Traffic calming on East Sixth Street: It’s time for a test

Jane Prince, Ward 7 City Council
Matt Mazanec, East Sixth Street Neighbor

Historically, East Sixth Street has been a residential centerpiece of our Dayton’s Bluff neighborhood, lined with elegant Victorian architecture from Maria to Arcade streets. Yet, when the Interstate 94 freeway ramp opened onto East Sixth Street decades ago, speeding traffic exiting the off-ramp destroyed the residential character of this once peaceful tree-lined boulevard by bypassing our evolving commercial corridor on East Seventh Street!

Uphill from the freeway, East Sixth Street neighbors have endured excessive traffic speeds and volumes, heavy truck traffic, vehicular pollution, trash, noise, aggressive driving behavior, property damage, crashes, injuries and sadly, the death of a pedestrian.

Seeking help from the city and the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council, East Sixth Street neighbors worked diligently for 20-plus years to stem this tide of devastating traffic on their street. These efforts included adding parking bump-outs as a means of narrowing the street and installing traffic islands as pedestrian refuges at Maria and Maple streets. As the Maple traffic island, neighbors installed planters and planted perennials.

Neighbors also convinced the city to close East Sixth Street at Arcade to divert speeding traffic heading west onto the freeway entrance. Despite neighbors’ valiant efforts, speeding traffic has prevailed; occasionally knocking down the handsome wrought iron urns and traffic signs and uprooting carefully maintained plantings. From 2003 through 2013, East Sixth Street averaged 10 reported crashes a year, and the cost of street sign replacement alone is $400 per month on East Sixth Street. This does not include all the unreported crashes and property damage on the street.

So it was no wonder, when nothing else worked, that East Sixth Street neighbors would seek to close their street once and for all: to prevent speeding freeway off-rampers from using it as a main drag to the East Side.

Today we write with the exciting news that a test closure of East Sixth Street at Mounds Boulevard has been approved by the City of Saint Paul Public Works to take place later this year. The test will give all of us – residents, business owners, Metro State faculty, staff and students, visitors, employees, and everyone else, an opportunity to determine whether such a closing, while calming traffic on East Sixth Street, will still meet the needs of the larger community. We think there’s a good chance that the test will lead to new neighborhood traffic patterns that could serve the East Side even better.

The Dayton’s Bluff Community Council has supported both a test closure as well as a permanent closure of East Sixth Street. In 2013, the council supported the closure as a means of moving traffic to East Seventh Street (Minnesota Trunk Highway 5), “allowing drivers to stop and shop at businesses along East Seventh Street.” It is worth noting that East Seventh Street commercial vitality is greatly enhanced since the council passed these proposals, including (but not limited to) the opening of the Metro State Student Center, the Cambrie Apartments, Mississippi Market, the Indigenous Roots Cultural Arts Center, the East Side Enterprise Center, the Goat Coffeehouse, WEDG/The Voice of the East Side, along with the planned expansion of CLE/CLS, while, calming traffic on opening of Manana Restaurant in the old district council office.

The test is scheduled to occur over six weeks during September and October. This study is designed to show where the traffic goes and how it affects other local streets. We will be providing a lot more information at public meetings in the coming months to prepare you for the test. And meanwhile, if you have questions, you can reach out to the Ward 7 office at ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us.

We believe that this valuable test has the potential to help us dramatically improve the safety, functionality and livability for those on East Sixth Street, at Metro State University and within our Dayton’s Bluff Community. Given all the efforts to crack this traffic problem over the past 20 years, what have we got to lose? And we could have everything to gain: restoring East Sixth Street to a beautiful residential boulevard, improving the pedestrian environment and campus feel of Metro State University and increasing the vitality and vibrancy of our East Seventh Street commercial corridor.

Jane Prince can be reached at ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us.

