Farewell to Rick Cardenas

Steve Trimble
Forum Staff

Rick Cardenas and I worked to help pass legislation at the Minnesota Legislature. We found money to erect head stones or memorials for the graves of people who died at some of the state facilities such as the Fergus Falls State Hospital. After that we stayed in touch and developed a friendship. We talked on the phone and sometimes met at a downtown bar for a beer or two. We were born in the same year but his birthday was earlier and I loved to send him an email saying he was now older than I was.

Cardenas was born in 1942 and grew up in a home under the Third Street Bridge where there was a Mexican-American community. His family later moved up into Dayton’s Bluff, as their earlier housing area was torn down. He and his sister, JoAnn, went to the local Van Buren Elementary School.

In addition to being a good student, he became a star hockey player at Harding High School. After graduation Cardenas was seriously injured in an automobile accident and as a quadriplegic, Cardenas was confined to a wheelchair for the rest of his life.

As an adult, Cardenas became the director of a grass roots organization that would be run by people with developmental and other disabilities. The group he headed was Advocating Change Together (ACT) which helps its members see themselves as part of a larger disability rights movement and make connections to other civil and human rights struggles. One of his important projects was successfully pushing for an elevator/stairway building that will connect the light rail station at Fifth and Cedar to the skyway system. While he most recently lived in a St. Paul downtown high rise, he often looked out the window and liked to see the neighborhood in which he grew up.

We’ll miss you Rick.

Grab Your Camera and Head to Swede Hollow

Friends of Swede Hollow

The Friends of Swede Hollow 2021 Spring Photo Contest began on March 20 and continues through June 20.

The first place prize is $75, second place is $50, and third place is $25. All submitted photos will be judged by the East Side Arts Council.

Email your photographs to bradgriffith@mc.com on or before June 27, 2021.

Submit your photograph(s) in a .jpg format. Put FOSH 2021 Spring Photo Contest in the subject line and your contact information along with the title(s) of your image(s) within the body of the email.

We ask that contest participants allow their photograph(s) to be printed and sold as a fundraiser for the Friends of Swede Hollow.

Spring is a great time to visit and capture the beauty of one of the gems of Dayton’s Bluff, Swede Hollow Park.

If you need more information call Brad at 651-263-2830 or Karin at 651-776-0550.

Dayton’s Bluff District Forum Hiring

Forum Staff

The Dayton’s Bluff District Forum is Now Hiring! We are looking to add an integral member to our team as we expand and grow our community news source through advertising sales.

Hours are flexible and training will be provided. Compensation is a generous 25% commission per ad.

If you are looking for gaining experience in advertising or community engagement please send a short email with your qualifications to daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com, for consideration in this exciting opportunity.

Dayton’s Bluff District Forum

“The Voice of the Community”

Volume 34, No. 3
April 2021
daytonsbluffdistrictforum.org

Dayton’s Bluff District Forum

Steve Trimble

Health for All, for Real
Minnesota Community Care
Carol Sommers
Special to the Forum

You may not know that the largest primary care provider in the U.S., with over 1,300 health care centers serving some 26 million people, is the system of community health centers. I didn’t. The term sounds generic but refers specifically to local clinics, including mobile clinics, that provide primary care in underserved communities, urban and rural. A critical component of the country’s safety net, these clinics serve anyone regardless of income, insurance status, immigration status, or ability to pay. A millionaire who seeks care will be served. A homeless, penniless person who seeks care will be served. Patients are billed on a sliding scale and nobody is turned away.

Linking such community care centers is their Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) status. This designation is achieved by community health providers that meet FQHC criteria for local patient services in areas of “deepest need” in light of the community’s overall well-being. They take into account the larger social determinants of health, including food security, housing stability, and access to public opportunities. A nonprofit model different from that of our standard care complex of “nonprofit” profiting conglomerates, it is grounded by community values and the mission of strengthening the well-being of the community through health care for all.

This health care model arose in the late sixties and early seventies across the country. Today, Minnesota Community Care is the largest FQHC provider in Minnesota. It was a small group of immigrants in St. Paul’s West Side who formed La Clinica in 1969 to meet the health needs of their underserved neighbors, founding what has grown into today’s network of Minnesota Community Care stationary and mobile clinics serving nearly 40,000 patients annually. MCC operates in Saint Paul, its two main centers are La Clinica in the Paul Wellstone Community Center off Cesar Chavez Blvd on the West Side (bus routes 68 and 71) and the East Side Clinic, right here on East 7th just a block east of Arcade (bus routes 61 and 74).

