

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

Volume 31, No. 3
April 2018
daytonsbuffdistrictforum.org

"The Voice of the Community"



Jennifer Gascoigne

689 Conway Street will be a featured property on this year's Minneapolis & St. Paul Home Tour. The nonprofit organization Historic Saint Paul has done an excellent job of bringing back the former beauty of this Victorian home, built in 1888. This home is for sale and could be yours. This one is a must-see!

The Minneapolis & St. Paul Home Tour is just around the corner!

*Karin DuPaul
Forum Staff*

The annual Minneapolis and Saint Paul Home Tour will be held on **Saturday, April 28, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Sunday, April 29, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

Dayton's Bluff homes on the tour this year represent a wide variety of type, age, and style: 216 Bates Avenue was on the Dayton's Bluff Vacant Home Tour last year and is in the process of turning into an amazing home. 689 Conway Street is a brilliant example of the neighborhood's unbeatable Victorian architecture that has been refurbished – Victorian high ceilings and many other original features remain intact! The stunning home at 737 East 5th Street has undergone extensive

interior remodeling and renovation by its owner, and 1115 McLean Avenue is brand new. 995 Beech Street has a wonderful cheerful feel as you walk through the home. 1125 Burns Avenue has gorgeous old world features and a gourmet kitchen. 179 Urban Place is an incredible tiny house with a wonderful garden area and yard. 170 Maria Avenue will be on the tour again – originally home of one of the Hamm Brewing families and now home to Northwestern Alano.

Many people from all over the Metro area come to see the beautiful homes the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood has to offer each year. Some tour visitors like it so well that they have moved to Dayton's Bluff.

Volunteers and neighborhood ambassadors are still needed to help with the tour. On Sunday evening, when the tour has ended, an "After the Home Tour Supper Party" will be held for the families whose homes are on the tour and all volunteers and neighborhood ambassadors. To get involved, email karindupaul@comcast.net or call 651-776-0550.

Call for artists: Be a part of Art in the Hollow

*Benjamin Mason
Special to the Forum*

Planning for the 9th annual Art in the Hollow festival is ramping up and now is a great time for East Side residents to get involved and set plans to attend on **Saturday, June 2**. Swede Hollow Park will welcome summer with art, music, poetry, and community. Since its beginnings, the festival has run on the enthusiasm and vision of neighbors volunteering their time, setting up shop or choosing to support local artists.

Art in the Hollow is uniquely accessible to new artists and East Side residents. In addition to being the only art festival exclusive to the East Side, there are no submission fees, no juried entry, and space is available for a mere \$15 fee. Artists provide their own tables, chairs, tents, etc. Artists of every kind are welcome to participate, and visitors can expect to see paintings, sculpture, pottery, screen printing, soaps, foods, millinery, and a vast number of other specialty items for sale. Art in the Hollow is a good place to find neighbors selling craft work or photos alongside professionals who enjoy exhibiting in the unique environment of Swede Hollow Park.

This year's festival will commence with live music, and performances will continue throughout the

day. The main stage will feature a broad array of music and theater situated on the Swede Hollow Henge knoll in the heart of the park. For the second year, the festivities will extend all the way to the East 7th Street Improvement Aches, where poetry and music will be hosted by the TAP and anchor the southern entrance.

Visitors who tour the park during the festival will also notice sculptures peculiarly embedded along the trail. Local sculptors are welcome to feature their work by entering the sculpture competition (for a \$15 entry fee), compete for fair-goer votes and to win a cash prize of up to \$300. Some of the past year's winners have demonstrated that art and nature can be in perfect union in Swede Hollow Park.

Art in the Hollow's success is built upon volunteers who help staff the festival and numerous community partners who take part in sponsoring the event. Schools have been integral from the festival's beginnings, selling student art and performing on stage. Volunteers work to build the festival in the morning and pack it up after the final act plays at night.

Getting involved in Art in the Hollow is a great way to be part of a fantastic community event. Space is still available for numerous artists, sculptors and performers to feature their artistry, and a need for volunteers to make it all happen. More information, including submission and sign-up forms are available on the website www.artinthehollow.org, contact karindupaul@comcast.net, or call 651-776-0550.

SAVE THE DATE: 32nd Annual City-Wide Cleanup!

Saturday, April 21, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Pick up collection bags at Swede Hollow Park (at Margaret and Greenbrier Streets). Join your neighbors to welcome Spring as we gather across St. Paul to clean up trash that has become exposed due to the melting snow.

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Community Council
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Dayton's Bluff Take-a-Hike

On the second Saturday of most months, the Dayton's Bluff Take-a-Hike will begin at Indian Mounds Park, located at Earl Street and Mounds Boulevard, at **10:30 a.m.** The next hike will be on **Saturday, April 14.** The hike is approximately one and a half to two hours long and will end at Swede Hollow Park or East Side Heritage Park, depending on the desire of the hikers. Share and learn a little history along the way! Email karindupaul@comcast.net or call 651-776-0550 for more information.