That was a cloSe one

Whew! We almost didn’t send this month’s issue to print and distribution. Fortunately, some angels responded with enough donations that added to paid ads, we squeaked through. But that’s only one month. Dayton’s Bluff District Forum publishes once a month, except January. Each month’s printing and distribution is $1,500 to $1,900.

Here’s the status as of this issue:

- Our local printer runs the minimum possible for us now, in order to cut costs.
- Grants are being pursued (please let us know if you have knowledge of possible grants).
- We are expecting to be online-only with the June issue unless we raise capital.

To read the Forum online: daytonsbullfdistrictforum.org.

Unfortunately, many, many residents still do not have internet access, so will miss out on this unique neighborhood newspaper.

One of our donating angels sent a $1,000 check to be used toward the May issue. We know not everyone can do that, and certainly, not every month. But, would you please dig a little deeper? Dream a little bigger? Think about lifting others up in the largest dollar amount you can share?

With ready access to news and local tidbits available on our phones, it’s easy to believe we have all we need to stay in touch. I don’t know - maybe a cell phone really is all that’s needed. Of course I don’t believe that! Working with other volunteer staff of the Forum, and talking with residents, business staff and customers, people at the libraries or on the streets, I have no doubt that the Forum helps to build community. Community to me means people working together, listening and learning, making plans for fun events, helping each other. It’s how a small, neighborhood paper relates; so often, someone refers to something s/he read in the Forum, wanting to know more. Paper pulp, ink, people writing columns, people reading, laughing, rolling their eyes, recognizing a neighbor’s name or picture...this is the kind of glue that keeps a neighborhood strong! PLEASE CONTRIBUTE - consistently, and with the most you can give.

Call Karin DuPaul at 651-776-0550 about contributing, or send a check to: Dayton’s Bluff District Forum
Attn: Karin DuPaul
804 Margaret Street
Saint Paul, MN 55106

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

The 2018 Minneapolis & Saint Paul Home Tour is 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. Be sure to check out the stunning home at 179 Maria Avenue - open both days.
Dayton’s Bluff Take-a-Hike

On the second Saturday of most months, 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, May 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.

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, May 3, 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, ideas for the newsletter, and ad sales – join us at our next meeting on Wednesday, May 2, at 1:00 p.m., at Swede Hollow Cafe at 725 E 7th Street. Call 651-776-0550 or email daytons-bluffdistrictforum@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, May 16, 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 beneficien a familias de escasos recursos.


Food Security: A singular value proposition.

The Twin Cities Mobile Market is a monthly mobile market on wheels that brings affordable, healthy food directly into under-served 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.

Twin Cities Mobile Market

The Twin Cities Mobile Market is a mobile market on wheels that brings affordable, healthy food directly into under-served neighborhoods.

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, May 3, 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, ideas for the newsletter, and ad sales – join us at our next meeting on Wednesday, May 2, at 1:00 p.m., at Swede Hollow Cafe at 725 E 7th Street. Call 651-776-0550 or email daytons-bluffdistrictforum@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, May 16, 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 beneficien a familias de escasos recursos.


Food Security: A singular value proposition.

The Twin Cities Mobile Market is a monthly mobile market on wheels that brings affordable, healthy food directly into under-served 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.

Twin Cities Mobile Market

The Twin Cities Mobile Market is a mobile market on wheels that brings affordable, healthy food directly into under-served neighborhoods.

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, May 3, 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, ideas for the newsletter, and ad sales – join us at our next meeting on Wednesday, May 2, at 1:00 p.m., at Swede Hollow Cafe at 725 E 7th Street. Call 651-776-0550 or email daytons-bluffdistrictforum@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, May 16, 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 beneficien a familias de escasos recursos.


Food Security: A singular value proposition.

The Twin Cities Mobile Market is a monthly mobile market on wheels that brings affordable, healthy food directly into under-served 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.
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.

May: 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 6:30 p.m. Students participate in environmental classes, Girl Scouts, field trips, and receive homework help and support in learning. Contact Jane Krems 612-581-9798 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 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.

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 office at 651-774-8736.

