

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

Volume 32, No. 8
September 2019
daytonsbluffdistrictforum.org

"The Voice of the Community"



Steve Trimble

Cuban dancers on East 7th Street entertain visitors to CLUES Fiesta Latina celebration on Saturday, August 10.

Arts abound on the Bluff!

*Sod House Theater & Black Label Movement
Special to the Forum*

The *Swede Hollow Ghost Sonata* comes to Dayton's Bluff **September 14-29, Saturdays and Sundays at 6:00 p.m.** In Swede Hollow Park. ALL performances are FREE to the public (suggested donations are welcome and online reservations are recommended).

An outdoor, immersive performance experience using theater, dance, movement, and original music to explore the continuing histories of immigration to St. Paul's Swede Hollow neighborhood. Join renowned and award-winning performance companies Sod House Theater and Black Label Movement this September in St. Paul for their latest imaginative collaboration. Audiences will set off on an outdoor, guided, theatrical promenade through the park, stopping along the way to experience moving vignettes within a recreated world that evoke the early history of Swedish immigration to the area in the 1850s. Using Swedish Playwright August Strindberg's play *The Ghost Sonata* as a starting point of inspiration, this stellar cast of local, multidisciplinary performers will bring to life the community that once lived in the park, sharing

tales that resonate with the ongoing, present-day stories and experiences within St. Paul's East Side. Working closely with local businesses and organizations, this project also includes additional community events designed to spark conversations about the rich history of this incredible neighborhood.

Sod House Theater (SHT) and Black Label Movement (BLM) have a long history of multidisciplinary collaboration, creating space for public dialogue and action, and examining and engaging the human condition to inspire vivid lives. This project is conceived and directed by artistic directors Darcey Engen (SHT), Luverne Seifert (SHT), and Carl Flink (BLM). Featuring the performing talents of: Sarah Agnew, Hannah Albers, Chloe Armao, Alexandra Bodnarchuk, Kaitlyn Hawkins, Wesley Hortenbeck, Patrick Jeffrey, JuCoby Johnson, Nathan Keepers, Ryan-Olivia McCoy, Sarah McCullough, Robert McGrady, Mirabai Miller, Rachel Miller, Joey Weaver, and Cheng Xiong.

All performances free to the public (suggested donations welcome). Online ticket reservations recommended and can be obtained at sodhousetheater.com. Patrons enter Swede Hollow Park at the Drewry Street Pedestrian Tunnel. Entrance at the intersection of Drewry Lane and Beaumont Street East. Comfortable shoes and clothes highly recommended for promenade. Golf carts available for patrons with mobility concerns.

The Forum needs your help!

*Rosemary Thyme
Forum Staff*

Readers, we, the staff and volunteers of *Dayton's Bluff District Forum*, may have given you a wrong impression. I'd like to try and correct it.

In every issue, we list donors who have contributed during the current calendar year toward expenses (printing, mailing, and a paltry sum to our editor). Some names listed have given once, some multiple times. Some have given ten dollars, some hundreds. This list does not mean we receive contributions every month from the listed names. The names may reflect the greater community of readers who may think a foundation contributes a mega amount to the *Forum* (not true). The names do reflect a cross-section of readers who understand that a small neighborhood newspaper is a common thread that binds a diverse community through stories and pictures of amusement, humanity, education, and commonality.

Contributors on this annual list keep the *Forum* printed and available to hundreds of residents in Dayton's Bluff. My point is these donors, and our ads, are our only income resources. At this time we receive no grants or other 'free' money. (Grants become difficult because we cannot quantify our readership, as the *Forum* is not subscriber-based).

In each issue is a 'Friends of the *Forum*' paragraph with a plea for contributions. I wondered if our wording in this plea gives our readers a false impression of donations received and needed to keep the *Forum* printed and distributed. The truth is, our received donations barely keep the paper up and running. Though this seems to be the nor-

malization of neighborhood papers, it's neither a comfortable position nor one that is beneficial to our readers who do not or cannot access our online issues (which still require an editor for layout). When we do not meet the \$1900 for the monthly printing and mailing (as for the July issue), we print online only. When we do have \$1900, we print paper AND publish online.

