

# Dayton's Bluff District Forum

Volume 32, No. 6  
July 2019  
daytonsbluffdistrictforum.org

"The Voice of the Community"

## Art in the Hollow a great success!

Karin DuPaul  
Forum Staff

The weather was perfect for the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Art in the Hollow on Saturday, June 1, in Swede Hollow Park. More than 70 artists of all types sold their art, including paintings, jewelry, photography, pottery/ceramics, textiles, woodcraft, and more. The day included music and art under the East 7<sup>th</sup> Street Improvement Arches.

Around 2,000 visitors attended this year's festival, a number of them exploring Swede Hollow for the first time. The day kicked-off with a delicious array of breakfast items for the artists: cinnamon rolls from Swede Hollow Café, coffee from The Goat Coffee House, and pastries from La Palma. Volunteers including the St. Paul Police Reserve were on hand all day and helped artists to get their art and equipment down into the hollow.

This year there were three stages featuring talent all day. The main stage was managed once again by Paul Garding, a wonderful entertainer himself. The acts included an excellent Mariachi Band, Kalpulli Yaocenoxtii, Kirk Larson, DJs from WEQY, Nancy Guertin who told Swede Hollow stories, and other great entertainers. The south stage was in the East 7<sup>th</sup> Street Improvement Arches and featured 40 performers performing poetry, music, spoken word, and dance all day from The TAP organization. This is the second year that The TAP has been part

of Art in the Hollow. The TAP is a local group that works to bridge the gap between those with disability labels and their communities. As their website proclaims, "When we come together, we ALL change. We party. We make friends. We help each other. We live better."

The third stage was at Hamm Park at East 7<sup>th</sup> and Greenbrier Streets, in celebration of the upgrades made to Hamm Park. On the stage were the Kalpulli Yaocenoxtii dancers, Esencia Mexicana, Ina Yukka, and Yes Dance Academy. Indigenous Roots Cultural Center hosted the celebration event at Hamm Park. The Hamm Park land was donated to the city of Saint Paul in 1910 by William Hamm in memory of his father, Theodore Hamm, who started the Hamm's Brewery.

Artist Diane May provided beautiful face painting in the kids tent, and youth from Indigenous Roots staffed the teen tent for young people to do art activities. The Swede Hollow history tent was staffed by historians Steve Trimble, Angela DuPaul, and Marilyn McGriff. Chee Yang from the St. Paul Parks department and Friends of Swede Hollow had visitors give input and suggestions on the Swede Hollow Master Plan.

After Art in the Hollow was over and cleaned up, artists, staff, and volunteers enjoyed an "After It's Over Meal" courtesy of Yarusso Brothers and Friends of Swede Hollow. The celebratory feast took place in a large tent on loan from Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Housing Services. Many partners help make Art in the Hollow a great success each year.

Karin DuPaul can be reached at [daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com](mailto:daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com).



Karin DuPaul

Dancers entertain visitors to the 10th Annual Art in the Hollow on June 1.

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Mandy Okonek

An all-ages crowd gathered on Friday, June 21, at Dayton's Bluff Community Garden to watch Open Eye Figure Theater's original production, *Katie Tomatie*. The family-friendly, community event was the perfect way to kick off summer, enjoying the beautiful weather on the longest day of the year.

## Urban Garden Party: Dayton's Bluff Community Garden kicks off summer with outdoor theater

Mandy Okonek  
Special to the Forum

To celebrate the longest day of the year, The Dayton's Bluff Community Garden hosted Open Eye Figure Theater's outdoor puppet show, *Katie Tomatie*. Open Eye Figure Theater has been facilitating roving "drive-way" performances for 17 years, encouraging neighbors to gather together and enjoy live outdoor theater in their driveways, yards, or in this case, community garden. In the digital age where most entertainment exists on screen, outdoor theater, sound-tracked with an accordion player, provided nostalgia for the time "pre-internet." The play was showcased in a prefabricated theater erected in the garden, starring hand-crafted papier mache puppets.

The story *Katie Tomatie* revolves around the relationship between Katie and her new pal Mr. Boo Boo,

a friendly, whimsical skeleton whom she meets after accidentally digging too deep in her garden planting a tomato seed. Katie and Mr. Boo Boo's adventures were engaging for the audience and sprinkled in just the right amount of carefully crafted puns and dad jokes.

