

Urban Roots Held Week-Long Donations for East Side in June

Allison Lund-Zalewski
Forum Staff

In early June, Urban Roots on 463 Maria Avenue, Ste. 207, was engaged in a week-long essential supply drive to help community members who were affected by the rioting and looting that occurred after George Floyd's murder. These essential items were to be distributed to the community members on the East Side. Items that were donated included, but were not limited to: food, baby supplies, household, and hygiene products.

"This is not our typical work, but because food access is a large part of our mission, we decided to step up and fill an immediate need in the community and pivot our programming temporarily," Deputy Executive Director Hayley Ball commented.

Urban Roots is currently working with other community partners to put a plan in place to provide a more sustainable solution to providing essential supplies to community members who are in need.

Each year Urban Roots provides paid internships that focus on job training to 70 youth interns and eight alumni staff members. They work to help provide food security to their families through fresh produce grown in Urban Roots gardens.

"This year we hope to also provide other essential supplies such as sanitation products and household supplies in addition to supplementing their groceries each week," Ball added.

The program staff at Urban Roots has done an incredible job of adapting the programming in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic and again during the donation week. Urban Roots is dedicated to serving the intern community and the residents of the East Side.

For more information on Urban Roots, go to urbanrootsmn.org. To find local donation spots, look to the top of the page for a list. Please keep in mind, some of these donation areas may not be taking essential goods at this time.

Remembering East Sider Marny Xiong

Steve Trimble
Forum Staff

Saint Paul Public Schools Board Chairwoman Marny Xiong, an East Sider, passed away on Sunday, June 7, 2020 following a month-long battle with the Coronavirus. She was 31 years old but had accomplished a great deal in her short life.

As an adult she dedicated her life toward community building and education, believing that education was a foundation to getting ahead and helping dismantle structural racism.

Her parents, Zahoua Xiong and See Xiong, came to Minnesota as Hmong refugees from the CIA's Secret War in Laos. They instilled education, family, hard work, and public service in all their children. As the youngest daughter, Marny began her leadership as an NJROTC Cadet at Arlington High School.

She grew up on the Eastside of St. Paul and attended Longfellow Elementary, Washington Middle School, and Arlington High School, graduating with class of 2007.

Marny had talked about perhaps getting a law degree and possibly being the first Hmong mayor of St. Paul. She graduated from the University of Minnesota-Duluth with a BA in Political Science and a minor in African and African American Studies in 2012. In 2017 she was elected to the St. Paul School Board and then elected the Chair of the Board in 2020. Marny was an active DFL member as well as a Union and Community Organizer with TakeAction Minnesota, and Service Employees International Union (SEIU).



Donation Sites and Websites for Rebuilding our Cities

Clara Martin
Forum Staff

The murder of George Floyd and the subsequent destruction of 300-plus businesses in the Twin Cities have left many asking how they can help and where they can donate time, energy, and needed material goods. The outpouring of love and support has shown the true spirit of the Twin Cities.

The ways to donate are many. There are websites with infinite numbers of businesses and nonprofits listed that lead people to the donation place that best suits individual giving.

Those wishing to contribute can find lists of organizations via a Google search.

Below are listed a few; it's a short list:

The YMCA has held extensive supply drives across the Twin Cities.

GoFundMe pages have been established to monetarily assist businesses, devastated neighborhoods, and personal needs.

Urban Roots on Maria in St. Paul has been collecting food donations.

The Pimiento Relief Fund helps support black businesses in Minnesota.

The Black Chamber Black Business Support Fund is offering help.

Also, of note: Neighbors United Funding Collaborative "We Love Midway"

Support the Eastside is collecting funds for the Indigenous Roots supply drive.

We Love St. Paul Fundraisers.

St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce funds are used for rebuilding businesses.

Shay Cares on Lexington and Central Ave host pop-up food banks.

Dickerman Food Distribution in Saint Paul needs volunteers who are multilingual. They are also in need of essential supplies

actblue.com supports the Black Lives Matter movement. Donations are appreciated.

Knowyourrights.com has teamed up with Minnesota and Minneapolis lawyers to help those acquire legal counsel.

Minnesotafreedomfund.org is another website to assist those with bail funds as well as legal counsel.

North Star Health Collective is for providing healthcare to those in the protests or those affected.

Readers Note: Some of these donation suggestions may not be accepting donations at the time of this online post.



Hayley Balli

A volunteer stands in front of a table full of essential baby and toddler items local community members donated over the first week in June. These items went to the families who were affected by the rioting and looting that preceded George Floyd's murder.

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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. 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.

Due to the coronavirus, hikes are canceled. Please check back for more information at a later date.

If you have any questions email Karindupaul0@gmail.com.

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. We have changed our meeting date to the second Thursday of each month.

Due to the COVID-19 virus, there will be no June meeting. Please check back at a later date for more information. 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, July 2, at 11:00 a.m.** Due to the COVID-19 virus, the meeting will take place virtually. Call 651-776-0550 or email daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com for more information.

Police Community Meetings

The Eastern District Saint Paul Police hosts 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 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.

Meetings are closed indefinitely due to Covid-19.

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 cali-

ficar. 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

Due to the COVID-19 virus, the Historic Mounds Theatre is temporarily closed and all events have either been canceled or postponed for a later date.

Please visit our website at moundstheatre.org for more information regarding the re-opening and upcoming events.

The Historic Mounds Theatre is located at 1029 Hudson Road, St. Paul, MN 55106; 651-772-2253; historicmoundstheatre@gmail.com

Dayton's Bluff Library

The Dayton's Bluff Library is temporarily closed due to the COVID-19 virus. Please check back at a later date for more information regarding the re-opening.

