Metro State Celebrates Its 50th Anniversary
Mark Gallagher

Metro State University had its humble beginning in 1971 as Minnesota Metropolitan State College with a mission to educate nontraditional students from the St. Paul and Minneapolis areas. It offered bachelor’s degrees to working adults, but students could only complete their junior and senior years of college at Minnesota Metropolitan State College. It was founded with the entire Twin Cities and surrounding metro area as its campus, so students attended classes at many locations. In 1975, Minnesota Metropolitan State College officially changed its name to Metropolitan State University (Metro State University or Metro State) and began admitting freshmen and sophomores, implemented general education requirements, and instituted a grading policy with grade point averages (GPAs) in 1994.

Current President of Metro State University, Ginny Arthur explained, “The late 1960s were a time of ferment in higher education. There were many people coming back from the Vietnam War, and most colleges and universities were not set up to serve veterans — and they weren’t set up to serve adult students.”

“It was a time when students were revolting against the structures of the universities. They wanted them to have a more informal educational curriculum and to be engaged with the community. These ideas were circulating, and there were a group of colleges that came into being at about the same time as Metro State. We and Antioch College in Ohio are the only ones in the Midwest with a similar approach to education.”

Chancellor Ted Mitau and David Sweet, then Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, worked together and conceived the radical idea that the Twin Cities needed another university. The new university would have some unique characteristics and be able to serve adult learners. David Sweet, the Founding President said, “I want Minnesota Metropolitan State College to be the kind of college which produces a significant change in its students. I am certain we can do this by remaining open to all who come. We must accept students where they are and help them become who they would be.”

In the late 1960s, Ted Mitau was the chancellor of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system (the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system was formed in 1995 through merger of the State university and two-year college systems and has since been rebranded as Minnesota State in 2016). Continued on page 3, Metro State

Donations Needed for Us to Print We are Printing the June Issue!

The Dayton’s Bluff DistrictForum 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 Seventh 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 donation would bring us one step closer to printing your favorite paper!

Own a business? Consider taking out an ad with us for our June issue.

East Side Police Officers Recognized for Life-Saving Actions
Sage Holben

Eastsiders have long known they are right to be proud of their Saint Paul Police Department’s Eastern District. A 2021 shooting incident brought this home in a major way when officers Keng Her, Dao Vang, Sean Higgins, and Nathan Kinn responded to a 6 p.m. 911 call — a 19-year-old woman was shot in the neck while sitting in her car outside an East Side apartment building.

Officers Keng Her, Sean Higgins, Dao Vang, and Nathan Kinn, with 21 years of experience among them, were honored recently for their life-saving action. Deputy Chief of Police Jeremy Ellison presented Life Saving Awards at the SPPD Grove Street headquarters. Following is the incident as posted on the SPPD Facebook account:

The call for help came into the Ramsey County Emergency Communications Center at 6 p.m. A woman had been shot in the neck outside a Wilson Avenue apartment building on Saint Paul’s East Side. She was semi-conscious and losing a lot of blood. Officers rushed to the scene, lights flashing, sirens sounding. They got there fast and found the 19-year-old victim slumped into the driver’s seat of a Chevrolet Impala. She had a bullet hole in her neck and was bleeding. A crowd gathered. It was chaotic, with people running around, screaming and panicking, trying to reach the woman. Somewhere, someone had the gun.

In the swirl of tumult, the officers were collected and calm. A couple began looking for the gun; others gently removed the victim from the car and laid her on the ground while putting pressure on the wound. Blood kept pouring onto the pavement, pooling. They cut her shirt open and found the exit wound. It was under her armpit. They wrapped her in gauze and kept applying pressure. The woman cried and told the officers she thought she was going to die. They reassured her, told her medics were on the way, that she would be OK. Soon she was in the back of an ambulance and whisked off to Regions Hospital, where she underwent emergency surgery — and survived.

Continued on page 5, Police

Read the paper online at daytonsbluffdistrictforum.org
Art in the Hollow Set for June 4

Benjamin Mason

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 May 17 starting at 6:30 p.m. at 668 Greenbrier Street. Anyone interested in Swede Hollow is welcome to attend. Discussion will include Art in the Hollow (which will be June 4), park clean up, etc.

For more information, email karindu.paul@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 content, idea generation, and ad sales — join us at our next meeting on Thursday, May 5 at 11:00 a.m. If you’d like to attend, call 651-776-0550 or daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com for more information. 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.