The performers stayed around after the show to provide all the excited children and audience members an up-close look at the puppets. After the play, Metro State alumnus Cameron Ulmer shared his skills of circus arts with a juggling and unicycle performance.

The green space in the garden provided a perfect venue as neighbors, young and old, connected through outdoor theater. The raised garden beds provided seating and a talking point for gardeners to showcase their plots. This year, The Dayton's Bluff Community Garden has transformed from a seniors-only garden to include gardeners of all ages.

As the garden grows to include elders and children, this event provided a great opportunity to celebrate a shared love of gardening and community. More garden information is available on Facebook @daytonsbluffcommunitygarden.

## 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, at Earl Street and Mounds Boulevard, at 10:30 a.m. The next hike will be on Saturday, July 13. 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, July 11, at 6:30 p.m. Email karindupaul@comcast.net or call 651-776-0550 for more information and the meeting's location.

## 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 Monday, July 8, at 1:00 p.m., at Swede Hollow Cafe at 725 E. 7<sup>th</sup> 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.

The next meetings are on Wednesday, July 17, at 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Meetings are intended to be 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 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.



THE HISTORIC  
MOUNDS  
THEATRE

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

## July at the Dayton's Bluff Library

The following events take place at the Dayton's Bluff library, 645 East Seventh Street, Saint Paul. The library will be closed on July 4.

**Tuesday, July 9, 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 write reviews of the books they read. The reviews are submitted to the publishers to help guide their decisions.

*Summer Spark* takes place on Wednesdays throughout the summer, featuring performances and other fun activities for kids from 3:00-4:00 p.m. Check out the full calendar of events on page 5 for the July Summer Spark lineup.

Did you know that you can 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.

For information about these and other events check [sppl.org](http://sppl.org) or call 651-793-1699. The Dayton's Bluff Library shares its home with Metropolitan State University at 645 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street.

## Wish List Care Packages

Help East Side Elders distribute food, hygiene items, and more to seniors on the East Side by shopping their Amazon Wish List!

Visit [www.amazon.com/registry/wish-list/3KK0O1OGFO5NJ](http://www.amazon.com/registry/wish-list/3KK0O1OGFO5NJ) to have these much-needed items sent right to their office. From there, a team of volunteers will distribute them to seniors in need.

With the help of supporters like you, East Side Elders is able to supply groceries and personal care items to seniors in the community, at no charge to them. These items help stretch their monthly budgets and give them access to healthy food and much-needed personal care products. Donations can also be dropped off at our office: East Side Elders, 463 Maria Avenue Suite 201, St. Paul, MN 55106. A printable wish list can also be found on our website.

## Grocery Shopping

Did you know that East Side Elders can help you and your loved one with grocery shopping?

Let East Side Elders take a chore off your long to-do list! To get help with grocery shopping, call 651-683-2326 or email [Info@EastSideElders.org](mailto:Info@EastSideElders.org) with a detailed list. From there, East Side Elders staff put a call out to their grocery shopping team and schedule a day and time that works for you and the volunteer for delivery.

Grocery shopping is a donation-based service. Donate what you can for the convenience of not having to head out to the store. Reimbursement for the groceries can be done directly with the volunteer - they will bring you a receipt when they make their delivery.

## Volunteer with East Side Elders

Did you know that East Side Elders provided over 1,600 rides to seniors on the East Side last year? With the help of our incredible volunteers, we help older adults get to medical appointments, the bank, the grocery store, and other errands. Each ride helps a senior remain an active, vital part of the community.

As we receive more and more requests for help from our senior neighbors, we need to grow our team of volunteer drivers. Join our team by applying online at [EastSideElders.org/Volunteer](http://EastSideElders.org/Volunteer) or by contacting us at 651-683-2326. Volunteer drivers have a flexible schedule and help out when they can, as often as they choose. Gas cards are also available for volunteer drivers!

## Business Classes

The Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Microentrepreneur class helps start-up and young businesses on the East Side. All East Side entrepreneurs are welcome. Class training lasts 12 weeks and includes topics such as operations management, marketing, financial management, one-on-one assistance with creating a successful business, and developing a business plan, plus eight hours of one-on-one assistance with creating and preparing a business plan.

Those who successfully complete the course are eligible for ongoing business support services (they don't have to locate their business in target neighborhoods to be eligible).

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, so sign up now. Please call the training department at 651-379-8113.

## Free Help for East Side Pets

The Animal Humane Society's Community Outreach program offers special clinics for pets on the East Side. The events provide 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://animalhumanesociety.org/outreach-services-frogtown-and-east-st-paul>.