The “community” in Minnesota Community Care as in other FQHCs is defined racially, ethnically, culturally, and linguistically. Service providers reflect the make-up of that community and the larger staff is drawn from its residents. Board members are current or past patients. Administrators consist largely of the professional staff itself. Services are delivered where they are needed, in urban neighborhoods, schools, public housing, and homeless shelters. MCC’s offerings include a range of wholistic preventive care for all ages, family planning and support, maternity care, and, mental health counseling; there’s screening for HIV/STD, diabetes, and breast and cervical cancer, plus dental services, chiropractic care, lab and X-ray, onsite pharmacy, and more. The more certain it includes Covid Testing and Vaccinations. (See Sidebar)

See Minnesota Health, page 4.
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 COVID-19, hikes are canceled. Please check back for more information at a later date.

If you have any questions email karinapaula@comcast.net

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 meetings until further notice. Please check back at a later date for more information. Email karindupa-aula@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 1 at 11:00 a.m. If you'd like to attend, call 651-776-0550 or email daytonblufdis-trictforum@gmail.com for more information. We are currently meeting virtually via Google Meet. You will need the link if you'd like to attend.

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 Avenue.

The meetings are intended as a time to learn, listen, and address people's concerns about crime and other issues on the East Side. Policing meetings held on 9:30 a.m. or 6:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month. Bring your neighbors!

Call or email Robyn at 651-266-5580 or robyn.brewin@ci.stpaul.mn.us to ensure April's meetings have not been canceled. Email paul@comcast.net for more information. Email karindupaaula@comcast.net or call 651-776-0550 for more information and the meeting’s location.

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 beneficiar a familias de escasos recursos.

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 meetings until further notice. Please check back at a later date for more information. Email karindupa-aula@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 1 at 11:00 a.m. If you'd like to attend, call 651-776-0550 or email daytonblufdis-trictforum@gmail.com for more information. We are currently meeting virtually via Google Meet. You will need the link if you'd like to attend.

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 Avenue.

The meetings are intended as a time to learn, listen, and address people’s concerns about crime and other issues on the East Side. Policing meetings held on 9:30 a.m. or 6:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month. Bring your neighbors!

Call or email Robyn at 651-266-5580 or robyn.brewin@ci.stpaul.mn.us to ensure April's meetings have not been canceled. Email paul@comcast.net for more information. Email karindupaaula@comcast.net or call 651-776-0550 for more information and the meeting’s location.

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 beneficiar a familias de escasos recursos.

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 meetings until further notice. Please check back at a later date for more information. Email karindupa-aula@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 1 at 11:00 a.m. If you'd like to attend, call 651-776-0550 or email daytonblufdis-trictforum@gmail.com for more information. We are currently meeting virtually via Google Meet. You will need the link if you'd like to attend.

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 Avenue.

The meetings are intended as a time to learn, listen, and address people’s concerns about crime and other issues on the East Side. Policing meetings held on 9:30 a.m. or 6:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month. Bring your neighbors!

Call or email Robyn at 651-266-5580 or robyn.brewin@ci.stpaul.mn.us to ensure April's meetings have not been canceled. Email paul@comcast.net for more information. Email karindupaaula@comcast.net or call 651-776-0550 for more information and the meeting’s location.

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 beneficiar a familias de escasos recursos.

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 meetings until further notice. Please check back at a later date for more information. Email karindupa-aula@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 1 at 11:00 a.m. If you'd like to attend, call 651-776-0550 or email daytonblufdis-trictforum@gmail.com for more information. We are currently meeting virtually via Google Meet. You will need the link if you'd like to attend.

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 Avenue.

The meetings are intended as a time to learn, listen, and address people’s concerns about crime and other issues on the East Side. Policing meetings held on 9:30 a.m. or 6:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month. Bring your neighbors!

Call or email Robyn at 651-266-5580 or robyn.brewin@ci.stpaul.mn.us to ensure April's meetings have not been canceled. Email paul@comcast.net for more information. Email karindupaaula@comcast.net or call 651-776-0550 for more information and the meeting’s location.

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 beneficiar a familias de escasos recursos.
As spring begins to stir after her long winter’s sleep, melting the frozen earth with her breath of fresh warm air, the city streets of Saint Paul come alive with a cacophony of sounds. Dogs bark, children holler and squeal as they soak up vitamin D, and bikes and lime scooters zoom up and down the sidewalks.

