Go, Kayla, Go!

Mark Gallagher

As a little girl, Kalya Kane had a dream — she wanted to play hockey. There was a boy in her preschool class who played hockey, and he would tell all of the preschoolers about hockey and how much he loved it. So, after hearing many, many stories about hockey from him, she wanted to know what it felt like to play hockey, so she put her skates on and tried it. Kayla was four years old when she first tried hockey.

Learning how to skate is a big first step, and Kayla didn’t start by figure skating like some girls her age; she went straight to hockey. “I used a walker for probably a day or two,” Kayla said, “then I got the hang of it. After I caught on to skating, I saw that there were girls who were about eight years old wearing pink jerseys. I wanted to join their team, and they let me join, but I was five and the rest of the girls were seven and eight. Age wasn’t a factor because I can skate pretty good and can catch up to a lot of the older girls.”

“When Kayla turned four and started skating,” Katie, who is Kayla’s mother and loudest cheerleader, said, “she didn’t play organized hockey, but she worked on her skating skills for a season. She was a ‘mini-mite’ at four and then went on to play organized hockey. The next year Kayla was five, and all the other girls were seven or eight on the organized teams.”

Kayla started at the Johnson program and played there for three seasons. Then they lost the girls’ program because the numbers were too low, so the girls had to find another association to play for. Kayla moved over to the Roseville program, and she has been there three years. When she started playing for Roseville, she was already a goalie.

“I always wanted to play goalie,” Kayla said, “I like the thrill of it, and I like how it feels to have pucks shot at me. The girls are only in the 12 U (under 12 years old) category, but they are good shooters. I love the thrill. I think I use my body the best to block shots. I have the goalie stick in my left hand. I write with my right hand and throw right-handed, but I play goalie left-handed.”

“When Kayla started hockey and playing goalie,” Katie said, “the coaches said to lay the goalie stick on the ground, and whatever hand she picks the stick up with, she should use that side for the goalie stick and catch with the other hand. Kayla plays on two teams, Minnesota Unbounded and a team from Roseville. Minnesota Unbounded was formed by girls of color who wanted other girls of color not to feel like they were getting excluded by the other players. So, they wanted to make a team that they could feel comfortable with other girls of color and make friends. There are about 15 to 20 girls on the Minnesota Unbounded team, and they play only tournaments during the hockey season. When there are tournaments for the Unbounded team, all the referees are women. There are about 30 girls between the 10 U team and the 12 U team. The 10 U team is called the Hockey Ninjas, and the 12 U team is the Unbounded. The teams are composed of girls of different nationalities: Asian American, Mexican American, Pacific Islander, African American, and Native American, so both teams are made up of girls of all different minorities.

“There weren’t tryouts because there weren’t that many girls who wanted to play hockey,” Kayla said. “The girls would just sign up and start playing. Probably half of the girls that play for the Unbounded team come from Bloomington because they practice at Bloomington Ice Garden, which is at the NE corner of 9th Street and France Ave. almost every day. Most of the players are from Bloomington, but they are from different associations.

“There is pretty good chemistry on the teams I play for. The teams defend me when I am on the ice, and they communicate well when we are playing. A lot of the players know each other from being on other teams together, but I also play goalie on the 12 U team from Roseville. That’s my regular team, which is in a rec league.”

The photo of Kayla was taken by Cyndi Nightengale Photography.

See You in February!

With the holidays just around the corner, we are taking a break to spend time with our families, friends, and neighbors. We will not have a January issue, but please keep your eye out for our online-only February issue! Stay safe during the holidays and enjoy the many events St. Paul has to offer! Happy holidays, Dayton’s Bluff!

A Few Recent Dayton’s Bluff Items of Interest

G.B. Leroy

Will There be a Dinner With Santa in Dayton’s Bluff?

The Dayton’s Bluff Recreation Center will be doing something for families at their location at 790 Conway Way. It will happen on Thursday, December 9, 2021, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Besides a free dinner, people can take a photo of Santa in the school auditorium. Masks will be required indoors. However, depending on the COVID situation, it might be a drive through event with give-aways. A decision will be made, so be sure to call the Recreation Center (after 2:00 p.m.) at 651-793-3665. You can also reserve a spot online by going to the St. Paul city web site, click on departments, and click on Parks and Recreation and then choose Dayton’s Bluff Recreation Center.