## Learn About Medicare and Help Others

Help the Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging provide one-on-one counseling to Medicare beneficiaries at community partner sites, such as senior centers and libraries, in the seven-county metro area.

Make a difference in your community by becoming a State Health Insurance Assistance Program certified Medicare Counselor. Help people understand their Medicare options. Visit [Metroaging.org/volunteer](http://Metroaging.org/volunteer) to learn more.

## Explore Saint Paul with a Walking Tour

*Take a free Saint Paul Walking Tour from Landmark Center*

Visitors and residents alike are invited to explore Rice Park, St. Peter Street, and Saint Paul's riverfront with Landmark Center's Saint Paul Walking Tours. Beginning in June and continuing through September, Landmark Center tour guides will lead three different walking tours of Saint Paul. Tours are free and operate on a rotating schedule, departing on **Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m.**

"Walking tours are great for both visitors and residents," said Bob Wagner, a Landmark Center volunteer and creator of the walking tours. "People take their hometowns for granted, but there's always something new to learn, whether you're a lifelong resident or a tourist."

The *Rice Park Tour*: The **second Wednesday of each month**, departs from Landmark Center's Visitor Information Desk. The tour circles one of Saint Paul's most iconic parks, and stops in the surrounding buildings which give the park its central role in city events and celebrations.

The *Heart of the City Tour*: The **third Wednesday of each month**, departs from Landmark Center's North Lobby (6th Street entrance) and travels down historic St. Peter Street highlighting some of the most famous landmarks and influential buildings in St. Paul's history, including the Hamm Building and Mickey's Dinner.

The *Great River Tour*: The **fourth Wednesday of each month**, departs from Upper Landing Park (Shepard Road and Eagle Parkway). The tour walks along the mighty Mississippi, highlighting buildings and locations that helped make Saint Paul the city it is today.

All tours are FREE, operate June through September, and begin at 10:00 a.m. Space is limited, reservations are required. For more information or to make a reservation please call 651-292-3276 or visit [www.landmarkcenter.org/saint-paul-walking-tours](http://www.landmarkcenter.org/saint-paul-walking-tours).

About Landmark Center: Landmark Center is a dynamic, historic cultural center and central gathering place in downtown Saint Paul. It is owned and sponsored by Ramsey County and managed by Minnesota Landmarks, the non-profit programming and 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 Lawson, Science Museum and RiverCentre Ramps. For more information call 651-292-3225 or visit [www.landmarkcenter.org](http://www.landmarkcenter.org).



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## Contest : Where in Dayton's Bluff?

Send your guess to [daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com](mailto:daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com) with the location of the neighborhood curiosity pictured below. The reader who submits the first correct entry will be notified and the winner will be announced in the August edition of the *Forum*. Congratulations to Mark Miller, winner of the June contest. Read more about his correct guess in the article at right, "What in Dayton's Bluff."



## What in Dayton's Bluff?

Casey Jones III  
Special to the Forum

The object in the June "Where in Dayton's Bluff?" photo was correctly identified as being located near the edge of the bluff in Indian Mounds Park. But what is it?

Physically it is an iron stake firmly planted in the ground. The letters on the top, CBN RR, stand for the Chicago, Burlington and Northern Railroad. It was one of many regional railroads that existed in the 19th century. And like many of those railroads, the CBN had a relatively short lifespan, only existing as an independent company from 1887 to 1899.

The federal government wanted the rail system to expand as fast as possible and encouraged this expansion by giving railroads tens of millions of acres of public land, known as land grants. The railroads could build tracks and related train facilities on this land, sell it or do anything else

they wanted with this free land. These land grants were highly controversial at the time and to this day the ownership of some of this land is still a source of legal contention due to the open-ended nature of the land grants.

The CBN RR stake in Mounds Park is most likely one of many survey markers that at one time delineated the land owned by the railroad, or possibly still does own. It likely dates back to the late 1800s.

The CBN merged into the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy Railroad in 1899, eventually becoming the Burlington Northern and is now the BNSF. The BNSF continues to have a large presence in St. Paul in the area below and to the east of the bluffs along the Mississippi River. Is it possible BNSF still owns a part of Mounds Park? Or at some point in the past was that land given or sold to the city of St. Paul? That question would take much more research to answer. Is anyone up to the task?