I'll insert a quirky thought here - as convenient as electronic books and papers can be, it amuses me to think of a community paper being produced and presented to a community in a potentially isolating form....sort of like a National Night Out event with everyone eating alone. Do you see what I am getting at? A neighborhood paper draws people together; it's a community paper for and about the very people who are reading it, reading about their neighbors or reading material written by someone they've never met - yet the connection feels as personal as if they've been lifelong friends.

Another quirky thought: Would you or anyone you know, be able and generous enough to donate (tax-deductible) \$1,000 a month for nine months? Well ok, \$1900 to be REALLY philanthropic. Just thought I'd put it out there. Note: one issue: \$1900/11 issues \$20,900 (no issue in January).

How about 100 persons each donating \$19 a month? What if there were a contest: ten neighborhoods formed teams and each neighborhood team get at least 10 persons/families to donate \$19/month - that's only 10 neighborhoods! Feeling healthily competitive?

Feeling frisky? Write your BIG check to: Dayton's Bluff District Forum, 804 Margaret Street Saint Paul, MN, 55106, or Give online: razoo.com/Hopewell-Communications-Incorporated (a small service percentage of donation is deducted by Razoo) For further information, contact: Karin DuPaul at 651-776-0550 or daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com.

New art space opens on Payne Avenue

*Alice Hugy
Special to the Forum*

Second Shift Studio, a new makerspace designed for artists, will host a grand opening and open house on **Saturday, September 7, from noon to 7:00 p.m.** Owners Chris Larson and

Kriss Zulkosky, who are also Dayton's Bluff residents, bought the old linoleum store at 1128 Payne Avenue. The space will serve as a non-profit storefront where artists and the public can gather and will offer help to artists in the form of space at a time when the price of studio space has increased a great deal.

Contact secondshiftstudiospace@gmail.com or call (651) 398-1837 for more information.

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Pictured at left: Look! Up in the sky! It's a bird! It's a plane! It's... definitely a big plane! This WWII era B-29 Superfortress bomber, now known as "Doc," was seen buzzing the Bluff on the weekend of July 13 and 14. It and other vintage aircraft were at Holman Field for a mini air show.

Photo by Greg Cosimini

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, September 14. The hike is one 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, September 5, 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 Saturday, September 7, at 11:00 a.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.

The next meetings are on Wednesday, September 18, 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

Friday, September 13: *Midwest All-Star Wrestling* returns to the Mounds Theater. Check our website for details.

Saturday, September 14 and Sunday, September 15: *Clean Up Weekend 2019*. The Mounds is a big building and our volunteer staff can use help getting to all the random jobs that pile up during the year. Over the weekend we'll fix things and sort things and clean things. Wear clothes that can get dirty and stay as long as you are able. Both days: 9:00 a.m. To 5:00 p.m. Special event on Sunday: "Paint the Stage" starting at 1:00 p.m. The good news: It's all free. No ticket required.

Coming in October: *Real Haunted Tours* with real ghosts. Check our website for details.

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

September 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 August 31 through September 2, in observance of Labor Day.

Tuesday, September 17, 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.

Back to School! The library's got your back. Check out sppl.org/back-to-school for information on homework help, after school snack, and other resources to make your school year a success.

For information about these and other events check sppl.org or call 651-793-1699. The Dayton's Bluff Library shares its home with Metropolitan State University at 645 East 7th 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/3KK001OGFO5NJ 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 East Side Elders, 463 Maria Avenue Suite 201, St. Paul, MN 55106.

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 with a detailed list. From there, East Side Elders staff will 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 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 Com-

munity 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 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.

Church of St. Mary

261 E. 8th St. Saint Paul, MN 55101



UPCOMING EVENTS

FIESTA DINNER
Saturday, September 14th, 6:00 p.m.

BLESSING OF PETS
Sunday, October 6th, 11:45 a.m.

