Summer of Sparky Around St. Paul
Allison Lund-Zalewski

Looking for some unique, summer fun? Como Zoo is hosting the free Summer of Sparky event. You can search for all 21 custom-painted Sparky statues throughout St. Paul. Each statue has been hand-painted by local artists and features a water conservation theme. To name a few locations, you can find these six-foot seal statues at locations such as the Science Museum of Minnesota, Minnesota Children’s Museum, CHS Field, Rice Park, Harriet Island, Minnehaha Park, Como Park, and the Minneapolis RBC Gateway.

The Summer of Sparky event is to celebrate the return of the Sparky the Sea Lion shows at Como Zoo’s new Como Harbor.

Visit comozooconservatory.org/summer-of-sparky/ for the full list of Sparkys and the map on where to find them. Be sure to snap photos of each Sparky and tag your photos with #SummerofSparky.

Maplewood Needs Reading, Math Tutors to Serve in Area Schools
Reading Corps, Math Corps, and Early Learning Corps

In response to the unprecedented educational challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, seven reading tutors and one math tutor are being sought to begin serving in Maplewood schools in August. Overall, Reading Corps, Math Corps and Early Learning Corps are recruiting 1,700 tutors throughout Minnesota. Reading Corps, Math Corps and Early Learning Corps Managing Director Sadie O’Connor said, “After approximately two years of disruptions, more students than ever need a proven solution like Reading Corps and Math Corps to help get back on track.”

O’Connor said no teaching experience is needed. Reading Corps and Math Corps tutors are fully trained and serve on-site at the school 35, 25 or 18 hours a week. All tutors receive a stipend every two weeks, plus up to $4,500 to pay for college tuition or student loans. Those who are 55 or older may choose to gift their education award to their child, grandchild, stepchild or foster child.

Many tutors also qualify for additional benefits like free individual health insurance and childcare assistance. Candidates are encouraged to apply now to begin helping students in August. Visit join.readingandmath.org to learn more or apply.

About Reading Corps, Math Corps and Early Learning Corps: Reading Corps, Math Corps and Early Learning Corps are evidence-based AmeriCorps programs dedicated to helping all children become strong learners. Tutors placed in local schools, work one-on-one or in small groups with students to help improve their skills. Rigorous third-party evaluation has consistently shown that students who have Reading Corps, Math Corps and Early Learning Corps make greater gains and faster progress. Building on success in Minnesota, the programs are replicated nationally in 13 states and the District of Columbia.

Reading Corps, Math Corps and Early Learning Corps are administrated through a national nonprofit, AmeriCorps (formerly Reading & Math, Inc.). For more information, please visit readingandmath.org.

National Night Out Set for August 2

National Night Out (NNO) is always on the first Tuesday of August. This year it will be on August 2. National Night Out is an annual nationwide event that encourages residents to get out in the neighborhood with their neighbors and meet members of the Police Department. There is still time to organize an event for your neighborhood.

Many Block Clubs and/or neighborhoods have held National Night Out events for years. Here in the Dayton’s Bluff community, a number of neighborhoods have celebrated for many years like the Mounds Park neighborhood and the Upper Swede Hollow neighborhood.

For over 34 years the Upper Swede Hollow neighborhood held NNO in the upper area of Swede Hollow Park at Greenbrier and Margaret. For many years we have had a band and the last couple years we were lucky enough to have John Knowles perform at National Night Out.

In the years before COVID, everyone often brought something to share at the event. If people are concerned about it, another option is bring food for their own group.

The Voice of the Community
Volume 35, No. 7
August 2022
SOLIDARITY STREET GALLERY Set for September 9, 10

We are pleased to invite all to SOLIDARITY STREET GALLERY 2022, the third edition of our community-centered arts and cultural festival held along Payne Avenue in St. Paul, September 9 and 10. The aim is to bring together artists and the community for important exchanges about justice, equity, and resilience — and to celebrate all the diverse groups who call the East Side of St. Paul their home.

