The East Side Skate Park of Dreams

Mandy Okonek

If you build it, they will come. Members of the Eastside Skate Park Taskforce have lofty aspirations way cooler than a ball field in the middle of nowhere. My apologies to the baseball fans, wait — no, you'll have two fields, I take that back, it’s time for alternative sports to get some love. The Eastside Skatepark Taskforce don’t want just any skate park, they want THE skate park. A destination recreation space, a community hub celebrating skate-culture that puts Heritage Park on the map while honoring the historical and cultural significance of the space. To solicit design bids from contractors outside of the City of St. Paul, the crew of skateboard enthusiasts took their case to the Senate and won! Supported by members of Saint Paul City Council, (Thanks, Jane Prince) and Saint Paul Parks and Recreation, The Taskforce pleaded their case to the Minnesota Senate who passed bill S.F. No. 433. Here’s the technical verbiage of the bill penned by Senator Foung Hawj.

"Last week there was a rally at the Capitol to get funds for skate parks in the state trying to raise upwards of 18 million dollars. If this passes, we could apply for that program. I think we could get up to a million dollars and whatever money you get from that program the state will match it too.”

The MN Skate Park Grant program will fund the construction of world-class skate parks throughout Minnesota with matching grants. It just needs to pass the senate. According to cityofskate.org, there are currently 35+ skate park projects planned in the state in need of funding. Please visit CityOfSkate.org for more information on this grant program and to access a template to request the Senate pass bills SF676/HF670 and SF1944/HF2030.

President of the Minnesota Senate, Eric and his crew worked with Alice Messer, Saint Paul Park and Recreation’s Construction Manager, and Senator Hawj to present their bill to the Minnesota Senate. The forward momentum of the Taskforce is not only relying on the potential of the grant program passing; it is looking into every avenue of potential funding. They plan to work with artists and environmental nonprofits to incorporate design elements to balance the unique juxtaposition of nature while providing skateboarders the park of their dreams.

According to taskforce member Eric Salinas, this Senate bill saved the day. Salinas or “Skatepark Eric,” as many folks will call him, has been a vocal member of the Taskforce since its inception nearly two years ago. Eric finds time to attend meetings and promote pop-up events in between his full-time chef gig at Can Can Wonderland and DJ-ing at White Squirrel Bar. Eric attended the Senate hearing and shared some thoughts about the next moves of his Taskforce crew.

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The East Side Skate Park is not just a skatepark, it’s a thing. Members of the Taskforce with Senator Foung Hawj. From left to right, Brenda Hlope (Midwest Skateboarding Alliance), Alice Messer (Saint Paul Parks & Recreation), Senator Foung Hawj, Lindsey Lyford, and Eric Salinas.

Save the Date for Art in the Hollow

Mark your calendar, Art in the Hollow will be on June 3 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Swede Hollow Park. For more information call 651-776-0550.

Come find this hidden gem of St. Paul’s park system, and we’ll open the summer by filling the park with local art! You can park your car at Saint Paul Brewing and wander through the reimagined city history en route to the park, winding the path under the shadow of the old Hamm Brewery buildings. You’ll find art, nature, food, history, and community!

ART IN THE HOLLOW

St. Paul Farmers’ Market at Union Depot

Shop Local for Spring

Visit St. Paul

Ready for spring? The Saint Paul Farmers’ Market will be popping up at Union Depot each month on the first Wednesday. Grab a friend and shop fresh spring favorites!

Come get lunch from food vendors, grab a recipe card with directions using items from our vendors, and support local.

Other activities include a thematic photo op, spring-themed coloring stations, and spin-the-wheel-for-prizes!

This is a free event to attend and is inside the Head House of Union Depot near Station 81 Restaurant. Union Depot, 214 4th St. E. St. Paul. Questions? Contact 651-262-2700.

Upcoming dates: May 7, June 7, and July 5.

Grand Old Day is Back!

Festivities Scheduled for June 4

Jennifer Gascoigne

It’s been a few years in the making, but Grand Old Day is officially back, and you can be a part of it on Sunday, June 4 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Grand Old Day is a 100% volunteer-run event, showcasing the best of the neighborhood and surrounding area’s cuisine, shopping, and tourism — all along St. Paul’s historic Grand Av.

The beloved street fair began back in 1973 and invites the community together to enjoy the many small businesses that call this neighborhood home with shopping from local vendors, food, beverages, and activities for all ages and species (well-behaved pets are extremely welcome). Activities include a Fun Run, which for a fee of $25, gets you a two-mile run, commemorative t-shirt, and unlimited bragging rights (visit grandavem.com to register). If running isn’t your cup of (iced) tea (hey, this is a summer event, afterall), you can kick off your Grand Old Day experience with the Grand Avenue Business Association’s (GABA) parade, which is the official start to the day’s festivities at 9 a.m.

If ramming on’t your thing, grab a treat, a beverage, and your leashed dog, iguana, pig, or other animal buddy and enjoy live music all along the avenue.

For more information on vendors and attractions as it becomes available, visit the Grand Old Day page on Facebook, facebook.com/GrandOldDay.