As mother nature puts on her green party dress, local churches are creatively finding ways to reconnect with their patrons and community in this season of renewed vitality.

As gathering indoors has been indefinitely paused, a local church had been thinking outside the basket, finding creative ways to celebrate the spring holiday with a family friendly outdoor event. The rebirth of the natural world has long been echoed with spiritual awakening, and East Immanuel Church was excited to share the biblical Easter story with East Side children with a fun outdoor event featuring short stories and candy.

The event was held Saturday, March 27 from 3-5 p.m. outside East Immanuel Church, located at 1173 Payne Ave. Children began their Easter adventure at a welcome table where they received a passport and a bag for their eggs, which was collected at each table on their adventure through a series of 12 stations, each with a different piece of the Easter story, large colorful eggs filled with individually wrapped candies, and a stamp to fill their passport. After their journey through the story of Easter concluded, kids with a fully validated passport received a prize for completing their quest. There were plenty of snacks and even a few crafts for those who felt like creating.

After a cold winter quarantine and distance learning, the front lawn of a neighborhood church felt like Disneyland or perhaps just the small return to normalcy kids needed to stoke their spirits.

Cerenity-Marian Hosting Plant Sale

Sharyl Kaase
Cerenity-Marian

Cerenity-Marian of St. Paul has partnered with Gerten’s Greenhouse to bring spring bedding plants and perennials to your garden. Thirty percent of all plants purchased and fifteen percent of all plant cards purchased go directly to supporting the campus gardens at Cerenity-Marian.

All plan selections, orders, and transactions are online at gertensfundrasing.com and enter the store ID code 182 into the text field and click “Enter ID to continue.” All order must be placed by April 22.

Curbside plant pickup is available at Cerenity-Marian of St. Paul housing parking lot. Their address is 225 Frank Street, St. Paul. Pickup will be on May 19 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and May 20 from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

If you have any questions, contact Carrie Godfrey at 651-793-2182 or carrie.godfrey@benedictineliving.org

Community Career Labs Open

Ramsey County

Six Community Career Labs will continue into 2021 with new hours. The Community Career Labs provide reservation-based computer access, printing and copying, digital literacy programs, job search and resume assistance, and other workforce support programs. All sites will require face coverings, social distancing, and follow public health guidelines for layout and cleaning — access is regulated and available by reservation only.

Community Career Labs are available for reservations today at Ramsey County Service Centers in Downtown Saint Paul and Maplewood. Dayton’s Bluff, Rice Street, Rondo Community Library, and Sun Ray locations of Saint Paul Public Library will be available as well.

If you have questions, call Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. At 651-266-8500.
An Update from East Side Elders

East Side Elders

The team at East Side Elders wants the community to know that we are here and we are ready to help. As always, we are here to help older adults stay in the homes and neighborhoods that they wish to stay in, supporting them to live healthy lives with dignity and pride. If you are 60+, are a caregiver for an older person, or have an older neighbor that you’re concerned about, don’t hesitate to reach out to us at 651-683-2326 or Info@EastSideElders.org. And if you’re looking for a place to give back, East Side Elders has many volunteer opportunities, both in-person and remote. Contact us today or visit our website at EastSideElders.org.

For as long as we’ve been around, East Side Elders has meant different things to different people. For some, East Side Elders is a lifetime for much-needed help with transportation. Our drivers happily provide rides to medical appointments, the grocery store, the bank, and other important destinations. For some community members, East Side Elders is synonymous with the East Side Café, a place for older adults to chat, meet new friends, and enjoy a delicious meal along with fabulous entertainment. For others, East Side Elders is a one-stop-shop for any kind of help they need. They know that even if we can’t provide the help, we will work to find out who can.

Though the pandemic has changed some of the services we provide, it has not changed our commitment to serve seniors living on the East Side of Saint Paul. At East Side Elders, we don’t pivot. We saw the needs of our community shift as the pandemic set in and we acted quickly to change our services to meet those needs. We supported local restaurants to provide hot meals for seniors. We partnered with other nonprofits to continue providing meals and groceries throughout the pandemic. And we created a new way to order groceries for home delivery, “Fetch!”