For more information 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/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 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, custom 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 based on a sliding fee scale. Class sizes are limited, so enroll now. Please call 651-379-8432 for a current 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://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.

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.

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 NAPS box are: milk, meat, canned goods, peanut butter, grains, and produce.

Pavilions and Park Shelters Open

Park shelter and pavilion rentals have reopened for groups of 10 or fewer, aligning with Minnesota Executive Order 20-5.

Reservations can be made online at https://ramseycounty.maxgalaxy.net/BrowseFacilities.aspx?utm_medium=email&utm_source=go_vdeliveryor by calling 651-748-2500.

Parks & Recreation staff will contact larger groups with existing reservations that are impacted by this change.

Landmark Center

Due to the COVID-19 virus, Landmark Center is closed to the general public, including all museums and galleries.

It will remain open only to office tenants at this time.

There will be virtual tours and shows to watch on their website, free to the public.

Please watch landmarkcenter.org and social media pages @landmarkcenter for status updates

Landmark Center staff will be available to answer any questions at 651-292-3225.

Yard Work Assistance

Need help raking leaves in your yard? Our volunteers are ready to help!

Contact us today and we will get you set up with spring cleanup.

Call us at 651-683-2326 or email us at Info@EastSideElders.org

We Can't Breathe

Clara Martin
Forum Staff

The ugliness of spring is a phrase most of us would say is a contradiction of terms. Spring in Minnesota is a time of renewal, of buds and blossoms and beauty. Spring is our reward for enduring a cold, icy winter. Spring brings us blooming flowers, robins fluttering across our yards, the fragrance of lilacs blooming, and the beauty of apple blossoms. In Minnesota we earn our spring. It is our season of hope, sunshine, better days ahead, a respite from the dark, cold days of winter.

But spring this year brought something ugly to the Twin Cities, specifically our sister city of Minneapolis. Although, the pain did spill over into St. Paul. We may be separated by a river, but our border is open and welcoming. We share cultures; we share our diversity; we welcome each other. But the ugliness came and it wasn't fragrant, but instead an all-too-familiar stench of racism that led to murder. The murder of George Floyd by a white Minneapolis police officer. It was a stench not unfamiliar in our community. Sadly, we have suffered this agony before.

George Floyd was murdered in South Minneapolis, a wonderfully diverse community with a plethora of small businesses that already were feeling the economic pinch of another kind of pandemic: the Covid-19 nightmare. South Minneapolis is a unique gem in the Twin Cities. It is a place rich with parks, lakes, businesses, nonprofits, neighborhoods of families, public schools, day care centers, activism, street celebrations, and a genuine love of community.

Everywhere you look in this community you will find the makings of community spirit. Yes, you will see poverty and homelessness, but you will also find altruism, kindness, and gatherings of support. It's a place where thousands call home and many who visit feel welcomed.

But spring this year brought something other than the beauty of the lilac. Instead, South Minneapolis burned, and for miles could be seen billowing black smoke embedded with the names of family-owned businesses. Black smoke filled with tears from the news of the death of a beautiful member of the community. Black smoke carrying 400 years of oppression and racism. Black smoke filled with the faces of school children wanting a fair and equal education. Black smoke filled with burning crosses, nooses, and the legacy of cotton fields. Black smoke filled with pain, hurt, shackles, and chains. Black smoke that choked people. Yes, black smoke that carried the words "I can't breathe," uttered by George Floyd before his life was squeezed out of him. Black smoke carrying the names of countless other victims: Eric Garner, Oscar Grant, Philando Castile and many more.

"We can't breathe!" None of us can breathe. Our justice system is broken. Our land is being infiltrated by hate. We ask, "When will this stop?" "We can't breathe!" Racism is killing our communities and choking the life out of all of us. It needs to stop. We all need

to participate in stopping it. "We can't breathe!" And, we won't be able to breathe until this corruption in our country gets its knee off the necks of our brothers and sisters in communities of color!! We need our children to see past skin color. We need adults to teach equality at home long before their child comes to school. We need private schools to cease dividing us according to ethnicity, religion, abilities, and status. As a society, we must remove the shackles that keep us apart from each other. Because until that happens, we, as a civilized society, will not be able to breathe. We will not be free until every one of our brothers and sisters of every ethnicity is free. We will continue to choke until we can wrap our arms around each other and breathe life into our communities. This will be how we survive and how the smoke will clear from our cities. Until we can all breathe, none of us will be able to breathe.

Our democracy has been shredded just a little more over the past three and a half years, and in the Twin Cities we are suffering under the immoral and devastating effects of that racist permission. "We can't breathe!" Democracy has been fragile in our country for hundreds of years and has never been a completely just society. We all know that as a fact. The country was built on corruption, murder, and injustice. Nobody has felt that more severely than our Native people and our black citizens. White people have always bullied their way with lies, unjust tactics, and murder. This is unfortunately the legacy handed to us by our founders. It is not a proud legacy and yet much has not changed. This was all too clear as Minneapolis suffered an agonizing and putrid spring.

A spring that left most of us with more questions than answers. A spring that left us feeling betrayed, angry, cheated. We tried to find beauty among the rubble but always the questions in our mind as we walked among tears of disbelief, mothers holding babies, families wondering how they would survive the horror of this destruction.

What does it feel like to intentionally put a knee on a human's neck for the purpose of snuffing out his life? What happens in that instant that makes a human being lose all grasp of his humanity, and with depraved indifference, knowing he's being observed, continue to deprive another human of breath as he crushes his throat for almost nine minutes. Does this police officer think of his own family at this critical time? Does his entire humanism ice up allowing the power he has over another's life to swallow him up? What went through his brain as he knowingly watched George Floyd's body go limp and die?