These 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 4:30 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.

Dayton’s Bluff District Forum Board Meeting

April 29-30, May 2, May 6-8, May 12-14; Much Ado About Nothing presented by Fearless Comedy Productions. Much Ado is one of Shakespeare’s most beloved comedies and features two of his snarkiest characters, Beatrice and Benedick, to go head to head. Come see as they both navigate all of the trappings of wit and love! Tickets: $15 in advance; $20 at the door. Performances at 7:30 p.m. except Sunday May 8 at 2:00 p.m. Monday May 9 — pay what you can.

May 20-21: Nudie Nubies is thrilled to host the inaugural Nudie Nubies National-wide Weekender amateur burlesque competition. This two-day competition will bring together some of North America’s most surprising performers and give them the opportunity to show off their best stuff for panels of judges and future fans. Join us for both nights of our tassel twirling tournament! With cocktails crafted with spirits from Du Nord Distillery and talent from across the nation, this competition is NOT one to miss. Tickets: $30 (Standard), $40 (VIP). Performances at 8:00 p.m. Friday May 20; 7:00 p.m. Saturday May 21.

Visit moundshΘaΘΘtΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘΘTheta

Community Garden Plots Available

Have you ever harvested and eaten your own carrots, tomatoes or lettuce? If so, you know how delicious they are, not to mention nutritious, inexpensive and a great way to spend time outdoors!

Skidmore Park Community Garden (1085 4th St E, near Earl) has 24 raised bed plots that are available to the public. Cost is $20 for the season. Grants are available.

For more information or to request an application, email Steve Lee at Steve12743@yahoo.com.

WaterFest Set for June 4

WaterFest will take place at Lake Phalen Park in St. Paul on June 4 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Join us for a fun-filled day at WaterFest 2022. This free, family festival celebrating our clean lakes provides an opportunity for outdoor hands-on learning about clean water, wildlife, and land and water conservation.

Experience activities on and around the water with Voyager canoe and sailboat rides; paddleboats, canoes, and kayaks for checkout, fishing lessons, a fishing contest with prizes, water games, climbing walls, a jump castle, arts and crafts, face painting and lawn games, a Water Bar featuring water flights from our communities, the Pass- port House by wonderful painters, performers, food trucks and lots more!

More information to come soon.

Find more information at rwmwd.org/get-involved/waterfest/ or their Facebook event page.

Photo provided by WaterFest.

Xcel Phone Numbers


Call 811 before you dig: Before starting a twister-toller or heaving that shovel into the ground for anything, call 811. 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 surprises in the designated digging area. Usually, some one checks within a day, marking the ‘no dig’ area with painted lines...and everyone is safe!

Free Legal Services for Low-Income People

Call Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services at 1-888-575-2954 or go to smrls.org to see if you qualify for free legal assistance with: family law, government benefits, housing, education, seniors, and more. You can also call if you're behind on your bills, having problems with credit or creditors, or have other civil legal issues, etc. If an interpreter is needed, SMRL will provide one.

Free Health and Human Services

United Way 2-1-1 provides free and confidential health and human services information for people in Minnesota, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, connecting you with the resources and information you need: Alcohol & Drug Abuse; Child Care; Consumer Regulation; Financial Assistance Programs; Healthcare; Money Management; Transportation; Animal Services; Criminal Justice & Legal Services; Employment; Food; Housing/Shelter; Tax Organizations & Services; Utilities (includes phones); Mental Health.

When calling 2-1-1 you will need to enter your ZIP code and then will hear a menu of services. Be patient, please. With COVID-19, lines are busy. You may be given options to wait on the line.

Read our paper online at daytonsbluffdistrictforum.org

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Dayton’s Bluff District Forum

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There were just six universities in that system: Mankato, Winona, St. Cloud, Moorhead, Bemidji, and Southwest State (Marshall). Minnesota Metropolitan State College was added in 1971, and a few years after that — on February 1, 1973 — the first graduating class of the college received their degrees.

“It was in the early 1990s when the university acquired the former St. John’s Hospital property,” President Arthur said. “This property had been abandoned because St. John’s had moved to Maplewood. I find it hard to believe that no one looked at this beautiful site for development and that Metro State University is fortunate to occupy this site.”