FALL FESTIVAL & BOOYA
Sunday, October 13th, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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 Jimmy Puttanickal, 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 Facebook: www.facebook.com/stmarystpaul/

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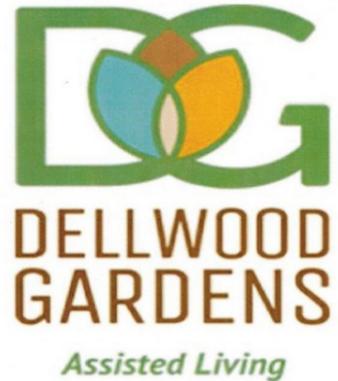
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Contest : Where in Dayton's Bluff?

Send your guess to daytonsbuffdistrictforum@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 October edition of the *Forum*. Congratulations to Hyorin Park, winner of the August contest with a correct location of Metropolitan State University.



2019 Elder Café



Join us for lunch and go home with fabulous prizes!

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

A suggested donation of \$8.00 will be gratefully accepted. Punch cards may be purchased at the door. We take cash, check and credit card.

**We cannot guarantee a meal without a reservation. If you have a special diet request, please contact at least one week in advance of the event.*

Thursday September 12, 2019
12:00 – 2:00 pm
City View Center
 (previously known as First Lutheran Church)
463 Maria Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55106
(651) 683-2326

East Side Elders




Exciting new events coming to Swede Hollow!

Karin DuPaul
Friends of Swede Hollow

Don't miss *The Clemency of Tito's Tennis Club: A Picnic Operetta*, on **Saturday, September 28, at 2:00 p.m.** in Swede Hollow Park. The Picnic Operetta is a yearly event in Swede Hollow.

In this adaptation of Mozart's opera, a rag-tag group of players is resurrecting a defunct tennis club. Backstabbing, bitterness, and a murderous revenge plot threaten their rise to the top of Rome's championship match. Will they find redemption before Mount Vesuvius covers them in ash? When can cheaters be forgiven? All is presented in the Picnic Operetta's trademark style of playfulness, satire, and hope. Classic arias and duets from Mozart's *La Clemenza di Tito* soar across the garden alongside new wave and synth-pop hits by Devo, Berlin, Yaz, and Pat Benatar. Operatic athletes will serve the audience some

fresh edible bites as well. For more information call 612-619-2112.

On **Friday, September 27**, join your neighbors for the *Annual Watch the Glow of the Setting Sun on the Red Brick Brewery* event. Starting at 6:00 p.m., followed by the annual "Chat and Chew." See the sun set and the bright glow of the brewery building. After the sun sets, the evening food and socializing begins. Former Swede Hollow residents, Hamm's employees, and everyone else are welcome. For more information, call 651-776-0550.

Finally, enjoy the *Ghost Sonata at Swede Hollow Park* on **September 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, and 29**. Sod House Theatre received a Knight Grant to present the *Ghost Sonata at Swede Hollow*. Through poetic dance and movement, original live music, vignettes from Strindberg's play, and re-constructed shanty house facades set within the historic Swede Hollow park, Sod House Theater will welcome audiences into an immersive experience of the immigrant community that once lived in Swede Hollow. Contact sodhousetheater@gmail.com for more information.

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Dayton's Bluff District Forum

804 Margaret Street, St. Paul, MN 55106
 Phone: 651-776-0550 E-mail: daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com

Monthly circulation: 7,000; also available online at daytonsbuffdistrictforum.org. This publication of Hopewell Communications, Inc., a nonprofit organization, is intended to provide a forum for the ideas and opinions of its readers and to be an instrument for developing community awareness and pride. Signed articles do not necessarily represent the views of the *Forum*. Material from this paper may be republished if it is attributed to the *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* and to the author, if any. Articles and letters to the editor are welcome and may be emailed to daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com, or mailed to the address above. The *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* is delivered to every home and business in the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood. Outside this area, subscriptions cost \$15 per year and may be arranged by calling 651-776-0550.

Board of Directors: Greg Cosimini, Karin DuPaul, Sage Holben, Steve Trimble
 Editor/layout: Jennifer Gascoigne; Associate Editor: Mark Gallagher
 Staff: David Baker, Nick Duncan, Elizabeth Wakefield
 Photographer: Lou "The Photo Guy" Michaels
 Next issue: October 2019. **Deadline for material: September 10, 2019.**

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Questions? 651-266-4750

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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.