Free help for East Side pets
Temperance Brennan Forum Contributor

The Animal Humane Society’s Community Outreach program has special indoor and outdoor clinics for pets of low income families on the East Side as well as Frogtown. The events offer all the same resources and care as the outdoor clinics — free wellness exams, vaccines, nail trims, spay/neuter appointment scheduling, guidance from the AHS behavior team and St. Paul Animal Control, free pet food, and more.

For information on upcoming events and locations call 651-788-4685 or visit http://animalhumane.ORG/outreach-services. Frogtown and east-st paul. Temperance Brennan can be reached at daytonbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com.

Mississippi Market Presents: Eat More Plants Event Series
Incorporate more plants into your daily life and diet
Matt Frank Mississippi Market

Mississippi Market, Saint Paul’s premier natural foods grocer, is pleased to announce an upcoming three-part event series featuring local plant-based culinary experts, food samples, recipes, and cooking inspiration. Attendees will learn ways to incorporate more plants into their daily life and diet to promote environmental, physical, and financial health. As an added benefit, participants who attend all three events will receive a special plant-based cookbook and co-op gift bag. The Eat More Plants event series kicks-off in late April and runs once-a-month through June at the co-op’s East 7th store. Each event in the series is free to attend; a $5.00 registration fee is required per event, which will be reimbursed as a $5.00 co-op voucher. Registration is open now and may be completed in-store at Customer Service, or online at www.msmarket.coop/eat-more-plants.

Eat More Plants: Meal Planning with The Herbivorous Butcher, Wednesday, May 30, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the East 7th store. Learn easy ways to eat more plants using meal-planning lists and tasty plant-based meats during an engaging evening with The Herbivorous Butcher. Eat More Plants: Easy Recipes with J. Selby’s, Wednesday, June 20, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the East 7th store. Join Chef Nathan from local eatery J. Selby’s for an inspiring evening culminating in delicious samples of two flavorful plant-based meals from their menu.

From seasoned plant-based pros to those just beginning their local plant-based food journey, everyone is sure to learn and taste something new at Mississippi Market’s Eat More Plants event series!

About Mississippi Market Natural Foods Co-op: Mississippi Market Natural Foods Co-op has been offering local, organic food at a fair price to our St. Paul neighbors for nearly 40 years. As a consumer-owned grocery store, Mississippi Market provides high-quality, fair-priced goods and services, and works toward a sustainable local economy and global environment. Learn more at www.msmarket.coop.

Sculpture in April, Photography in May
New self-guided tour, sculpture workshop, and photography exhibit
Krissy Schoenfelder Landmark Center

Artistic vision is expressed in many ways and in late April and early May, Landmark Center will showcase sculpture, photography, and the building’s own permanent art collection.

Everyone is invited to unleash their inner sculptor and create their own work of art on International Sculpture Day, April 28. Landmark Center will host a free “Make It and Take It” Sculpture Workshop, from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Local artists, Cecilia Schiller, “Automata” sculpture artist, and Judd Nelson, metal sculptor, will guide guests through making their own sculptures to take home.

International Sculpture Day is a celebration event held worldwide annually on the last Saturday in April. Its mission is to advance the creation and understanding of sculpture and its unique contribution to society.

Also on April 28, after creating a masterpiece guests can explore Landmark Center’s permanent art collection. Often overlooked, Landmark Center is home to several impressive works of art, which will be highlighted in a newly created self-guided tour. Permanent collection guides will be part of the International Sculpture Day celebration and will be available at Landmark Center’s Visitor Information Center.

On May 3, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Landmark Center and Historic Saint Paul present, St. Paul 1978: Street Photography by Jerry Mathisau, in Landmark Center’s North Gallery. The exhibit opens with a free public reception and runs through May 26, during normal building hours. This exhibit is part of Landmark Center and Historic Saint Paul’s participation in National Preservation Month (May).