Canasta Familiar in English is Family Basket

Lots of groups have been giving food to people during the COVID era, but this one is working to make sure of its quality. Canasta Familiar, a food shelf operated by Comunidades Latinas Unidas en Servicio (CLUES) in Dayton’s Bluff provides culturally appropriate food to about 500 families per week. But they don’t stop there. The food shelf also has a zero-waste policy, which includes making sure that food that is expired or no longer fit for consumption is composted.

Dayton’s Bluff Community Council Hires an Executive Director

The group recently announced on its web page that the Board of Directors approved the hiring of Veronica Burt as the new Executive Director of the Dayton’s Bluff District 4 Community Council. After a lengthy search process, Veronica rose to the top of the candidate list and was the clear choice for the role. Veronica is a 25-plus-year resident of Dayton’s Bluff. She brings many years of experience in community planning, development, and engagement. We are very excited to have her lead the Council forward into the future.

Please join us in welcoming Veronica to her new role! Feel free to share comments or suggestions for DBCC’s future by reaching out by phone at 651-772-2075 or through their email: info@daytonbluff.org. They also have a Facebook page and have monthly Zoom meetings that are open to all.

Get Ready To Bid For Good Things!

The East Side Elders have done lots of good for this neighborhood, so help by bidding on their December on-line silent auction. You could win gift cards from local shops and restaurants and special items in baskets. You might find some of your holiday presents this way.

This East Side Elder’s fundraiser is raising money for Fetch! Their free grocery program that helps community members in need by delivering free groceries, personal care items, and household needs. The auction starts on December 6 and bids have to be made by December 13. The link to the auction page is 32auctions.com/Elders.
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.

Our next meeting will be on December 21 starting at 6:30 p.m. at 686 Greenbrier Street. Anyone interested in Swede Hollow is welcome to attend.

For more information, email karindupaau@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, December 2 at 11:00 a.m.

If you’d like to attend, call 651-776-0550 or email daytonsbldistrictforum@gmail.com. We are currently meeting at the Dayton’s Bluff Library.

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, and address people’s concerns about crime and other issues on the East Side. Policing meetings are held at 9:30 a.m. and 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 the meetings have not been canceled.

SNAP Food Program at ComunidadesLatinas Unidas En Servicio (CLUES)

¿Necesita más comida saludable para la familia? El programa SNAP le puede ayudar. SNAP proporciona fondos para alimentos que beneficien a familias de escasos recursos.

Aún si no es ciudadano, si tiene hijos nacidos en este país ellos podrían calificar.

Participar en el programa SNAP no afectará su estatus migratorio.

¡Llame a CLUES para saber si califica! 612-746-3500. Nuestro personal bilíngüe puede facilitar el proceso para usted y su familia.

Need healthy food for your family? The SNAP program provides funds for healthy food directly into neighborhoods. The Mobile Market stops at Parkway Gardens Apartments, located at 1145 Hudson Road, on Wednesdays, from 2 to 3 p.m.

Neighborhood Assistance Program

Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP) provides health care, food assistance, and other services for every Minnesotan.

For more information, call 651-683-2326, and someone will assist you with your application.

Help the Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging provide one-on-one counseling to Medicare beneficiaries at community partner sites.

Visit metroaging.org/volunteer to learn more.

Xcel Phone Numbers


Call 911 before you dig. Before starting that toto-tiler or shovel that breaks into the ground for anything, call 911.

At no charge, Xcel will have a trained technician check the area on your property or on the boulevard to be sure there are no wires, pipes, other hidden utilities that are likely to cause a problem.

Visit sppl.org’s "Dig Right Here" page to mark the ‘no-dig’ area with painted markers.

usually, someone comes out within a day (allowing a couple days is helpful), marking the ‘no-dig’ area with painted lines...and everyone is safe!

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 someone will assist you with your application.

Help the Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging provide one-on-one counseling to Medicare beneficiaries at community partner sites.

Visit metroaging.org/volunteer to learn more.