Friends of Swede Hollow

Watch over, restore, and celebrate the history of Swede Hollow Park. Join the Swede Hollow community at their monthly meeting on **Thursday, April 12, at 6:30 p.m.** Please note that meetings are now on Thursdays. Email karin@swedehollow.org or call 651-776-0550 for more information and the meeting's location.

Dayton's Bluff District Forum Board Meeting

The *Forum* is seeking help with writing, online content, idea generation, and ad sales – join us at our next meeting on **Wednesday, April 4, at 1:00 p.m.**, at Swede Hollow Cafe at 725 E. 7th Street. Call 651-776-0550 or email daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com for more information.

Police Community Meetings

The Eastern District Saint Paul Police will host 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 next meetings are on **Wednesday, April 18, at 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.** Meetings are intended as a time to listen to and address concerns about crime and other issues on the East Side.

SNAP Food Program at CLUES (Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio)

¿Necesita más comida saludable para la familia? El programa SNAP le puede ayudar. SNAP proporciona fondos para alimentos que benefician a familias de escasos recursos.

Aún si no es ciudadano, si tiene hijos nacidos en este país ellos podrían calificar. Participar en el programa SNAP no afectará su estatus migratorio.

¡Llame a CLUES para saber si califica! 612-746-3500. Nuestro personal bilingüe puede facilitar el proceso para usted y su familia.

Need healthy food for your family? The SNAP program provides funds for low-income families to buy food. Even if you are not a citizen, your children born in this country could qualify. Participation in the SNAP program won't affect their immigration status.

Call CLUES to find out if you qualify at 612-746-3500. Our bilingual staff can facilitate the process for your family.

Twin Cities Mobile Market

The Twin Cities Mobile Market is a grocery store on wheels that brings affordable, healthy food directly into under-resourced neighborhoods. The Mobile Market stops at Parkway Gardens Apartments, located at 1145 Hudson Road, on **Wednesdays, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**



Saturday, April 7: Pasties for Pitties is a fundraiser burlesque show presented by My Bit Pull is Family. All proceeds will go to keeping families and their canine companions together and licking discrimination for families faced with housing and insurance discrimination. The night will be filled with entertainment from the moment you walk through the door. Dress your best and take photos in our photo booth, bid on items in our silent auction, partake in beverages sold at the theatre bar, and enjoy the show. This event is for ages 18+. **Doors open at 7 p.m. Show starts at 8 p.m.** Tickets: \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. VIP Table Seats: \$25 in advance, \$30 a the door. Includes some top secret goodies and you're practically on stage.

Fridays and Saturdays, April 13, 14, 20, and 21, Sunday April 15: The Germans is a comedy by Marino and Elizabeth Eccher presented by Desperate for Approval. The merger is today. The boss might be dead. And the Germans are coming. Scion of industry J.P. Vandermeier is on the eve of the sale of a lifetime — until a bad mix of cocktails and medication puts him under. His self-obsessed top salesman, dedicated assistant and delusional intern scramble to take his place (and his name) to close the deal, all while his chief rivals look to undermine the company and his German investors try to make sense of it all. This production includes adult language, some suggestive humor, drug use and slapstick violence. Parental discretion is advised. **Show times: 7:30 p.m. except April 15 at 4 p.m.** Tickets: \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. VIP Seats: reserved front-row seating, a drink or concession item of your choice and table-side drink and concession service before the show and during intermission. \$35 each for a pair, or \$130 for 4 in a single purchase.

Visit moundstheatre.org for information on upcoming events as it becomes available. The Historic Mounds Theatre is located at 1029 Hudson Road, St. Paul, MN 55106; 651-772-2253; historicmoundstheatre@gmail.com.

April at the Dayton's Bluff Library

The following events will be held at the Dayton's Bluff library, 645 East Seventh Street, Saint Paul:

On **Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays**, in April, from **4:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.**, Dayton's Bluff Library will offer *Snack in the Zone*, along with *Homework Help in the Zone* from **4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

Saturdays, April 7, 17, 21, and 28, from noon to 2:00 p.m., *Maker Space in the FunZONE!* Play computer games like Minecraft, and enjoy other hand-on fun in the Zone.

Wednesday, April 4, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., join the Dayton's Bluff Book Club as they discuss their recent read, *Meridian*, by Alice Walker.

Tuesday, April 10, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., *Teens Know Best!* Teens have exclusive access to books before they are published. This group meets on the second Tuesday of every month to share opinions and pizza. *Teens Know Best* members are expected to write reviews of the books they read. The reviews are submitted directly to the publishers to help guide their decisions. New members can register at the meeting. Call 651-632-3873 for more information.

Check out board games at the library! Library visitors can play the games in the library or check them out for two weeks. The full list of games can be viewed at <http://bit.ly/MetroGames> and all are available to the public.

Saint Paul Public Libraries will be closed on **Sunday, April 1**, for the Easter holiday. Happy Spring!

For information about these and other events check spl.org or call 651-793-1699. The Dayton's Bluff Library shares its home with Metropolitan State University at 645 East 7th Street.