With “Fetch!” seniors or caregivers can place orders online or by phone and our team of friendly volunteers can make a quick, contact-free delivery. To help with isolation and loneliness, we recruited volunteers to write letters, make cards, and design coloring books for seniors.

And through all of it, we provided a safe space for seniors to call us and talk about their loneliness, fear, and isolation. But we can’t do our vital work without the support of the community. Your donations and your volunteer time and talent are what keep our organization strong and stable. And every hour of volunteer time given helps us support those in need. Even if you’re not ready to commit to regular volunteering, consider writing just one letter to a senior. The hundreds of letters we have received from all over the world are small but impactful reminders that there are good people out there who truly care about the wellbeing of their senior neighbors. And if you’re looking for a longer commitment, we always have openings for volunteer drivers who have daytime, weekday availability.

East Side Elders will be here throughout these difficult times, and we will be here afterward to celebrate with you and move forward into better days. Thank you to every community member, from Dayton’s Bluff and beyond, who has made our nonprofit a vital part of so many seniors’ lives.

Photo below provided by Kala Hotakainen.

Book Review

Difficult Gifts

A physician’s journey to heal body and mind by Courtney Burnett

Greg Cosimini
Forum Staff

Everyone would probably agree that 2020 was a bad year in so many ways. Topping the list was the COVID-19 pandemic and all the misery that the worldwide pandemic has created. Add to that the death of George Floyd which led to protests and riots. And let’s not forget the presidential campaign and election.

Now imagine that besides all of this you were facing a divorce, clinical depression, and being diagnosed with a brain tumor while working in a country on the other side of the world.

Dayton’s Bluff resident Courtney Burnett did not have to imagine such a scenario. She lived it. And as an added twist, Burnett is a doctor who noticed her own strange neurological symptoms and made the brain tumor diagnosis herself in Thailand in early 2020. Brain tumors are rarely benign and this one turned out to be caused by a usually fatal form of brain cancer. Thus begins Dr. Burnett’s book, Difficult Gifts – A physician’s journey to heal body and mind.

As the subtitle implies, Difficult Gifts is the true story of Burnett’s fight against the cancer that was trying to kill her physical body and the depression, loneliness, and unhappiness that was attacking her spiritual well being. The book itself grew out of a blog Burnett had been keeping from the time of her first diagnosis. She decided to write a book based on her experiences and get it published before she died. The book was released on February 8 this year and [spoiler alert] Burnett is still alive and doing well.

Cancer is a terrifying diagnosis for anyone to receive. Being a doctor was both a blessing and curse for Burnett. She fully understood what her diagnosis meant and what her treatment would entail. It also meant that she knew what she would have to endure and the odds of its success. She describes the brain surgeries, chemotherapy routines, and radiation sessions in terms the average reader can understand from the viewpoint of a doctor and a patient. It is both frightening and enlightening.

Burnett was already a student of Buddhist philosophy before her ordeal began and found it the perfect avenue for helping her accept her situation and make the best of it. Most Americans know very little about Buddhism beyond occasional sightings of the Dalai Lama in the news. Burnett gives her readers a crash course in this religious tradition. Unlike many other religions, Buddhism does not have rigid rules regarding how a person should live. Instead, it has general guidelines for how life should be approached. In very simple terms, instead of a lot of “Thou shalt not,” Buddhism has suggestions more on the order of “Don’t worry, be happy” and “When life gives you lemons, make lemonade” although stated much more eloquently.

The book’s title, Difficult Gifts, comes from an interesting source. A Catholic Benedictine monk who is known for his writings on religious thought, was called upon by the Dalai Lama to write a book about suffering. The monk stated that the Dalai Lama interpreted this as “a book about suffering that can be an opportunity to rise to the challenge.” That definitely fits the gifts given to Dr. Burnett over the past year.

An unusual aspect of Difficult Gifts is that while it is a standalone book, it also exists within Dr. Burnett’s ongoing blog. Her blog describes how the book developed from concept to finished product and also continues the story of her physical and spiritual journey. The most recent entry is dated March 9, 2021. If you’d like to follow Burnett’s journey and information for purchasing Difficult Gifts can be found at elephantlouts- braintumor.com.

If you’d like to write a book review about Minnesota-based stories or authors, send it to dayton bluff district forum email.com.