A murderer is someone who looks fairly normal but whose brain operates much differently than the general population, but what is it that drives them to kill? People who commit murders often kill to assert power and be noticed. They often will do this in order to punish some person or group of people that they are unhappy with or fearful of. Those convicted of murder often do not display guilt for their heinous actions. (Pleasanton Express; Jan. 11, 2012)

Is our racism so embedded in our society and our collective psyche that an entitled white guy with a badge knows, without a doubt, that he will face absolutely no retribution for his actions. Especially, if past killings of black men are any indication, he will not face jail time

and he is aware of the systemic white patriarchy being able to look the other way when white cops murder black males. With this fact to embolden him, he carried out the murder of George Floyd on a bright, Minnesota spring day surrounded by complicit pals on the force, and community members yelling for him to stop.

Many questions arise when these horrifying murders happen. One of the biggest questions among citizens here is why this man was on the police force in the first place? This cop had a long rap sheet of abuses while on the police force. Was he ever assigned to an anger management class? How did his superiors justify keeping him on the police force when it was clear he was a loose cannon? And it also begs the question about other officers on the force. What are the requirements one must have to be a police officer for the city of Minneapolis? What is the culture behind those badges? How concerned should residents of Minneapolis be about those who are supposed to protect and serve? They are paid with taxpayer dollars and yet do residents feel secure in their communities knowing the cops are doing their job and acting with integrity?

(Buzzfeed; May 29, 2020) *Derek Chauvin, the Minneapolis police officer who was arrested and charged with third-degree murder Friday after he was caught on video using a knee chokehold on George Floyd, had 17 complaints against him over nearly 20 years of his service, all but one of which ended without disciplinary action, according to police records.*

Sadly, these heinous acts of murder by cops defile the reputation of our police force. It violates the good our police do in our communities. When one cop commits an act of murder, the entire force suffers and pays the price. This must stop. The hiring of a police officer must be held to a higher standard for the good of the entire force and of the community that is being served.

"I can't breathe," George Floyd uttered, but this must not ever be heard again from a person with a knee on his neck. The hatred and racism and inequality must be replaced with love and acceptance. We must look to the citizens of the Twin Cities who are peacefully marching, donating food, diapers, baby formula, putting aside fears of COVID-19 in order to clean, shovel, rake, and pick up the rubble of destruction. All because a white cop decided to squeeze the life out of a George Floyd. The inequities can't be stopped with an Act of Congress. They can only be stopped if each of us commits to making this stop. Yes, those committing these crimes must be held accountable, but we each must confront our racism and make a decision to take love out into our communities. Let us look to the examples of the good citizens, not the bad, and begin to heal.

Let us take a deep breath and pledge to breathe out love and peace as we go out and about our daily lives today and every day into our future. We owe this to our children. We have an opportunity to leave them with a better legacy than was left to us.

Clara Martin (nom de plume) is a Minnesota native currently residing in the beautifully diverse neighborhood of East St. Paul's Dayton's Bluff. She is a retired English teacher, literacy mentor, editor and writer. She is the mother of four adult children and has three grandchildren.

This disclaimer informs readers that the views, thoughts, and opinions expressed in the text belong solely to the author, and not the Forum.

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Ramsey County Suspends Volunteer Opportunities Until Safe from Covid

Ramsey County

Ramsey County remains deeply grateful to the thousands of volunteers that donate their time and energy each year to help us deliver programs and services that enhance our quality of life. At this time, most of our volunteer opportunities are temporarily suspended with a tentative return to service after Labor Day.

If you are interested in volunteering during the COVID-19 pandemic, the following organizations have information on local and remote opportunities: HandsOn Twin Cities Volunteer Match, Neighbors Helping Neighbors, St. Paul, and the Medical Reserve Corps of Ramsey County.

We will be taking a hiatus until fall with assurances of updates should conditions change. We wish you a happy and healthy summer.

Contest: Where in Dayton's Bluff?

Send your guess to daytonsbluffdistrictforum@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 August edition of the *Forum*. Congratulations to Eric Buck, winner of the March/April contest with a correct location of 968 E. 4th Street.



Milk Jug Greenhouse

Mandy Okonek
Forum Staff

I was excited to start my entire garden from seeds this year and failed brilliantly. The setup was genius. A wooden grow table with two shelves rigged up with bright florescent grow lights located in a room where my cats had no access. My failure was a slow burn. All the seeds sprouted happily and then slowly, one by one, died. I went to the internet and scoured gardening articles, trying to see what I was missing. I added a fan to simulate the wind, misted the baby sprouts with a water bottle twice a day but my little green sprout babies didn't survive.

Defeated, I confided in my master gardener next-door neighbor who I used to watch tiptoeing through her immaculate rose garden late at night as she babied her roses barefoot in the moonlight. She made gardening seem like some sort of effortless magic and her rose garden stopped traffic. I dug up my front yard and copied her moves.

Amid the pandemic, a time when I desperately needed to see things grow, I asked for her advice and she offered me up a magic trick. No smoke and mirrors, however cool that would be, the awe of this method is in its simplicity. Here's the process: Cut a clean plastic milk jug in half and fill the bottom with dirt and then plant your seeds and water. Use packing tape to reassemble the milk jug, taping it back together, and then put the cap on and place the milk jug outside. Make sure the dirt stays moist and when the sprouts are growing nicely, simply remove the tape and recycle the top half of the jug. The sealed milk jug acts as a greenhouse and the plants do not need to be hardened off before transplanting because they are already accustomed to the outdoors.

