

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

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 April 2020
 daytonsbuffdistrictforum.org

"The Voice of the Community"



Senator Foug Hawj

Forum staff Karin DuPaul, left, presents her book with Marilyn McGriff to Senator Foug Hawj.

Urban CROSS Looking for Volunteers this Summer

Eric Buck

Mounds Park United Methodist Church

During the week of **June 15** through **19**, teams of teens and adults work with Dayton's Bluff home owners and non-profits on improvement projects to their properties. Projects include indoor and outdoor painting, yard work, landscaping, clean-up and simple construction. If you are in need of some help, please call 651-774-8736. Our team will then call you to assess your project.

Urban CROSS is sponsored by Dayton's Bluff Community Services and Mounds Park United Methodist Church.

Urban CROSS is a grass-roots locally grown mission project. At Urban CROSS, members and neighbors of Mounds Park United Methodist Church are serving in the neighborhood, and we are inviting you to join us in blessing others

Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit coming to St. Paul

Metro Transit

The Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit project is a bus line that will operate primarily within bus-only lanes and will connect the Green Line Light Rail system in downtown Saint Paul with Woodbury. It will run through Dayton's Bluff and continue east to Sun Ray, 3M in Maplewood, Landfall and Oakdale. It will be built north of Interstate 94 at street level, not along the freeway itself. In Dayton's Bluff, it will travel on a reconstructed Hudson Road.

There have been two developments in the Gold Line BRT project since last year. One favorable, and one that will require some additional work.

In January, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) signed off on an Environmental Assessment Report stating that the construction and operation of the Metro Gold Line BRT Project creates no significant impacts on the environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not warranted. In other words, from an environmental standpoint, the project is good to go.

However, in early February the FTA released ratings for major transit projects throughout the country and the Gold Line project did not fare so well. It received a rating of "medium low" which translates into meaning the project is not eligible in its current form to receive an expected \$207 million in federal funds. The total budget is \$461 million with state and local sources providing the remainder of the money.

The rating was based on low projected ridership numbers for the Gold Line. Gold Line Project Manager Christine Beck says that a fix is already in the works. It is believed that projected ridership numbers can be greatly improved by expanding the park-and-ride lots in Woodbury, Oakdale and the Sun Ray shopping center. There are no park-and-ride lots planned near the Dayton's Bluff stations.

The larger lots will eliminate most of the open space near the park-and-ride lots which will greatly reduce future real estate development near those stations but should solve the ridership problem.

The FTA will issue new rankings later in the year and will hopefully give the Gold Line project a more favorable rating when the new park-and-ride lot configurations are considered.

Guidance on COVID-19

Ramsey County

Ramsey County Health is following guidance from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) related to mitigation of novel coronavirus disease COVID-19 transmission to limit the spread of the virus in Ramsey County.

Based on these guidelines, Saint Paul – Ramsey County Public Health is recommending the following: Cancel, postpone or modify in-person community events of more than 250 people, for events of any size: ensure the space provides for six feet of space between individuals, offer virtual options to participate, or postpone the event, cancel gatherings of any size of high-risk individuals, including older adults or anyone with underlying health conditions, continue providing support services for individuals and families in need, and the closing of child care or K-12 schools are not recommended at this time. Schools are encouraged to support students and staff who may be asked by public health officials to stay home for 14 days by allowing for leniency in absenteeism from classes and extracurricular activities.

Ramsey County is asking residents who are not feeling well to stay home and not go to work or attend community events or celebrations, large or small.

Our first line of defense for preventing the spread of novel coronavirus disease COVID-19 is for residents who are sick to stay home and not be out in the community. Our second line of defense is for everyone to practice good health habits: washing your hands thoroughly and covering your coughs and sneezes with a tissue.

The situation with COVID-19 is changing frequently. Each day brings new information which could change recommendations.

Ramsey County is following the guidance outlined above and making case-by-case determinations about postponing, cancelling or modifying public events, meetings and hearings we are hosting. Details will be available through communications on specific events, programs and projects.

This guidance will remain in place until further notice.

For the latest updates, visit ramseycounty.us/coronavirus



Metro Transit

Pictured above is the new bus route that will connect the Green Line Light Rail system in downtown St. Paul with Woodbury.

Dayton's Bluff
 Community Council
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 St. Paul, MN 55106

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Dayton's Bluff Take-a-Hike

Dayton's Bluff Take-a-Hike On the second Saturday of most months, the Dayton's Bluff Take-a-Hike will begin at Indian Mounds Park, located at Earl Street and Mounds Boulevard, at **10:30 a.m.** The next hike will be on **Saturday, April 11.** 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.

If you have any questions KarinDuPaul@comcast.net or call 651-776-0550.

Friends of Swede Hollow

Friends of Swede Hollow Watch over, restore, and celebrate the history of Swede Hollow Park. Join the Swede Hollow community at their monthly meetings on **Thursday, April 9, at 6:30 p.m.** We have changed our meeting date to the second Thursday of earth month. 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 **Thursday, April 2, 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 Avenues. The next meetings are on **Wednesday, April 15 at 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.**

The meetings are intended as a time to learn, listen to, and address people's concerns about crime and other issues on the East Side. Saint Paul Police Eastern District is committed to maintaining and growing the quality of life for all our residents. Bring your neighbors - it is a great way to talk about your neighborhood and neighborhood nuisance issues.

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 bil-

ingüe 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 April 17: Midwest All Star Wrestling presents Live Pro Wrestling. Doors open at **6:30 p.m.** First match is at **7:30 p.m.** Tickets: VIP Ringside Reserved - \$15 Adult, \$10 Kids (12 - under); General Admission (at the door) - \$12 Adults, \$8 Kids (12 - under), Kids 5 - under FREE!