Landmark Center is a dynamic, historic cultural center and central gathering place in downtown Saint Paul. It is owned and managed by Minnesota Landmarks, the nonprofit program of management agency for the building. Landmark Center is located at 75 West 5th Street, on Rice Park and is accessible to those with impaired mobility. Parking is available on street and in nearby Landmark, Science Museum and RiverCentre Ramps. For more information call 651.292.3225 or visit www.landmarkcenter.org.

Erica Schnekloth
Community Outreach, Owner
o. (651) 774-9979
c. (612) 251-4577
eschnekloth@abc-seniors.com
www.abcseniors.com
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 June edition of the Forum.
You got somethin’ to say? Say it here!

The Dayton’s Bluff District Forum welcomes all opinions and neighborhood anecdotes—send yours to: daytonsbldistrictforum@gmail.com.

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

Letter to the editor

Dear Forum Staff,

Thank you for keeping us here at the Cambrie informed about the church’s Listening House. However, we do not have the news if we counted on the [other] newspaper’s incomplete stories. We thought that the Listening House had shut its doors, but from the vagrants now drawn to our alleys, doorways, and at night/late afternoon, attempts to come inside where they have gathered, are all to no avail, underground, and take refuge on parking

lot walls.

We are seniors. Many of us use walkers and canes. No one ever asked us how we felt about the dangers we often have had happen by transients.

We are a “secure building” but they do get in.

We pay dearly for our 113 “living” rooms, while they only cause trouble, resulting in endless 'homelessness' and that man in my hallway struggles with housing costs. But what possible help to secure a better life in a space that has existed, would be able to support, or providing the environment of a home, or perhaps the idea of a ‘homeless’ person and turn my face. Our eyes fix on each other- in a ring of light-the moment he centrates on my eyes, on my, unblinking.

This is his nightly routine. His mind is such that he identifies with the wolf; his name has accumulated in my head throughout the day, sorting every thought and deed, measuring it within that standard unkind to me. I seem no harasser in his eyes; he is not simply gazing or staring. I don’t forget it disconcerting; he is scrutinizing and dis- cerning. I find his process reassuring - a check-in at the end of a day. As he absorbs and turns my face. Our eyes fix on each other- in a ring of light-the moment he centrates on my eyes, on my, unblinking.

Our relationship remains one of much unspoken. I’ve known Joe for three years. Eric was 10 years old boy I worked with in Iowa while I attended college. Labelled ‘developmentally delayed’ Eric was not to be trusted of being mislead or grasped instead of speaking. Perhaps some day I will tell the adventures Eric and I enjoyed, but at this time, I’ll just say that though Eric didn’t yet use words, we enjoyed our 2-3 hours playing cards, eating a meal, and discussing the news the guests follow the negative, detrimental behaviors that they see. For many years in the past, we look at a group; but then look beyond to sub-populations, which further define people who are homeless: chronic-alcoholics, those not wearing a label, functioning mentally ill, chronic substance abusers, veterans, HIV/AIDS, victims of domes tic violence, unaccompanied youth, par enting youth, children of parenting youth; add to this, recently released prisoners, refugees, special needs, developmentally disabled, or simply not able to pay monthly expenses that housing requires.

Then, without medicalizing all who are homeless, what about investing real money? Imagine a day when the work staff and clinicians, who make long-term commitments to working with individuals in meeting particular, unique needs, whether mental, physical, emotional, or social, and/or staff publicly pat themselves on the back as ‘Christ-like’ because they dutifully wash feet of homeless, and openly defy city regs, believing whatever they hear about some of the LH guests leaving hypodermic needles in the snow, or snar haring as ‘beggars.’ Also, LH guests and staff go home to quiet Edina, Woodbury, etc. neighborhoods zoned largely as single, residential dwellings (could the same be true of any other of the City Council and Zoning Committee members)?