President Arthur got her start in higher education as a faculty member for twenty-four years at another college, and during that time, she was a department chair for almost 10 years. She also became the faculty chair, and that meant Ms. Arthur served on the Board of Trustees. When she was finished with that position, the board chair suggested that she should think about becoming an administrator. Before she became president, Ms. Arthur participated in a professional development group for women who were going into administration, and they urged her to apply for a vacancy. She got the position of associate provost at the University of North Dakota. She applied, accepted their offer, and became president on July 1, 2016.

President Arthur believes the most important accomplishment in Metro State’s history is the work they do with the students. One of the things that is really important about the university’s work is this idea of a measure that is called “social mobility.” Metro State helps its graduates move from the lowest income levels to the middle class or better, and they rank very well — number 37 in the country — for moving students into another economic or social class. President Arthur believes that is the most important accomplishment because students go out and make a difference in the community. Eighty-five to ninety percent of Metro State graduates stay in Minnesota and the great majority of those graduates stay in the local community.

“I think Metro State is unique and an extraordinary university because of the students we serve and the real difference we make in people’s lives,” President Arthur said. “I have been a part of higher education ever since I was 19 years old, which was a historical time in my career, which served a more traditional student population and I mean tradition- al in terms of age in that 18-to-24-year-old range with residential housing and athletes. And, of course, I believe in the power of higher education for everyone, but Metro State provides opportunities for students who might not otherwise grasp that opportunity. It’s just a unique mission and the university has a positive impact on its students, their families, and our communities.”

Since 2015, the Student Center, the parking ramp, and the Jason Carter Science Center have been built on the Metro State St. Paul campus. President Arthur mentioned this has made it seem more like a college campus. There are more buildings now, and the parking ramp was critical to be able to get the Science Center — that was a requirement of the City of St. Paul. They said the university is going to generate more traffic with the Science Center, and there was just a surface parking lot. So, Metro State is going to have to be able to accommodate more cars because the neighborhood would sometimes be filled with cars parking on the street.

“Without the parking ramp,” President Arthur said, “we could not have had the Science Center, and the Science Center, of course, is very important. We just didn’t have a very good science lab to offer science majors—we offered science courses. In fact, we had a special exemption from Minnesota State. The General Education requirement is for two science courses, but because we didn’t have the facilities, we were allowed to require only one science course to fill that requirement.

“You know, those three buildings, the Jason Carter Science Center, the Student Center, and the parking ramp have really extended the opportunity here. Because of the Science Center, we were able to develop majors in biology, chemistry, biochemistry, and environmental science. We don’t have a physics major, but we offer courses in physics, which are needed for other majors.” Few regional universities have physics majors these days.

“We don’t get money directly from the legislature; everything comes through the Minnesota State system,” President Arthur said. “I wish we could get more financial support for the university from the legislature and from our business and philanthropic community because the work we do is extremely important. It benefits the state; it benefits the community; it benefits the students. So, we need to hire more faculty and we need to serve students who are really in need. We could use more resources to be able to provide the services the students need to become successful.

Students are changing, and that may have been accelerated by the pandemic. In the next 50 years, President Arthur imagines that Metro State will continue to evolve and be flexible to meet the needs of its students. It will fulfill what the legislature and original founders of Metro State, which was to meet the needs of Twin Cities’ residents for higher education.

Metro State University will expand its majors because there will be new kinds of work emerging. They will continue to be very flexible in terms of the way courses are structured because Metro State will respond to the needs and preferences of its students, which may include more online and hybrid course instruction.

“Tt is just a unique mission and the university has a positive impact on its students, their families, and our communities.”

—Mark Gallagher

Senator Foung Hawj pushed legislation to increase the number of farmers of color in Minnesota

Senator Foung Hawj pushed his legislation to award grants to Minnesota groups working to expand the number of farmers of color in the state, saying the measure would provide resources and tools for African American farmers needing help in their farming operations, while also increasing access to fresh food and cutting the number of food deserts in communities of color.

Sen. Hawj told the Senate Agriculture Committee that farmers of color currently operate less than one percent of farms in Minnesota. The state’s communities of color make up a much higher percentage of the population. He said that, people in these communities are at least twice as likely as white Minnesotans to experience food insecurity.

Sen. Hawj’s measure would provide Department of Agriculture funding to the African Growers and Producers Alliance and African American urban agriculture initiatives to help break down barriers to getting into farming by providing resources such as mentorships, and assistance in finding land and financing for their operations.
Yarusso's Bocce Part II

Brad Griffith

The Chatterbox was a newspaper, published during World War II as a way to keep the residents and those in the service informed about the comings and goings of Saint Paul’s Railroad Island Neighborhood.