Visit our website at moundstheatre.org for more information and other events not listed here and to purchase tickets as they become available. The Historic Mounds Theatre is located at 1029 Hudson Road, St. Paul, MN 55106; 651-772-2253; historicmoundstheatre@gmail.com

April at the Dayton's Bluff Library

The following events take place at the Dayton's Bluff Library, 645 East Seventh Street, Saint Paul.

Tuesday, April 14, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 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.

School is in session! The library's got your back. Check out spl.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 fun events, check spl.org or call 651-793-1699. The Dayton's Bluff Library shares its home with Metropolitan State University at 645 East 7th Street.

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/3KK0010GFO5NJ 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 next Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Microentrepreneur Class program helps startup and young businesses on the East Side. All East Side entrepreneurs are welcome. Class training lasts eight weeks and includes topics such as operations management, marketing, financial management, one-on-one assistance with creating a successful business, and preparing a business plan, plus eight hours of one-on-one time with the instructor.

Those who successfully complete the course and locate their businesses in target neighborhoods are eligible for ongoing business support services. Some examples of businesses started by people who have previously taken this course include graphics, landscaping, photography, food service, restoration of wood furniture, art, cus-

tom floral design, and exterior and interior painting. 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 fee scale. Class sizes are limited, so enroll now. Please call 651-379-8432 for an application.

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 upcoming events and locations call 651-788-4685 or visit <http://animal-humane-society.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.

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.

Legal Clinic for Seniors

Are you 60+ and identify as having a lower income? Need help with a will, power of attorney, or healthcare directive? Our volunteer attorney can assist you with your legal needs.

Sign up today for our next legal clinic on **Friday, May 1 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

Appointments are necessary and can be made by giving us a call at 651-683-2326 or emailing us at Info@EastSideElders.org

Need Groceries?

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

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

Give us a call at 651-683-2326 and Rolene, our Client Advocate, can assist you with your application.

Some examples of what might be included in a Nutrition Assistance Program for Seniors (NAPS) box are: milk, meat, canned goods, peanut butter, grains, and produce.

Art in the Hollow

Calling all artists and entertainers for **June 6.** The tenth annual Art in the Hollow will be on **Saturday, June 6** from **10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** in Swede Hollow Park. Currently we have some openings for artists, artisans, and performers. Sign up on Facebook or artinthehollow.org



Jane Prince

The Swede Hollow Cafe is the newest venue for curling tournaments.



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What is Your Favorite?:

Coffee

Allison Lund-Zalewski
Forum Staff

Getting a good cup of coffee can be difficult at times. Not everyone wants a chain coffee shop to fulfill their caffeine addiction. They want something that's local and made with love. I asked my local East Siders what their favorite coffee drink and shop are, and the vote is in!

When asked, Swede Hollow Cafe's various specialty coffees won the hearts of our neighbors. Two people agreed that the Hollow's Cubano is "a near-perfect coffee beverage." The dark chocolate mocha was also a top choice for an East Sider. Our neighborhood loves Swede Hollow Cafe's "signature chocolate stir stick" and for those on the Keto diet, their Breve drink is the perfect thing!

Swede Hollow Cafe is located at 725 E 7th Street. Make sure to try out the fan favorites!

One woman agreed that the Dancing Goat's Lavender Latte was her favorite, as well as several others agreeing that the Goat's chai latte was their go-to choice. Sadly, though, the Dancing Goat has closed its doors. Whether they are closed for good, we will have to find out. The Goat used to be located at 699 E 7th Street.

Two women voted that Caydence Records and Coffee is on the top of their list. One woman's favorite item to get off their menu is a large dark roast with a shot of espresso. Not only do Caydence Records and Coffee have great coffee, but one customer "explores the LP selection," especially the Beachboys Endless Summer, "for those old enough to remember music before MP3." She even agrees that Holiday gas station has good coffee for when "you're in a pinch." She likes that they have their own machine that grinds the beans.

In case you haven't been to Caydence Records and Coffee, they are located at 900 Payne Avenue. Go have a cup and browse their record selection.

One voter agreed that the Coffee Cup is her favorite. The Coffee Cup is located at 1446 Rice Street.

One other man agreed that Holiday's coffee is first go-to choice. He especially likes how quick it is to get a cup as well as how fresh it tastes. However, he also agreed Swede Hollow is his second choice for finding a good cup of coffee in the east side area.

Each month we will have a new favorite theme, be sure to keep watch for more local restaurants, cafes, etc!

Seely Sez

*Seely Booth
Special to the Forum*

As you may know, I am fairly new to the East Side of St. Paul, but I have been trying to get acquainted. You may already know the things I am going to point out, but maybe not, so I'll tell you some of the things I have recently found.

Some people have told me I should go outside the Dayton's Bluff area and discover things further away. So I did.

You may remember there was a small business in Sun Ray Center called Dickey's. After a fire, it was shut down but recently there is a restaurant that serves Chicago style wings, dogs, and fries called Fat Chance, located at 2113 Hudson Road. It may be a franchise, but as a retired FBI agent, I can check it out and let you know.

Last month I said a new establishment named North Star Bar would be opening in the former Louie's Bar at 883 Payne Avenue. Then I saw a Facebook posting that that their grand opening would be on March 14, so I went to see it but it was not open and was dark inside. However, they did put up a nice new sign.