April at the East Side Freedom Library

Equal Means Equal: Screening and discussion, **Monday, April 16, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**

Equal Means Equal offers an unflinching look at how women are treated in the United States today. Examining both real-life stories and precedent-setting legal cases, director Kamala Lopez uncovers how outdated and discriminatory attitudes inform and influence seemingly disparate issues, from workplace harassment to domestic violence, rape, and sexual assault, to the foster care system, the health care conglomerate, and the judicial system. Along the way she reveals the inadequacy of present laws that claim to protect women, ultimately presenting a compelling and persuasive argument for the urgency of ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA).

Heather Allison, President of ERA Minnesota, will lead the post-film discussion.

St. Paul Art Crawl, **Friday, April 27, from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.**, **Saturday, April 28, from noon to 8:00 p.m.**, and **Sunday, April 29, from noon to 5:00 p.m.**

ESFL is one of six East Side sites of more than 35 St. Paul sites for this spring's Art Crawl. ESFL will host six separate artists' displays, including the Karen weavers, who will be demonstrating their work as well as selling cloth and clothing. On Friday evening, there will be live music provided by the Langer's Ball. There will also be artistic games to play, featuring Keith Christensen's "Game Turn," a board game about the 1934 Minneapolis Teamsters' Strike.

Are you interested in collaborating with the ESFL on events, media, and community engagement? Please join us by participating and taking leadership in any of the following projects: Event promotion and evaluation, media and communications, and community engagement.

For more information, please attend our collaboration sessions. Meetings are held on the first and third Mondays of every month. In these meetings, we will

discuss upcoming events, the library's mission and goals, and explore your own ideas about community programming.

All events listed here take place at the East Side Freedom Library, are free, and open to all. The East Side Freedom Library is located at 1150 Greenbrier Street. Call 651-230-3294, email info@eastsidefreedomlibrary.org, or visit eastsidefreedomlibrary.org for details on these and other upcoming events as they become available.

Business Classes

The Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Microentrepreneur Class helps start-up and young businesses on the East Side. Classes last eight weeks and include operations management, marketing, financial management, one-on-one assistance with creating and preparing a business plan, plus eight hours of one-on-one time with the instructor.

Those who successfully complete the course and locate their businesses in target neighborhoods are eligible for ongoing business support services.

The course is sponsored by the Dayton's Bluff Community Council and the Neighborhood Development Center. There is a small registration fee based on a sliding scale. Class size is limited. Call Emma Spillman at 651-379-8432.

Let your voice be heard!

Contact WEQY 104.7 FM, St. Paul East Side's community reporter Cearah Hamilton of The Eastside Vibe if you have valuable resources you want to get out to the community, would like her to cover your event, or interview your organization! Cearah Hamilton can be reached at cearah@weqy.org.

Wish List Care Packages

Did you know that you can help East Side Elders distribute food, hygiene items, and more to seniors on the East Side by shopping our Amazon Wish List? Visit www.amazon.com/registry/wishlist/3KK001OGFO5NJ.

You can have these much-needed items sent right to our office. From there, our team of volunteers will distribute them to seniors in need. Help us make a bigger impact and shop our wish list today!

Our wish list also includes supplies for the Elder Cafe, items for our Fun and Games events, and office supplies. Thank you for your support!

The Smilin' Cowboys

Thursday, April 12, long-standing Twin Cities party band *The Smilin' Cowboys*, will perform at the Minnesota Music Café, located at 500 Payne Avenue. **Music begins at 8:00 p.m.** This evening's performance will benefit the 2018 Art in the Hollow, an art festival held in Swede Hollow Park on June 2.

Local legend Bill Patten will open up the show. The Smilin' Cowboys will go on directly after.

The Smilin' Cowboys will perform on the second Thursday of each month at the Minnesota Music Café.

Mounds Park United Methodist Church

1049 Euclid Street (corner of Earl and Euclid); 651-774-8736

Mounds Park United Methodist on Facebook

Mounds Park United Methodist Church is a multicultural, intergenerational neighborhood congregation located at 1049 Euclid Street in Dayton's Bluff. Sunday worship begins at **10:30 a.m.**

April: After school programming for area youth, sponsored by the McVay Youth Partnership of Hamline University, is an after school program for community youth grades 5-12, held at Mounds Park UMC on **Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.** Students participate in environmental classes, Girl Scouts, field trips, and receive homework help and support in learning English. Contact Jane Krentz 612-581-6978 for more information.

Sundays: Multi-Generational Sunday School Class. Class meets every **Sunday at 9:15 a.m.** in the lounge of the church. This class follows an adult curriculum and has a participant age range of 80 years! Youth start in worship at 10:30 a.m. Following kid's time, children aged 0-4 years go to the staffed nursery, grades K-5 go to the upstairs Sunday School room, and children grades 6-12 go downstairs for classes. Breakfast is served during Sunday School. The nursery is staffed for those children aged 0-4 years who do not want to start in worship. Please call the church with any questions.

Saturday, March 31, 2:00 p.m: Community Easter Egg Hunt at Indian Mounds Regional Park. ALL ARE WELCOME! Come hunt for eggs and take part in other fun Easter activities.