COVID Vaccinations

East Side Clinic, La Clinica

Minnesota Community Care, the largest Federally Qualified Health Center in Minnesota, has been chosen to participate in the Community Health Vaccination Program designed by the White House, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
Swede Hollow: A Series

Karin DuPaul
Forum Staff

At one of the task force meetings we were informed that the Burlington Northern Railroad was opposed to having park visitors go through the Drewry tunnel and walk over the railroad tracks to get into the park. They were concerned about their liability if someone got hurt. This would be a real problem for people wanting to go into the park from the railroad Island neighborhood. How could they get into the park?

One idea was for the city to buy the vacant lot East of 622 Beaumont and build a walking-bicycle bridge over the railroad property and visitors could get into the park that way. The bridge was designed and ordered. Then at the next meeting we learned that Burlington Northern decided to abandon that rail line from Saint Paul up to near White Bear Lake and would sell the property to Ramsey County. The bridge order was canceled and the railroad property was sold to Ramsey County. They looked at two options: light rail or recreational trail. Many of us were lobbying for the recreational trail that would connect Swede Hollow to several of the parks Saint Paul and the recreational trail won out. It was named after a former State Representative who did so much for our community and the trail’s name is the Bruce Vento Recreational Trail.

Here is a little history about this rail line. Lyman Dayton was one of the partners of the Lake Superior & Mississippi Railroad that ran through Swede Hollow in the 1860s. This was one of the first railroads in Minnesota. And, of course, Dayton’s Bluff was named after Lyman because he owned much of the land that is now the Dayton’s Bluff community. Years later the rail line was owned by the Burlington Northern Railroad. The Drewry Tunnel was built in 1905. It went under Drewry Lane and under the railroad tracks. The Drewry and Hamm breweries were in the valley. Residents of Swede Hollow used the Drewry Tunnel to get to their homes. The Drewry Brewery was on the west side of Phalen Creek across the creek from the Hamm Brewery.

Today, walking through the Drewry Tunnel makes a person think about the old days and the many different people who used this tunnel. The depth of the tunnel has changed over the years. A number of sewer lines run through the tunnel covered by asphalt. For me, the walk is like a walk back into history.

Both photos on the right provided by Karin DuPaul.

Dayton’s Bluff District Forum

668 Greenbrier St., St. Paul, MN 55106
Phone: 651-776-0550  E-mail: daytonsl bluffdistrictforum@gmail.com

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

Board of Directors: Greg Cosimini, Karin DuPaul, Jennifer Gascoigne, Sage Holben, Steve Trimble

Editor/layout: Allison Lund-Zalewski; Editorial Associate: Mark Gallagher

Staff: Mandy Okonek, Clara Martin


AARP Tax Aide Information

Federal Taxes Due May 17

St. Paul Public Library

Tax season is here and now more than ever, people have many questions for filing. Below are some great resources for all kinds of options to find the best fit for you.

All AARP Tax-Aide sites are now appointment only. Call 612-440-6107 or email semetro.taxaide@gmail.com beginning February 1 to make an appointment.

For free services, go to the Minnesota Department of Revenue or AARP Tax-Aide Site Locator. The websites will ask you to put in a zip code to find the closest sites to you that offer free services.

The St. Paul Public Library will not be doing appointments this year, but there are two community centers offering assistance. Keystone Community Center, located at 2000 Saint Anthony Avenue Saint Paul 55104 or Thompson Park Community Center, located at 1200 Stassen Lane West Saint Paul 55118, Appointments are required. Prepare + Prosper is offering three different service types: Do It Yourself Prep: Online trainings to help you get ready, along with the Self-Prep Tax Guide and the software needed to file your taxes for free. Reserve a spot in a webinar "Introduc tion to Preparing Your Own Taxes", This is meant to get you ready to file on your own using Prepare + Prosper's TaxSlayer software. No taxes will be filed during the webinar. You need a device to access Zoom to take part in the webinar (a laptop or desktop computer is ideal, but a smartphone works too). There are only 50 slots available per webinar. This webinar will be offered once a week through April 20.

Virtual Tax Prep: The entire process will be virtual and require access to a computer, tablet, or smartphone. Appointments may be scheduled beginning January 19. For anyone with more than $6000 of self-employment income, choose a self-employment appointment, which are conducted over Zoom video conferencing. All documents will be uploaded to Dropbox, a secure file sharing site. Upon scheduling an appointment, P+P will send you a confirmation email with detailed instructions on how to prepare for your appointment (including resources for using Zoom and Dropbox).