My impression is its purpose was to bring the community and those in service together in order to establish some sense of normalcy and also to honor those in service and those lost in service to their country.

As a followup to the April 2022 article in the Dayton’s Bluff District Forum, “Bocce at Yarusso’s,” here’s an excerpt from the October 1944 issue of the Chatterbox.

A Saturday Evening on Payne Avenue

“As I neared the Square Deal Cafe, I could hear cinque, due, tre, quattro, uno, sei, nove. The old “morris” game was in progress. The lights shown bright on the “Boccie” alleys. A large crowd was playing. I could hear Sam Mondo’s voice high above the others. “Boccia la sua, baccia la sua,” he kept shouting. On another alley Nick “Garboom” Savino was measuring a close ball. Scrutinizing the measuring with Nick were “Frenchy”, “Bob, the Painter”, “Shorty” Saturnini and several others. In front of the tavern several groups of older men were discussing the topics of the day. In side a large crowd drinking beer and eating good old Yarusso spaghetti. “Murphy” was busy serving customers in the booths. You should see how fat “Murphy” is getting. Joe Yarusso and Joe Madia were bartendering. “Skinny” Frascone had the night off and was to report for work early the next day.

On the opposite side of the street at the head of the stairs that lead down to the creek there sat a group of men leisurely talking (and drinking). You boys know what they drink.

I mean and know what they drink.

A day in the life on Railroad Island at the Square Deal Cafe (Yarusso Brother’s Italian Restaurant) - October 1944. Special thanks to Steve Trimble and Fred Yarusso.

Dayton's Bluff Take A Hike

Karim DuPaul

In 1988 people started talking about turning the abandoned Burlington Northern railway along the western and northern edge of Dayton’s Bluff into a recreational trail. On December 8, 1990, a hike took place to demonstrate the potential of this walkway connecting Mounds Park to Swede Hollow Park and on to Phalen Park. Soon the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council decided to continue the monthly hike and named it the Dayton’s Bluff Take A Hike.

The hikes started at Indian Mounds Park, continuing down Commercial Street and onto the old rail corridor through Swede Hollow and all the way to Phalen Park. Then the hikers walked back to Mounds Park where there their cars were parked. After that first couple hikes we had some people leave their cars near Phalen Park so the walk would not be so long.

Over time we shortened the hike and had cars left at the Dreywe Lane entrance to Swede Hollow Park, rather than go all the way out to Phalen Park. Friends of Swede Hollow led the hikers and told the visitors about the rich history of neighborhoods and Swede Hollow that was at one time home for many new St. Paul residents. Swede Hollow Park is a wonderful place to hike and see many kinds of birds, deer, and other kinds of wildlife. For years on the first Saturday of each month hike leaders would go to the Mounds Park Pavilion at 10:30 a.m. to see if there were any hikers.

We stopped the hike two years ago because of COVID.

For more information call 651-776-0550.

Photos below provided by Karin DuPaul.

Kids Corner

Vio Nikitina,
Dayton’s Bluff Children’s Specialist

May is Asian-American Pacific Islander month. Check out these books that teach us about our neighbors and our neighbors’ cultures.

Eyes That Speak to the Stars by Joanna Ho

A young boy notices that his eyes look different from his peers after seeing his friend’s drawing of them.

This beautifully illustrated children’s book allows readers to develop a deeper empathy and understanding.

The Most Beautiful Thing by Kao Kalia Yang

Drawn from Kao Kalia Yang’s childhood experiences as a Hmong refugee, this heartfelt picture book offers a window into the life of a family with little money and a great deal of love. When young Kalia is tired of making do without, she receives help from her grandmother to see the true beauty in those we love most.

Key Environmental Committee Advances Sen. Foung Hawj’s Bill

Establishing a Task Force to Clean Up Pig’s Eye Landfill on St. Paul’s East Side

Minnesota State Senate

St. Paul Senator Foung Hawj DFL-St. Paul said today that his legislation to establish a task force to explore ways to accelerate the clean up of the Pig’s Eye Landfill, located on St. Paul’s East Side, has been advanced by the Senate Environment Policy Committee.