Financial Assistance

Increased financial assistance is available. RAMS supports those who are 60 or older who may be eligible for assistance with paying their bills.

Residents may be eligible for Emergency Assistance that can help pay for rent, utilities, medical expenses, or other basic needs.

For more information, call 651-266-8484.

Dayton’s Bluff Library

The library is hosting plenty of fun activities. Listed below are some December events:

December 1 — Dayton’s Bluff Book Club: A great fit for folks who love reading diverse books by local authors and discussing them, 6-7:30 p.m. via Zoom.

December 2, 9, 16 — Family Storytime: Join us in the Children’s Area of Dayton’s Bluff Library for a lively storytime! 10-11 a.m.

December 11 — FanLab Hour of Code: FunLab is STEAM programming designed for kids ages 7-11. Join for crafts, engineering projects, science experiments, or relaxing boardgames and movies. 2-4 p.m.

December 14 — Teens Know Best: Join Teens Know Best! TKB is for teens ages 12-18, who want to read and review YA books that aren’t available to the public yet. 6:30-7:45 p.m.

February 2 — Dayton’s Bluff Book Club: A great fit for folks who love reading diverse books by local authors and discussing them, 6-7:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Visit sppl.org’s calendar for more.

Free Legal Services for Low-Income People

Call Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services at 1-888-575-2945 or go to smrlls.org to see if you qualify for free legal assistance with: family law, government benefits, housing, education, seniors, immigration, and farm workers. You can also call if you’re behind on your bills, having problems with creditors or creditors, or have other civil legal issues, etc.

If an interpreter is needed, SMRL will provide one.

Hours: Monday through Friday, 9 to 11:45 a.m.; 1 to 3 p.m.
Kris Kulseth

Cerenity Marian Senior Living campus is a full continuum of care campus located across from Mounds Park in East St. Paul. With independent and assisted living, memory care, transitional care, and skilled nursing, they are able to care for individuals 55-plus with any level of healthcare needs.

In mid-October, Cerenity Marian began a Winter Warmth Clothing Drive to support those in need of coats, hats, mittens, gloves, scarves, boots, snow pants, and socks. These items will be donated to Guild and the American Indian Magnet School, both based in St Paul.

Guild is a Minnesota not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization that empowers those living with mental illness and/or experiencing long-term homelessness by helping them find the tools they need to lead stable, fulfilling lives in their communities of their choosing.

The American Indian Magnet School was created from the vision of elders and community members. Their goal was to provide an American Indian perspective and to welcome students of all backgrounds to a diverse school community. Our teaching approach is rooted in American Indian culture, traditions, values, history, and art.

There are currently donation boxes located just inside Cerenity Marian’s main entrance at 200 Earl Street and we will still happily accept your donations of new or very gently used items. Other locations are Church of St Casimir, St. Patrick’s of St Paul, and The Beloved Church.

A big thanks to all who have already generously donated — there were many items that were handmade along with items purchased at stores!

Happy holidays from all of the team at Cerenity Marian!

Some St. Paul Trivia

Sixty-two people met at Macalester College in Saint Paul at a three-day event initially called the "Committees of Correspondence." They talked about "empowerment", "neighborliness" and "connection with the earth." What political party came out of the meeting?

Charles Rogers of Saint Paul is best known for what?
A. He is the youngest mayor of Saint Paul
B. He won the Medal of Honor while serving in WWI
C. He received the first automobile license in Saint Paul
D. He was the first person to commit suicide by jumping off the High Bridge

On June 9, 1898 the first golf course in Minnesota was opened for play. Where was it?

Send your answers to daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com for a chance to see your name in our February issue!
Hockey, continued from page 1

During the summer, Kayla did eight weeks of goalie training with an all-girl’s camp called OS, and the OS camp is run by one of the Whitecaps’ players. Winny Brodt Brown, a Roseville High School graduate, and her husband are the owners of the OS camp, which is run all year long. Kayla did the eight weeks of goalie training with Amanda Leveille, the Whitecap’s goalie.