In-Person Drop-Off Prep: Drop-off services will be offered on an extremely limited basis, by appointment only. Drop-off appointments may be scheduled by phone ONLY. Contact 651-287-0187 to schedule a drop-off appointment.

More details on all three services are available at prepareandprosper.org/free-tax-preparation/
Mardi Gras Comes to Dayton's Bluff

Clara Martin
Forum Staff

What was one to do in frigid St. Paul when the temps plummeted far below zero for days on end? As if COVID-19 restrictions weren’t isolating enough, the weather added another layer of oppression, especially for anyone who isn’t an outdoor enthusiast in the winter. But, alas, there’s always Mardi Gras to perk up one’s spirits. And, it happened in February, thanks to a couple new to Dayton’s Bluff and adventurous enough to move from New Orleans to St. Paul mid-winter.

The quarantine with its physically-distancing and mask-wearing restrictions didn’t hamper the Mardi Gras plans of Roxanne and Ryan Sanchez. Although a Minnesota native, Roxanne Sanchez lived in New Orleans for eight years where she was a costume fitter for NCIS. She and her husband, Ryan, yearned to leave New Orleans and head back to the Midwest. Of course, their vision didn’t include moving in frigid weather, but we all know what happens in life when we make plans.

Growing up in Mendota Heights, Roxanne was familiar with the charming area that is Dayton’s Bluff. She and Ryan, along with their three cats and one dog, were excited to be part of the neighborhood near Mounds Park with charming homes, quaint mansions, quiet streets, and neighborliness. Roxanne soon realized how much she’d be missing the Mardi Gras festivities of New Orleans. With COVID-19, of course, the city had canceled the festivities for 2021, but one woman had a plan to make sure Mardi Gras was celebrated, albeit in a safer, unique way. She decorated her home like a parade float. Her idea blossomed and soon neighborhood after neighborhood was decked out in colorful, artistic themes for the Mardi Gras celebration. Some neighbors hired professional design teams like kreweofhousefloats.org and the competition became fierce. Street after street looked like Mardi Gras on steroids as the idea caught on. It was soon referred to as “Yardi Gras”. The national media carried the story and after Mardi Gras was celebrated, albeit in a safer, unique way. She decorated her home like a parade float.

Roxanne loved the idea but knew she’d be leaving and wouldn’t be participating. She relayed the Mardi Gras idea to her mom and when she and her husband arrived at their new home in Dayton’s Bluff, their home had been decorated and transformed into an artistic and creative Mardi Gras float. Surprise! Her mom’s husband, Doc Graubberger, being a creative guy and local set builder, had gone all out to transform their home into a Mardi Gras house float right here in Dayton’s Bluff.

“YES! I would say it was a huge success!”

“I think around 50 people showed up between 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. Many brought kids; one family even made special masks. We raised more than $200 for Springboard for the Arts and filled an entire car with grocery donations for Neighbors, Inc. I was amazed at how many people brought whole bags of groceries. It made me proud of where I live. We and found more groceries being dropped off as the week went on. Ingrid Limewich sold out of her baked goods before the night was over!! Which is great; she also was able to expand her small business and take future orders.

“I think folks enjoyed the opportunity to get out of the house, even just for a few minutes, and safely interact! Just hearing a brass band and catching some beads can brighten your mood.

“With the exception of a child dressed as a super raccoon, there weren’t a ton of costumes. There were lots of wigs and crazy leg-gings! Considering the temperatures, I was impressed.

“We have neighbors I don’t know stop by our house meant a lot to me. It was wonderful to meet neighbors in this bizarre and fun way. I had no idea people would enjoy the decorations so much!

“I would love to be in New Orleans next Mardi Gras, but if we can’t swing it, I will definitely decorate and celebrate here bigger than before.”

“We’ve all been looking for things to entice us out of our quarantine and Roxanne and Ryan Sanchez created a fun and colorful event that fit that need.

Welcome to our neighborhood, Roxanne and Ryan.

Photos provided by Roxanne and Ryan Sanchez.
A 1958 Look at the East Side

Steve Trimble
Forum Staff

I have been going through my books during the COVID times and ran across one that I thought could be featured this issue. It was written by journalist Garrett Hiebert who had a long-lived column for St. Paul Dispatch. It told stories of interesting people and places throughout St. Paul. He had a pen name of Oliver Towne and here are two of his pieces from our part of town from his book Saint Paul is My Beat that was published in 1958. The first about a structure that still stands on Mound Street and the other about an area where there are no longer any homes. There is also a piece in the book about Payne Avenue, but there was no room in this article as you might want to check it out.