There is another spot that should be open by the time you read this. It is the East Side Bar located at 858 Payne Avenue; the location of the former Ward 6. Not a lot of details at this time, but at least one of the owners is Eric Foster, who was also part of Ward 6. Their Facebook shows a glass of beer, but no information of food, etc. I ran into the owner of what will be a new retail space just west of the Dayton's Bluff NHS at 823 East Seventh Street. He is getting ready for opening some time in April. It is going to feature Mexican ice cream.

Staying with the future, hopefully Lilli cafe at 1110 Payne Avenue will actually be "opening soon" but there doesn't seem to be a lot of activity there



Steve Trimble

North Star Bar will be opening in the former Louie's Bar at 883 Payne Avenue.

Keep Your Pets Safe Amid COVID-19

Animal Humane Society

If you happen to find yourself sick, here are some tips on how to care for your pets during that time: Identify a family member or friend who can care for pets if you are hospitalized, have crates, food, and extra supplies on hand for quick movement of pets, keep all animal vaccines up to date in the event boarding becomes necessary, and document all pet medications with dosages and instructions. Including the prescription from your veterinarian is also helpful, and ensure your pet(s) is/are wearing a collar and ID tag at all times.

MOUNDS PARK BARBER STYLISTS



**APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE
TUESDAY THRU SATURDAY**

1043 OLD HUDSON ROAD
SAINT PAUL, MN 55106

(651) 771-6980

Judy Lee

Volunteer to Cook for Local Children

Carl Johnson
Faith City Church

Every summer in Dayton's Bluff a kid misses a meal because school is out. We want to provide one hot meal daily for five days.

We need volunteers and people who love to cook for kids and provide many different options for that day. We want to make sure kids eat hot meals, Would you consider being a part of this adventure in Dayton's Bluff.

Contact: daytonsbuffcommunity@microsoft.com for more information and to sign up for volunteering.

We are so thankful that a new thing is happening!

Metropolitan State Closes Amid COVID-19 Worries

Brian Higbee

Metropolitan State Operations
Coordinator

Following the latest guidelines for social distancing from the Minnesota Department of Health, Metropolitan State University Library will temporarily close to the public starting Tuesday, March 17. Metropolitan State's top priority is to provide the resources for students to successfully complete the spring semester as we transition to online delivery of all courses.

The Dayton's Bluff branch housed in the Library and Learning Center, as well as all other St. Paul Public Library locations are closed until March 27th.

While the library facilities will not be open to the public, there are a variety of

Contest: Where in Dayton's Bluff?

Send your guess to daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com with the location of the neighborhood curiosity pictured at right. The reader who submits the first correct entry will be notified and the winner will be announced in the May edition of the *Forum*. Congratulations to Eric Buck, winner of the March/April contest with a correct location of 968 E. 4th Street.

online resources available through both the St Paul Public Library and the Metropolitan State Library: The St. Paul Public Library is uniquely positioned to continue supporting our community with online resources and services. The library's large collection of digital resources gives you online access to e-books, audiobooks, magazines, learning tools, homework help, and more. Saint Paul students can access these resources using Library Go, the library's virtual card program. St. Paul Public librarians can help by email or online chat or by calling 651-266-7000 to speak with a librarian. Learn more about the St. Paul Public Library's digital offerings at sp-pl.org/online-resources. The Metropolitan State library provides online chat at <https://www.metrostate.edu/library>, email library.services@metrostate.edu, and phone reference 651-793-1614.

For continued updates regarding COVID-19 and Metropolitan State University, please visit the COVID-19 page at <https://www.metrostate.edu/notices/covid-19>

If you have any COVID-19 related questions, please contact: covid-19@metrostate.edu.



Citywide Park Clean-Up

Karin DuPaul

Forum Staff

Gather your neighbors, friends, and family to help out with the 34th Annual Citywide Parks Clean-Up on **Saturday, April 25** starting at **9 a.m.** and going until **11:30 a.m.** Each year, hundreds of volunteers gather across Saint Paul for the Citywide Spring Cleanup to pick up litter that has recently become exposed due to the melting snow.

Individuals and groups of all ages come together to help beautify the city of Saint Paul.

You can help at our larger parks like Mounds, Swede Hollow, and the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary or smaller places like Dayton's Bluff Recreation center and Hamm Park.

Bags, gloves, and snacks will be provided. Pick a park of your choice to begin cleaning and meet your neighbors and explore your neighborhood!

Considering a Move?

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(651) 263-2830 or bradgriffith@edinarealty.com

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EQUAL HOUSING
OPPORTUNITY

A Letter to an East Sider, A Letter to Myself

Brian Sanders
Special to the Forum

I remember that I learned to ride a bike at five years old in the 3M parking lot off Bush Avenue and 7th Street East. So, as far back as I can remember, I have been an East Sider and I'm extremely proud of that. The East Side is filled with diversity. I have always enjoyed people who were different than myself, in fact I was intrigued by them. I believe that this is one of the best parts about the East Side. Some may disagree and think that this is some of the worst things about the East Side. To those people I say: you're missing out with that type of thinking. To me, it's why the East Side is so unique compared to a lot of other places. Despite our differences there has, as far back as I can remember, been a solidarity and pride of where we lived together. That held us together, it made us a community of oneness.

Yet, my heart is troubled at times. I often wonder where our sense of community has gone? It seems that so many people keep to themselves and don't really care all that much about others. You can say politics

caused it, you could say economical divides caused it, you can say fear caused it, you can say racial divides caused it, you can say that selfishness caused it, or the many other reasons that may have caused it. However, the fact of the matter is our beloved East Side is hurting, it's bleeding and has been for a very long time. Many choose to just move out and get away from it all. That is totally their choice and I won't fault them for doing what they want to do. In fact, lately I have been thinking about this very hard myself. I really started to analyze my situation and the environment around me. Do I want to continue to raise my kids around here?