Senator Hawj said the landfill, which contains harmful contaminants that leak into nearby waterways, including the Mississippi River, is a threat to the people and wildlife in the area. The site contains high levels of pollutants, including metals, mercury, and PFAS/PFOAs. The contaminants, especially the PFAS, have impacted wildlife in the area and threaten all downstream communities that rely on the Mississippi River for their water supply.

“Many decades, the city and community have been hoping to get the Pig’s Eye Landfill cleaned up and restored so that it can be turned into a park that can be enjoyed by citizens,” said Senator Hawj. “This legislation will establish a task force made up of representatives from city, county, state, and federal agencies and other stakeholders and give them the resources to make that vision a reality. I am pleased my bill is moving in the Senate.”

Senator Hawj’s bill, the task force must begin work by October 2022 and report annually on the task force’s work.
May Events Happening in St. Paul

May 1, 2:30-3 p.m., Free, All ages welcome: Nature Walk: Meet at the Dewberry tunnel on Preble Street just south of Payne Avenue. Guided walk in Spanish and English. Open your eyes (and bring your phone) to see the birds, animals and plants on Swede Hollow. Paso guiado en español e inglés. Abra los ojos (y traiga su teléfono) para ver las aves, los animales y las plantas en Swede Hollow. Edades 10-110.

May 1, 7:30-11:30 a.m., All ages welcome: May One Run: Meet at Upper Landing Park. Pick the race that is right for you: half marathon run, skate, or run the 10M, 5M, or 5K. Run The May One Run supports Hope and Homes for Teens. Your donation will be split evenly between two awesome organizations in the Twin Cities. All races start and finish at Upper Landing Park More race day.

May 1 through 15, 6-10 p.m., Free, All ages welcome: Saint Paul Art Crawl: Art is shown at various locations and dependent upon the date that is attended. Visit visitsaintpaul.com and go to the events section for the full itinerary.

May 3, 4:53-5 p.m., Free, All ages welcome: Metro State University History Day: Join us as we celebrate the stories of impact that have shaped the university. Light refreshments served.

May 7, 11-11:45 a.m., All ages welcome: Wabasha Street Cave Tours: You will explore the original mined caves and see the finished caves (once a romantic nightclub called The Castle Royal). Hear the legends of the mobster massacres and ghostly lore in the most unique setting from Chicago to San Francisco.

May 13, 12 noon to 12 a.m., Free, All ages welcome: Open House at Indigenous Roots Cultural Arts: There will be music and food at the fundraiser.

May 14, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Free, All ages welcome: Inaugural Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) Small Business Expo: It will be a full-day job fair with speakers, panel discussions, and exhibitions. at Metropolitan State University, 700 E. Seventh Street.

To register, visit aapibusinessexpo.com.

May 25, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Free, All ages welcome: Games Galore: Guests of all ages are invited to play giant-size versions of many of your favorite games including Chess, Checkers, Connect Four, Dominos, Jenga, Tic-Tac-Toe and others, at The Union Depot. The games are free and open to the public and you’re also invited to bring your own games!

For more information and a full list of events going on throughout Saint Paul in May, go to: visitsaintpaul.com/events-calendar/day/2022/05/26/.

Kristenza and Alex found themselves reading the April issue of Dayton’s Bluff District Forum while they were on their trip to New York City.
Today's Harvest
A Free Grocery Store Aimed To Reduce Food Waste
Mandy Okonek

Imagine going to a grocery store fully stocked with tables of neatly assembled fresh fruit and vegetables; coolers filled to the brim with dairy and meat products. You happily shop away visualizing the delicious healthy dinner you will prepare for yourself or your family, and leave without paying a dime. Go ahead and gently pinch yourself, the good folks behind Today's Harvest have made that dream a reality. Today's Harvest is not your typical food shelf. Their free grocery store model aimed to help bridge the hunger gap was inspired by one of the many volunteers donating time and energy to help run the local organization Christian Cupboard Emergency Food shelf (CCCES)—the people behind Today's Harvest. In conversation with CCCES executive director Jessica Francis, I asked where the vision of a free grocery store model came from. I wanted an origin story; every super hero has one. Francis credited their innovative idea to one of their volunteers. On a trip to Australia, a CCCES volunteer was inspired by the free grocery store model food bank utilized by OZHarvest. OZHarvest was founded by Ronni Kahn in 2004 and quickly grew to become Australia’s leading food rescue and waste by saving perfectly edible produce from the garbage and make it available to feed hungry families inspired the folks at CCES to model their foodbank to echo the work of OZHarvest. They are working hard to eliminate food waste locally by partnering with grocery stores to collect food that would otherwise become rubbish and destigmatizing the often less than glamorous trip to a traditional food bank. And that’s the innovative approach of Today’s Harvest will inspire other food shelf organizations to adopt the same practice.