‘Homelessness is a state of being; without a permanent place to live. It is something I am longing for. It is the absence of ‘secure building’ and/or criminal behavior, not the individual that Listening House neighbors find appalling and detrimental. There are many. One is complicated. When you have a sharp mind and insight, but reek because you can’t shower at a shelter and what people see is your mismatched clothing and the dirt on your face. It is hard to explain to you; but you do make a good statistics ‘served’ and photo op for the LH board, eliciting self-satisfaction. It doesn’t help their money woes. LH, Listening House guests defiantly pour soda on the floor at Burger King, place their shoes on the tables, pass out in the booths, faces either on the floor or in their food trays. Yes, judgments are made, and unfairly, because this isn’t the behavior of all LH guests; but, when LH staff openly disrespect and mock the neighborhood residents, some of their guests follow the negative, detrimental behavior…after all, the church, and LH which have one together a place with a ten-year lease are Christ-centered.

It was complicated when Listening House closed last Sunday, I guess even Jesus needs a day off. Too bad for the guests who walked all the way to find a locked door on a frigid day. It’s complicated because we want to teach our children to respect everyone, rich or poor, but what about the Listening House guest who is exposing himself in front of the church? He does make me think.

Daddy, look what I found! This is a needle like my shoe found? I found it on the sidewalk. Shh, that man is sleeping on Sue’s porch...why is he lying on the steps? If the man in a duffle. We too often believe that people in a duffle. We too often believe that people...
Letter to the editor

The Forum, I read with much pleasure Rick Cardenas' tribute [March Forum] to his sister JoAnn, my good DFL friend. In fact I ran one of her campaigns. JoAnn was two years younger than me and Rick, the 1958 Icon at Harding in the 50's, two years older. I wonder if anyone has interviewed JoAnn and I to know one another so well in the Mac-Groveland and Midway area conventions (Districts 63 and 64). Once you have had an East Side Harding connection, it never fades. I spent one year at Harding and finished in 1959 at Central. That was another world. JoAnn and I would trade bards about her life as “one of the trolls” who grew up “under the bridge,” now a segment of Swede Hollow.

I was now “one of the snotty R.B.s” from Summit Hill. How we laughed. And Rick. If anyone deserves a memoir or two, this dedicated activist, gorgeous man and loving brother, does! He has fought the need to see, hear and experience the attention to detail and special physical reality. The essential curb cuts, sidewalk clearing, quality home health, essential care, etc. Rick was there, bier-side at JoAnn’s massive funeral. The parking lot was full of “Bernie Sanders” bumper stick- ers at Our Lady of Guadalupe. I will remember him, an East Side legend, there.

Thank you Rick, for reinvigorating treasured memories of a friend whose personality and smile always lit up the room and the podium at those long conventions!

Judy Jaeger-Jones
Dayton’s Bluff resident

2018 Public Health Award winners announced

Chris Burns
Ramsey County Public Health

Three organizations and two individuals working to address health issues in the community received the 2018 Ramsey County Public Health Award at a meeting of the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners on Tuesday, April 3, 2018. The annual awards, sponsored by Saint Paul – Ramsey County Public Health, recognize individuals and groups who have made exceptional contributions to improving health by advancing health equity in the county.

The 2018 Ramsey County Public Health Award winners include Saint Paul Public Schools, Dayton’s Bluff Achievement Plus Elementary, the district’s Student Placement Center, and Somali Cultural Specialist Mohamed Hadi for their work to promote immunizations before and during the 2017 measles outbreak.

Shoreview resident, Eugene Nichols, for his leadership in reducing youth access to tobacco products and his long-standing work promoting health, mental health and wellbeing. United Family Medicine and the Mitchell Hamline School of Law for their partnership to help clinic patients address legal issues that affect health.

“Our 2018 award winners worked on a range of different issues, but all demonstrated a common understanding that partnership and collaboration are essential to advancing health equity,” said Ramsey County Board Chair Jim McDonough. “Many hands coming together is the best way to solve health challenges in our community.”