Sunday, April 1, 10:30 a.m.: Easter Worship. Join as we celebrate Jesus' resurrection! Following Family Friendship Worship, all are invited to continue the celebration downstairs with Easter treats and conversation.

Need help with a project? Urban CROSS will have teams ready to help local residents and non-profits with projects such as indoor and outdoor painting, yard work, gardening landscaping, simple construction, and clean up. You may submit your request by calling the church of office at 651-774-8736. **Project submission deadline is May 15, 2018.**

Cerenity Marian receives St. Paul Neighborhood Honor Roll recognition

Anne Kolar
Cerenity Marian

Every year, the St. Paul City Council calls for nominations for their neighborhood honor roll.

Local district councils nominate individuals and organizations in their districts that have made a positive impact on the broader community.

Cerenity Marian was honored to receive this award for District 4 at the St. Paul Honor Roll Celebration on January 26, 2018.

The following text was read as the award was presented: "Cerenity Marian has been supporting the community through intergenerational neighborhood activities for more than a decade. Their mission of respect and hospitality not only is geared to improving the lives of the residents they serve, but also extends to the surrounding neighborhood. They are stewards to the community by advocating for a safe Indian Mounds Park, offering spiritual care to anyone who desires it, providing entertainment to neighborhood kids with the Halloween Land of Oz event, and opening doors as a community meeting and voting space."

Thanks to the Dayton's Bluff District Council for their kind words and recognition.



Photo courtesy of Cerenity Marian

Cerenity Marian staff received St. Paul Neighborhood Honor Roll recognition on January 26, 2018.

Upcoming events: On **Tuesday, April 24, at 6:00 p.m.,** join Cerenity Marian for pizza and beer. At 6:30 p.m., Jodi Boyne of Face Aging MN will talk about issues that accompany the reality of a rapidly aging society.

On **Sunday April 29, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.,** don't miss the Cerenity Marian open house featuring classic cars, music, and an ice cream social.

Both events are free, open to the public, and take place at Cerenity Marian, 200 Earl Street, St. Paul.

For more information please call 651-495-1814.

Save the Date! **Third Annual UNION JOB & RESOURCE FAIR**

THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 2018 | 3:00-6:00 pm

EAST SIDE FREEDOM LIBRARY
1105 Greenbrier Street, St. Paul, MN 55106

DISCOVER YOUR PATH TO A UNION CAREER!
Earn while you learn ★ Rise above minimum wage
YOU ARE WORTH IT!

Learn about the advantages of a union job! Information about record expungement and community resources will be available. A list of participating employers will be posted March 9, 2018, at eastsidefreedomlibrary.org | For more information, contact Peter Rachleff at 651-230-3294.

SPONSORED BY

Elder Café

Thursday, April 12, 2018
12:00 Noon – 2:00 PM
463 Maria Avenue, St. Paul MN 55106

Sounds of Sinatra!

Bill Rasmussen has performed across the country from his hometown, New York, New York, to California, doing it "His Way" stopping along the way in Las Vegas and Reno. Bill has been "Singing Sinatra Favorites" since 1988.

Hope you can join us for a nourishing meal and great conversation!

Call (651) 683-2326 to make a reservation* or to request a free ride!

The cost of the event is \$5.00 per person. Punch cards may be purchased at the door. We take cash, check and credit card.

*We cannot guarantee a meal without a reservation.

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If you need disability related accommodations, including parking, to make this event accessible, please contact the Center for Accessibility Resources, 651-793-1549 or Accessibility.Resources@metrostate.edu

Where: Metropolitan State University
Jason R. Carter Science Education Center, Second Floor, Room 214
664 East Sixth Street, Saint Paul, MN 55106

When: Saturday, April 7
noon to 2 p.m.

  @MetroStateICES

For more information contact the Institute for Community Engagement and Scholarship (ICES) community.engagement@metrostate.edu



Senator Fong Hawj Legislative Update

Senator Fong Hawj



Senator Fong Hawj

The 2018 Legislative Session began two weeks ago on February 20, giving state lawmakers a new opportu-

nity to improve Minnesotans' quality of life. This is the second year of the state's biennium, commonly referred to as the "bonding year." There is a widespread understanding that our state is falling behind on investments to maintain and improve Minnesota's infrastructure. Capital investment is a great way to create good jobs and improve public safety. I applaud the Governor's recent bonding proposal, which includes \$1.5 billion for projects across the state, and am hopeful that the Legislature will respond with a similarly sized proposal.

As a member of the Capitol Investment Committee, I participated in a four-week tour throughout our state and led the committee to our district on the Eastside to visit Wakan Tipi Center, Eastside Freedom Library, Battle Creek Rec Center, Humanities Center, 3rd Street Kellogg Bridge, the Sanneh Foundation and CLUES which I will be working on this year.