Eating a healthy meal is expensive, as the price of fresh produce has increased exponentially in recent months. However, Today’s Harvest offers a solution that just may keep you out of the drive-through line. There are currently two locations where you can shop for fresh produce, meat, and dairy products for free: The newly opened store located at 8264 4th Street in Oakdale, and their original location at 5703 Hadley Avenue. Both stores are open Monday through Friday, from noon to 6 p.m., and Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Francis states, “Now, with rapidly rising food costs and living expenses, there is a growing number of people in the Twin Cities and beyond who are struggling to afford fresh and healthy food. Today’s Harvest grocery store model provides a much-needed connection for free, fresh food that otherwise would go to waste.”

Today’s Harvest gladly accepts produce donations from farms and community gardens. Now you know what do with that surplus of summer zucchini. For more information about Today’s Harvest or to become a volunteer please visit their website, todaysharvestmn.org. Photo below provided by Today’s Harvest.

Letter to the Editor
Does Anyone Care?
Dawn Keller

Does anyone care about the major construction that is about to begin that is going to demolish the entire atmosphere, tranquility, and family-oriented neighborhood that might be left along Highway 94?

The "Gold Line” is about to begin major construction for the bus stations/buses on Earl Street and “Ema Street,” among others. It is not going to be on “Ema Street,” it is going to be on Wilson and Clarence Street.

When I moved into a house on those streets, there was one other house on the street, as it is a cul de sac and there is a field across the street. It was a shock when Jesse Venturi broke ground behind us to build the 4 Habitat for Humanity homes that are there. Although there are major erosion problems that the city refuses to address, we have survived.

Years ago, my house got caught up in the Predatory Lending scheme. I lost my home to foreclosure and it was given away to someone who claimed to have been a “charity.” Within months it was condemned and torn down.

I was fortunate enough to have had a kind neighbor who rented out his upper floor to me and my black Golden Retriever. Over the years, I had taken it upon myself to do my part and keep my little corner of the world clean. I had lined the entire boulevard with daisy dildes, constantly picked up any trash and blew the leaves, mowed, and shoveled the majority of the cul de sac.

The field across the street was used by the cross-country ski team at Harding High School for practice. My nice, quiet little cul de sac, for the most part, was just that. I had a family of three deer that would come and eat the grass/leaves, wander in the field, and sometimes lay in the sunshine merely feet away from my front door.

Over the years I would see city vehicles coming and going, construction trucks doing their surveying. Suddenly trees were being cut down, the field, the hill that blocked the noise from the highway was quickly eroding. I once was not able to even see the streetlights on the highway, now I can see the cars from my second story window!

Not only was my cul de sac the future entrance to a new “bus station”, the major bus hub is about to be built at the end of my driveway!

I was, and am, devastated beyond words. Somehow my “single family dwelling” had magically been “rezeoned” to “multi family” and there is going to be a huge, noisy, public transportation center (with all of its amenities of crime, litter, pollution, traffic, and etc.), and I have nothing I can do about it.

I am glad to provide my own lighting for my street and in order to deter the people who want to park on my little street to do their selling, buying, or smoking of drugs. I put up my very bright motion detector light. Between the garbage on Wilson Street, the vacant lot, and the field, I average picking up at least one full garbage bag every one to two weeks, sometimes more, and that doesn’t include the other refuse that gets dumped on my property at the end of my driveway.

I had seen in some of the plans for this catastrophe, that they plan on putting up a “sound barrier,” this is going to do absolutely no good since the entire area that they are building this station is open directly to the freeway! The “environmental studies” that they say have been done notes that this project will have, get this… “zero impact” on the residents nearby.

WHAT?!

You would think that they might offer to buy me out or something considering that this is all right outside my door, but no. I am expected to happily accept all of this insanity and the enjoyment of having my property taxes go up by 26.5% this year and my property value dropping $6,000! I wouldn’t be able to sell my home for a price that would be able to get this one paid back any other way. Who, in their right mind would want to live right next to a bus station? Is Metro Transit going to help me pay for all of the things that I am going to have to do to ensure the safety of myself and my property? Are they going to pay for the damage that is done both material wise as well as my health, both mental as well as physical.