Traffic on East 7th Street About to be Slowed

Clara Martin
Forum Staff

For years, residents have asked the city to better-control the traffic on East 7th Street. The intersection of North Street and Greenbrier have seen and heard their share of traffic accidents, speed demons, sirens of emergency vehicles, and pedestrians being hit. The neighbors pleaded with the city to get this under control and, yet, East 7th remained a nightmare.

It wasn't until the ribbon-cutting event for the opening of a new apartment building on East 7th when then-Mayor Chris Coleman remarked to newly-elected councilwoman Jane Prince, "The traffic here is terrible!" Prince had heard these complaints and was relieved that now it was coming from the mayor. She hoped that, finally, relief would come to this beleaguered and bustling neighborhood.

Immediately that autumn (of 2016) meetings with neighbors, city officials, MN-DOT and Public Works started forming and all were in agreement that traffic needed to be reined in for the safety of the community and for the seniors occupying the newly-opened apartment building.

With money for the construction coming from the Commercial Vitality Zone (CVZ) the project to ensure safety and traffic control on East 7th was ready to begin.

Early this spring, work began on the East 7th Street project. The semaphore has been erected, the curb cutouts are in place, and the light will be operational soon. Pedestrians will be able to operate the light for safe crossing, and businesses on both sides of East 7th Street will be more easily accessible. Bus riders will be able to get across the street at that intersection instead of crossing at Bates, which has proved extremely dangerous.

This project took years to come to fruition but everyone in this neighborhood will benefit from a more controlled traffic situation.

The new controlled intersection at North/Greenbrier and East 7th is now operational.

Battle Creek Waterworks and Beaches Closed for Summer

Ramsey County

Battle Creek Waterworks in Maplewood will be closed throughout the summer 2020 season to help slow the spread of coronavirus/COVID-19 and protect the health and safety of the community.

Following current social distancing guidelines, the county's swimming beaches will also remain closed and lifeguards will not be on duty at the six guarded locations.

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation and Public Health will continue to monitor guidelines and best practices to determine if and when all beaches may reopen.

Sew Masks for Seniors!

East Side Elders

Calling all sewing folks! We are looking for people to make and donate fabric masks — using the pattern of your choice — to distribute to seniors and the volunteers who serve them.

If you can help, contact us at 651-683-2326 or Info@EastSideElders.org.

We serve over 600 seniors so the need for masks is very great and every donation helps!

MOUNDS PARK BARBER STYLISTS



APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE
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SAINT PAUL, MN 55106

(651) 771-6980

Judy Lee

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

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Next issue: August 2020. **Deadline for material: July 10, 2020.**

Featured Pet of the Month

Clara Martin
Forum Staff

Luna has been in our family for six years and she lives with my daughter and daughter-in-law. I fell in love with her the minute we were introduced. Family members and their pets are often said to resemble each other, but Luna doesn't look like me at all, unless you count our noses. We are alike in personality, however, and some idiosyncrasies. Luna is timid at the dog parks and would rather not play with the other dogs. I don't like strange, unknown dogs either. But we both love friendships; it just takes us awhile to warm up. Luna doesn't like walking over street grates and is quick to avoid them. I think she worries about the trolls we all know live beneath us; I've avoid-



ed open grates for the same reason.

Luna is selfish about playing fetch. She loves when someone plays with her, throws a ball or a twig, but like me, if someone gives her something special, there's no returning it. I don't think Luna understands the game of fetch but, that's okay. We understand each other and I'm happy to let her have her way. I'm happy when I visit her and she greets me with a squeal and a wiggly body. We love each other and that's all that matters to me.

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

New Sculptures at the Landmark Center

Judy Brooks
Director of Community Programs for Landmark Center

Landmark Plaza, located next to Landmark Center in the Rice Park neighborhood of downtown St. Paul, will once again host a public art installation created by The Milligan Studios in St. Paul. "Better Angels," will be installed in Landmark Plaza from **June 15** through **September 30**. The art work will be comprised of several hundred pinwheels in shades of blue and white, re-engineered to resemble angel wings, and strung on horizontal steel wires for movement in the wind. When seen as a whole, the work creates the illusion of a pair of giant wings made of sky. Visitors can enter the arched structure, which creates a "cloud tunnel," to experience the moving wings.

The art evokes President Lincoln's first inaugural address when he spoke to a divided nation and asked all to embrace their better angels and join together as a country. The country was on the brink of the Civil War and, unlike today, his words could not be carried via Internet.

For more information on the artists, go to themilliganstudio.com.



In the Same Direction for the Same Reason: Marching on the Freeway for George Floyd

Anonymous
Special to the Forum

Saturday, May 30, was a terrifying night in the Twin Cities. After a couple days of rioting, the attacks escalated to arson. No one was sure who was causing the damage or when it would stop. Our niece lives in the Midway neighborhood in St. Paul, an area that was particularly hard hit. My husband and I had been trying to connect with her ever since George Floyd was killed earlier that week. We finally agreed to meet up that Sunday afternoon for a march hosted by a new group, the 10K Foundation. We didn't know much about them, but the event was centered around US Bank stadium in Minneapolis, which was not in the neighborhoods that had suffered riots and fires, so we thought it would be safe. This would be her first protest.

We joined the march as it crossed the river and headed down University Avenue toward the 35W freeway. The weather was beautiful and thousands of people were full of energy and chanting. I commented to my niece, "How often in life do you have so many people walking in the same direction for the same reason?"