“Captain’s Roost on Mounds Park” (pages 108-110): As Hiebert wrote: “Ary Scheffer and I went back to review strange but fascinating history of his old family home, a statuesque fortress that has commanded a stirring panorama of the city and valley for more than a century. Even after 100 years, it stands — a sentinel of grandeur for more than a century. Even after 100 years, it stands — a sentinel of grandeur for more than a century. Even after 100 years, it stands — a sentinel of grandeur...

“The very site of this fifteen-room house has had an interesting past...” (pages 132-133): Hiebert goes on to say, “And scattered through the city you will find many families who have been taught to be on guard for the same old things that Edward Phelan was there in the 1830s as well as “the cycles of nationalism” including Swedes, Irish, Italians, and Mexican Americans.

Hiebert then goes on to say, “And scattered through the city you will find many families who have been taught to be on guard for the same old things that Edward Phelan was there in the 1830s as well as “the cycles of nationalism” including Swedes, Irish, Italians, and Mexican Americans.

Greg Conrini

The early spring flowers are already pushing their way above ground and a little snow won’t hurt them. These beautiful crocuses will be the first to bloom in April, followed by tulips and daffodils and, of course, dandelions.

Dayton’s Bluff Library Open with Express Hours

Dayton’s Bluff Library, 645 East 7th Street, St. Paul, opened with Library Express service on January 20. Residents are invited to the library to pick up reserved items, find books, DVDs, and CDs to check out. Dayton’s Bluff Library will also have access to 30-minute internet stations as well as copying, printing, faxing, and scanning services.

Library Express hours will be Mondays and Wednesdays, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Visitors to the library will be greeted by staff who will answer questions and will help everyone use the library safely.

To keep everyone safe, staff and visitors are required to wear masks, the number of people allowed in the space will be limited, and visits should be kept at or under 30 minutes. There is a What to Expect video in several languages along with FAQs about current library services available online: apll.org/libraryexpress.

Dayton’s Bluff Library continues to offer Career Lab appointments for people who are facing career barriers due to COVID-19. People who have experienced job loss, reduction of work hours, decrease in household income, or uncertainty in wage earnings can make an appointment for extended time on a computer with internet and printing access as well as one-to-one assistance seeking employment, building career skills and more. Appointments can be made by calling 651-793-1699.

Career Labs are offered in partnership with Ramsey County. More information is available at apll.org/career-labs.

View from My Porch

A Tribute to Bobbi

Sage Holben
Forum Staff

Because I am an introvert and somewhat a loner, I managed this past year of COVID-19 quite well. I’ve drawn on conversations with my sons and friends, and longer ones, sometimes four or five hours, with my sister Bobbi. She is an amazing woman. Our birth family was one in which almost every day was filled with uncertainties greater than the “could be hit by a car or killed by a fallen tree limb” when we left home, we didn’t know if one person might kill another, or if, when they came home from work in the early morning hours, most likely drunk and/or angry, woke one of us kids as a target. It’s clear to me where my hyper-vigilance originates!

Bobbi, who is seven years younger than I am, tells me her love for books and reading comes from my having read poetry to her; she tells me I protected her, disciplined her and our two other sisters (and sometimes put the fear of older sister/God in them if they touched my share of the dressing the four of us shared). Bobbi’s life would make a best-seller but is her story to tell. I admire her greatly — her inner strength, her wisdom, and the facts and knowledge that fill her head. In our conversations she recalls political records of politicians, how they voted, which bills passed in what year, and what effect they have on our lives. She can readily recite all our many childhood home addresses (there were many) and our phone numbers!

Over the past few years Bobbi and I have been getting to know each other as adults. We had been out of touch for most of our lives and have made a few mistakes in reuniting; we set a few ground rules to protect our feelings as we got to know each other. The resulting gift is that we have shared many fragile memories of fragmented lives. We’ve recalled hilarious, sometimes inane family stories; recollections that have brought either or both of us to tears and heartache, but with love and not fear. I’ve been learning that the little girl I disciplined, loved, protected, and threatened is one of the strongest, most merciful, incomparable women I know. What joy it is to have someone in my life who comprehends my foibles; understands why money has little value to me; and understands why I have the same knee-jerk reaction to some one’s xile behavior as if I did as a child. Bobbi reminds me what forgiveness and its depth means. I find peace and understanding in sharing our most intimate thoughts and memories, often finding verification of a memory. I have found a late in life sense of sisterly trust relationship in my sister’s ability to fill the many gaps in my own childhood memory and place them in perspective. Trust that she shares in love and tenderness.
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.