Nominations for the awards were solicited from the public earlier this year. This is the fourth year Public Health has recognized individuals and groups for their work. Nominations for the 2019 Ramsey County Public Health Awards will be accepted starting in January. Find more information on the awards, including a list of past honorees, at www.ramseycounty.us/publichealthawards

Dayton’s Bluff was well-represented: Dayton’s Bluff Achievement Plus Elementary School is a leader across schools in Ramsey County for having 100 percent of their students vaccinated. This exceptional rate has been achieved despite the challenge of a student population where 92 percent qualify for free or reduced lunch. The vaccination rates offered at school nurses offices fit together with the Achievement Plus model where the school and community provide other resources to health services to ensure academic success.

Mohamed Hadi is a Somali Cultural Specialist for the Family Engagement and Community Partnerships division of the Saint Paul Public Schools. During the 2017 measles outbreak, Hadi showed leadership in reaching out to the Paul’s immigrant community through a variety of places where young families gather. On Fridays during the peak of the outbreak, he routinely met with inans prior to prayer to share current information about measles. At community events, he partnered with a Saint Paul Ramsey County Public Health epidemiologist to provide information and answer questions. Working across civic and school district boundaries was key in controlling the spread of measles in 2017.

The Student Placement Center in Saint Paul Public Schools is the welcome center for new and returning students, educating families about requirements for school entry and supporting efforts to immunize children. Last year, Placement Center health staff administered 1,423 vaccinations to 574 students. Nurses at the Placement Center serve as an immunization resource for all school nurses in Saint Paul and field questions daily on disease prevention and control. They communicate skillfully, with a racial equity lens, supporting health equity with bilingual staff and materials translated into languages families can read.

Mounds Park Potter

Seeley Booth
Forum Contributor

Dayton’s Bluff potter, Tricia Schmidt, lives in a world of nasty women, ambivalent sloths, and industrious dung beetles...or at least her pots do. Schmidt works out of her Mounds Park home studio to produce wheel-thrown, functional ceramic pieces that feature quirky creatures which she hand-carves into the clay.

Her work will be featured throughout the month of May at two local art spaces in St. Paul. The first is Corazon, a boutique at 526 Selby Avenue that features an eclectic collection of local artisan creations, gifts, jewelry, and home goods. The second is Hwy North, an artisan collective and gift shop located within Groundswell Cafe at 1340 Thomas Avenue in St. Paul’s Midway neighborhood.

Seeley Booth can be reached at daysontonbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com.

9th Annual Art in the Hollow

Karin DuPaul
Forum Staff

On June 2, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., come down to Swede Hollow Park to discover a deeper beauty and find art at its roots. The main entrance to Art in the Hollow is the Drewry Tunnel located on Beau- mont Street, one block south from Payne and East Minnehaha Avenues (behind Hope Community Academy). The TAP, a local social organization and its literary club, Urban Journal will be hosting space for performers at the East 7th Street Improvement Arches (near Payne Avenue).

Swede Hollow was one of the first neighborhoods in St. Paul’s immigrant history. Now a city park, it will be ready for spring blooming in June with Art in the Hollow artists, performers, and a public sculpture contest. The tradition of nurturing and showcasing local talent continues with performances, demonstrations, sales, and “plein air” artists creating art in the park, representing past and current cultural communities.

Artistic media runs the gamut ranging from sculptors and weavers to glassblowers and photographers. There are two stages full of talent this year, the main stage - same as past years, and a new stage at the Historic East 7th Street Improvement Arches.

The day will be filled with Native dancers, Italian accordionists, Mexican Mariachis, Swedish song, African-American Rhythm’n’Blues, Americ- an Bluegrass music, spoken word, and more. Food trucks and an eating area will be near the main entrance since remains for artists, performers, and sculptors. Visit www.artinhollow.org or www.facebook.com/artinhollow. For more information contact Karin at karindupaul.comcast.net or call 651-776-0530.
The next day a local newspaper ran a story with the headline “Carpenter Nails Coffin.” She soon became one of President Harry S Truman’s favorite photographers and earned a spot with a handful of photojournalists who traveled with Truman. Even though she was a member of the White House Correspondents Association, as a woman, she was not allowed to attend the group’s annual dinners. Then one day he allegedly fell in love and had an affair with a married Capitol journalist. She lost her job. She later married a Navy officer – not sure when – but he abused her so she divorced him. Then, at a time uncertain, she married a radio announcer and went with him to Denver where they had a son. Unfortunately, he was a heavy drinker and by 1951 the marriage and her career were both over.