“Kayla had hockey camp at St. Paul Academy (SPA);” Katie said, “on Tuesdays and Thursdays for eight weeks during the summer. I would drop her off at 7 a.m. and then pick her up at 1 p.m. So, Kayla was at goalie training at SPA with the OS girls camp to get ready for the season. Next week, Kayla will also do goalie training fundamentals with Amanda to get her ready for tryouts.”

After that, Kayla will participate in a program called “Durable Minds” at Roseville arena. It’s training that gets goalies mentally ready to have pucks shot at them. One thing Kayla and Katie love about Roseville is they schedule mental health training. Kayla goes through a curriculum starting with a class that prepares goalies for the whole season.

“I have the Durable Minds mental health program once a week,” Kayla said, “and we sit in a classroom for about an hour. It’s only for goaltenders in different age divisions, and the goaltenders sit in the classroom together. The most valuable lessons that I have learned from the Durable Minds training, are — What’s in your control and what’s out of your control? Don’t take out your frustrations on other players or circumstances.”

The Durable Minds training program is really valuable to a young goalie. They teach things like: What happens if you miss the puck? How do you prepare yourself for being on the ice? How do you pick yourself back up after the other team scores a goal?

Kayla is also into drama and modeling, and when they interfere with her hockey playing, Kayla has to make a critical decision because she is so passionate about everything she does in her life. “I was supposed to do something in theater in October,” Kayla said. “It’s called Battle Ashlandia. It has three different teams, and it’s supposed to be a fundraiser. The teams compete in dancing, singing, and stuff like that, but I couldn’t do it because I have hockey on the same days.

“Remembering songs really well is the best thing I do in theater, and I can memorize a song in about two days. I have done multiple plays throughout the Twin Cities, but the play I just completed “The Lion King” was through Ashland Productions, a children’s theater in Maplewood. I have also done plays at the Stepping Stone and the Minneapolis Children’s Theater.”

“As far as modeling goes,” Katie said, “Kayla has been modeling since she was six months old, and she has been doing musicals and plays since she was about four. She has done modeling for Target, commercials for Target, TCF, Build-A-Bear, Pillsbury — and she is on TV for a photo shoot. Kayla is with four modeling agencies in Minneapolis, and she has to audition for each modeling job that she pursues. She just did this commercial that comes out in November, so Kayla is very well-rounded.

“I would also like to add that we are proud East Side residents. I grew up on the East Side off of White Bear Ave., and I just want to make sure that I pay tribute to Johnson, Roseville, and OS for molding Kayla and for giving her all the help she needed. Every time that I watch her play hockey, she gets hit in the cage with pucks and then laughs about it.”

“I wear a cage because I can see through the cage pretty good,” Kayla said, “but I was wearing a mask with slots to see the puck a few months ago, and it was tough to see the puck. The cage had a COVID mask, and I only had two slots to look through, so last season was difficult.”

There are three levels of hockey in the association Kayla plays in: squirts, peewees, and bantams. “I received some great news today” Kayla said. “Last year I was playing with the girls on a 10 U team (squirts), and at the start of this year and was asked to move up to the boy’s 12 U (peewees) team. I was playing goalie with the boys for about a month, and on November 12, 2021, I was recruited to play on a girl’s 15 U team (bantams).”

“By playing at the 15 U level, Kayla basically skipped a whole grade, which will enable her to develop faster and play at a higher level, and with her work ethic, Kayla doesn’t have a problem with that.

“Some of the girls and boys I play with can shoot the puck pretty hard,” Kayla said. “Matt Dumba, who also shoots hard and plays for the Minnesota Wild, follows me on Twitter. All of it is fun! I love the theater, and I love hockey.”

The top photo shows the Unbounded hockey team. The left photo is Kayla and in the right photo, Kayla is in the foreground. All three photos were taken by Cyndi Nightengale Photography.
Happening at the Dayton’s Bluff Library

FUNLAB is STEAM for school-age kids. Saturday, December 11 from 2-4 p.m., join us for a fun drop-in session and tinker with circuitry and coding using Ozobots and Circuit Blocks. Then celebrate #HourOfCode by playing a variety of fun coding games on the computer!