Casey Jones III can be reached at [daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com](mailto:daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com).



Casey Jones III

An iron stake firmly planted in the ground at Indian Mounds Park, displaying the letters "CBN RR," which stand for the Chicago, Burlington and Northern Railroad.

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### Dayton's Bluff District Forum

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Editor/layout: Jennifer Gascoigne; Associate Editor: Mark Gallagher  
Photographer: Lou "The Photo Guy" Michaels  
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### Considering a Move?

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 12-3 p.m. Job Search/ Computer Skills/Open Lab	2 12-3 p.m. Northstar Digi- tal Literacy Open Lab	3 12-3 p.m. Job Search/ Computer Skills/Open Lab	4 CLOSED 4TH OF JULY	5 11-11:30 a.m. Baby Storytime	6
7	8 12-3 p.m. Job Search/ Computer Skills/Open Lab	9 12-3 p.m. Northstar Digital Literacy Open Lab 3-5 p.m. Spark Camp <b>SEE REVERSE SIDE</b> 6-8 p.m. Teens Know Best	10 12-3 p.m. Job Search/ Computer Skills/Open Lab 3-4p.m. <b>Summer Spark</b> Bruce the Bug Guy <b>SEE REVERSE SIDE</b>	11 6:30-7:30 p.m. East Side Artist Salon with speaker Stephen Kistler	12 10 a.m. - noon Garden to Table <b>SEE REVERSE SIDE</b> 11-11:30 a.m. Baby Storytime 2-4 p.m. Summer Movie <b>SEE REVERSE SIDE</b>	13
14	15 12-3 p.m. Job Search/ Computer Skills/Open Lab	16 12-3 p.m. Northstar Digital Literacy Open Lab 3-5 pm Spark Camp	17 12-3 p.m. Job Search/ Computer Skills/Open Lab 3-4p.m. <b>Summer Spark</b> Como Park Zoo: Penguins!	18	19 11-11:30 a.m. Baby Storytime	20
21	22 12-3 p.m. Job Search/ Computer Skills/Open Lab	23 12-3 p.m. Northstar Digital Literacy Open Lab 3-5 pm Spark Camp	24 12-3 p.m. Job Search/ Computer Skills/Open Lab	25	26 11-11:30 a.m. Baby Storytime	27
28	29 12-3 p.m. Job Search/ Computer Skills/Open Lab	30 12-3 p.m. Northstar Digital Literacy Open Lab 3-5 pm Spark Camp	31 12-3 p.m. Job Search/ Computer Skills/Open Lab	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="flex: 1;"> <p>Have you <b>HEARD</b> a good book lately?</p> </div> <div style="flex: 1; text-align: center;">  </div> <div style="flex: 1; font-size: small;"> <p>Listen to free audiobooks with your library card. <a href="http://SPPL.ORG/AUDIOBOOKS">SPPL.ORG/AUDIOBOOKS</a></p> </div> </div>		



**dayton's bluff**

# Featured

**contact us**  
 645 E 7th St / tel: (651) 793-1699  
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Garden to Table

**Session 3:  
Enhancing Curb Appeal**



**Friday, July 12**  
10 a.m. — noon

Meet at the community garden on East North St. (behind Swede Hollow Café)

EVERY TUESDAY 3 - 5 P.M.  
BEGINNING JULY 9



SPARK CAMP



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Summer Spark

Wednesday, July 10, 3-5 p.m.

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Wednesday, July 17, 3-5 p.m.

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## You got somethin' to say? Say it here!

The *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* welcomes all opinions and neighborhood anecdotes – send yours to: [daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com](mailto:daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com).

Opinions expressed in signed articles appearing on page 6 may not represent the views of the *Forum*.

**Deadline for the August issue of the *Forum* is July 10, 2019.**

## View from my porch Re: Shut my mind

*Sage Holben  
Forum Staff*

“You must need a thick skin to write for the general public.” This observation was made shortly after the speaker had read the ‘Shut my mind - View from my porch’ piece which appeared in the June issue of the *Forum*. Yes, I answered, having just come from a meeting with several parks and rec people, the Dayton’s Bluff rec center on-site manager, and Councilmember Jane Prince.

I’ll say only that a certain amount of passion was expressed by the on-site manager. If I were in her place, I might have felt the same way - feeling her staff and her programs were attacked... except they weren’t. She felt the entire article was about the Dayton’s Bluff rec center. While we may feel protective and passionate about what we hold dear, it helps to call on our objective and critical thinking, and bring into balance all that is in front of us. The article was about a boy; a young boy who tries to make his way in a world where little is in his control; a world in which he balances love, fears, play, and heavy responsibilities.