The crowd cheered as we rounded a corner and walked onto the freeway, quickly filling all the lanes. It was thrilling, but also heart-breaking for me. The first time I set foot on a freeway was in July of 2016 after Philando Castile was killed. Sadly there have been many others since then, including Cordale Handy, who was killed right around the corner from our home in Dayton's Bluff. And now, here we were again. We said his name: "George Floyd," and after the chaos of the last few days, it brought focus and a renewed sense of purpose.

Governor Walz had ordered the freeway to close earlier that day in response to threats we had received about "outside agitators," so the few cars that were still on the road were honking support on their way to the off ramp. There was a podium where people were speaking, but the crowd was so huge we couldn't hear anything. It didn't matter. We were glad to be together. At one point we all knelt in silence.

I remember taking a picture of the serene crowd in the sunshine, and then I heard

a commotion. We were in the southbound lanes, and I saw and heard a wave of people coming toward us from the northbound lanes. Then we were horrified as we saw the tanker driving through them—fast. We heard shouts and screams and saw shoes fly off. The truck finally slowed as men swarmed it and pulled the driver out. There were so many people between us and the truck that we were sure many people must have been hurt and killed, including the driver. I wouldn't let my niece look—I didn't want her to see that. We were safe but we knew we had to get out of there fast.

Just then the police pulled up behind us, blocking our path off the freeway. They did not slow down, in fact they seemed to speed up toward the people running away. I watched as a squad car swerved toward a man who was filming with a tripod. He had to jump over a pylon toward the truck we were all fleeing in order to avoid getting hit by the cop. The police slowed down to spray mace on panicked people as they drove past us, forcing us down an embankment. We could hear shots and flash bang grenades going off behind us as we helped each other over a tall fence and into the brush in order to get away. Instead of securing the area around the tanker, the police continued to target people even after we were off the freeway.

We were in shock on the drive home. I was so relieved to learn on the news that no one had been killed! Even the driver's life had been protected by protesters after



he was pulled from the truck. It took several days to process what we went through on that bridge. There are many theories about the driver's motive—was it an accident or intentional? There are theories about the organizers and what they should have done differently. I don't know, I'm just glad that everyone survived.

But one thing I have clarity about is that the police did not protect and serve us that day. They let the tanker onto the freeway that should have been closed by the governor's order. They drove their squad cars recklessly through people fleeing danger from the other direction. When we were

panicked and seeking safety, they responded with mace, rubber bullets, and flash bang grenades. They were not protecting anyone, they were out to punish us.

We were shaken, but also galvanized from that experience. Since that day we have been back in the streets with our neighbors, walking in the same direction for the same reason: George Floyd. We're on a march for justice and we won't stop until we get it. Black lives matter.

Some Historic St. Paul July Days

Steve Trimble
Forum Staff

Once again, I am offering a few short pieces that I originally wrote for a not-published book, telling the story of events that happened in various years in St. Paul. These are limited tastes of a bigger explanation that could be made. Most of these can be found by using Google, but a few items were found by researching at the Minnesota Historical Society library. Enjoy.

July 3, 1863: The Twenty-eighth Virginia infantry regiment's battle flag was captured during the battle of Gettysburg on this day. St. Paul resident Marshall Sherman, a private in the First Minnesota, has been credited for grabbing the enemy banner. He was one of sixty-three men awarded the Medal of Honor for heroism in the battle at Gettysburg. His regiment suffered heavy casualties. The few remaining men of the First Minnesota Infantry charged the enemy and helped stop Pickett's Charge.

As Sherman told it, he spotted a Virginian waving a rebel flag, charged through spitting bullets, jabbed his bayonet at the color-bearers chest and shouted, "Throw down that flag or I'll run you through." Others later suggested that he just found the flag on the battle ground and picked it up. Whichever story you believe, Sherman had a trophy. It stayed with him until his death in 1896, and was displayed at his funeral, then briefly in the State Capitol before being packed away in a box. The flag is currently stored in a secure underground climate-controlled storage area in a steel cabinet at Minnesota's History Center. When the Virginia Senate pleaded for the flag's return, then-Governor Jesse Ventura responded: "Why? I mean, we won."

July 7, 1907: A statue of Friederich Schiller was dedicated in Como Park on this day. Five thousand people gathered to hear lofty speeches about the life, work, and ideals of this famous German playwright, poet, and philosopher. Starting in 1905, members of Saint Paul's German-American community, were determined to celebrate the eminent man. Some suggested copying a European statue, but Saint Paul ar-

chitect Cass Gilbert said, "It is my opinion that nothing is too good for St. Paul.... As Schiller maintained high ideals, advocating that which is best and noblest in humanity, so those of our generation should respond in kind with a fitting memorial."

The committee dispatched Dr. Ohage to Germany to meet with sculptor Ignatius Taschner. He created a bronze figure ten feet tall. Schiller's right foot is set forward and he is grasping papers in his left hand with his right hand on his hip.

His long hair is caught back at the nape of his neck and he has a long coat, vest, collared shirt, and cravat, knee britches, stockings, and shoes with buckles. Schiller stands on a two-tiered granite pedestal that is centrally sited in a triangle of land between Estabrook Drive and Nason Place in Como Park.

July 8, 1973: People set up sleeping bags and blankets in front of the Center to be first in line for Led Zeppelin concert tickets. Officials had predicted that hundreds would sleep outside but only thirty-five ended up camping out. There were a few beer cans, some half full bottles of wine on the concrete plaza in the morning, and five shirtless young males were passing around a cigarette. "You shoulda been here last night at the party," one shouted to the reporter. After dawn more people showed up, some carrying pillows and sack lunches to make the wait more comfortable. Because it was general admission, the lines became long.