So, I began to look at houses outside the city limits. I looked at older homes, slightly used homes, and new construction homes. Something to my amazement with all three types of homes is that the market went up, that's for sure. Yet, another thing I realized is that there are people living even out of the city trying to move to somewhere else for some reason as well. Despite being brand new, and out of the city, the new construction homes still had security systems, and locks on their doors like anywhere else. This reinforced the concept that trouble is everywhere. There may not be as frequent of trouble but still there is trouble to state the least. Interestingly, I also realized, thank God, just how nice of a home I already have and just how blessed I already am. The tipping point in this realization was when a couple friends came over to our house and really liked what we had done with

our home. They thought it was beautiful.

This brings me to my final realization that I ought to "bloom where I'm planted." A saying that has been around for way longer than any of us have been alive. I may or may not like the politics of where I live, how selfish our community has become at times, or the crimes that are taking place. However, I do like people. I choose to set aside my differences in choices and views and value people as simply people. So much so that I desire to stay on the East Side and make a difference to stand up for peace, to lend a hand when I can, to "start with the man in the mirror" so to speak. You can make a difference and so can I. It's as simple as giving someone a smile, holding a door, inviting a neighbor over for coffee, shoveling the sidewalk a house past your own. The list is endless. If we all do something for someone else besides just ourselves, I know that we can hold onto a part of what makes the East Side so awesome. We can make the East Side thrive again. We can create a community that is less divided, a community that would lend a hand to a person who has fallen on the ground instead of taking a picture so you can get some likes on social media.

So today I challenge each and every East Sider to make a difference. The thinking that "I can't change things, I can't make a difference" is false when you look at the whole picture. Imagine if everyone did something; now that would make a whole lot of difference.



Featured Pet of the Month

Allison Lund-Zalewski
Forum Staff

Ever since I was little, my family has always had a pet in the house. It started when I was two years old and had a grey kitten named Crackler. I originally had wanted to name her "Kitty Cracked Corn and I Don't Care" after the song, but my mom persuaded me on just "Crackler." I had her for twelve years until she ran away, presumably to pass away on her own.

When I was four years old, we had a yellow Labrador named Gus, but sadly someone sped through our alleyway and hit him just several months after we got him. From there, we had several dogs, but they were destined for the farm so we had to get rid of them. One of those dogs in particular was named Cinnamon. We got her as a puppy, but she was a biter. She'd bite a hole in all my t-shirts as a kind of a greeting.



It was just Crackler in the house until we found dachshund puppies. I was about six or seven when we picked out the cutest little black and brown wire-hair and named him Schnitzel. He looked and acted like a grumpy little old man, but he became one of my closest pet friends. He loved car rides and getting into trouble, especially digging holes in the backyard. Schnitzel also thought he was as big as a Rotweiler. He lived until he was sixteen, about twice as long as the life expectancy for a dachshund. My love for Schnitzel opened up a lifelong love for

dachshunds in general.

Over the years, our house saw every kind of animal one could think of: goldfish, cats, guinea pigs, hamsters, turtles and tortoises, a ferret, a bunny, a mini pot-belly pig, and frogs. We were known as a zoo by friends and family, but I can't imagine a house without animals. How lonely and how quiet it must be.

My husband and I have three dachshunds right now: one short hair red named Greta who is nine years old in May, Goliath who is a long hair red, and Lucy who is a brown and black long hair. We adopted the brother and sister pair, Goliath and Lucy when they were about one year old.

Greta is the queen in the house, she makes sure all visitors know that too. Lucy lets you know when she isn't getting enough attention and Goliath is so laid back. It's funny how they all have their own personalities. Greta prefers squeaky balls and Goliath and Lucy prefer the cloth toys.

We also have two frogs; one a red-eye and the other a White's Australian tree frog, otherwise known as a Dumpy frog because of how portly they really are. Every morning when my husband gets ready for work, Hermie the Australian tree frog greets him with his croaks. His croaks almost sound like a dog barking.

Our other two animals are box turtles, one European and the other American. I adopted those two when I was in college from a family who was moving out of state. The European, Snickers, is twenty-nine years old and the American, Rocky, is thirty years old.

Our animals are spoiled but I wouldn't have it any other way. There will always be some kind of animal pitter-pattering around our house whether they're sticky, scaly, or furry.

What makes your pet endearing? Frightening?

How do you and your pet communicate with each other?

Share with readers how you 'talk' with each other?

How did you choose each other in the beginning?

Is there a 'life' lesson you have learned from your non-human companion?

The Forum staff invite all readers to share their photos and stories/comments about their pets and/or pet theories.

E-mail to: daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com

Imprisoned by Poverty

Clara Martin
Special to the Forum

Poverty is its own special kind of prison. There are no physical bars and cement walls, yet it stifles, suffocates, and sucks hope and joy out of the soul. Those living in poverty watch from behind their bars of stigma and solitude as the world goes by and others move about enjoying life. They walk among the rich and reap the harvest of donations at local food banks, community clinics, and various non-profits: the leftovers, the crumbs, the alms.

Yet there are no balms for the soul. No systemic cures for the poor. There are campaign promises from candidates of all stripes—yet the only change, once in office, is a reduction of services like food stamps, welfare, or medical help. Most poor people are well aware of these campaign lies: They've lived through them, struggled through the greed they see through their invisible bars of poverty, restriction, and degradation. Most realize the promises are empty and meant to be vote grabbers, but the obfuscation of politicians, especially regarding poverty, has been well-documented through our history. Our reputation as a glorious, rich nation is besmirched by the historic truth of our cruelty and greed.