The focus this year is on RESILIENT GENERATIONS, which is centered around Southeast Asian communities and other displaced groups. Visual artists, performers, poets, storytellers, and community leaders — most of them Southeast Asian — will reflect on the immigrant experiences of being forced from a homeland, often in traumatic circumstances; rebuilding lives in a new diaspora home; and establishing a new identity while reviving culture, language, and history across generations. Celebrating Southeast Asian people is especially important with the rise of anti-Asian violence and the need for #StopAsianHate.

SOLIDARITY STREET GALLERY is a family-friendly event open to all! Invite your family and friends, explore the high-quality art exhibitions, enjoy and learn from the community activities. Witness the stories and talent of the performers, shop and dine at the Southeast Asian Street Market, and gather in solidarity, strength and resilience.

For more information about the festival, including many opportunities to get involved and participate, please go to solidaritystreetgallery.org or @SOLIDARYStreetGallery. Both sites will be updated in the near future to reflect 2022 festival plans.

Free Summer Workshops

Metro State University and Urban Roots are co-hosting a series of summer workshops on the second Wednesday of each month from 5-7 p.m.

Events are free and open to the public. They will take place at GROW-IT Center at 445 Maria Ave., Saint Paul. August 10’s will be Boulevard & Rain Gardens: Minimizing water use.

Register at Eventbrite.com/e/urbanroots-metro-state-university-workshop-series-registration-33748224787. For questions email GROW-IT@metrostate.edu.
Happening at the Dayton’s Bluff Library

Dayton’s Bluff Library, 645 East 7th Street, is a public library branch located inside the Metropolitan State University Library and Learning Center. We are open six days a week offering books, movies, music, internet stations, programs, and services for all ages. Call 651-793-1699 or visit sppl.org for more information.

Get (Almost) Any Book or DVD You Need

If Saint Paul Public Library doesn’t have the book you want, it is still possible to get it. Use interlibrary loan (MN-LINK) to request items that are not in the library catalog. Library staff will search for your request in the collections of other libraries in the metro area and beyond. If it is out there somewhere in Minnesota, we will get it for you! If the item you are looking for has been published in the last six months, make a suggestion and we will consider purchasing the item and adding it to the SPPL collection: sppl.org/interlibraryloan.

Dayton’s Bluff Library will be hosting a Summer Spark Celebration — August 20 from 2-4 p.m. to celebrate all of the excellent reading, exploration, and fun that you have had this summer! There will be activities, snacks, and games.

Have you seen our Teen Area recently? We have computers exclusively for teen access, comfortable seating to hang out with your friends, and tons of things to read. We have board and card games to play in the library such as: Unstable Unicorns; Exploding Kittens; Here to Slay; New Phone, Who Dis?; Bears vs Babies; and Taco Cat Goat Cheese Pizza. There’s a question of the week, Polaroid wall, giant coloring page, and more.

Get Affordable Internet

There is a new Affordable Connectivity Program to help you pay for broadband internet service. Your household may qualify for up to $30 per month off their broadband costs if:

- You receive Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) supplemental nutrition benefits or SNAP, you participate in free and reduced school meals or Pell grant programs, you receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Medicaid, Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA), SNAP, or Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefits, you participate in the Lifeline program, your income is below 200% of the federal poverty guidelines, you participate in Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance, Tribal TANF, and Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations.

You can learn more about and sign up for the Affordable Connectivity Program here: GetInternet.gov

We love our volunteers! Volunteers are an integral part of the work we do, and we have a wide range of opportunities for you to get involved. Reading mentors during the school year, youth program aides, and library beautification are a few ways you can be part of Dayton’s Bluff Library and support our community. If you are interested in volunteering at the library, go to sppl.org/volunteer for more information.

The outdoor book drop is open all the time.

Current hours are available online at sppl.org/locations/DB or call 651-793-1699.

Dayton’s Bluff Library Hours

Mondays & Wednesdays 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Tuesdays & Thursdays 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Fridays & Saturdays 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Life, Love, Beauty: The Art of Shia Yang

Mandy Okonek

Art @967 Payne Ave. featured local Hmong artist Shia Yang in an exhibit on display this July. Photographer Shia Yang’s pictures tell the story of Saint Paul’s Hmong community, a culture of people historically displaced by war, and many of them found their home on Saint Paul’s East Side. Many Saint Paul Hmong residents arrived as refugees and were forced to adapt to a Western way of life that they never fully embraced, and we are lucky for it. In fact, Yang’s visual journey of vibrant photos are in many ways a celebration of the intersection of Eastern and Western culture. From an up-close image of traditional Hmong clothing with bright red embroidery and white bead work adorned with dangling silver coins, to photos of Hmong military dignitaries and political officials sharing their cultural traditions with local and national government officials, Yang’s visual journey was not about assimilation but strength in diversity.