There had been some complaints about the motley assemblage, but the Civic Center director retorted that the group was behaving themselves. "Sure, they might be smoking a little pot, but they're not bothering anyone." He went on to add that, "It's about time some people in St. Paul realize this is not a one-horse town. We're finally on the circuit with all the big shows," he concluded. By late afternoon the next day, over 18,000 tickets had been secured, making it the largest audience for any event held at the new arena.

July 17, 1986: The Highland Water Tower was added to the National Register of Historic Places on this day. Two other structures that are also on the Register—The Harriet Island Pavilion and the Administrative Building at Holman Airport—were also designed by Clarence "Cap" Wigington, who was appointed senior architectural draftsman in the city in 1915, a position he occupied for the next thirty-five years. He is considered the first African American municipal architect in the U.S.

Wigington moved to St. Paul from Nebraska in 1914. During the 1920s and '30s, he designed civic buildings,

including schools, golf clubhouses, fire stations, and park buildings. Sixty of his known buildings still stand in the city.

Wigington was among the thirteen founders of the Sterling Club, a popular social organization for African American men. During WWI, he started the Home Guards of Minnesota, an all-Black alternative to the segregated Minnesota National Guard. As its leader, Wigington was given the rank of captain, which



Pictured above is Clarence "Cap" Wigington, the first black municipal architect in the United States.

Clarence W. Wigington Pavilion on Harriet Island.

July 19, 1851: A reporter went to visit twenty Red River carts on this day. They had arrived from the Red River Valley filled with furs. A total of 120 carts in this group would make it to the city. The regular trade between the two places had become an important economic boost to the frontier town.

The Metis, Canadian Aboriginal people, were visitors who sold their pelts and bought necessities such as tobacco, salt, and other groceries before going back north. By 1857, around five hundred carts arrived on their annual visit. Each vehicle, made entirely of wood, were drawn by one ox and could be heard five miles away because of their wood on wood squeaky wheels. They would sometimes travel as many as 200 carts in a line at one time. After six weeks or more on the trail, the travelers would reach Saint Paul.

Before entering the city the Metis drivers encamped on the bluff above the town. Their arrival was a cause for excitement and celebration by residents and merchants alike.

While the interrelations were not always harmonious, the economic benefits and the separation of the camping area kept things mostly peaceful. After about three weeks, they headed back north.

Book Review

The Tale of Halcyon Crane
by Wendy Webb

Allison Lund-Zalewski
Forum Staff

Out of the three Wendy Webb books I've read so far, this one is my least favorite. I still devoured it within a couple days but I just didn't feel the thrill or even scare she was trying to portray.

As I've said in my last two book reviews, Webb is more of a gothic, ghost story writer and did an amazing job in *The Vanishing* and *The Fate of Mercy Alban*.

The Tale of Halcyon Crane begins with a woman who is living in Washington with her dad who happens to have Alzheimer's disease. She has always grown up believing her mother died in a fire when she was just five years old. However, a mysterious letter arrives from Manitou Island on Lake Michigan. Is her mother alive after all?

Hallie ends up going to Manitou Island to meet with the lawyer who had sent the letter. Hallie finds out that generations of her family have lived in the same house on the same island for decades. With living in the same house after so many years, comes the ghost stories around her odd family. Perhaps even a real ghost that presides in the home.

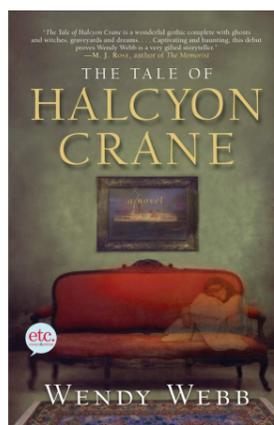
Overall, the story was different than the first two I've read. I've found that if I read several books by a certain author, they become a bit redundant, but Webb does a great job keeping the suspense in her stories even though they all generally focus on thrilling tales and ghost stories.

After meeting the ghost in the story, I felt it just fell flat from there. There wasn't anything spooky about it. When I read *The Fate of Mercy Alban*, I found my heart pounding and I'd be holding my breath during certain parts. Now that's what makes a good ghost story.

There were a couple surprising parts, though. Leave it to Webb to sneak in a few curve balls to make the reader go, "wow!"

Again, even though it was just an ok book, it is definitely worth the read. She's a great writer and her stories flow nicely.

If you'd like to write a book review about Minnesota-based stories or authors, send it to daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com.



Donations Needed for Us to Print!

Forum Staff

The *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* staff is asking you to support our newspaper! Just a small donation can help us get our newspaper back to the printing press and mailed right to your door!

Your donation will go toward printing and mailing costs. We miss having our newspaper delivered right at your front door and displayed in the businesses on Seventh Street.

We are so close to meeting our goal and we know your donations would bring us one step closer!



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Some World-Wide July Holidays

*Temperance Brennan
Special to the Forum*

As a U. S. citizen, I celebrate the Fourth of July, even though St. Paul appears to not be having a city fireworks display. Maybe I will light up a sparkler or two in the front yard. But as an anthropologist, I am very interested in looking at holiday celebrations around the world. Perhaps some of our readers might even have mini celebrations by reading about Simon Bolivar, and listening to some Czech polkas, find out the basics of Hussism. Maybe read the poems of Victor Hernandez Cruz or other Puerto Rican writers, and you might fix a meal of Venezuelan or Uruguayan foods this July.

July 6: Jan Hus Day is celebrated in the Czech Republic, commemorating the martyrdom of Jan Hus in 1415. He was a priest, reformer, and inspirer of Hussism that was a precursor to the Protestant movement of the sixteenth century.