STORYTIME at Dayton’s Bluff Library occurs on Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. Join us for a special storytime on Thursday, December 16 at 10:30 a.m. with special guest reader, Councilmember and Library Board Chair Jane Prince! Storytimes are geared toward toddler- and preschool-aged children. We will read stories, sing songs, practice American Sign Language, and have a lot of fun.

Senior Lounge at the library is starting in December. Come and learn a creative skill or have a game of Cribbage with a neighbor. The activities will vary from week to week, but there will be a calm space for older adults to hang out, meet with neighbors, and enjoy each other’s company every Friday from 10:30-11:30 a.m.

The Micro Gallery in November featured a collection curated by A. Mason of Super Mario Bros. plushies. This collection featured both Mario and Luigi along with Yoshi, a Shy Guy, a Bob-omb, and a Chain Chomp. Come in to see the current exhibit of artwork by a local Saint Paul artist, which will be up through the end of the month. If you are interested in showing your artwork or collections, please contact Dayton’s Bluff Library staff (DaytonsBluff@stpaul.mn.us or 651-793-1699). Items can be no larger than 12”w X 15”d X 15”h and there are four shelves available. All Saint Paul Public Library locations will be closed Wednesday, December 8 for staff training, Thursday, December 23 through Saturday, December 25 in observance of Christmas, and Friday, December 31 through January 1 in observance of New Year’s.

Dayton’s Bluff Library Hours
Mondays & Wednesdays noon to 8 p.m.
Tuesdays & Thursdays 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Fridays & Saturdays 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The outdoor book drop is open all the time. Current hours are available online at sppl.org/locations/DB or call 651-793-1699.

December 2021 Dayton’s Bluff District Forum Page 5

STORYTIME WITH COUNCILMEMBER

Dayton’s Bluff District Forum
668 Greenbrier St., St. Paul, MN 55106
Home: 651-776-0550 E-mail: daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com

Monthly circulation: 7,000; also available online at daytonsbldistrictforum.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 daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com, or mailed to the address above. The Dayton’s Bluff District Forum is delivered to every home and business in the Dayton’s Bluff neighborhood 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, Clare Howard

Featured Pets of the Month
Loki Ragnar & Samhain
Mandy Okonek

This Halloween our family adopted a lab/shepherd puppy from the animal rescue group Secondhand Hounds. Our puppy’s littermates were all named after lyrics from a Steve Miller Band song, Midnight, Lover, Joker, Toker, etc. and we fell in love with the intense, sad puppy eyes of Midnight who is now Samhain.

When Samhain came home to Dayton’s Bluff, he was eight weeks old and became acquainted with his new neighborhood by trick or treating with his family. My family wanted Samhain to grow up in a pack, so we headed north to Akeley, Minnesota, home of a giant Paul Bunyan statue, to adopt husky puppy Loki Ragnar.

Samhain and Loki became fast friends and share the joy of digging up my garden and watching the nature in Swede Hollow Park. The puppies are learning how to hop down the stairs, descending into the lower hollow and absolutely love dipping their paws in Phalen Creek. Loki is learning to find his voice, howling the ancient lament of his breed along with the horned owls at dusk. We are looking forward to a snowy winter so we can learn to Skijor through the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary.

Loki Ragnar is on the left, and Samhain is on the right.

Dayton’s Bluff Library
Councillor Jane Prince (top photo) was at the library Thursday, November 18, to talk about what’s going on in Ward 7.

Featured Pets of the Month
Loki Ragnar & Samhain
Mandy Okonek

This Halloween our family adopted a lab/shepherd puppy from the animal rescue group Secondhand Hounds. Our puppy’s littermates were all named after lyrics from a Steve Miller Band song, Midnight, Lover, Joker, Toker, etc. and we fell in love with the intense, sad puppy eyes of Midnight who is now Samhain.

When Samhain came home to Dayton’s Bluff, he was eight weeks old and became acquainted with his new neighborhood by trick or treating with his family. My family wanted Samhain to grow up in a pack, so we headed north to Akeley, Minnesota, home of a giant Paul Bunyan statue, to adopt husky puppy Loki Ragnar.