This is Yang’s first public art installation; however, his work spans a career in photojournalism and a life-long love of art. Trained as a graphic designer, Yang stumbled into photography when he accepted a position out of college that involved taking photos. I think it’s safe to say Yang veered off in just the right direction. His sense for imagery is intuitive and intimate. He captured the “Life, Love and Beauty,” of his culture through framed moments in time. Yang’s preference in camera reveals his adherence to representing the interconnectedness of Hmong and American communities.

He states, “For most of my photographic work, I use a Leica M9 digital rangefinder camera as my instrument of choice, especially for portraits and landscapes. This camera is unique in that it utilizes a viewfinder focus mechanism consisting of two images overlapping each other for focus accuracy.”

With his distinct focus on duality, Yang reveals the inherent beauty in contrast. Join the local celebration of Saint Paul’s burgeoning art scene and stop by 967 Payne Avenue. You can follow the art gallery on Facebook Art@967 to keep tabs on updated showings and event times.

The Dayton’s Bluff Library is offering free meals for kids 18 and under Mondays through Saturdays.

Mandy Okonek

Art @967 Payne Ave. featured local Hmong artist Shia Yang in an exhibit on display this July.
Save the (Native) Bees!

Jeff Borden and Kathleen Hoffer

Bees on the Bluff

When I tell people I am a hobby beekeeper, they sometimes say, “Thank you for saving the bees!” While I appreciate the sentiment behind the remark, the gratitude is misplaced. It’s a bit like thanking someone with a backyard chicken coop for saving the endangered California Condor.

The bees we tend, European honeybees, were brought here in the 17th century. They are livestock, bred and cared for by humans. Yes, beekeepers in recent years have had problems with colony collapse disorder, overuse of pesticides, and varroa mite infestation. But the US Department of Agriculture, many universities, and private breeders are working hard to create harder honeybees.

Honeybees are fine. The 400 species of bees native to Minnesota are not doing quite as well. They are threatened by habitat loss, climate change, pesticides, and diseases. Luckily, people are learning about the issue, and they are looking for ways to help.

Several weeks ago, a friend sent me the following message: “I’m not seeing many of my bee buddies yet and was thinking about what more I could do to roll out the welcome mat for them and it occurred to me that I don’t have a home for them to roll that welcome mat in front of.”

Ah yes, the bee house. Charming little structures intended to give solitary native bees access to nesting materials. If you’ve been in a hardware store or home-improvement center you’ve probably seen them. The internet is full of blueprints and advice for building them. Over the years I’ve built or been given many different kinds of bee houses. I have never once had a nesting bee use any of them.

Not. Once.

One day I was lucky enough to witness a leaf-cutter bee carve a perfect circle from one of my serviceberry bushes. These bees use leaves to line their nesting cavities and package each larva in a little leafy envelope with enough pollen to nourish it until it emerges as an adult. Because this particular bee was carrying a slab of leaf the size of her body I could easily see where she was going, and I was excited to see which of my nesting houses she had chosen. Imagine my dismay when that bee took her leaf and drugged it into a burrow in my yard. That bee was telling me, “I’d rather live in a hole in the ground than in any of your cutesy bee houses.”

And lest you think I am just bitter because my houses were rejected, I can quote our best local experts on pollinators, the University of Minnesota Bee Lab:

“The best way to provide nests for native bees is to provide undisturbed areas where they can make their own nests. Some key elements to provide are standing, dead stems, downed logs, brush piles, and most importantly, undisturbed ground (both bare and covered with thatch).”

You see, the most important lesson of building for native bees is, you don’t need to. Simply make your yard more hospitable to them.

Your most important asset is a willingness to coexist with insects. If you notice the perfect circles a leaf-cutter bee removed from the leaves on your shrub, don’t spray them with pesticide. The plant is not damaged. Make peace with a slightly less tidy garden. And if a bumblebee queen decides to nest under the floor of your yard shed, let her! Bumblebees are not aggressive, so you won’t have a problem accessing the garden tools.