I tried, and failed, to get across that his fears are his. He owns them. Even if we think he should feel safe; even if we don’t see what he fears; it is not

ours to deny that he fears...no more than we can say to a woman in a violent relationship, ‘Your husband/boyfriend is nice...you shouldn’t be afraid.’ It is not us living his (or her) life.

The flip side of developing a thick skin is hearing from the many people who have read and said they were moved to reflect on their own childhoods; on people who made a difference in their lives, the safety they felt...and how can they now help others. And they do help the children of today...sharing their compassion, helping to build dreams, and helping to make dreams a reality. From the neighbors who provide icy treats on a hot day, teach a few chords on a guitar, hire a child or two so they have spending money; permitting children to use her basketball hoop; giving safe hugs, words of caution (in love) when children are playing or wandering in the street. In short, making a difference and modeling by listening to a child, interacting directly with youth, and simply answering the door when a child wants to talk, or just visit in a quiet place with a giant cat. Many of our children’s lives don’t fit within a regular schedule, or programs, but with so many neighbors willing to truly meet children where they are, our children can and will flourish. We just need to provide the nourishment.

*Sage Holben can be reached by email at [daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com](mailto:daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com).*

## Mississippi Market’s \$3 Community Dinners return

*Enjoy summer at the co-op with good food, great people, and live music*

*Matt Frank  
Mississippi Market*

Mississippi Market is pleased to announce the return of its \$3 Community Dinners this summer. These events will be held on the **fourth Thursdays of July and August from 5:00-7:30 p.m.** at the co-op’s East 7th store. Each dinner will feature an affordable market made meal, live music from local musicians, free food samples, community partners, raffle prizes, and more. Vegan and gluten-free options will be available at both dinners. Save the dates to celebrate community with good food, great people, and live music. All are welcome!

Join your neighbors on **Thursday, July 25, from 5:00-7:30 p.m.** at the East 7th store to share a \$3 Community Dinner of garlic rosemary chicken or BBQ tofu and potato salad, delicious soda and sparkling drink samples from local makers Wisco Pop!, free giveaways and hands-on recycling activities from the City of St. Paul, live music by local reggae musician Van

Nixon, and your chance to win a Bear Tree hammock.

**Thursday, August 22, from 5:00-7:30 p.m.** at the East 7th store, don’t miss the \$3 Community Dinner: BBQ pulled pork or jackfruit sandwich and coleslaw featuring delicious free samples from Pastures a Plenty, Triple Crown Organic BBQ Sauce, and East Side Table, free giveaways and hands-on recycling activities from the City of St. Paul, live harp guitar and lap steel music by local musician Dan Schwartz, and your chance to win a bear-resistant Grizzly Cooler. A special thanks to generous sponsorships from the following businesses who contribute to the success of these events: Albert’s Organics, Upton’s Naturals, Co-op Partners Warehouse, Bimbo Bakeries USA, and Triple Crown Organic BBQ Sauce.

*Mississippi Market Natural Foods Co-op has been offering local, organic food at a fair price to its St. Paul neighbors for 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. Mississippi Market is a food co-op open to everyone that empowers our diverse communities to be healthy, make choices that help sustain our planet, and create a more just local economy. Learn more at [msmarket.coop](http://msmarket.coop).*

## Won't you be my neighbor?

*Annette Morris  
Special to the Forum*

Dayton's Bluff neighbors, thinking of the old television show, *Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood*, who are the people in your neighborhood, the people that you meet each day? This is still one of my favorite songs and you may hear me belting out the lyrics at any given time. “I’ve always wanted to have a neighbor, just like you...I’ve always wanted to live in a neighborhood, with youuu...so let’s make the most of this beautiful day...”

I would like all St. Paul neighborhoods to know about my neighbors. My neighbors are all AWESOME and I

would like them all know how much I appreciate them. It takes a village to raise a child and they have been part of my village. I’m a grandmother living with her daughter and grandchildren. I just had one move on to middle school, two moving up to high school, and one on her way to college. I am very proud of them and could not have done it without the support of my neighbors.

I don’t know each of you by name and don’t want to leave anyone out, but I want to say “Thank you!” Thank you for caring enough to keep those kids working on something positive. The baked goods, the smiles, the waves, and all of the support you all have given us. Thank you for treating us with respect and kindness!