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

Deadline for the October issue of the *Forum* is September 10, 2019.

Friends of Swede Hollow Photo Contest: Photographers wanted!

*Karin DuPaul
Forum Staff*

You're invited to submit your summer Swede Hollow Park photos to Friends of Swede Hollow's Summer Photo Contest. Photos should be taken between June 21 and September 23. Swede Hollow is beautiful year-round and the Friends of Swede Hollow want to see your photos!

Judging is done by the East Side Arts Council. Contest participants al-

low their photos be used for Friends of Swede Hollow fundraising and other uses. Prizes are awarded to the top three photographs.

Submit photographs to KarinDuPaul@comcast.net by or before September 27. When submitting photos, use "FOSH Photo Contest" in the subject line and include your contact information along with the name of your images within the body of the email.

Earlier this year, FOSH held both a winter and spring photo contest. Entries to the spring contest are now being judged. Watch future issues of the *Forum* for the winning photos.

Karin DuPaul can be reached at daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com.

Geography, Environment, and Mounds Park's Historical Development

*David Lyons
Special to the Forum*

As a geography instructor, I have always been interested in the features of places: how they are modified and utilized, and have shaped the path of development. As a long-time Mounds Park resident, I'm constantly noticing that interplay between the natural and human environments here. Mounds Park's physical setting with its spectacular bluff overlooking a great river is in large part a product of rock and running water. In fact people settled here largely because of our physical geography.

Part I: Rock. Underneath you as you stand on the bluff is a geologic formation that covers much of the Upper Midwest. But it is only outcropped in just a few places, mostly along the river bluffs, where the river has cut into and exposed these rocks. This strata (sequence of rock layers) records a period about 400 million years ago, during the Paleozoic, an era when complex life forms were first starting to flourish on Earth. Minnesota was in the tropics and covered by a shallow sea. Later the dynamic North American tectonic plate would push north and be uplifted as it converged with other plates of the earth's crust.

The topmost of these rock layers, the Platteville limestone, is a rock type that commonly forms along ocean floors from calcium carbonate and whatever else falls to the bottom. This limestone is layered and flaky, but while it is a bit lacking in durability, it makes up this for in accessibility and abundance. Thus it became the building material of choice for much of the Twin Cities. Whole buildings were made from this stone – e.g. downtown's Assumption Church – but it's more commonly seen about our neighborhood and beyond as a material for home foundations. As many owners of homes built before about 1910 will testify, it is not the best material for holding up a house over the long haul. But actually it's the most solid rock of the sequence! Looking from below along Warner Road you can see the limestone jutting out over the softer underlying rocks. Lying below the Platteville formation is the thin and muddy – but fossil rich – Glenwood Shale. And below this is the thick St. Peter sandstone, a truly remarkable product of nature. It represents a final product, inert and indestructible, of millions of years of weathering and erosion of other rocks like granite.

The St. Peter formation has two interesting features: First, it can barely be called a rock, but is in reality tightly packed sand whose grains were never cemented together. Second, it's almost 100% pure quartz! For these reasons it's played a featured role in the region's development. It is a perfect raw material for glass making, and it was mined in the past for that purpose. As an example, Henry Ford, who chose to build his St. Paul auto plant along the river to exploit its hydro-power, also took advantage of the sandstone contained in the adjacent bluff for his car's windshields. And, because the St. Peter formation so easy to excavate – by nature and humans – it is pockmarked by numerous caves. One of these, Carver's Cave (directly below the overlook of that name and now buried), became famous in the 1700s as one of the earliest sites in our state to be written about by European explorers, and for its artwork by native people. Other caves were enlisted and enlarged for everything from speakeasies to the storage of beer. St. Paul's North Star, Yoerg, and Schmidt brew-

eries all built themselves right along the bluff for this reason. These caves with their cool and steady temperatures are perfect for aging lager.