Plant those pollinator-friendly plants. Participate in No Mow May. Go ahead and put up some cute bee houses. But be sure to also give those native bees space to do their own thing.

Here’s a link to the U of M Bee Lab website: beelab.umn.edu. They are a great source of information about native bees.

Also, check out these beautiful photographs of 13 native bee species: dnr.state.mn.us/mcv/magnificentbees.html.

Our St. Paul Farmers’ Markets bridge the gap between local growers and the neighborhood anecdotes – send yours to:

daytonsbullf districtforum@gmail.com

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

Deadline for the September issue of the Forum is August 10, 2022.

St. Paul Farmers’ Market

Our St. Paul Farmers’ Markets bridge the gap between local growers and the neighboring communities by providing access to healthy foods and helping to sustain the lifestyle of small, independent farmers, local food makers, and their families.

The St. Paul Farmers’ Market (SPFM) allows only fresh, locally grown produce to be sold directly from the grower to the consumer, making it unique among many farmers’ markets. The baked goods, artisan foods, confections, and other products offered are produced locally as well.

The Saint Paul Farmers’ Market is located at 290 5th Street East downtown St. Paul. The SPFM will run every Saturday through the summer from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m.

You got somethin’ to say? Say it here!

The Dayton’s Bluff District Forum welcomes all opinions and neighborhood anecdotes – send yours to:

daytonsbullf districtforum@gmail.com

Bonus Checks Coming For Frontline Workers

Senator Foung Hawj said that the Senate approved $500 million in long-awaited bonus checks for 667,000 Minnesota frontline workers — including thousands of workers in St. Paul — who got the state through the past two years of a deadly pandemic. The measure, which at the same time replenishes the state’s Unemployment Insurance (UI) Trust Fund, also passed in the House and was quickly signed into law by Governor Walz.

Sen. Hawj said the legislation will send $750 to Minnesotans working in health care or long-term care facilities, child care workers, grocery store staff, and retail employees.

“I fought hard for the frontline workers because they put their health and safety on the line to get us through a deadly pandemic. A word of thank you is not enough,” said Sen. Hawj. “These bonuses reward workers who did not have the option of working from home, and their sacrifices got Minnesota through this health and economic crisis. They deserve these bonuses and have waited far too long for them.”

Sen. Hawj said that among the frontline workers eligible for bonus checks are: home care and long-term care workers, building maintenance, janitorial and security workers, school workers, food service workers, public health workers, retail workers, hotel and temporary shelter workers, ground and air transportation workers, manufacturing, and vocational rehabilitation workers.

Kathleen Hoffer

The topmost photo is a rusty patched bumble bee on a purple coneflower. The bottom photo shows where a leaf-cutter bee harvested these perfect circles from my serviceberry bush.
Kids Corner
J. Mason
Dayton’s Bluff Library Staff

Summer may be wrapping up, but there’s still lots of fun to be had. Read a book about going to the park and then have your own fun at the park with your friends. Or do the crossword and find a great new series of books to read.

What Does Little Crocodile Say at the Park? By Eva Montanari
In this charming book of sounds, Little Crocodile visits the park and experiences a wide range of feelings. Adults and their toddlers will enjoy reading the fun sounds and looking at the beautiful illustrations together.

Interesting August Days
Steve Trimble

August 1, 1913: A group of boys from the Parental School and Detention facility at the Mayall Building at 75 East 77th Street walked a few miles on this day to reach their new location at a farm in Highwood called Totem Town. It was a place where boys were sent by the court for small crimes to help them reform.

The intent at Totem Town was to change a boy’s behavior. The treatment philosophy included a system of earning rewards and losing privileges.

For decades, the boys grew their own produce and forage and cared for horses, cattle, pigs, as well as chickens, geese, ducks, and other poultry along with crops and flowers. Many kids weren’t there because they did something bad, but some of them came because of home problems.