“Would you be mine, could you be mine...won’t you be my neighbor?” Thanks again, neighbors.

*- The Morris Family*

## The Payday Loan Debt Trap

*Sara Nelson-Pallmeyer  
Executive Director, Exodus Lending*

Exodus Lending is a nonprofit started in 2015, refinancing payday loans for persons caught in what we call the “payday loan debt trap.”

Payday loans are small dollar, unsecured loans with high interest rates (usually over 200%). Unlike a typical loan, payday loan borrowers are required to pay off the loan in full on their next payday. Payday lenders require direct access to the borrower’s bank account and make these loans without fully investigating the borrower’s ability to repay. Borrowers unable to pay off the loan by their next payday often re-borrow, leading to the payday loan debt trap. Every two weeks, trapped borrowers pay only the interest and fees to “renew,” without ever being able to pay off the principal loan amount.

In 2017, nearly 49,000 Minnesotans took out more than 330,000 payday loans. Borrowers averaged eight loans each, with 58% of borrowers taking out at least five loans, and 10% taking out over 20 loans. Minnesotans for Fair Lending estimates

that between 1999 and 2014, more than \$110 million in interest and fees was drained from our communities. Minnesota payday loan borrowers paid nearly \$10 million in interest and fees in 2017 alone. That is a large amount of money that is not being used for groceries, rent/mortgage payments, transportation, childcare, and other needed expenses, leading to an increase in financial distress for families, which can have devastating physical, emotional, and psychological consequences over time.

Exodus Lending responds by paying off these predatory loans. Program participants pay back their loans through manageable monthly payments over 12 months, with no interest and no fees. Participants are Minnesota residents with a steady income who have found themselves caught in the payday loan debt trap. Exodus Lending offers referrals to financial counseling, incentives for steady payments and support for personal money management. This year, Exodus Lending is adding reports on payments to the credit bureaus, so borrowers can improve their credit scores.

Persons wishing to find out more or to donate can go to [exoduslending.org](http://exoduslending.org) or call (612) 615-0067.

## Sen. Fong Hawj proud to join Gov. Walz as three important bills are signed into law

*Jackie Wegleitner  
Office of Sen. Fong Hawj*

Senator Fong Hawj (DFL-St. Paul) joined Gov. Tim Walz for the signing ceremony of three important bills into law today. Sen. Hawj was a co-author of the “Lawns to Legumes” grant program, the second bill is Sen. Hawj’s Hmong SGU Remembrance Day, and the third is a bill to allow homeowners to reject racially restrictive covenants passed and signed into law.

“The new Lawns to Legumes grant program is focused on planting residential lawns with native vegetation and pollinator friendly plants to protect a diversity of pollinators,” Sen. Hawj said. “The goal is to distribute funds to local conservation partners later this year, who will distribute funds to landowners to plant pollinator-friendly plants. Ideally, this will lead to planting projects in the Spring or Summer of 2020.”

As an author of the Hmong SGU Remembrance Day, Sen. Hawj built coalitions and advocacy to ensure May 14 will be forever designated as a day to remember the many Hmong soldiers who fought and lost their lives for American

freedoms.

“I am so very proud to play a part in honoring those who fought in support of the U.S. in the Secret War in Laos,” Sen. Hawj said. “May 14, 1975 was the last day of an airlift evacuation of soldiers and their families from a covert headquarters in Laos to a refugee camp in Thailand. This was a humble request by my elders, Hmong SGU veterans, to set May 14 as the day to remember their sacrifice. The date also signifies the end of the Secret War and the beginning of the Hmong journey to be Americans. Today, my bill to honor the legacy of Hmong SGU and families on May 14 becomes Minnesota state law.”

Finally, legislation to allow homeowners who find racially restrictive covenants on their property titles have an opportunity to place an affidavit on their title rejecting the covenant, under a legislation Sen. Hawj worked with advocates on. “This is an important bill because it confronts historical inequities in property titles,” Sen. Hawj said. “Even though it is illegal to discriminate against people when purchasing property, many titles carry racially discriminating language and now homeowners can reject the covenant.”

“It is rewarding to see the culmination of hard work come together as I stand with Gov. Walz and the authors and co-authors of these three important bills as they are signed into law today,” Sen. Hawj said.