As many of you know, the February Forecast was released on Wednesday, February 28. I am glad we have a \$329 million projected surplus for the biennium. However, we need to be cautious since the surplus reflects a few anomalies related to the federal tax bill that may not last long-term. We need to invest in the basics to make government more safe and efficient. Basics include infrastructure, education (including student support and safety), cyber-security and solving the state's pension problem. When it comes to tax conformity, I think there should be some level of conformity, but the

focus should be on working and middle-class families that were forgotten by the national legislature.

Since the tragic shooting in Parkland, Florida, my office has received a tremendous amount of feedback and suggestions on this issue. Common sense gun legislation is overdue. It is vital that we implement universal background checks to weapons purchases and close the "gun show loophole". I believe these goals can be accomplished without infringing on our state's proud hunting heritage, or a person's constitutional rights.

On a final note, I want to thank the St. Paul East-siders who came out to our SD67 Town Hall meeting on March 1 at Metro State University. It was good to hear from area residents and discuss some of the issues that concern them such as school safety, equity resources, minimum wage increase, bonding projects for our area, early childhood education, Hmong veterans' recognition day, and sexual harassment training. We also talked about how we can continue to engage our diverse district. On top of these issues, I will also be working on legislation to support voting rights, refugee and immigrant policies, and net neutrality.

I'm excited to visit with the many groups and organizations that come to the capitol for rallies and meetings with legislators. If you are coming to the capitol, be sure to stop by my office. I am located at 3413 Minnesota Senate Building.

This column was first published in the Lillie News.

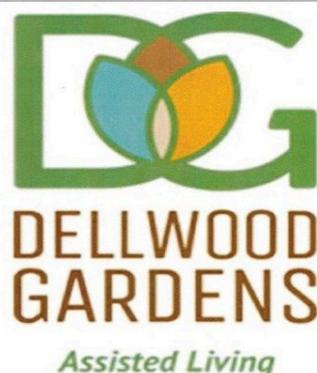
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Jay Xiong endorsed by DFL

*Temperance Brennan
Special to the Forum*

This year, long-time State Representative Sheldon Johnson decided to retire, so the DFL convention on March 10th met to endorse a new candidate following a previous meeting of area precinct caucuses for District 67B, which includes the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood.

On that day, four different people stepped forward to vie for his place at a convention at Harding High School. There was Jay Xiong, a former worker at the Legislature, Shoua Yang, a political science teacher at St. Cloud State University, John Slade, community activist, and Grant Stevensen, a Lutheran Minister with strong ties to the Isaiah Project.

To gain the endorsement, a person needs to receive 60% of the votes at the convention. On the first ballot, Jay Xiong received 53% of the ballots and the rest were divided between the other three in the running. The second ballot had Xiong up to 56% with the others los-

ing a few supporters. After that, two of the people with the lowest totals pulled out of the contest. Slade asked his supporters to switch to Stevensen and Yang withdrew and asked his people to vote no endorsement.

On the third and final vote, Xiong's total reached 63% and the remaining contender Stevensen asked that the convention unanimously endorse Jay Xiong, which they did.

Jay Xiong might be challenged in a DFL primary election in August but if not, he will be on the ballot as the DFL nominee for the State Representative for our district. He may battle one or more others from different political parties for the position. Keep in touch and be sure to vote in November.

Temperance Brennan can be reached at daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com.



Bao Lee

Jay Xiong with many of his supporters after the announcement that he had been endorsed for State Representative at the 67B DFL convention on March 10, 2018.

Contest: Where in Dayton's Bluff?

Send your guess to daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com with the location of the neighborhood curiosity pictured below for a chance to win great prizes from local businesses. The reader who submits the first correct entry will be notified and the winner will be announced in the May edition of the *Forum*.



Always Best Care – a new business on the Bluff

*Erica Schneekloth
Always Best Care*

"After working with the same healthcare organization for nearly three decades and watching my clients age, it became clear that additional services were needed in our community," said Ken Crawford. We've always had a passion for assisting people in a home environment and decided to venture on our own.

Always Best Care Eastern Metro, a local family home care business, is comprised of Ken, Erica, and Judy. Collectively, they have over 100 years of experiences in providing excellent healthcare resources.

Ken has 25 years of experience as a manager for a non-profit organization that aided individuals with disabilities in their own home. Erica, who worked direct care for many years and has a master's in public affairs, plans to combine her philanthropic passion with her 15 years of experience in corporate account development. In addition, Judy Gustafson, Erica's mother and a retired nurse of 40 years, is serv-

ing as the company's care coordinator.

"Always Best Care is a leader in senior care. We also offer our services to individuals with disabilities to maximize their independence and respite to families" which is one of the reasons why Erica and I are proud to offer its award-winning services to local families in need," says Crawford.

By working with case managers, social workers, discharge planners, doctors, and families, Always Best Care provides affordable, comprehensive solutions that can be specifically matched to meet your loved one's particular physical or social needs. The hallmark services of the Always Best Care include non-medical in-home care and assisted living finder and referral services.

Come by and see them at their new office in the Stutzman Building on East 7th!

Ken, Erica, and Judy also live on the East Side with their son (grandson) Carson, and dogs Franny and Max.