Over the years there were changes in the composition of the boys that the all-white staff sometimes didn’t understand and the growing seriousness of their crimes. In 1975, there were numerous changes in policies. Better counseling was introduced, there were fewer runaways and fighting was reduced. Still, in 2016, Ramsey County judges voted to stop sending boys there and Totem Town closed August 1, 2019.

August 6, 1926: After more than two years of construction, the new Riverview Commercial Club for the West Side group that had pushed for the bridge that completed the day of festivities. The bridge is distinguished by its characteristic rainbow arches and rises 30 feet above the roadway so trains and ships could go under.

August 8, 1902: Around 100 men and women, members of various St. Paul unions, gathered at a meeting hall on Wabasha Street on this day. They were delegates from the city’s working people, and they made history by electing 35-year-old Charles James as the president of the Saint Paul Trades and Labor Assembly.

James was the first African American to assume that leadership post in the city and perhaps the first in the nation. He ended up being re-elected twice more.

James was a leader in the Boot and Shoe Workers Union, an important labor group at the time. He was a St. Paul native, part of a prominent African American pioneer family, although they preferred the name Afro American at the time. James was also the labor representative to the Saint Paul Charter Commission and was involved in church work and civil rights activities.

James was later elected to seven terms as the recording secretary of the Assembly. He was one of the most admired activists in the labor movement and was widely mourned after his death in 1923. His home still stands at 419 Sherburne in the Frogtown neighborhood.

August 23, 1934: Gangster Homer Van Meter was shot to death by St. Paul police near the corner of Marion Street and University Avenue on this day. Unaware that he was being tracked that late afternoon, he stepped out of an auto dealership where he has been looking at new cars. He was a leader in the Boot and Shoe Workers Union, an important labor group at the time. He was a St. Paul native, part of a prominent African American pioneer family, although they preferred the name Afro American at the time. James was also the labor representative to the Saint Paul Charter Commission and was involved in church work and civil rights activities.

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Dayton’s Bluff District Forum
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We are currently printing and distributing our newspaper quarterly. The paper is available online at daytonsbluffdistrictforum.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 rebroadcast 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 businesses in the Dayton’s Bluff neighborhood when the budget permits. To find out where you can pick up a printed issue, send an email to the address above.

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Editor/layout: Allison Land-Zalewski; Editorial Associate: Mark Gallagher
Staff: Mandy Okonek, Clare Howard

Read the paper online at daytonsbluffdistrictforum.org
Memories of Mother’s Meals

G.B. LeRoy

I was looking at another cookbook that brought back memories of the smells of my Mother’s kitchen. Those olfactory memories were those like French writer Marcel Proust, who wrote Remembrance of Things Past and suggested that a smell conjures up events. The cookbook was From Creative Cooks Who Share and was published by St. John’s Hospital in Dayton’s Bluff, but there was no date.

The first recipe that caught my notice was “Pear Salad.” My mother made pear salads that I remember. The one in the cookbook started with pear juice, two and a half cups of mashed pears, and added lime Jell-O. You had to heat the pear juice and blend it into a handful of ingredients and put in a mold. Submitted by Monica Hagen.

My mother made it through the Depression and WWII and cooked it more simply. Her pear dessert was far less complicated. She added lime Jell-O and cooked the liver and added regular mustard. By the way, I still have her brown baked bean pot.

The final memory-evoking recipe in the cookbook was “Lever Baked with Onions.” Again, my mother lived through the rationing of meat during WWII when people had to use alternative meat as most prime beef went to the military. We were frequently served liver and onions but also tongue, heart, and kidneys. Her approach was somewhat different than the recipe shared by Ruth Loucks. She didn’t put the liver in hot water and if I remember correctly, cooked the liver and onions in a cast iron skillet on the stove. We also used to put ketchup on the plated liver, making it quite tasty.

Readers, how about sending in some menu memories of your own to share and we can put them in a Forum? A photo would be great.

Recent Group Tour Helped Strengthen Relationship Between Rural and Urban Farming

Marc Kimball

Senator Foung Hawj said that a recent visit to several East Side St. Paul urban farming sites by officials from the Minnesota Corn Growers Association (MCGA) helped strengthen the relationship between Minnesota’s rural and urban farming interests. He said the tour allowed MCGA leaders to get a better understanding of the diversity and the needs of urban farming and its potential to address “food deserts,” or areas where residents have little access to grocery stores or markets that sell affordable, healthy food.