## Some St. Paul history from July days

Steve Trimble  
Forum Staff

Here are a few short pieces I have written for a possible book with a St. Paul story for every day in the city's history. The first one happened in Dayton's Bluff. Let's start there and end with the discovery of historic bones.

**July 4, 1892:** This event became known as "the Noble Riot." Percival Noble, an Englishman of 258 Bates, decided to fly the British flag on a pole in front of his home on Independence Day. John DeCourcy, who lived nearby, ran to the house, pulled down the foreign banner, folded it, handed it to its owner and protested in the name of the founding fathers.

As soon as DeCourcy left, Noble sent the Union Jack up again, this time cutting the rope. DeCourcy returned and began climbing the pole. Noble attacked him with a horsewhip. Another nearby resident arrived on the scene and punched Noble in the nose. This allowed DeCourcy to seize the whip and start flailing. Noble retreated into his house. Other neighbors arrived and tore pieces off the house's front porch.

A squad of police on horseback arrived and a number of people were taken to the Margaret Street station. People demanded that Noble be prosecuted for defaming the Fourth of July, but there were no arrests or charges. Soon after, Noble packed up and took his family to Winnipeg. One writer said "thus was the last outpost of the British empire wiped out in

the United States."

**July 10, 1921:** Twenty-one year old Phoebe Fairgrave set a women's world record for a high-altitude parachute jump by dropping from 15,200 feet on this day from a plane flown by her brother.

Born in Iowa, her family moved to St. Paul, where she attended Madison School and graduated from Mechanic Arts High School in 1920. Shortly after graduating high school, Fairgrave spent a few months at drama school and worked briefly as a secretary. But she was bored and began hanging around airfields near her home. The pilots were skeptical, but Phoebe learned to fly and used some of her inheritance to purchase a biplane after her fourth flight.

Still in her teens, Fairgrave began wing walking, learned how to hang below a plane by her teeth, and danced on the top of wings. One of her supporters was Vernon Omlie, a flyer who would become her husband in 1922. She became well known by winning air races throughout the country. In 1925, the Omlies moved to Tennessee and began offering flying lessons and mechanical services. A year later, in 1927, Phoebe became the first female to receive an airplane mechanics license and became the first licensed female transport pilot.

**July 14, 1936:** The thermometer read 108 degrees and set a record for the hottest day ever recorded in St. Paul. There were 24 heat related deaths that brought the nine day total to 240. With little home air conditioning at the time, people relied on fans. An owner of an electric implement wholesaler reported that "we've sold everything in stock with a blade on it that would turn." Newspapers listed names and addresses of victims with bits of information. One said 92 year-old Charles Hare, who had been in St. Paul since 1856, died in his home. In fact, most of the reports said that people had passed away where they lived and a few expired in hotels. An

eight year old boy drowned "after being overcome by heat" while swimming in a lake.

Police emergency equipment and hospital ambulances were busy so a library truck was fit with a stretcher. Many people were brought to hospitals and a few died there. Hospital treatment included water, sodium chloride, and cold cloths on the head, neck, and chest, and serious cases were put into ice packs. Fortunately on July 15, a cool front with the first rain in a month ended the sweltering weather.

**July 22, 1938:** Construction workers in Saint Paul uncovered bones that stopped work for a time. It turned out that on this day they had found the skeleton of a giant Pleistocene beaver, the largest rodent in North America. It measured eight feet long and was estimated to have weighed 480 pounds. The cutting teeth were up six inches long.

Whole ecosystems of plants and animals—and prehistoric human populations—followed the retreat of the glaciers from Minnesota more than 10,000 years ago. With few predators or other dangers and with a good food supply, animals could evolve bigger and heavier and become what is described as "megafauna." Many of the animals we see today moved into the area at the close of the Pleistocene and adapted to the warmer temperatures of today. Still others such as mammoths, giant beavers, sloths, and horses thrived here, but for unknown reasons became extinct.

Rodents were larger in the Ice Age and this was especially true of beavers. The largest rodent in North America was the giant beaver. It measured eight feet long and weighed 480 pounds. Modern beavers weigh around sixty-five pounds. The skeletal remains can still be seen at the Science Museum of Minnesota.

Steve Trimble can be reached at [daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com](mailto:daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com).

## World Wide Holidays in July

Temperance Brennan  
Forum Contributor

As an anthropologist, I understand how holidays can facilitate a sense of shared culture among members of a group. On a large scale, national holidays may do the same thing for national unity. Our Fourth of July celebration is also known as Independence Day. Other countries often call their major celebration Independence Day as well. Here are a few of them that take place in July.