I know that life is full of changes. Had I known that it was going to be a commercialized area, I would not have struggled and worked, putting my heart and soul into what I thought was going to be the home I spent my final years in. The East Side has changed; it is going to keep changing, and I am afraid that it is all for the worse.

You got somethin' to say? Say it here!
The Dayton's Bluff District Forum welcomes all opinions and neighborhood anecdotes — send yours to:
daytonsluffdistrictforum@gmail.com

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

Deadline for the June issue of the Forum is May 10, 2022.

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Read the paper online at daytonsbluffdistrictforum.org
Spring Into Art
Upcoming East Side Gallery Events

Mandy Okonek

Creativity is my favorite catalyst. As the frigid air of winter changes to cool, the melting earth softens wa

san, and fellow Halloween aficionado Rick Carey. Carey’s artist statement explains his inspiration to create,

历史悠久的和自然世界的抽象。

years. This month’s featured artist is local photographer, leather artist June Sikkoski. According to their website, Second Shift Studio features their Artist in Residence Galilee Peaches’ new body of work, Mountain Theatre. For more information about Second Shift Studio please visit their website, secondshiftstudiospace.org.

This spring there will most likely be more inclement weather. Minnesota weather can be unpredictable. Therefore, it is essential to take care of yourself and each other.

Sage Holben

Recipe
Almond Bars
Sage Holben

Second Shift Studio, formerly a linoleum shop, is located at 1128 Payne Ave. It was purchased in 2017 by East Side residents, Chris Larson and Kriss Zulkosky. According to their website, their mission is to create a unique and inspiring space where artists and art lovers can come together to create and share their work. Second Shift Studio offers a variety of art classes and workshops for all ages and skill levels.

Looking for a new hobby for yourself or your child? Perhaps you’ve always wanted to learn an instrument or broaden your instrumental talents. Briana Lyn Studios is a multi-artist music studio that provides in-home music lessons such as piano, voice, and guitar. These teachers provide lessons to students of all ages and skill levels.

Briana Lyn Studios and its teachers have been teaching music students across the Twin Cities since 2013. "I have been a singer-songwriter my whole life and wanted to help other musicians and singers find their voices and discover how much fun learning music can be," Briana said.

The philosophy behind Briana Lyn is that the teachers want to give their musicians and singers the skills and knowledge to play the songs they love. They don’t just want to teach their students how to be a good musician, they want to help them become a great person through personalized lessons from teachers who really care about their students as a person — not just what they can produce.

“When you learn music you learn about posture, poise, personal beauty, fine motor skills, positive attitude, positive self-worth (healthy self-esteem), great character, work ethic, personal accountability, perseverance, and creativity. Music lessons teach delayed gratification which is something often not instilled in young people today. This is something we want to instill in the students of all ages,” Briana explained. Each day, Briana and the teachers see students light up when they finally understand something and when what they’ve been working on finally starts to click — it makes their workday fun and interesting. The teachers see the students’ confidence go up, feeling proud of themselves. There is something special about their gratification that they can’t find through electronics.

Briana’s biggest inspiration comes from having amazing teachers and music/voice coaches she’s worked with throughout the years. “They were amazing people and were often a listening ear when I needed one. I want our studio to be a place where musicians and singers can be mentored and inspired to go after their dreams, whatever path they decide to take. Being able to inspire and help others discover their passion is one of the best jobs there is!” Briana stated.

Briana and her teachers have one message for those interested in taking music lessons, “We know everyone’s lives are busy which is why we make learning music convenient for you. We have two options for your busy schedule. Teachers will travel to your home, or you can come to our space!” Briana stated.

“We are excited to connect with you and help you grow musically! We want to give you the skills and knowledge to sing and play the songs you love!” Briana exclaimed.

Frosting

2 ½ C powdered sugar
2 T. C. milk
1 ½ tsp. almond extract
Beat until smooth. Spread on cooled bars. Top with sliced almonds.

Mix until crumbly. Pat into 9” x 13” pan. Bake: 350 degrees for 15 minutes

Second Shift Studio, formerly a linoleum shop, is located at 1128 Payne Ave. It was purchased in 2017 by East Side residents, Chris Larson and Kriss Zulkosky.