Carpenter, then 31, returned to St. Paul with her son, Mjohn, and lived with her parents. She started Marion Carpenter Portrait Studios at the home on 1032 Conway Street, sometimes doing freelance work or covering weddings. She also worked as a nurse. Four years later, her father left after a terrible fight with his wife leaving Marion, her son, and her mother in the home.

There were more heartbreaking events to come. When he was 19, Mjohn got in trouble with the law and was being held in a juvenile facility when Marion came to visit him. It was the last time she ever saw him. It was said he was raped and released. Then in the mid-1980s, her mother died. Carpenter was alone.

That was when she began to spend her time visiting thrift shops, sitting on used furniture and leafing through old copies of National Geographic. She started storing all sorts of antiques as well as toys in the horsey and pulling away from others. One of the people she met in a West St. Paul Goodwill offered the following to an interviewer: “She was sensitive and kind, with an overflowing heart, but that heart covered up a lot of bitterness about how she’d been estranged from her son for more than 30 years and how she was treated in life… I think it caused her to be a recluse.”

St Paul inspectors eventually condemned her home and tore it down. Marion bought a small house at 1058 Margaret Street with her remaining funds and lived on a small Social Security pension, once again starting to collect and store things. Eventually there were three-foot high piles and a small path that led between her front and back doors.

On October 29, 2002, the nearly destitute Marion Carpenter was found dead in her very cold house at the age of 82. She had shut off the hot water heater and turned the thermostat down. She was on a sofa tightly wrapped in blankets next to her Rottweiler, Karl. Her remains waited at the coroner’s office for three months until the people she met in a West St. Paul Goodwill offered the following to an interviewer: “She was sensitive and kind, with an overflowing heart, but that heart covered up a lot of bitterness about how she’d been estranged from her son for more than 30 years and how she was treated in life…”

In the words of a woman historian, “She may have in life… I think it caused her to be a recluse.”

Steve Trimble can be reached at daytonsdistrictforum@gmail.com.
Have Forum, will travel...

Maggie Kessell shares the Forum with a friendly iguana in Belize.

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.

Maggie Kessell

Many thanks to our 2018 donors:
Cliff Carey - Jean Comstock - Greg Cosimini
John Erler - Mark Gallagher - Mary Healy
Sage Holben - Bob Jensen - Bette Johnson
Brent Katzenmaier - Heather Maclaughlin
Dick & Regina McCarthy - Dan McGunness
Larry Meuwissen & Joyce Maddox - Anna Miller
Misenor Professional Painting, LLC
Nick Okonek - Kirsi Poupore & Travis Welch
Mona Rath - Peter M. Reyes, Sr. - Jean Rivard
Brendan T. Telzrow

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 $2,000 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:
$100 $50 $25 Another amount_____

Or give online: razoo.com/Hopewell-Communications-Incorporated.

Name__________________________
Email__________________________
Address________________________
City, State, ZIP__________________
Phone__________________________

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!

Have Forum, will travel...

Steve Travis with the Forum in London.

Sage Holben

"Ready for Spring" the tables on the lovely patio of Swede Hollow Cafe are patiently waiting for sunny days and happy customers.

Parkway Gardens Apartments
A Senior Community
1145 Hudson Road, St. Paul, MN 55106
651.771.0267

Affordable Prices Starting At:
$865 - One Bedroom
$900 - Two Bedroom
Income guidelines apply

You owe it to yourself to live here!