For additional information on services available through Always Best Care: Eastern Metro, or for a free evaluation, please call (651) 774-9979 or visit AlwaysBestCare.com/MN/Lake-Elmo.

MOUNDS PARK BARBER STYLISTS



APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE
TUESDAY THRU SATURDAY

1043 HUDSON ROAD
SAINT PAUL, MN 55106

651-771-6980

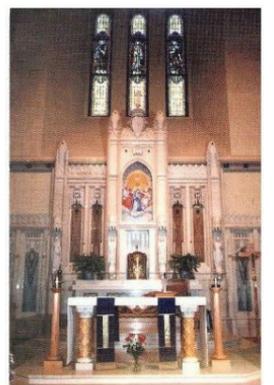
Judy Lee

Church of St. Mary



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Easter
Services

261 E. 8th St.
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55101



St. Mary's is a Roman Catholic Church located in downtown Saint Paul
Only minutes from Dayton's Bluff via Third St. or Seventh St.
Ample off-street free parking - Easily accessible by bus

Pastor: Father Benny Mekkatt, CFIC
Weekend Mass Schedule: Saturday 4:30 pm; Sunday 7:30 & 10:30 am
Phone: 651-222-2619; Email: office@stmarystpaul.org
Website: www.stmarystpaul.org

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

804 Margaret Street, St. Paul, MN 55106

Phone: 651-776-0550 E-mail: daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com

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Remembering Soliving "Song" Kong

Steve Trimble
Forum Staff

This is a history article I should have written some time ago, since it is about a person who meant a lot to me. I can't remember exactly when I met Song Kong, but it was when his family lived across the street from me in a city-owned house on Maria Avenue. I got to know him, his wife Lee Her, and their children, daughter Ying, and sons Cleveland, Christian, Phillip, and Timothy.

At the time, Song had been laid off from a job at an airline. When I went into the State House of Representatives in 1987, I found that Representatives could recommend someone from their district to serve as a page. It paid a moderate amount but Song was happy to try it out. At the end of the session, because of his strong work ethic, he was one of the pages asked to remain working at the Capital and he was soon the assistant in the mail room, a job he kept for many years.

Song grew up on a farm in Laos and at age 14, was drafted into the Hmong "CIA Secret Army" led by General Vang Pao, and became part of the military police. When the Viet Nam War ended in 1975, the U.S. was supposed to evacuate the Hmong, but the planes were full. Song and Lee fled into the jungle where they slept under large banana leaves, ate roots, leaves, berries, and whatever animals they could kill, for almost four years. In 1979, they joined a group of 70 Hmong escaping to Thailand. Song became ill and would have been left behind, but he knew the Thai language. After 21 days they reached the Mekong River and Song swam across with his wife, who could not swim, on his back. Only 47 of the group survived the crossing.

They ended up in the Ben Vanai Camp for refugees. Several months later, the United Nations helped them get to New York in February, 1980. They got food but no clothing, and as Song remembered, "I was walking outside in the snow without shoes when I just arrived." He worked for awhile in the East until the family came to St. Paul where his brother lived.

While he missed his old homeland, he was always glad to be in America. "We had lost our country and had no place to spend our lives. The United States government offered our people a chance to start a new life and I am grateful for

that."

Song and I did a lot of things together. I helped him with figuring out some city regulations or explaining some things like politics or dealing with local schools. He brought me to a variety of Hmong cultural gatherings. I attended Hmong weddings and funerals and met General Vang Pao when he visited St. Paul. He also became interested in politics. We made my campaign lawn signs together and sometimes talked issues over a beer or two.

The day came when he was moving from Maria Avenue. The family could have stayed in the subsidized city housing, but they wanted to own a home and decided to stay on the East Side. They purchased a small home at 346 Hope Street.

Song once said of his job in the mail room "I don't see myself as any big leader. I feel that my working here might help my people to understand government so their lives can be better. I hope I can help them."

However, he did become one of the leaders in the Hmong community. He represented the 70 Kong families on the Hmong 18 Council and was elected its president. He was on the board of the Hmong American Alliance Church in Maplewood. He frequently assisted new Hmong families, telling them "You are so lucky. We are here to do everything we can to help you. It's a lot easier than it was for us."

He wanted to give his people a voice in the city and he was appointed to the St. Paul Planning Commission and was elected to the Dayton's Bluff Community Council, perhaps as the first Hmong to do so in the city.

We encouraged him to take the test for citizenship which, after some reluctance, he did. He passed in March of 1991. Song became a citizen and to celebrate the accomplishment, he changed his first name to Soliving saying it referred to a new life he was entering.

A decade later, I received an afternoon phone call from a friend at the Legislature. She said that Soliving was in the hospital and not doing well. An old leg injury from the war had become infected and there were complications. I was set to go down to see him the next morning but later received a second call that he had passed away. Born on May 15, 1955, Soliving Kong died on March 5, 2011, just short of his fifty-sixth birthday. He now rests in Elmhurst Cemetery. I am proud to have been his friend.

Steve Trimble can be reached at daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com.



Photo courtesy of Steve Trimble

Solving "Song" Kong, on the job at the Minnesota State Capitol.