Over long periods of geologic time these bluffs juxtaposed to a meandering river are unstable and prone to eroding back, due to nature's assault by gravity, running water, the frost-thaw cycle, the atmosphere, tree roots, etc.... From a human time perspective these processes are quite slow. The bluffs change little over the course of a few decades. Still it is always prudent to consider the edge of the bluff as unstable. One can see piles of fallen rock from the bluff from below along the tracks next to Warner Road, and looking up from this vantage point one can see trees hanging on for dear life along the edge of this cliff.

Part II: Geographic Advantages. Our neighborhood lies overlooking a point where the river naturally slows, widens, and turns south after plunging through gorges just upstream. Today we see an environment much altered from its pre-settlement state. But the basic features are still present, and the pre-settlement environment can be imagined. The founding of St. Paul here at this point in geographic space is due to key "site and situation" advantages: especially its location relative to Fort Snelling, from its place as the last practical stop on the trip up the Mississippi in the city's early days during the 1840s riverboat era, and because the area around this "lower landing" (near Jackson St.) had one of the area's few gentle and accessible slopes up to the top of the bluff.

The lands around and below Mounds Park were even more dramatically different than today if we look further back in time. According to geologic theory, at the end of the Pleistocene ice age about 10,000 years ago, the Falls of St. Anthony, the biggest waterfall on the Mississippi, may have been here. It's been migrating upstream over the soft rocks ever since. People came into Minnesota fairly soon after the ice sheets retreated north. And it is easy to imagine why native people, who used this place for their sacred burial mounds, considered this place as special. From these bluffs you can see activity for miles along this river, which is the major hydrologic system and traffic artery in the heart of North America. Archaeological evidence indicates that these people were engaged in a trade network that spanned the Mississippi.

As we move closer to the present, observers along the bluff could just see all forms of transit and human activity at the lower landing. At that time during the 19th century one might also glimpse small Native American and European American settlements along the this stretch of the river, which was wider and lazier than today. The rapids further upstream – under where today's High Bridge stands upon steep cliffs, prevented travel further upstream. These turbulent waters have since been tamed. Within a couple of decades, with St. Paul established as the commercial hub and settlement at the northern terminus of the great river, the railroads soon came in. Minneapolis with its waterfall powered industries was 10 miles away and so the railroads were forced to build two terminals here – sealing our fate as twin cities. Henceforth the products of this bountiful region were carried to settlements all across the country by rail and the river. The railroad lines were logically placed along the flat lands adjoining the river as they fanned out from the St. Paul depot, and those would run just below the bluffs of Mounds Park. By the way this infrastructure project required a transformation of the local geology as the bluff had to be pushed back (good-bye Carver's Cave!) and the river hemmed in. Needless to say, a lot of resources and products have traveled by

rail just below our neighborhood since then, from wheat and lumber in the early days to coal and oil today!

Part III: The River. The mighty old Mississippi River is actually neither – or one could argue as much. It is a tiny river compared to the River Warren, an Amazon sized river that once flowed through here. It, not the present river, carved out the wide river valley we see today. River Warren raged at the close of the ice age, draining away the seas of meltwater from the retreating ice sheets as it plowed a trail through the thick glacial till. Moreover, because the Pleistocene so completely reshaped our environment, and ended just 10,000 years ago – a blink of an eye removed from the present in geologic time – much of our physical geography is very young.

The natural Mississippi hydrological system was much different than what we see today. It meandered over a broad flat landscape, frequently jumping its banks, spreading out and silting the land, and even carving new channels. After all, the drop in elevation is only about 1000 feet between St. Paul and the Mississippi Delta! According to early settler's accounts, one could practically walk across the wide, shallow river during dry spells. But this won't do for a great city along its banks – one that wants to build along its banks and have a reliable medium for moving people and goods! So the river has been "channelized". This involves narrowing and deepening the river by dredging, and raising and fortifying its banks. To add more variables to this transformed hydrology, the lands feeding water to the river via run-off and subsurface flow have been paved and culverted as the city has developed (e.g. Phalen and Battle Creeks makes their way to the river largely through concrete pipes). With a more impervious watershed, runoff from storms races to the river instead of soaking into the ground, and the river is asked to do much more – and more quickly – in terms of moving water away from the city after storms and the snow-melt. It is no wonder its floods can be so dramatic!