I was able to do a couple of restaurant reviews in a couple of issues this fall during a break in the COVID shut down. Things have opened a little, but now I think I am going to wait at least until I get my second vaccine shot. But I decided to write a short piece talking about a few places you might want to visit before I do.

I went to the northwest area of the Sun Ray center and found a new spot named Shawarmin Mediterranean & American Food. There was a sign that said “Open” so it is ready to have customers. On my way to Cub, another day I passed 1058 E. Maryland and saw a sign saying Mexong Barbecue. I later found that they have a Facebook page so you can see their menu and contact information.

There are also two spots that are sort of new. One is Cheers at 1067 Hudson Road, the former Mounds Park Sports Bar. I don’t know if it has a new owner or just a name change with a new menu. If anyone knows, shoot me an email. Hamburguesa El Gordo used to be open on Payne Avenue a while ago. Now it has re-emerged in Hamburguesas the former Mounds Park Sports Bar. I don’t know if it has a new owner or just a Facebook page so you can see their menu and contact information.

Giant Statue to Be Constructed Downtown

Visitors to Indian Mounds Park will get a new view this summer when gazing at St. Paul’s skyline. As first conceived by the St. Paul Area Chamber of Commerce and conceptualized by Riehle Studios in 1955 in a series of post cards, a gigantic 1000-foot replica of the Indian “Vision of Peace” statue will be constructed in downtown St. Paul. It has taken 66 years for the funding and technology to become available to turn such an ambitious art project into reality. Modern materials will allow a statue of this size not only to be built but also withstand the worst of Minnesotta weather. Advances in navigational guidance electronics will keep airplanes from flying into it, but birds will have to fend for themselves. Construction begins on April 1st and should be completed by the 4th of July.

Need the Internet? Libraries Offering Hotspots

St. Paul Public Library

Borrowers must have a St. Paul Public Library card and must be a resident of the City of St. Paul and cannot have more than $10 in fines owed to the library. Hotspots can be put on hold and picked up at any St. Paul Public Library locations. They can be checked out for two weeks, but may not be renewed. A replacement fee is billed after a hotspot is 14 days overdue.

Internet service will be turned off if a hotspot is overdue. When borrowing a hotspot, patrons must agree to abide by the terms of the library’s internet use agreement and Sprint’s acceptable use policy. If you find yourself needing help with connection issues, Contact Sprint customer service at 1-877-879-5031. Identify yourself as a Mobile Beacon customer and provide the device’s phone number (on the box under “MOBILE BEAC”).

Walk for Animals

Animal Humane Society

The Walk for Animals is celebrating its 50th Anniversary! Animal Humane Society (AHS) is a step ahead and leading the pack for animal welfare in Minnesota and beyond, thanks to you — and we’re not stopping now! Last year, we held our first-ever virtual Walk for Animals. Every step we took was proof that no matter what’s happening in the world, you can’t cancel love.

This year, the Walk for Animals will be virtual once again. We’ll walk — not only to show the world that our love for animals cannot be canceled, but to celebrate the love that’s sustained us for 50 years.

Be sure to register at: secure.animalhumanesociety.org/site/PageNavigator/register.

Beginning on April 26, there will be week-long fun! During that week, we’ll announce fun activities, exclusive merch, and opportunities to get involved. Take a walk on Saturday, May 1, at 10 a.m. Snap a pic and share it using #WalkForAnimals50.

Many thanks to our Friends of the Forum 2021 donors:

Maureen Anderson

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 library in your estate planning. If you have been our Friend in the past, please renew your membership with a donation in 2021. Our goal for 2021 is $18,000; thanks to readers like you, we’ve raised $1,815 to date — will you help us reach our goal in 2021?

Sincerely,

The Dayton’s Bluff District Forum

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

$100 $50 $25 Another amount

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Address __________________________________________ City, State, ZIP________

Make checks payable to: Dayton’s Bluff District Forum and mail to 668 Greenbrier St, St. Paul, MN 55106. For more information, contact 651-776-0550 or daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com.

Thank you for your support!