July 13: Statehood Day (Dan državnosti) is a holiday that commemorates the day in 1878 on which the Berlin Congress recognized Montenegro as the twenty-seventh inde-

pendent state in the world.

July 18: Constitution Day is officially known as "Jura de la Constitución de la República Oriental del Uruguay," it commemorates the country's first constitution in 1830. Influenced by the French and American revolutions, it divided the government among the executive, legislative, and judicial powers.

July 24: Simon Bolivar Day. Bolivar led Venezuela toward independence from the Spanish Empire. The day commemorates his birthday. He also played a key role in Venezuela, Ecuador, Bolivia, Peru, and Colombia becoming independent from Spain.

July 27: Independence Day. A holiday of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico that honors Natalicio de Dr. José Celso Barbosa, a medical doctor, political leader, and an active advocate of statehood who founded the Republican Party on the Island.

July 31: Independence Day. This marks the day in 1968 when the Pacific island nation of Nauru became independent. With 11,347 residents in an 8.1 square mile area, Nauru is the third-smallest country in the world, behind only Vatican City and Monaco.

**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 August issue of the *Forum* is July 10, 2020.

View From My Porch I Am Not My Father

*Sage Holben
Forum Staff*

From the time I was twelve to when I left home at 18, my father and I fought battles both physical and those of words and ideas. He played the trumpet, a professional musician; he led a dixieland jazz band. I wanted so badly to win his approval and admiration that I bought a violin in high school and paid for lessons; I bought a flute; I tried an accordion; I tried a guitar; I showed NO talent. He didn't like the music I played on my transistor radio or turntable!! I inherited no musical talent. What he did pass down to me was a seed of a racist, a remnant of racism.

My father was a Chicago area musician and a bartender in the 50s and 60s. He took me to jam sessions, and he occasionally brought fellow musicians, Blacks and whites, to our home. They always seemed to have an easygoing camaraderie, joking, laughing, sharing snippets of inside conversations. My father talked respectfully of his fellow musicians. My mother, a cook in area supper clubs, worked with mostly whites and Latinos. Both parents taught their five children that 'people are the same under the color of our skins'. Because of this, and in spite of the fact that he had African-Ameri-

can band members and friends, I was always puzzled that my father had told me a racist joke. Perhaps he told more than the one; I don't remember. For some reason I can't purge it from my mind; it is lodged in a crevice of my brain. It's like living with a filthy, secret infection that I fear will escape... I don't know how to scrub it from my memory.

I have tried putting people like my father and their conflicting teachings into a sociological context I might be able to accept as an anomaly. It is not easy. I am not able to excuse his race-based contradictions any more than I can his abusive behaviors as a father. I've not found the secret of ripping this seed of a racist out by its roots.

There is no erasing a mind's slate and starting over in our memory. Can we possibly take negative ideas and reshape or reform them? They need to be destroyed and replaced by ideas, thoughts with no traces of prejudice towards color of skin or features. So, transformed that we can judge only on basis of behavior and integrity of personality.

I reflect: what do I see, what do I feel, what do I think when I see a Black male walk down the neighborhood street? When he is talking loud enough that I hear him from inside my house with the windows closed? When every fourth word is the F word? Would that bother me if he were white? If I were visiting and not living here? Is it behavior, or does color or 'race' play a factor? I analyze...

Several years ago when I was in my yard, I saw two teen males walk down the hill. One walked into my neighbor's yard, the other continued down the sidewalk,

turned around and pulled up his hood, pulling it tightly over his head. His friend went up to my neighbor's door, knocked, and put his face to a nearby window, cupping his face in his hands. Knowing she was gone for a few days, I asked if he was looking for someone, 'Could I help you?' He came out of the yard and immediately said, "You're stereotyping me." I replied, "I saw you looking into my neighbor's window and asked if I could help you. What you were doing seemed intrusive."

He said that the woman there helped him before. He needed gas for his car. I asked where his car was, did he have a gas container, and I could take him to get gas. He and his friend went for his container, got into my car and we went to the Holiday. We talked about our shared experience — why he believed I was stereotyping him; why I thought his behavior was suspicious; white perception, Black perception? Behavior or race-based? Our neighborhood environment?

I know since living in my neighborhood I have become hypervigilant...drugs, guns, unusual behaviors at absolutely any hour. How suspicious have I become? If I help a neighbor who is Black, am I being a good neighbor, or demonstrating a white savior complex? Am I helping out of someone's need, or with a sense of 'lesser than' pity? This also applies to helping someone who identifies as homeless, of any race. As a white, will I always be second guessing myself? I never used to...I just did what I thought was right...now, well, no....I remember a day in 1966, downtown Grand Rapids, Michigan; another experience of white perception, Black perception....

White silence is white violence.



Greg Cosimini

Ward 7 Councilmember Jane Prince and her Legislative Aide Stephanie Harr on a walk near Cerenity, Marian of St. Paul, across from Mounds Park. They are accompanied by Jane's dog Todd, a daschund-poodle mix. Stephanie and Jane were properly socially distancing, Todd not so much. L to R: Stephanie, Jane and Todd.

Saint Paul Non-Emergency Line

*Allison Lund-Zalewski
Forum Staff*

You can reach Saint Paul Police's non-emergency number at 651-291-1111.

Not sure when to call the non-emergency line? Listed below are some incidents that do not require calling 911.: A crime has occurred but there has been some delay in reporting it, you need to report loud construction noise, parties, barking dogs or other similar annoyances, you need to report parking complaints., you need a report for insurance purposes or for a replacement cell phone, credit card, identification card or other lost or stolen item, you need to check if your car has been towed or repossessed., you have general animal concerns, when it is after hours or you are unsure who to call for road maintenance and utility problems, you are unsure who to call and the situation is not a police, fire or medical emergency.