Baker: 350 degrees for 15 minutes

Second layer:
12 ounces cream cheese, softened
3 eggs
1 ½ C sugar
1 ½ tsp. almond extract
Mix and pour over bottom layer. Bake again at 350 degrees for 15 to 20 minutes.

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Sage Holben

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Bottom layer:
1 ½ C flour
1 C sugar
1 T. C. butter
½ tsp. salt
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May 3, 1970: Jimi Hendrix brought his Cry of Love Tour to St. Paul on this day. His concert began at 8 p.m. on a Sunday in the St. Paul Auditorium. Tickets sold for $4.45, $5, and $5.50. The sound system would be run by McCune of San Francisco. The two groups that appeared in support of Hendrix were Savages and GZ. Here is the set list from the event:

- "Fire"
- "Room Full of Mirrors"
- "Lover Man"
- "Hear My Train a Comin'"
- "Ezy Ryder"
- "Machine Gun"
- "Freedom"
- "Foxy Lady"
- "The Star-Spangled Banner"
- "Purple Haze"
- "Voodoo Child"

Hendrix explained some of Voodoo Child. "I'd like to do a slow blues about this cat who feels kinda down, 'cause his old lady put him down, and his people and family don't want him around, so he had this big old long frown, and had to drag his ass down to the railroad station waitin' for the train to come take him away on the road.

After the main concert Jimi headed toward the back stage, completed his solo with his teeth and the show was over.

May 4, 1985: Today starts the Cinco de Mayo on St. Paul’s West Side neighborhood. The festival celebrates the Mexican heritage, culture, and history that has united the Saint Paul Mexican-American community.

The day is observed to commemorate the Mexican army’s victory over French forces invading the country at the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862.

In 1985, community members and business people in Payne Avenue organized to create a celebration in Saint Paul. The goal was to celebrate the community and its businesses, but also to establish the West Side of Saint Paul as a destination place. The festival helped preserve culture, no longer have fear of displacement again, and preserve the memory of the community. In doing so, a vision of cultural economic stability, maintenance and ownership grew.

The most highly attended event, and one of the best reasons to go, is the Cinco de Mayo — West Side Parade. Thousands of individuals come from all over to witness the West Side floats from local organizations within the community and authentic Mexican dancers as they trek down Cesar Chavez Street in Saint Paul.

May 15, 2007: The Payne Avenue State Bank at 961-63 Payne Avenue was placed on the National Register of Historic Places today. Constructed in 1923, with its four large decorative columns, it probably is the most impressive building on this commercial corridor of the East Side. A group of people stand outside the Payne Avenue State Bank at 961-63 Payne Avenue.

The fact that there was a streetcar route on Payne Avenue was an important part of the street life. The building served as a center of commerce on a street that has been a major contributor to the city’s immigrant history. When it opened, the streetscape was filled with Scandinavian businesses and the structure became known as “The Swedish Bank Building.” Over the years, it was important to Germans, Italians, and other groups.

The Beaux-Arts style building was designed by William L. Allan who began practice in St. Paul in 1906, specializing in church and school architecture. After many years the bank was closed and the structure fell into disrepair.

In 1999, a neighborhood group bought the building and by 2007, they had completed an award-winning renovation of the historic bank. They brought finance and business to the city’s immigrant history. When it opened, the streetscape was filled with Scandinavian businesses and the structure became known as “The Swedish Bank Building.” Over the years, it was important to Germans, Italians, and other groups.

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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.

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 daytonsbluffdistrictforum@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 daytonsbluffdistrictforum.org
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May 23, 1965: After years of heated debate, the State of Minnesota decided to adopt Daylight Saving Time and the Legislature passed the bill on this day that set in motion the plan to make the change statewide. There were strong opinions on both sides of the issue, some thought it was necessary for businesses to be successful, while others thought that it was a terrible idea. Farmers thought it wasn’t needed and wouldn’t change the way they farmed, because, one said, “the morning sun does not dry the dew on day-light savings time.” Even movie theaters got involved into the conversation, predicting that the change would hurt them because no one would go see a movie while it was still light out.

However, the city of Saint Paul decided to make the change two weeks earlier on May 9, while the rest of the nation stayed on Standard Time. So, for two unusual weeks, Saint Paul was an hour in front of the time in Minneapolis. Most local businesses in the Capital City moved their clocks ahead, while Government offices stayed on Standard Time. One short-lived result was that mail arrived at homes an hour earlier in Saint Paul.

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