It is also worth mentioning some environmental history of the land seen below our bluff top. The floodplain adjacent to the river – now home to St. Paul's Holman Field Airport, a rail yard, and the metropolitan waste treatment plant, has a story as well. Because this low lying land is so marshy and flood-prone, it has been home to some unique land uses. This included moonshiners and others who wanted to evade the authorities during an earlier time, as well as precarious flood-prone immigrant neighborhoods, and the state fish hatchery. But more recently, this floodplain, in addition to being designated for an airport, was a city dump. After WWII, the city of St. Paul decided in this floodplain was unsuitable for any other purpose than being in dumping ground for city residents and industries. I remember going down there with my dad as a kid and throwing our trash out of the back of our station wagon. It was hopping in its day – and right next to the river! Thankfully, after about three decades, the dump was closed and buried. But the site continued to release toxic waste into the river during floods, and so more recently (1990s), the area was declared a Superfund site and more thoroughly cleaned up. Today there is a lot of excitement about restoring the river to its natural state and drawing recreationalists to it, even as this intermingles with the river's role in the urban-industrial system. And with National Park Service designation of the span of the Mississippi around the Twin Cities for protection, and the addition of bike paths and other amenities, it's encouraging to watch this new era for the river unfold.

Op-ed: Indian Mounds Park Listening Session

Carol Sommers
Special to the Forum

Attendees were anxious upon arrival at the July 22, "Community Listening Session" addressing changes planned for the walking trails of Indian Mounds Park. In a two-year series of public meetings, the June gathering had been fractious — sensationally so as reported in a recent tabloidish piece in the Pioneer Press. Easier than seriously researched articles informed by context, this hit-and-run journalism fogs the story in stereotypes. The real story about the current developments in Indian Mounds Park is all about context.

Its key context is history — what has happened before the issue of trail changes arose, including the ancient facts of the site; the ongoing cultural significance and sacredness of the site to the Dakota Nation; the legislated governance and maintenance of the site; and the spiritual and emotional attachments to the site of various groups and individuals within the diverse population of St. Paul's East Side. (The recent Press article concentrated on emotions, reducing participants to two warring sides.) It was St. Paul Parks and Recreation, the body charged with the regional park's day-to-day maintenance, that initiated the current project. Some two-plus years ago it noted that, in the interest of public safety, the site's walking trail needed work. Reasonable enough—as a walker on the trail, I do not want to fall off the bluff, and this pleasantly winding, extremely scenic path lies closer and closer to the cliff as time passes.

Indian Mounds Park is perched, in parts more and more

precariously, on the tall bluff overlooking the Mississippi River's big bend just east of downtown St. Paul. It offers a striking view of the St. Paul skyline and a panorama of the area's stunning land and water formations. It stands directly across from Holman Field and indirectly across from the long hill of Fort Snelling. At its base is a train yard leading to Union Depot. The trains go bump (and boom and screech) in the night and day, rocking the soft limestone and soil structures of the bluff. Holman's air traffic compounds the environmental vibration and noise. The bluff, already subverted by early railroad demolitions into its base, has been eroding slowly for decades.

For the Dakota Nation, the greatest casualty of this industrial onslaught was the loss of a large sacred cave foundational to their ancient history, beliefs, and origin traditions. Meanwhile, on the top of the bluff they had been losing their many sacred mounds along with the far-extending lands they had inhabited for thousands of years. Indian Mounds Park is named after the remaining six mounds, a fraction of the original numbers. The site's status as a public park has always been problematic, although it was such a status that helped to preserve the remaining mounds from private development.

No change proposal to the park today would be uncomplicated. Since the nineties, the last time the walking trail was repaired, legislation affecting the site and its preservation has changed. Federal and state laws officially acknowledge the claims of indigenous peoples to protect their sacred cultural artifacts. An "improvement" proposal automatically triggers the requirement for a concomitant Cultural Landscape Study. Thus the current Indian Mounds Park project has really been two interdependent projects since its inception.