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.

Deadline for the May 2018 issue of the *Forum* is April 10, 2018.

View From My Porch: Living in the Shadows

Sage Holben
Forum Staff

I met Stan today. Stan is not his real name. His burdens, though, are real and very evident. He reached a benchmark birthday a few days before. A birthday sometimes becomes an unwelcome trigger to assessing one's life. In his case, it included a bitter divorce and a preteen son with whom he has no relationship. Add to that, endless nights in a shelter with no rest for his body or mind. He's contemplated a park bench for the solitude, but he can't withstand the cold. He hasn't quite kicked his addictions, still 'lightly, occasionally' using; light, as well, in attending step programs.

Fatigue, stress, and frustration are worn into his face, his eyes. Finding transportation to get to meetings and appointments is difficult. Friends who once reassured him with promises of 'I'll do anything to help', fail to respond to the greatest need of giving a ride. Stan has a job, thankfully; though the nature of the job is tearing his hands apart, with the constant washing and the cold weather.

Normally a man who helps others walking the same path, tension is wearing on Stan's personality. Recently, a woman passed him on the sidewalk and turned to look at him again. Stan snapped an angry comeback in reaction to her silent doubletake and whatever judgement he perceived in her face.

That was unlike him, he said, but life was getting to be too much. He was tired of being invisible as a human being, of being cut off, of being seen as having no value.

Stan attested that staying at Gospel Mission is stressful (not the first or even the fifteenth time I've heard this over 17 years); treatment described to me as nasty, demeaning, forceful, controlling. He didn't like Dorothy Day any better. Honestly, who would? It's a shelter, after all. We talked of men we've known who have made their way onto the list for housing and then have successfully maintained their living situations. Some 'remember where they've come from' and others would as soon put it behind them.

Stan talked of the local drop-in living room - poor supervision, he said, and people who steal from each other with no second thought; people whose bad behavior 'ruins' it for others; tired of being used as a prop for a photo shoot of homeless. His frustration and fatigue were all too evident. An occasional bath in someone's home, an occasional sofa or bed beyond shelter walls... rest for the body, mind, and spirit. When will it come?

I asked Stan what would he want people to see, to know? His answer: that being homeless can happen to anyone, at any time. That it doesn't define you. That people who are homeless, that being homeless, come in many, many forms...we're not all the same, we don't all want or need the same thing.

Sage Holben can be reached at daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com.

Congratulations to Jean Jansen, winner of the March Where in Dayton's Bluff? contest!

Jean correctly guessed the location in the photo on page 5 of the March issue – the Peter J. King building on Johnson Parkway and East 7th.

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East Side Eating – Trimble's Taste Trek

In 2015, Forum contributor Steve Trimble set out to eat at every locally-owned, sit-down restaurant on the East Side (all 59 of them!)

Recently, he has been visting restaurants that opened since then. All of Steve's reviews can be found at daytonsbuffdistrictforum.org under the "East Side Eating" tab.

Gurey Deli

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Friday-Saturday: 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

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Someone told me there was a Somali restaurant on lower McKnight. I knew there was a Somali coffee house near Lower Afton and McKnight so maybe they had added food. I drove down and discovered there was a new deli just south of the coffee house and it had a sit down area, so there is a new stop on the East Side Eating Taste Trek. I arrived around 2:00 for a late lunch.

There is a smallish entry room where you order at a counter that has a few chairs. A much bigger back room has six tables that can seat up to six people and a shelf with high chairs at the end of one wall. There are currently no posters or art work, but there is a medium-sized flat screen television at the back.

I was a little surprised that many of the dishes were not traditional Somali fare. Some of the breakfast choices include cubed chicken (Suqaar Digaag), and strips of meat cooked in house sauce, Beef Suqaar, Foule (Ful) that is an Egyptian Fava bean dip, build-your-own omelet, French toast, and eggs Florentine. All are served with bread one chooses from Anjera, Chapatti, and malawahi (a Somali crepe).

Appetizers include the usual Buffalo wings and cheese pizza but also sambusas and Wadani, which is red beans cooked with corn, served with a choice of honey, sugar, sesame, or olive oil. Among the lunch offerings – also

available for dinner – are goat meal, Kirish/Alooley, a traditional Somali meal of goat stomach with basmati rice or other sides, and Kay Kay, a colorful Kenyan dish of bread cooked in beef or chicken suqaar and sautéed vegetables.

There is salmon, tilapia, chicken Alfredo, New York steak, and cornish hen. Burgers selections include a Cheese Burger, Mushroom and Swiss Burger, Home Burger, and BBQ Burger. Gyros include chicken or a beef and lamb combo with salad or French fries. The menu features several different sandwiches, mostly of the traditional Midwest variety including chicken and Swiss, roast beef, tuna, and Buffalo chicken.

There is no alcohol but several soft drinks as well as coffee, tea, and you can also get a house favorite of tea mixed with coffee. A Kid's Menu features macaroni and cheese, chicken tenders with fries, side of fruit, or grilled cheese with fries.