**July 3:** Independence Day in Belarus, the date was chosen to honor those who fought to free the capital, Minsk, from Nazi German occupation during the Second World War. In a referendum the country voted to

celebrate Independence Day on July 3.

**July 5:** Independence Day, this day commemorates Algeria's independence from France in 1962. It is celebrated with multi-cultural festivities organized in various cities.

**July 7:** Independence Day, celebrates the time that the Solomon Islands left the United Kingdom in 1978. The day is a time of family reunions, sports events, dancing, and other cultural and patriotic events. The main event is the parade in the capital city of Honiara.

**July 9:** Independence Day, denotes creation of an Autonomous Government of Southern Sudan. It became an independent state following a referendum that passed with 98.83% of the vote.

**July 10:** Independence Day, this annual holiday marks the independence of the the Bahamas from the United Kingdom in 1973. It occurred when independence documents were delivered by Prince Charles.

**July 17:** Independence Day or Slovakia Výročie deklarácie o zvrchovanosti is the Anniversary of the 1992 Declaration of the Independence of the Slovak Republic that was formerly part of Czechoslovakia.

**July 20:** Colombia Independence Day is Colombia's national day and marks the start of the movement that led to independence from Spain in 1810. A vote in September 1993, made the day the official national holiday in 1994.

**July 26:** Independence Day in Liberia, commemorates the 1847 declaration of independence by the U.S. colony in western Africa.

**July 30:** Independence Day Vanuatu, which is located in the South Pacific with a population of 276,000 people. It was formerly known as New Hebrides until its independence in 1980.

Temperance Brennan can be reached at [daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com](mailto:daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com).

## Convergent Voices

Heritage stories told with visual voices

Krissy Schoenfelder  
Landmark Center

Artists draw inspiration from many experiences and influences, and Landmark Center's summer exhibit highlights artists drawing inspiration from their family, culture, and traditional heritage. "Convergent Voices," the summer exhibition features three distinct cultural/heritage backgrounds and showcase the work in concert with one another.

Judy Brooks, Director of Community Programs at Landmark Center, remarked, "We started annual themes in 2017 with 'community,' last year's theme was 'Saint Paul,' and this year we're entirely focused on artists' personal heritage and experience as the subject matter."

Exhibit features include *Voice of the Mother* by Kyong Juhn. In 2018, photographer Kyong Juhn aimed to replicate her mother's 370-mile journey, on foot, from North Korea to freedom in South Korea in the 1950s. Juhn documented in photographs her own 370-mile journey on foot from Rochester,

Minnesota to Bemidji, Minnesota, capturing the people, scenes and experiences she encountered while walking.

*Voices of a People* by Palestinian Art Collective. The original work of four Palestinian artists, curated and brought to the U.S. through a collaboration with Bright Star of Bethlehem, with the mission to share the spirit and voices of the Palestinian people.

*Voices of the Ancestors* by Leah Yellowbird - First Nations Algonquin-Metis and Anishinaabe. The exquisite beauty and intricacy of Yellowbird's traditional bead work and "paint beads" speaks of the artistry and significance of the traditions of her ancestors.

"Convergent Voices" runs through July 28. For more information, visit [landmarkcenter.org](http://landmarkcenter.org).

Landmark Center is a dynamic, historic cultural center and central gathering place in downtown Saint Paul. 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 Lawson, Science Museum and River-Centre Ramps. For more information call 651.292.3225 or visit [www.landmarkcenter.org](http://www.landmarkcenter.org).



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Exodus Lending helps Minnesotans out of payday loan debt. We pay off the payday loan, and our program participants pay us back, without interest or fees, over the next year.

Contact us today:  
[exoduslending.org](http://exoduslending.org)  
612.615.0067





Several readers send us pictures of themselves reading our newspaper on their travels, and around our neighborhood. If you'd like to do the same, please email photos to: [daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com](mailto:daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com).

Pictured above is neighborhood favorite, mail carrier Tracy, and her diligent helper, Leo. Photo submitted by Melanie Buetow.

*Many thanks to our 2019 donors:*

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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 and mail, per month.

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 2019. **Our goal for 2019 is \$18,000; thanks to readers like you, we've raised \$1,815 to date – will you help us reach our goal in 2019?**

Sincerely,  
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