Samhain and Loki became fast friends and share the joy of digging up my garden and watching the nature in Swede Hollow Park. The puppies are learning how to hop down the stairs, descending into the lower hollow and absolutely love dipping their paws in Phalen Creek. Loki is learning to find his voice, howling the ancient lament of his breed along with the horned owls at dusk. We are looking forward to a snowy winter so we can learn to Skijor through the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary.

Loki Ragnar is on the left, and Samhain is on the right.

Dayton’s Bluff Library
Councillor Jane Prince (top photo) was at the library Thursday, November 18, to talk about what’s going on in Ward 7.

Featured Pets of the Month
Loki Ragnar & Samhain
Mandy Okonek

This Halloween our family adopted a lab/shepherd puppy from the animal rescue group Secondhand Hounds. Our puppy’s littermates were all named after lyrics from a Steve Miller Band song, Midnight, Lover, Joker, Toker, etc. and we fell in love with the intense, sad puppy eyes of Midnight who is now Samhain.

When Samhain came home to Dayton’s Bluff, he was eight weeks old and became acquainted with his new neighborhood by trick or treating with his family. My family wanted Samhain to grow up in a pack, so we headed north to Akeley, Minnesota, home of a giant Paul Bunyan statue, to adopt husky puppy Loki Ragnar.

Samhain and Loki became fast friends and share the joy of digging up my garden and watching the nature in Swede Hollow Park. The puppies are learning how to hop down the stairs, descending into the lower hollow and absolutely love dipping their paws in Phalen Creek. Loki is learning to find his voice, howling the ancient lament of his breed along with the horned owls at dusk. We are looking forward to a snowy winter so we can learn to Skijor through the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary.

Loki Ragnar is on the left, and Samhain is on the right.

Dayton’s Bluff Library
Councillor Jane Prince (top photo) was at the library Thursday, November 18, to talk about what’s going on in Ward 7.
See You Next Spring, Queen Bumble Bee

Kathy Sidles

When it gets cold in the fall bumble bee queens, workers, and males die — but not the new queens! They find soft soil or thick leaf litter and bury themselves. Their body changes so they don’t freeze. When the soil warms up in the spring they come out of the ground. They look for early spring flowers to get nectar for energy. Then they find a hole or clump of grass to make a nest in, and lay the eggs for the first set of workers.

This is what I read. I imagined a new queen deciding to bury herself, and in a few minutes was underground. But when I saw a queen bumble bee burying herself this fall, there was a lot more to it.

On a walk at a Scientific and Natural Area near Hastings, I saw two queen bumble bees flying over the prairie grass. Because we had a drought this summer, there were no flowers blooming there in October in the dry, sandy soil. So I wondered what they were doing and followed them with my camera on. The bumble bees each flew to a clump of grass. I walked closer to one queen. She was burying herself for the winter in the sandy soil at the base of a clump of grass. She seemed to be using all six legs to dig herself into the sand. I was surprised to see a male bumble bee a few inches away watching her. There is no way to tell for sure but I imagined it was her boyfriend saying goodbye to her. A few seconds later the other queen flew up from her nearby clump and came right at me. I decided she was telling me to leave her friend alone! I backed up quickly and went back to the trail.

I reported what I saw to the University of Minnesota bee researcher who taught a bumble bee ID class I took. She was interested in seeing the hole the queen was digging, so I met her there. I had placed sticks along the trail pointing to the clump of grass. The researcher checked the hole and measured the temperature of the soil for bumble bee research.

It would be fun to have “bumble bee cams”, like we have eagle cams, to see what happens when queen bumble bees emerge from the ground in the spring. When they bury themselves for the winter, there might be more to it than we think.

The Xerces Society protects insects, and has tips for pollinator friendly lawns. They say to mow high and less often so clover and dandelions bloom. Also keep leaves on your yard (along edges or under trees is OK) so moth and butterfly eggs on the leaves can hatch. Also, add a log and a brush pile in which bees and butterflies can rest, shelter, and overwinter. Just like parks, the yard at your home or apartment can help bumble bees.

Xerces suggests adding a pollinator flower garden to your yard. Blue Thumb is a non-profit helping people plant pollinator gardens in the Twin Cities. If you scroll to the bottom of Blue Thumb’s Lawns to Legumes web site you can find out what plants to buy, where to get them, and how to plant them. You can apply there before February 15 for $300 to help pay for plants. The Minnesota Legislature is giving out this money to help save the endangered rusty-patched bumble bee, our new State Bee. The garden will help other pollinators too: mluerthumb.org/lawns-to-legumes/.