The two projects' processes have been confusing to the community. A lack or seeming lack of transparency has

been felt by park users who were not fully informed of or understanding of the factors involved. The Park reps are not professional communicators or designers of clear, effective visuals. It had become apparent to everyone involved that some kind of clarification session was needed for the principals to better explain the two projects and their goals and processes. So the "Community Listening Session" of July 22, with stated rules of engagement and related courtesies, came to be. The packed crowd in the chapel of Cerenity Center did listen. Many attendees spoke and most of them observed the rule against "venting" and "narrating." There were good questions, and not always good answers. Brenda Williams, a landscape architect with offices in Madison and much experience working on cultural landscape studies with the Ho-Chunk Nation in Wisconsin, entered the discussion with key information. Crystal Norcross, a Dakota neighbor (who had arranged and coordinated the proceedings) closed the long meeting with thoughtful comments reflecting a newly resolved atmosphere. It appeared that everyone left having learned something new about the issue and its meaning.

Questions certainly remain. The now-planned removal of most of the bluff-side walking trail is an outcome that regular park users may not be happy with, but the community has a better appreciation of why such a change is required. Issues arising from the plan for the linear path that runs along Mounds Blvd—to enlarge it to a 12-ft wide swath for pedestrians, bicycles, and scooters to share — have not received the attention they need. But whatever, the uniqueness of Indian Mounds Park asks of all visitors an understanding of and respect for this extraordinary park as a sacred monument. That means respecting the deep cultural concerns and now legislative rights of the people to whom this land truly belongs.

Some St. Paul Labor Day History

Steve Trimble
Forum Historian

It seemed like I should look at what our city did for Labor Day, one of the important state and national holidays. But, there were also a number of other wonderful events which happened on our East Side. Were any of our readers there for any of them? Well, of course, not for the first Labor Day in 1885.

September 7, 1885: This was the first Labor Day celebrated in the city as part of a national holiday. St. Paul was one of the first cities to hold such an event and the celebrations grew as the years passed by. Dancing, speeches, prizes for running broad jump, unmarried ladies race, 100 yard dash for union men and ladies, and nail hammering were a few of the activities celebrators were treated to.

Some celebrated by taking the streetcar for a day at Wildwood Park. Columns formed in Rice Park to Market and Fourth "with flying banners and to the sound of martial music," 1,500 marched through the city. Mayor Smith was on the balcony of the Ryan Hotel along with judges and City Council members. The parade took 30 minutes to pass by the review area. An estimated 100,000 people watched horses and drum corps. The police and firefighters were followed by the American Railway Union, the Knights of Labor, and a contingent of unemployed. The Boot Makers Union had a float of the Old Lady Who Lived in a Shoe, and the Cigar Makers Union had a wagon filled with young women. There was also a picnic at Fort Snelling, attracting 10,000 people with refreshments, games, and family activities.

September 7, 1992: City Academy, the first charter school in the United States, opened today in St. Paul. It operated independently, but was a public institution started by a teacher named Milo Cutter and two others. It was designed for 30 students, ages 13-19, who were school dropouts or those at risk because of homes often wracked by poverty or substance abuse.

The proposal allowed students to work toward their high school diploma or try to get back into a more traditional high school. The school featured four days of interdisciplinary courses and a fifth day in the community. Students did such things as building homes with Habitat for Humanity, working at art studios, or studying biology in nature centers. Full time students spent three hours a day in classroom learning, and three hours on a job site.

The school received a lot of attention in the media and was visited by President Bill Clinton. Cutter was named one of 10 people who had a major impact on

education in the 1990s by Teacher Magazine, thanks to his role in launching the charter school movement nationwide. City Academy, the magazine said, "serves as a talisman for the entire charter school movement."

September 16, 1940: Sixty people began picketing in front of the Seeger Refrigerator factory on Arcade Street on this day. The conflict began when the contract between the union and management expired in June of 1940. The two sides had been in lengthy negotiations. The main demands were a raise for day workers and a continuation of piecework rates. In August, the workers had voted to strike but the walkout was not immediate since Governor Harold Stassen stepped in to try to mediate the situation. Despite his efforts, the negotiations broke down.