Poverty can be explained by talking to those who are experiencing what it's like on a day-to-day basis. For instance, for a mom raising children on her own, it's a trip to Goodwill or the Salvation Army with her kids: That's called school shopping. For a senior living in an apartment complex, it's watching a double-decker bus full of your neighbors going off to take a tour of Stillwater or going to see the autumn beauty of the leaves changing colors. "It's just \$80, come on, you can go," they cajole. And, yet, for a senior, \$80 can be a month's worth of groceries. For a single mother, poverty can mean a monthly trip to a local armory where she stands in line waiting to receive her allotment of government cheese, white rice, and powdered milk. Yes, services exist, but what service is there for a child being taunted at school because of her clothes? And, what service is there that puts some joy in living alone with no money, just watching from your cell, when being part of the community would make all the difference. There may be an occasional visit from a social worker or a friendly visit from a volunteer with

a local nonprofit, but on a daily basis, the cell of poverty closes in and isolates. We call it "living in poverty", but that is not correct. Those in poverty are alive, but they are hardly living. Simply put: Poverty hurts; poverty stifles; poverty kills.

Poverty strips away dignity and is a constant reminder of failure and deprivation. The world dances and engages and spends, spends, spends, but those in poverty are not part of the equation: money equals happiness and fulfillment. When Oprah had successful people on her television show, every single person was declared successful by how much money they were worth, not by what they'd accomplished (although, of course, they were accomplished). But, not one was a single mom who had raised her kids alone, worked two to three jobs, kept food on the table, and provided a home for her kids. Now that is success! But, not in a capitalistic society where values are skewed by greed and self-worth is measured in dollars.

The answer doesn't lie in increased donations, it doesn't lie in establishing more non-profits, it doesn't lie in more beds in shelters. No, the answer lies in education. It lies in a culture shift that values all lives as a moral norm. It lies in the elimination of greed. It lies in access to health care for all. It lies in the elimination of capitalism as we know it in our society. Poverty is a cancer in our society and more and more people are becoming afflicted. (529,000 Minnesotans, including 150,000 children under 18, had family incomes below the official poverty threshold as of 2018, according to the American Community Survey).

Some questions need to be answered. Is there a calculated movement to keep people downtrodden? Is there a benefit to the oligarchs to keep a percentage of citizens uneducated? Is there a benefit to politicians to have our airwaves flooded with propaganda instead of truth? Is there a reason our officials spend trillions of dollars in foreign countries instead of here at home? Where do we turn to find the truth? When will people become our priority instead of wealth?

When poverty is a reality, none of these questions are pertinent to survival because daily life consists of struggling to get the next meal on the table; getting to an emergency room to treat a sick child; locating a food shelf that might have fresh produce and something to call supper; or finding a church or a shelter that allows showering. No, the answers to the questions can't come from people in poverty: The answers come from those who do not have to live with daily suffering---scrambling to stay afloat, or alive.

Minnesota's overall poverty rate was 10.5% in 2017, slightly down from 10.8% in 2016 but higher than 10.2% in 2015. 560,996 Minnesotans, including 169,040 children under age 18, still had family incomes below the official poverty threshold in 2017 (about \$24,600 for a family of four in 2017).

Recently about 10% of people of all ages (and about 12% of children under the age of 18) were in poverty in 2017. Although Minnesota has a lower proportion of people living in poverty than the U.S. average, it affects about one in ten Minnesotans and one in nine children in Minnesota.

Poverty imprisons and confines. It strips away any chance of daily enjoyment. Poverty leads to illness and too many times it leads to suicide. One person dies by suicide every 12 hours in Minnesota. American Indians/Alaskan Native men have the highest suicide rates by ethnicity. And, we know from statistics that they have high poverty rates. In 2019 KARE11 aired their study on suicides in Minnesota. The results were abysmal.

Poverty and mental illness go hand-in-hand. Lack of nutrition, lack of stimulation, isolation, and depression all contribute to a lack of self-worth and well-being. Those wrestling with poverty on a daily basis often feel defeated and hopeless. The hardest-hit individuals are those who have no family, no friends, no neighbors to turn to other than an occasional service worker who may smile and encourage weekly or monthly. But, the majority of time, days are spent in seclusion; not by choice but by the dictation of circumstance.

This is the prison of poverty and the systemic cycle has no sunny outlook for the future. It's a multi-layered problem and a tangled web of government bureaucracy mixed with a complicated and convoluted path to solution. Compassion, donation, visitation, are all wonderful band-aids; what is needed is systemic change in the form of affordable housing options, increased Social Security and Medicare benefits, employment options and across-the-board funding for better public education, not only for youngsters, but for adults as well. And, for those living in poverty who are mentally challenged, services need to be stepped up, brought back, and identified, in order to provide more and more people meaningful, joyful and fulfilling lives. Lives that will take them out of their confining prison walls of poverty and out into their communities.

This piece is the opinion of the author, it is not affiliated with the Forum's editorial board.

St. Paul Historic April Dates

Steve Trimble
Forum Staff

I tried to pick out a diverse group of events that occurred in Saint Paul in April. I only wrote around two hundred words, but there is a lot more that could be found out. If you delve into any of these, please share what you discovered in the Forum.

April 4, 1869: Mary E. J. Colter, famous architect, was born on this day. Her family left Pennsylvania and arrived in Minnesota when she was three. Her family moved to the southwest for a time where Mary was attracted to Indian arts. Mary graduated from Central High and then studied design at the San Francisco School of Art. She then taught at Mechanic Arts High School for fifteen years starting in 1892.