The MCGA officials were joined by leaders from the Minnesota Farm Bureau and the Minnesota Association of Statutory Cities on the tour. Sen. Hawj said the group not only saw the potential that urban agriculture has to address food deserts, but also the need for partnerships to provide the training and expertise to allow urban agriculture to expand.

“The East Side of St. Paul has many diverse and growing urban agriculture sites that have the potential to reduce the number of food deserts in our urban areas,” said Sen. Hawj. “I was very pleased that the MCGA, Minnesota Corn Growers Association and other farm groups were able to join me and to tour some of these sites and see their potential, diversity, and importance in ensuring all Minnesotans get the food and nutrition they need. The relationships between rural and urban farming resulting from this tour will help strengthen Minnesota farming — both urban and rural — into the future.”

The group visited four urban agriculture sites, including Community Garden Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio (CLUES), the GROW-IT Center at Saint Mary’s University of Minnesota, University of Saint Paul, Urban Roots, and Homong Village indoor farmers market.

August Events Happening at Battle Creek and Dayton’s Bluff Recreation Centers

August 4, 1-4 p.m., Free; Battle Creek Rec Center—Field Day: For ages 6-12. Kids will compete in multiple sporting events to earn certificates mimicking the Olympics.

August 4-25, 6-7:30 p.m., Free; Dayton’s Bluff Rec Center—Wax-On, Wax-Off: Creative Crayon Art: For ages 8-14. Create different masterpieces using crayons in ways you may have never used them before!

August 8-10, 6-7:30 p.m., $10; Battle Creek Rec Center—Summer Basketball Camp: For ages 10-12. This camp the participants will work on their dribbling, passing, shooting and court sense. This activity includes a t-shirt.

August 8-15, 9:30-11:30 a.m., $60; Battle Creek Rec Center—Pickleball Camp: For ages 8-14. Pickleball Camp is designed to provide beginner and intermediate level players ages 8-14 with the fundamental skills of a sport that is growing in popularity. Participants are taught proper grip, footwork, volleys, overheads and serves. We will also cover the basic rules and etiquette of the game. Please bring sunscreen, water bottle, snack and appropriate dress/shoes.

August 16, 5-4:56-6:45 p.m., $18; Battle Creek Rec Center—Among Us with Kid Create: For ages 5-12. Among Us fans, we’re getting all our crewmates together to create some out-of-this-world art. We’ll sculpt, paint, draw, and more as we create projects that are all inspired by this popular game. Please pack a nut free snack and drink for your child.

August 22, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Free; Dayton’s Bluff Rec Center—Paint Night for Teens: For ages 12-18. Let the artist come out in you! Teens will create a masterpiece on canvas and be able to take it home.

Visit stpaul.gov/facilities/battle-creek/recreation-center for the full list of events. You can also choose Dayton’s Bluff Rec Center when searching.
August Events Happening in
St. Paul

August 1-31, Various times: Summer Music and Events at Dock and Paddle, Free: We are looking forward to a summer of live music, this year sponsored by delicious food and beverage at Dock and Paddle @the Como Lakeside Pavilion in 2022! Check out the calendar of shows. All shows are FREE unless noted! Located at 1360 Lexington Plwy N., Saint Paul.

August 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 5:30-6:30 p.m.: Yoga Sculpt, Free: Reservations are not required for attendance. Participants are asked to bring a yoga mat, water and towel if needed. All classes are taught in the Waiting Room. If the Waiting Room is closed for a private event, classes will take place in the Head House under the East clock, unless otherwise noted. Located at 214 4th Street East, Saint Paul.

August 2, 11 a.m.-noon: Union Depot Tours, Free: This tour will explore the history of Union Depot, allow you to experience the beauty and majesty of the historic renovation, and inspire you to embark on your next journey from Union Depot. Tour is located at 214 4th St. E., St. Paul.

August 2, 4-7 p.m.: National Night Out at Union Depot, Free: Shop local artists, jam to a live DJ, enjoy food options, interact with chalk murals, create your own design with chalk, spin-the-wheel for free prizes, stay for giveaways and meet your neighborhood friends! Everyone is welcome. All events are happening on the North Plaza near the Green Line. Located at 214 4th St. E., St. Paul.