NOTE: My picture of the queen bumble bee last month did get a positive ID as a rusty-patched queen by experts at Bumblebee Watch.
**The Rabbit Listened by Cori Doerrfeld**

Taylor has built something amazing! Until suddenly, it goes wrong. Will Taylor's side and waits. When Taylor is ready, the rabbit wants to talk about it. The bear wants to yell about it. The chicken wants to laugh. But Taylor doesn’t feel like doing that. One day, the animal lies to the rabbit. The animal sits quietly by Taylor’s side and waits. Then Taylor is ready, the rabbit listens while Taylor talks, yells, remem...
For many years, Gentille Yarusso, who lived on Brunswick Street, had been urged by relatives and friends to write about Swede Hollow and Railroad Island. “Do something,” they all said “before it is too late.” In this last of the offerings from Yarusso’s 1968 booklet “Swede Hollow Then Up the Street,” he ends his walk around the old neighborhoods. Instead, he makes a number of summaries about the people and how they have dealt with changing times. He offers some beliefs of the old ways and how the newer generations have begun to change the culture.

Any direct quotations from the book-let will be inside quotation marks.

“I passed the boarded fence, the entrance to the hollow, the place where I had started the story. I took one last look. We people had deserted the Hollow; we had been blind to her beauty and were deaf to her music. As the creek rumbles along, now, now under the railroad tracks, I remembered the path along the railroad track, down to the depot and followed my grandfather down through the tunnel of our boys served our country in the last war; some were killed, others returned. I remember seeing our folks at the Mission, the St. Andrew’s Church, praying for those who served. We are thankful, we children who survived, planned, and eventually met the challenge.”

“Young people have taken advantage of the opportunities available. Many of the young people want to be out from some authoritarian parents.” I know that behind some closed doors in some families a tenacious struggle is taking place, a struggle to try to preserve the substance of the old ways… Let’s face it; our children are learning.”

Many changes have happened. “We have looked up from our work in their old traditions. How many times they must have wondered ‘Our old fashioned people preserved the old ways… Let’s face it; our children are learning.’”

The author felt that things had not been just because of economics. “We believed as our folks did that someday things would be better, if not for us, for our children. I know that some people—but to very few—we were nothing but foreigners, wops, dagoes.” It took some time to see that “we were not intruders, not undesirables.” It took some time but “we had earned the respect and attention we deserved. We are thankful, who served in the conflict in Vietnam. Many at times are serving now in the armed forces. They are poor people, precocious in earning a living; some took more time than others to become Americanized… They were busy with their everyday jobs… When one considers the past history of our grandparents and their friends who lived in insecurity and in a dangerous and unruly, unpredictable society in the old country, one understands how they learned to find refuge behind the walls of their homes among members of their families.”

Yarusso continued to look at some of recent situations. “Hundreds and hundreds of our boys served our country in the last war and many are serving now in the conflict in Vietnam. I shall never forget seeing Father Pioletti visiting the many homes in the neighborhood consoling, advising parents, who had, in some cases, five and six sons in the service at one time. I remember seeing our folks attending early morning mass at St. Ambrose, sad, weary, lovingly praying for their children’s return from the war.”

He then explained how a new generation has emerged. “From these immigrants have come a new breed, a new generation, many of the sons and daughters of the people have children now who are attorneys, successful business men and women, teachers, school principals, coaches, politicians… It is to those that I direct my statements, to this generation.”

The Dayton’s Bluff District Forum
December 2021

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 resource 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 a 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 

Or give online: givemn.org/organization/Hopewell-Communications-Incorporated

Name ____________________________
Email ____________________________
Phone ____________________________
Address ____________________________
City, State, ZIP ____________________________

Make checks payable to: Dayton’s Bluff District Forum and mail to: 680 Greenbrier St, St. Paul, MN 55106. For more information, contact 651-776-0550 or daytonsbuzz@gmail.com.

Thank you for your support!