Colter believed in a union of arts and crafts by making useful objects beautiful. She was involved in the local Arts and Crafts movement and lectured at national conferences and women's clubs. In 1902 she designed a museum and gift sale space in a New Mexico hotel for Fred Harvey featuring American Indian art. By 1910 she became a permanent employee of Fred Harvey.

She did maintain contact with people in St. Paul. Mary died in Santa Fe in 1951 at the age of 88 and was brought back to St. Paul, where she was buried in the family plot in Oakland Cemetery.

April 6, 1887: Albert Wolff commenced work on his Colonial Revival home at 318 Goodhue Street on this day and it was completed by May 30. He was born in Germany in 1825 and trained in theology. He was a Forty-Eighter, the name given a group of young men who took part in revolutionary activities in their home

country in 1848. Wolff was imprisoned for his activities and faced a long prison term or even execution. However, the sentence was commuted if he exiled himself.

He arrived in St Paul in 1852 and would become a founder and editor of several newspapers including the *Minnesota Deutsche Zeitung*, the first German language paper in the state. He went to New Ulm for a time.

Wolff was an important literary figure, wrote poems, and was in demand as a lecturer. In 1869 he was made Minnesota state commissioner for Germany to recruit immigrants.

Wolff returned to St. Paul and edited the *Volkszeitung* a Dayton's Bluff German language newspaper for twenty years. Retiring in 1893, he was said to be "subject to fits of melancholy." One day he went down to the Union Depot yards and threw himself onto the tracks in front of a moving train and perished.

April 10, 1915: Five St. Paul Boy Scouts and H. S. Sorrels, their adult scout leader, were ready to start the 2,800 mile walk to San Francisco on this day.

Hauling an 850-pound supply cart, they hoped to make twenty miles a day and arrive in late August. They would be selling magazine subscriptions and post cards to help pay their way.

When they got to Kansas one boy was gone because of illness. Heavy rains and flooding marooned them in Lawrence for a time. Slogging through muddy roads they could only make four or five miles a day.

Then, in Colorado, there was a crisis. After two scouts discovered their adult leader was moving to California and had filled much of the wagon with personal belongings they decided to stop pulling the heavy wagon and left on their own. The leader and two other boys stayed.

Leon and Max ended their walk to San Francisco in October. The scout leader and the other boys did arrive, but sometimes took public transportation. The two scouts worked for a couple of months to make money for return train tickets. It seemed that they were not in the mood to

walk back.

April 16, 1987: August Wilson, an African American playwright, won the Pulitzer Prize for "Fences" on this day. The work was part of his series offering known as The Pittsburgh Cycle, a group of ten plays. He won a second Pulitzer in 1990 for The "Piano Lesson," which was also part of the ten-play grouping. Each work is set in a different decade and depict the comic as well as the tragic aspects of the African American experience.

Wilson came to St. Paul from his home in Pittsburgh in 1978 and first worked writing educational scripts for the Science Museum of Minnesota. He eventually quit the Museum but continued writing. He had a long association with the local Penumbra Theater which premiered many of his works.

"I think my plays offer a different way to look at Black Americans," he said in an interview "For instance, in 'Fences' they see a garbage man, a person they don't really look at... White people find out that the content of this Black garbage man's life is affected by the same things... and deal with Black people in their lives."

April 22, 1970: The first local events were limited and somewhat small the initial year. At Hamline University, a professor of botany gave a lecture on "man and his vanishing environment" and a series of faculty presentations at another college discussed "poverty, racism and pollution," "the economics of pollution" and "theology of nature." Later there was a mock legislative hearing to prepare a bill on the use of non-returnable bottles and cans.

Macalester College sponsored an environmental teaching on pollution problems, a rally where petitions circulated on nuclear waste and use of DDT and a paper recycling project was initiated. Geographer Hildegard Johnson spoke on "Americans and their lands" and the Mac Weekly editorialized on clean water and air goals. Mounds Park Junior High students preferred action to lectures and picked up litter in Indian Mounds Park.

Non-fiction Book Review

The Dead Beat, Lost Souls, Lucky Stiffs and the Perverse Pleasures of Obituaries

by Marilyn Johnson

Theresa Wanta
Special to the Forum

"Harold C. Fox, the Chicago clothier and sometime big-band trumpeter who claimed credit for creating and naming the zoot suit with the reet pleat, the reave sleeve, the ripe stripe, the stuff cuff and the drape shape that was the stage rage during the boogie-woogie rhyme time of the early 1940's, died on Sunday at his home in Siesta Key, Fla. He was 86." — by Robert McG. Thomas, Jr.

Now that the morbid month of March is over when many people pass away, including the snowman who must be carried away in a bucket, let us turn to some of the best read pages of the newspaper: the obituaries. Obituaries, as opposed to death notices, began to be jazzed up a bit in the early 1980s. After reading this book, you may even want to write your own.

The phrase in the first sentence is a distillation of all the departed meant to us, otherwise known as the "who" clause. This can be followed by a report of what landed the person on the obits page. Then comes an anecdote or scene that illustrates a turning point in the story of the subject's life. This can be followed by a chronology of the subject's life, but if not handled properly, can be boring. Then there can be the colorful quote from experts, relatives or friends which communicates something of the subject's inner tickings. Finally, there's the punch line at the end. A list of survivors can follow, but it takes skill to keep it from being pedestrian. All of these elements need not be used.