August 3, 10 a.m.-11 a.m.: St. Paul Walking Tours, Free: Stand where Saint Paul began and walk through history as you uncover the past into its anticipated future. Reservations required. Located at 62 W Kellogg Blvd., Saint Paul.

August 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25, 31, 5-7:30 p.m.: Margaritas on the Mississippi, $35: A great way to wind down after a long day at work or to catch up with friends and family! Cash bar with 2 for 1 margaritas available. Reservations required. Located at 201 Dora Ct. W., Saint Paul.

August 3, 5, 7, 10, 12, 14, 17, 19, 21, 24, 26, 28, 31, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.: Music Makers, Free: You will have opportunities to interact with instruments from across the globe. Located at 75 W. 5th Street, Saint Paul.

August 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, noon-4 p.m. or noon-7 p.m: Games Galore, Free: Guests of all ages are invited to play giant-size versions of many of your favorite games including Chess, Checkers, Connect Four, Donkeys, Jenga, Tic-Tac-Toe and others. The games are free and open to the public and you’re also invited to bring your own games! Located at 214 4th St. E., St. Paul.

August 4, 6 p.m.: Cat Video Festival, $10: Join my Talk: 107 and I the St. Paul Saints at CHS Field. Video featuring silly, heartwarming and lovable cats from Twin Cities’ residents, TikTok and America’s Funniest Home Videos! Located at CHS Field.

For a full list of August events, go to visitaintampions.com/events-calendar/.

Donations Needed for Us to Print
Help Us Deliver to Your Door Again!

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 each month, so that you can read a hard copy! Your donation will go toward printing costs. We miss having our newspaper displayed in the businesses on 7th Street. We have found a new printer and are able to print for less each month.

We are so close to meeting our goal to print each month, and we know your donations would bring us one step closer to printing your favorite paper! We are also working toward enough donations for our mailing permit so that the post office can deliver our monthly newspaper right to your door again!

Own a business? Consider taking an ad with us for a future issue.

View From My Porch: Letters From the Heart

Sage Hoden

I heard a soundbite on NPR inviting listeners to submit a letter or a line or a few lines about letter writing. The program poet would then create a longer, cohesive poem using all submissions. I am not a poet, but I am a letter writer, and a savior of letters written to me. In fact over the last few months, I have shipped hundreds of handwritten note cards and letters, 63 years worth, to my sister Bobbi. Yes, I did ask her permission before sending the many boxes, with more to go. I was recently experiencing puzzling health issues and it crossed my mind that my son would probably feel overwhelmed by this paper tote. Yet he is also a notewriter, so unless otherwise noted. Located at 214 4th Street East, Saint Paul.

I asked my sister to pass on to my sons the many letters. I held back only a few in which I crossed my mind that my son would probably feel overwhelmed by this paper tote. Yet he is also a notewriter, so unless otherwise noted. Located at 214 4th Street East, Saint Paul.

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**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 daytonsblluffdistrictforum.org, click on “East Side Eating” at the top of the home page. Steve Trimble can be reached at daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com.

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**El Pollo Felix**

1905 Stillwater Ave. E.
St. Paul, MN 55119
Phone: 651-222-4992
Hours: Mondays-Thursdays 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.

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I was driving on Stillwater Avenue headed to an estate sale and I saw that a restaurant I wrote about over two years ago had a new name. That might mean a new owner, so I had to see if there needed to be an addition to the list on the Forum’s Taste Trek. I got there around 7 p.m. and saw there were new decorations on the building’s outside. Inside I found out there was a new owner and a new menu. It has a sizeable interior with an arch that separates two sides of the restaurant. Both the walls feature a metallic looking covering and above there are red walls with decorations with featured food, with chickens on them. There was loud Latin music playing from a machine of some kind and I sat near it. The name of the place, El Pollo Felix, translates “The Happy Chicken.” There are seven tables for four, four nice booths, four small tables for two. There are large windows across the restaurant that face Stillwater Avenue.

When I describe the food, I only have room for a sample of what is also on the menu.