I decided to have the goat meal that had chunks of meat with sautéed onions, green bell pepper, red bell pepper, onions, peas, and corn, in a house-prepared sauce. The portions were huge, so I brought home around half of mine. It was served with the traditional basmati rice, though it can also come with spaghetti or soor, that the menu described as a kind of Somali grits. There was a small salad and I also had a sambusa and a Coca-Cola.

I had a nice talk with Handi Omar, one of the owner's family members and a graduate of Harding High School. She said until they opened there were no Somali restaurants in St. Paul and it serves as an important cultural gathering place. It has been open for two or three months. They accept credit cards and will do catering, but don't offer delivery.

Mother Anab Mohamad Gurey started the business. Incidentally the word "Gurey" means left-handed and many of the family members were indeed left-handed. Handi enjoys the food business, but is planning to become a police officer. She also reset my cell phone to help me take a better photo of her beside my meal.

Steve Trimble can be reached at daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com.



Steve Trimble

Handi Omar of the Gurey Deli, along with a delicious meal enjoyed by the author.

A financial SOS!

Sage Holben
Forum Staff

Some things we would miss in life may be more obvious than others: hot coffee, an immediate flow of water from the spigot, a hug from a loved one...and the list goes on. Some things we just get used to as they gradually diminish and eventually disappear altogether. Without your help AND your dollars, the Dayton's Bluff District Forum might end up in the gradually disappearing list. That would be a shame, as the Forum is one of the few neighborhood papers still existing. For many people, it's their only contact with their larger neighborhood.

You're reading this, so you may be a regular reader of the Forum for the last year. Five years? Perhaps since the Forum's beginning in 1982? What draws you? Restaurant reviews, articles on local history, upcoming events, personal stories, or transit and other government decisions and how they directly

affect our lives? Unique to the Forum, also, is the open invitation for all readers to write reviews and other articles for their paper, as well as to submit photos of interest.

Printing, mailing, and paying for our layout/editing costs requires approximately \$1,500 to \$1,900 each month. We printed 500 fewer copies in February to cut costs, and we have considered cutting the number of pages in future issues. Several of us are working on grants for the paper, but that will take time. The truth is, this is a volunteer newspaper and we have a VERY IMMEDIATE need for on-going, substantial donations and ads.

Your District Forum badly needs financial help NOW! Whether in the form of an ad, a series of ads, or a BIG CHUNK of CASH. Call Karin DuPaul at 651-776-0550 about contributing, or send a check to:

Dayton's Bluff District Forum
Att: Karin DuPaul
804 Margaret Street
Saint Paul, MN 55106

Thank you for reading, and thank you for your support.

Sage Holben can be reached at daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com.

GROW-IT Center Making Progress

Seeley Booth
Special to the Forum

You may have seen a greenhouse building at 445 Maria Avenue behind Metro State's Fine Arts building. It was originally an Agriculture Department research center but has been empty for many years. Metro State, Urban Roots, Friends of Swede Holm, and First Lutheran Church have

been planning since 2014 with community people to find a use for the structure and find funding for its rehabilitation.

The idea is to develop a food-related research and educational center. There was a meeting on March 13, to discuss and make suggestions for a use for such a growing site. An architect explained a rendering of the possible remodeled structure. They are looking for people who would be interested in joining the project. If you want to participate or have questions, please contact Jodi Bantley at 651-793-1294 or email GROW-IT@metrostate.edu.

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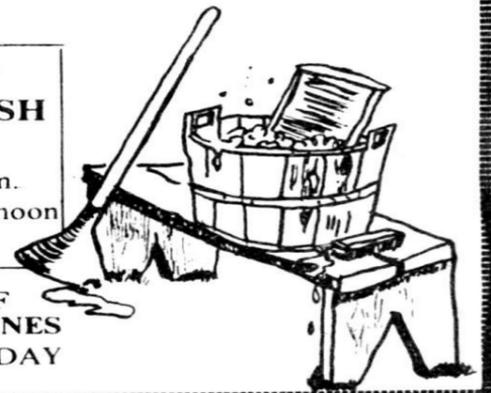
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Judy Gustafson shows off the Forum on Washington Island off of Door County, WI.

Several readers send us pictures of themselves reading our newspaper on their travels. If you'd like to do the same, please email photos to daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com.



Sam Graf and Maria Lee brought their own reading material to the Boston Public Library.

Many thanks to our 2018 donors:

Cliff Carey

Greg Cosimini

Dick & Regina McCarthy

Larry Meuwissen & Joyce Maddox

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 \$1,900 to produce.

For the past three years we have been soliciting donations through our *Friends of the Forum* program. Thanks to the donations of 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 renew your membership with a donation in 2018. **Our goal for 2018 is \$3,000; thanks to readers like you, we've raised \$305 to date – will you help us reach our goal in 2018?**

Sincerely,
The *Dayton's Bluff District Forum*

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

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Make checks payable to: *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* and mail to 804 Margaret Street, St. Paul, MN 55106. For more information, contact 651-776-0550 or daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com.

Thank you for your support!

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