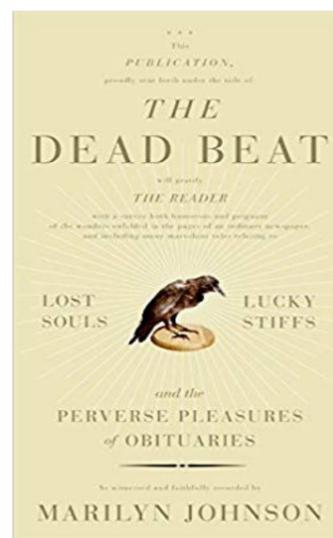
Chapter six deals with the "ordinary Joes" (and Josephines) of life. "A little life well lived is worth talking about", states the author. After all, who would you miss if you went on vacation, your secretary of state or the garbage man? she asks. Quotes, idiosyncrasies and personal characteristics are useful for the defining phrases included between the news of the death and the list of survivors. These make the story—the quotes that slant sideways, the homey, almost funny specifics, the deadpan delivery:

"Society today does not assign extraordinary attributes to a 35-year-old heavy equipment mechanic who is living with his parents and whose possessions do not appear to much exceed a Miller Light and a pack of Marlboros on the bar before him, a union card in his pocket and a friend on either side." — by Jim

Nicholson

"Agate, population 70, is one of those towns that people describe as "blink and you'll miss it." Lois A. Engle loved living in that blink"— by Jim Sheeler

"Selma Koch, a Manhattan store owner who earned a national reputation by helping women find the right bra size, mostly through a discerning glance and never with a tape measure, died Thursday at Mount Sinai Medical Center. She was 95 and a 34B." — by Douglas Martin



Chapter nine lists hilarious euphemisms used in obits; and the final chapter declares: "The better the obit, the closer it approaches re-creation. It's an act of reverence, a contemplation of this life that sparked and died, but also an act of defiance, a fist waved at God or the stars. And what else, really, do we have besides the story?"

Join Minnesota Compass on Census Day 2020!

Minnesota Compass

Join us on Census Day to learn everything you want to know about the census!

Every ten years, the U.S. Census Bureau counts every person living in the 50 states, District of Columbia, and five U.S. territories.

Census data are used to: guide the distribution of billions of dollars to Minnesota's communities, determine the number of seats Minnesota has in the U.S. House of Representatives, draw congressional and state legislative districts, provide data that shapes how Minnesota's policymakers and business leaders decide to invest public and private resources

Minnesota Compass invites you to learn how census data are used by Minnesota residents, communities, nonprofits, businesses, and government; why it's essential that everyone is counted; and how you can help.

Census Day will be **Wednesday April 1.**

Registration and networking begins at **5:30 p.m.** and goes until **6 p.m.** The program then begins at **6 p.m.** and goes until **7:30 p.m.**

Census Day will take place at the Wilder Center located at 451 Lexington Parkway North Go to mncompass.org to register or contact Wendy Huckaby with any questions at wendy.huckaby@wilder.org



Erica Schneekloth

Carson has been busy at work and making sure the blocks and sidewalks are ice and trash free. Every night after school he wants to get his wagon, go around the block, clear the ice and pick up trash from the sidewalks.

**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 May issue of the *Forum* is April 10, 2020.

Worldwide Holidays in April

*Temperance Brennan
Friend of the Forum*

I'm hoping this series that your local anthropologist has been writing is providing information and possibly entertainment. When most people think of this month they mention April Fool's Day on the first — this in not fake news—or Easter, which moves around but is on April 12 this year.

There are no federal holidays during this thirty-day period. Incidentally, August is the only other month that has no federal holiday.

But there are dozens of other events this month that are important and interesting. Why not check out the countries below and maybe have a party that includes some of their culture? Why not invite some neighbors over for a traditional Vietnamese meal you can make or even order in, find out more about the Falkland Islands and why the British were there anyway, or learn to do the Samba, a famous Brazilian dance.

April 2: Malvina Day: The Malvinas Islands—better known as the Falklands— has this holiday as a trib-

ute to Argentina's fallen soldiers in the Falklands War with the British, which began in 1982 and lasted 74 days.

April 12: Punta Gorda Festival: The residents of Honduras have a festival that commemorates the day in which 4,000 Garifuna people (a mixed African and indigenous people originally from the Caribbean island of St.Vincent) were placed on the island of Roatan, thus commencing their settlement of the islands and Caribbean coast.

April 21: Tiradentes Day: This day in Brazil commemorates the execution of Brazilian national hero Joaquim Jose da Silva Xavier. He was a Brazilian revolutionary who, as a founder of the Inconfidência Mineira movement, fought for Brazilian independence and freedom from Portuguese colonial power. He was executed by hanging in 1792.

April 30: Reunification Day in Vietnam: 'Ngày Thống nhất marks the reunification of Vietnam in 1975. It is also known as Victory Day or Liberation Day. It remembers the fall of the Saigon government in 1975 when Viet Cong and North Vietnamese troops captured Saigon and soon renamed Ho Chi Minh City.



Watch the Eaglets!

After two years of failure, the new pair of eagles on Minnesota's Department of Resources Eaglecam have succeeded in starting a family.

The first of three eggs was laid on February 7 with two more following in the next week. All three hatched between March 15 and 19.

The eaglets will be putting on a good show throughout the month of April as they rapidly grow, learn to fly, and finally leave the nest.

To find the Eaglecam, do an online search for "MN DNR Eaglecam".

The Nongame Wildlife Program depends on donations to keep your EagleCam going. Make a donation right now at: https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/nongame/donate/index_eagle.html. It all makes a difference in the life of Minnesota's animals!



Kari Soeffker

Teachers in the Saint Paul area went on strike in early March. Pictured above is Kari Soeffker in front of the French immersion school, L'etoile Du Nord.

