for tots in the Battle Creek Gym. Various toys and equipment provided. Join us for some messy art and fun. (Must be with child to participate)  
Free  
Ages 1-5  
10 a.m.-noon

### Friendship Bracelets with Sawyer

March 2  
@Battle Creek Rec Center  
Come create a beautiful unique and cool friendship bracelet.  
Fee: \$5  
Ages 6-17  
10 a.m.-noon

### Martial Arts

March 2 through 30  
@Battle Creek Rec Center  
Students will learn about Martial Mobility, which stems from foundational martial arts movements/structure for discipline and exercises for all ages.  
Fee: \$30 for residents; \$45 for non-residents  
Ages 7-18  
9:30-11:30 a.m.

### Preschool Camp

March 5 through 26  
@Battle Creek Rec Center  
Camp will consist of educational activities, arts and crafts, science projects, gym, and sensory play. Snack will be provided.  
Fee: \$10 or residents; \$15 for non-resi-

dents  
Ages 3-5  
10 a.m.-noon

### Family Bingo

March 5, 12, 19, 26  
@Duluth and Case Rec Center  
Families will have fun playing Bingo games and have a chance to win some prizes and treats.  
Free  
7-8 p.m.

### Glow in the Dark Rock Painting

March 7  
@Dayton's Bluff Rec Center  
Come and create really unique glow in the dark rocks!!  
Free  
Ages 6-12  
6-7 p.m.

### Portrait Drawing

March 16  
@Battle Creek Rec Center  
Learn the basics of portrait drawing.  
Free  
Ages 8-14  
6:30-7:45 p.m.

### Scrapbooking 101

March 21 through 28  
@Battle Creek Rec Center  
Scrapbooking is a fun and creative crafting activity to document precious memories, keep souvenirs and mementos, and channel your inner artist. Even in our fast-paced digital world, creating your own personalized scrapbook album remains a popular way of preserving memories. Come join us and learn how to start scrapbooking.  
Fee: \$5  
Ages 11-17  
5:30-7 p.m.



## Dayton's Bluff District Forum

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We are currently printing and distributing our newspaper quarterly. The paper is always 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 2024. **Deadline for material: March 10, 2024.**

## East Side Eating Trimble's Taste Trek

Forum contributor Steve Trimble has set out to eat at every locally-owned, sit-down restaurant on the East Side. He hopes to get the word out to Dayton's Bluff about the eating options here on our side of town.

There are more restaurants than there is room for in the monthly paper, but at least 60 may now be found online at [daytonsbluffdistrictforum.org](http://daytonsbluffdistrictforum.org): click on "East Side Eating" at the top of the home page. Steve Trimble can be reached at [daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com](mailto:daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com).

### TAG Cafe

1440 Arcade Street, Suite D  
St. Paul, MN 55106  
Phone: 651-231-2993

Hours:  
Monday 7 a.m.-8 p.m.  
Tuesday Closed  
Wednesday through Saturday 7 a.m.-8 p.m.  
Sunday 9 a.m.-6 p.m.

Facebook: [facebook.com/TAGbyPlayful](https://facebook.com/TAGbyPlayful)

The owners of TAG Café are a Hmong couple — Tong Xiong and his wife Gao Her Xiong. They and their parents grew up and still live on the East Side. The place has been open a few months, less than a year. I had gone to look over it a while back when they had only coffee and Boba and a small selection of cookies and some baked items.

It's not a large site, but it is well-developed, clean, and well-lit. There are two areas that are partitioned and have tables and chairs. Other spaces have small tables for two. When I visited there were soft piano tunes in the air. There were some decorations on the walls. You need to place your order at the order area where you pay and they will bring your food to your spot.

There are a large number of coffee offerings. Here are a few of them: plain and iced coffee, Latte (hot/iced) and Mocha London Fog, Hot Raspberry White and Hot Chocolate. In addition, there are several single flavors like Vanilla, caramel and Chai tea. There are milk substitutes of

Oat milk or Almond milk. Another big offering is Boba & Milk tea. Fruit Tea offers Strawberry, Blueberry, Mango Passion-fruit, and peach. You might have Cookies N' Cream, Smores, Boba, or Smores Boba.

The new offerings that I mentioned earlier are listed under "Playful Eats." One of the subjects was TAG Club Sandwich with sliced turkey, bacon, pepper jack cheese, mixed greens, and sundried tomatoes. The second one has similar ingredients to the TAG Club except it uses a flour tortilla. Finally, a Chicken Croissant has the same ingredients but uses a butter croissant. If you want to have an early meal, you might want to get a TAG Breakfast including sausage, egg, and cheese on an English muffin. There are three other drinks featuring lemonade, frozen lemonade, or simple milk.

It might be a little difficult to pinpoint the café. It is listed as 1440 Arcade, but the building has several businesses. TAG Café is at the southeast corner of Arcade and East Wheelock Parkway. There is an off street parking lot that has plenty of room all the time. TAG also has Wifi.

*Photos below taken by Steve Trimble.*



## Many thanks to our Friends of the *Forum* 2024 donors:

Stephanie Harr

Sarah Ryan

## Donations made in 2022 through Give MN that deserve recognition:

Jean Comstock

Jeanelle Foster

Andrew Barbeau

## 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 2024. Our goal for 2024 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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