Ramsey County also has a non-emergency line: 651-767-0640. The non-emergency number is answered 24 hours a day by the same staff who handle 911 calls. Response is based on the situation, not the number you call.

Staff can also provide you with information on public safety and public service topics if you live or work in Ramsey County. number to contact

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 daytonsbuffdistrictforum.org: click on "East Side Eating" at the top of the home page. Steve Trimble can be reached at daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com.

Dari-ette

Phones: (651) 776-3470
1440 Minnehaha Ave E
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55106
Tuesday- Saturday 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.
Sunday 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Mondays closed
Facebook: @Dari-Ette Drive In

My eighteen-year-old neighbor Henry had never been to a drive-in restaurant so I took him and his mother, Heather, on the Taste Trek. We went to the Dari-ette—where else? It's a third-generation Italian-owned restaurant that was originally a small hot dog spot in 1951. A small dining area was added later. There are about thirty parking spots, each with a menu and speaker for ordering. People can eat in the vehicle, outside on one of the three stone tables, or inside an area decorated with lots of vintage photos, and there are three large and two small booths.

The Dari-ette could be seen as the love child of Dairy Queen and Yarusso's—an unusual mixture of Italian food and ice cream treats. You might start with: a Caesar or antipasto salad or maybe pasta fagioli, an Italian bean soup. Sandwiches include the Burger-ette, the Italiano, a BLT, hamburgers, and a Gondola, made of cold cuts and served on Italian bread. They have rigatoni, spaghetti with meatballs. You can buy take-home spaghetti sauce. Fountain treats such as milk shakes sundaes, soft serve dipped cones, and floats are available.

"Specialty Dishes" include fried sausage, Italiano, Meat-

ball Sandwich. There is homemade fried chicken and you can order a quarter or half and there are family packs of eight, twelve, sixteen, and twenty pieces. There are also grilled pork chops, fish and chips, shrimp dinner, and meatloaf dinner. All baskets have coleslaw, French fries or spaghetti. There are hamburgers and you can add sides of French fries or onion rings.

I had a Dari-ette sandwich with a caramel milk shake. Teen-age Henry went for a bacon cheeseburger and ditto on the shake, and his mother, Heather, opted for the possibly more healthy antipasto salad, but couldn't resist having a butterscotch sundae.

The Dari-ette was featured and praised on the television show Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives. It is open from April through October.

An update: There was news that the Dari-ette was for sale. It still is, and could be, under new ownership when you read this. But right now, June 12, Angela Frida, the granddaughter of the founder, is still at the helm and using secret family recipes and sauces. And they are still offering their entire menu that was around last year. Of course, with the corona virus, you can't go inside. However, you can stay in your car, order in the microphone, and the traditional car hop will bring you food.

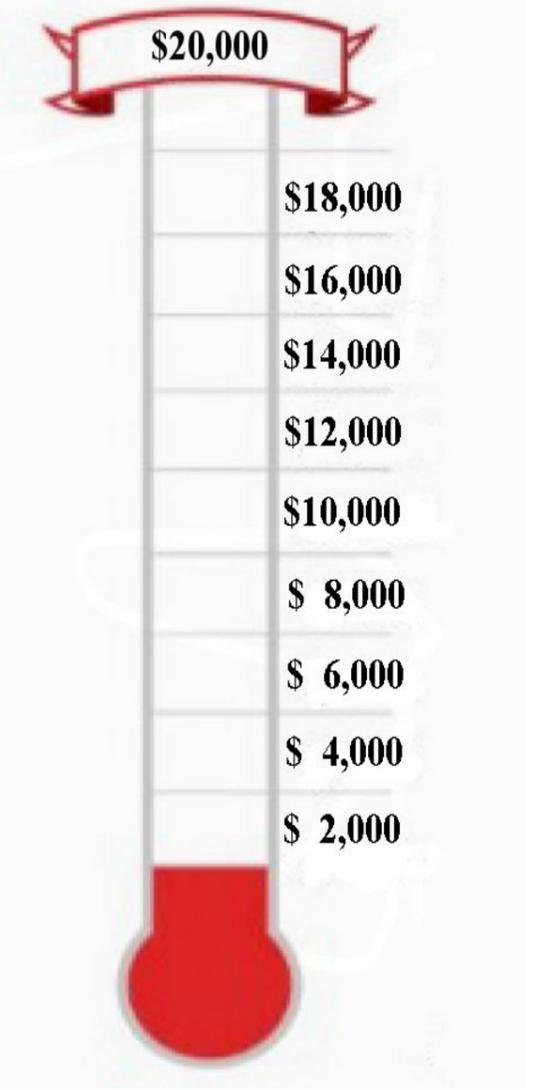


Greg Cosimini

The Dari-ette is now open for curbside pick up or for their car service.

Many thanks to our Friends of the Forum 2020 donors:

MaryAnn Cogelow
John Davidsen
Audrey J. Harken
Jean Rivard
Steve Trimble
Greg Cosimini
David Lyons
Sage Holben



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

Free Virtual Programs to Enjoy from Home

Ramsey County

All in-person events at Tamarack Nature Center have been canceled through at least June 30. Despite these cancellations, Tamarack's naturalists are staying connected with the community on all things nature-related through virtual programming. Virtual programs are free and can be accessed through Facebook and YouTube.

A new topic is being shared every week, with each set up as a three-part series. Tune in to learn more about maple syrup, birds, gardening and more.

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,
The Davton's Bluff District Forum

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

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Thank you for your support!