Around 1,500 workers walked out, starting the biggest action since the 1922 switchmen's strike. A federal negotiator was called in because 1,300 refrigeration units were being made for the Army's pre-WWII "preparedness campaign." The workers were accused of being unpatriotic and impeding national defense, so they agreed to let a skeleton force build the refrigerators if the company would waive their profits. As expected, the Seeger management refused their clever

offer. A strike kitchen was set up to serve food and coffee on Arcade Street. The walkout finally ended on October 29, with raises for the day workers and an increase in the piece rates and a welcomed two-year contract.

September 29, 1987: The Prom Ballroom at 1190 University Avenue was torn down on this day, five months after its last night of music. The Prom Ballroom was a large blue and white building that opened its doors on March 26, 1941. On that night, 6,000 people packed the house and danced to the sounds of Glenn Miller and his Orchestra. 3,000 people were turned away. The venue boasted a 9,000 square foot maple dance floor and space to accommodate crowds when it hosted dance competitions and New Year's Eve celebrations.

People came from all over the Twin Cities to dance to the sounds of the Prom's house band, the Northwest Orchestra, every Wednesday through Sunday night. It was led by Jules Herman, formerly with the Lawrence Welk band, who fronted the orchestra for the next 35 years.

Acclaimed bands played the Prom on special nights. Some of the premier musical acts of the era included Louis Armstrong, Count Basie, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, and Buddy Holly. On April 26, 1987, 700 people had come to spend one last night at the place where many met their marriage partners. The last song ever played at the Prom was "Thanks for the Memories."

World Wide Holidays

Temperance Brennan
Special to the Forum

In the United States, one of the most important holidays is Labor Day. I am happy to celebrate the struggles and triumphs that the working class have had. As an anthropologist, I am also fascinated by learning about important holidays. I even have my family pick out special events happening in other countries in September, look at the customs, flags, and other cultural beliefs, and for fun, cook one of their traditional foods. Why not try to do the same this month? Let me know what you did.

Another idea: Since this is the first month of school, why not have one of your children make a flag of one of these countries along with a little information and suggest to their teacher that the class might be interested in having a Maylasia or eSwatini or Chile Independence Day or choose one of the others below.

September 6: Somhlolo Day is a public holiday in eSwatini (Swaziland) also known as Independence Day or Sobhuza Day. It commemorates the day that Swaziland gained independence from Britain in 1968. In 2018, they renamed the country "the Kingdom of eSwatini," the name it went by prior to British colonialism.

September 9: Independence Day of the Republic of Tajikistan. The background of this event was when an extraordinary session of the Supreme Soviet of the Tajik SSR was convened. On September 9, 1991, at a session the Supreme Council (Shuro Oli) adopted a declaration "On State Independence of the Republic of Tajikistan."

September 15: Salvadoran Independence Day (Día de la Independencia), celebrates independence from Spain in 1821. Parades of adult groups and school children are the most important part of the celebrations, which last the whole day. At the end of the day, fireworks light up El Salvador's night skies.

September 16: Malaysia Day commemorates the time in 1963 when the former British colony of Singapore and the East Malaysian states of Sabah and Sarawak joined the Federation of Malaya to create the Malaysian Federation.

September 18: Independence Day of Chile, remembers the country gaining freedom from Spain in 1810. The Spanish had ruled Chile since the middle of the sixteenth century. The movement for independence joined other South American countries revolting against colonial rule as the French and Spanish were warring and the appointment of an unpopular governor in 1808.

September 26: Revolution Day, commemorates a revolution that led to the overthrow of what opponents called the xenophobic and oppressive imamate that ruled North Yemen for much of the 20th century. It ultimately set the stage for the creation of the modern Republic of Yemen.



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: daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com.

Pictured above is Amye Scharlau, a resident of Dayton's Bluff who travels the country as a hypnotist at Renaissance Festivals. Amye exclaimed, "I have my mail forwarded and always look forward to the District Forum to keep me on top of the news at home. Keep up the good work!"

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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,

The *Dayton's Bluff District Forum*

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