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

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Photographer: Lou "The Photo Guy" Michaels

Next issue: May 2020. **Deadline for material: April 10, 2020.**

East Side Eating – Trimble's Taste Trek

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

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

Wild Fish and Chicken

Phone: 651-888-2165 and 651-888-2145

976 E. 7th Street
St Paul, MN 55106

Monday-Thursday 10:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.
Friday-Saturday 10:00 a.m.-11:00 p.m.
Sunday 11:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.

Facebook: facebook.com/wildFishandChicken/

A week or so ago, I was coming back from the post office, driving west on East Seventh, when I reached Forest Street. There I chanced upon a sign that caught my eye. It looked like there was a new establishment in the long-empty former gas station. It said, "Wild Fish & Chicken" and perhaps it was a small grocery or deli. I had to stop and see what I was seeing so I could share the news with *Forum* readers. I was happy to discover a sit-down restaurant.



There's lots of off-street parking and I went in through a small door on East Seventh and then through a large double door into an area that divided the place into an area for the tables and the food ordering and preparation area. There were two large tables and four that were meant for one or two people. There were also six red stools. There is a dropped ceiling with good lighting. You order at a counter

that is under a back-lighted menu with photos of some of the food. There are fountain drinks and a cooler of bottled drinks and a display of dessert cakes.

Side dishes are gyro, cheese fries, mushrooms, okra, onion rings, pizza puffs, fried pickles, Sambosas, breaded Zucchini sticks, and hummus. Value meals come with fries, bread, and a drink. Some include nachos, chicken nachos with cheese, Philly steak nachos, Gyro nachos, and cheese nachos.

Dinners have catfish fillets, ocean perch, shrimp, and jumbo shrimp or steak. Some of the chicken dinners are gizzards, chicken nuggets, chicken tenders or drummies. All dinners are served with fries, coleslaw, and bread. Chicken wings range from a portion of three and six to larger numbers from 20 to 100. You can also get boneless and half wings. Under "Wild Grill" some foods are: Philly cheesesteak, Italian beef, Buffalo chicken Gyro and Gyro steak burger.

A dozen or so sandwiches such as cheeseburger, Gyro steam burger, Falafel burger, and Greek chicken sandwich. Salads. super taco, Greek salad, Caesar salad, and a garden salad. "Menu Specials" feature T-bone and sirloin steaks, Chicago beef polish "gym shoe sandwich" that turns out to be a Chicago invention. Its origin story reflects the diversity of the Windy City. Its melting pot of fillings and was born on Chicago's South Side.



I decided to sample some of the Greek items and ordered a Greek chicken sandwich with fries and a Greek salad. Since the lemonade is not yet available, I got a soft drink—a peach Faygo that I was told is very popular in Chicago. The sandwich had some additions and was presented in two pocket breads. I was surprised by the huge size of the salad with lettuce tomato, onions, black olives, and feta cheese. The fries, once again said to be Chicago style were crispy with some condiments on the outside.

This is a family restaurant, and the manager is Ali Soliman who is half Italian and half Egyptian. As you might guess from the menu, he has lived in Chicago but was mostly raised in Italy. He does most of the cooking with one helper so there is a short wait to be served.

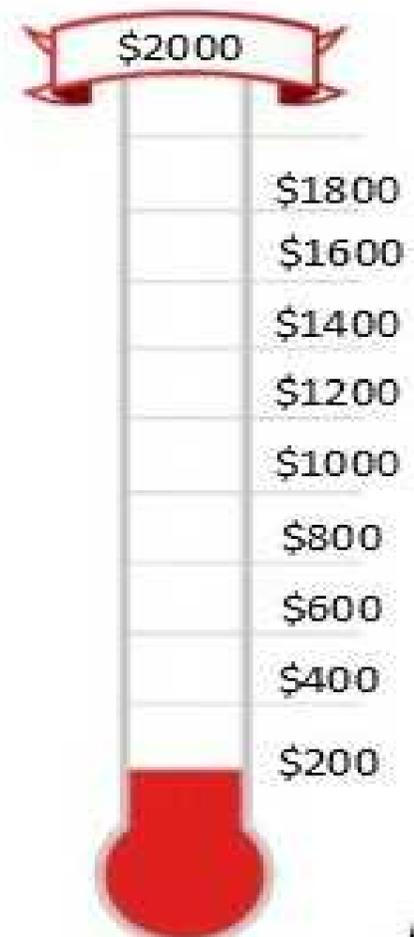
For delivery they usually use Grubhub. You can use cash or credit cards but not checks.

Here's a suggestion: Ali has a t-shirt with a message on the back that says "For faster service call ahead 651-888-2165."

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

Many thanks to our 2020 donors:

MaryAnn Cogelow
John Davidsen
Audrey J. Harken
Jean Rivard
Steve Trimble



Help us raise money to print the Forum! Your name could be featured above with our 2020 donors!

Friends of the Forum

Dear Reader,

The Dayton's Bluff District Forum has been a volunteer-run newspaper since the 1980s and has always operated on a minimal budget. Each issue costs around \$1,900 to produce 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 from readers like you, we have been able to keep the paper up and running.

If you value this community source of information, please consider filling out the form below. Any amount is appreciated; you may also make memorial donations, or include the *Forum* in your legacy planning.

If you have been our *Friend* in the past, please renew your membership with a donation in 2020. **Our goal for 2020 is \$18,000; thanks to readers like you, we've raised \$1,815 to date – will you help us reach our goal in 2020?**

Sincerely,

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

\$100 \$50 \$25 Another amount _____

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

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Thank you for your support!