**APPETIZERS:** Nachos Chips with cheese and a variety of toppings. Chicken Wings — six of them — with your choice of Buffalo or BBQ. Chips & Guacamole described as creamy dip made from avocado. Cheese Fries are fried potatoes topped with cheese and chili.

**COMBOS:** Combos are served with rice, lettuce, sour cream, and pico de gallo. Tacos Combo use three tacos with your choice of meat. Quesadilla Fajita Combo Chicken with fajita peppers, cheese, with lettuce, tomato, and guacamole on top. Quesadilla Shrimp Combo or Quesadilla de Maiz with melted cheese, choice of meat, lettuce, and sour cream. Enchilada Callejera with four baked corn tortillas stuffed with Mexican cheese, topped with salad, sour cream, with grilled chicken on top. Tamales Flautas Combo with three fried corn tortillas stuffed with chicken and cheese.

**CAIDOS (Soup):** Caldo De Camaron O Pescado that consists of shrimp, fish or both, onion celery, served with tortillas with bread. Birria De Res O Chivo that is slow cooked beef or goat stew served with onion, cilantro, and jalapenos. Menudo, Hombrecombi trpe soup made with beef tripe, herbs and spices, served with tortillas.

**TACOS:** Taco Salad with crispy fried tortilla filled with romaine lettuce, your choice of meat, beans, cheese, pico de gallo, sour cream, and guacamole, Fish Tacos Baja California style with lettuce, tomato, and chipotle sauce, Birria Tacos made with six-inch corn tortillas, slow cooked beef, mozzarella cheese, onions, and cilantro.

**TORTAS:** Torta with choice of meat or veggies with cheese, lettuce, pico de gallo, mayo, and guacamole. Served with fries and Torta Cubana.

**HAMBURGERS:** Mex Burger is a single patty stuffed with ham, chorizo, bacon, American cheese, chipotle mayo, served with fries. BURGERS: Single patty with American cheese, lettuce, tomato, served with fries or a Buffalo Burger.

**VEGETARIAN:** Choice of a Veggie Torta, Veggie Enchilada, Veggie Chimichanga, Veggie Burrito Bowl or Veggie Quesadillas.

**KIDS MENU:** Kids Chicken Fingers & Fries, Kid’s Burger served with fries and Kids Quesadillas.

**DESSERTS:** Churros Felix, Tiramisu Cake, Oreo Cake, Corn on a Stick or Street Corn.

There is street parking as well as a large lot in the back. They do cater and have a variety of menu items. Colorado and now lives on the East Side. She was at the counter where I ordered and was brought my order to the table.

She let me know that the owner and cook is Marcelo Corona. He hopes to get the restaurant on the East Side. He decided to order a Mexican Hamburger with the side of French fries because I never had that kind of burger before. I also never had a hamburger with a large jalapeno cooked on top of the bun. They don’t have liquor at this time so to fit in with the food I had a Mexican Coca Cola.

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**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 $1,000 to produce per month. We have found a new printer and have adjusted the cost to print each 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 our Friend in the past, please consider making a donation in 2022. Our goal for 2022 is $5,000; will you help us reach our goal in 2022?

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**Many thanks to our Friends of the Forum 2022 donors:**

Janet and Brian Harbour
Michael and Paula Roberto
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Tricia Schmidt
Mark and Linda Murnane
Linda Labarre
Kari Soeffker
Patricia Svendsen

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**We Have Three Easy Ways for You to Donate!**

If you’d like to see future issues printed again, please consider donating. We have three ways for you to do so:

- Donate electronically via PayPal at daytonsblluffdistrictforum@gmail.com
- Make checks payable to Dayton’s Bluff District Forum and mail to 1368 Minnehaha Ave E, Saint Paul, MN 55106
- Donate by going to: givemn.org/organization/Hopewell-Communications-Incorporated

Be sure to keep up with us online in one of three ways:

- Website at daytonsblluffdistrictforum.com
- Facebook at Dayton’s Bluff District Forum
- Instagram at Dayton’s Bluff District Forum

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Read our paper online at daytonsblluffdistrictforum.org

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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 1368 Minnehaha Ave. E., St. Paul, MN 55106. For more information, contact 651-776-0550 or daytonsblluffdistrictforum@gmail.com.

Thank you for your support!