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Upcoming dates: May 7, June 7, and July 5.

See you on the Avenue!

Photo provided by Grand Old Day Facebook Group
Post Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO)

Information Gap Deprives

Minnesota Students and Families of Info Required by Minnesota Statute, Costing them Millions

People for PSEO

A new report shows most Minnesota districts and charter school websites are withholding information from families and students that can save them millions of dollars and is required by state law. Annual reminders from the Minnesota Department of Education to school district leaders since 2015 are not working. This information is found in a report released by People for PSEO in its 2023 PSEO Information Gap Report. Earlier research demonstrates that PSEO saves Minnesota families almost $60 million per year, and MN taxpayers about $15 million a year. Withholding the required information robs Minnesota families of hugely valuable opportunities. Data pulled from the MN Department of Education (MDE), cited in the study, shows PSEO is a very valuable tool for choosing high school graduation gaps.

The report measures PSEO information on all 390 school district and charter school websites across Minnesota and finds widespread non-compliance with state law requiring schools to share up-to-date PSEO information with students and families. The majority of district and charter school websites in Minnesota (57.18% of 390) don’t meet their legal obligations. People for PSEO informed MDE of this noncompliance in 2022. This lack of compliance deprives students and their families of essential information needed to make informed decisions about PSEO participation, which can save thousands of dollars in college tuition costs and provide a head start on careers. This report also shows that roto-tiller or heaving that shovel into the ground for anything, call 811. Xcel will have a trained technician check the area on your property or on the boulevard to make sure there are no wires, pipes, other hidden surprises in the designated digging area. Usually, someone checks within a day, marking the ‘no-dig’ area with painted lines and everyone is safe. In case of a gas leak, call 800-895-1999. Power Outage: 800-895-1999.

This play is a funny, cute, and heartwarming musical of why these actors do what they do. This play is seeking writers and help with online content, idea generation, and ad sales — join us at our next meeting on Friday, May 5 at 11 a.m. If you’d like to attend, call 651-776-0550 or email dayton bluffdistrictforum@gmail.com for more information. We are currently meeting at the Dayton’s Bluff Library.

Families of Swede Hollow

The mission of the Friends of Swede Hollow is to protect the natural beauty of Swede Hollow Park and remember its history. Swede Hollow Park and remember its history. The next Friends of Swede Hollow meeting will be held on May 16. The meeting begins at 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month. Bring your neighbors!

For more information, email karindupaul12@comcast.net or call 651-776-0550.

Read the paper online at dayton bluffdistrictforum.org

PSEO Page Status

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Xcel Phone Numbers


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Dayton’s Bluff Community Council Board of Directors Meeting

The Dayton’s Bluff Community Council is inviting everyone to attend the Annual Meeting on Monday, May 15, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the East Side Enterprise Center at 804 Margaret Street. Come meet your neighbors, share your ideas, hear from others, and elect board members. Your voice matters!

Welcome address from the Board President, remarks from other local officials, open discussion with your neighbors, and board members. Looking forward to seeing you and serving your neighborhood needs. All are welcome.

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, 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, SMRLS will provide one.

Community Garden Plots Available

Skidmore Park Community Garden has 24 raised bed plots that are available to the public. Located near Earl Street and East 4th Street. Cost is $20 per season. Grants are available. For more information or to request an application, email Steve at SkidmoreGarden@gmail.com.

Dayton’s Bluff District Forum

May 2023

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Twin Cities Mobile Market

The Twin Cities Mobile Market is a grocery store on wheels that brings affordable, healthy food directly into neighborhoods. The Mobile Market stops at Parkway Gardens Apartments, located at 1147-1183 Hudson Road, on Wednesdays, from 2 to 3 p.m.

New National Suicide Prevention Hotline Number

988 has been designated as the new three-digit dialing code that will route callers to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. Text or Dial. 988 just launched as an alternative to calling 911.

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

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Two New Mounds Parks

The new Muelpen and Skidmore Gardens parks opened in March 2023, just a little over a year after the old one was closed and torn down. The new store is much larger and has complete food and clothing departments, not to mention plumbing, electrical and appliances, too.
The Friends of Swede Hollow 2022-2023 Winter Photo Contest Winners Announced

Brad Griffith

On April 7 the winners of the Friends of Swede Hollow 2023 Winter Photo Contest were announced. First Place: Mandy Okonek — Through the Looking Glass. Second Place: Wolfe Browender — Among Ice and Water. Third Place: Doug Champeau — Winter Walk.

First Place winner, Through the Looking Glass.

Honorable Mention: Mandy Okonek — Before Sunrise

Honorable Mention: Kathy Sidles — Northern Cardinal in the Sun

The rules of the contest were that the photos must be taken within Swede Hollow Park between March 21 and June 20, 2023. Prizes awarded are $100 for First Place, $50 for Second Place, $25 for Third Place, and Neighborhood Bragging Rights for Honorable Mention.

Senator Foung Hawj, who was named Chair of the Senatorial Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee starting in January, assumed the leadership position that Senator Hawj has already served three times. Earlier this year, he also was re-elected by his colleagues as an Assistant Leader of the majority DFL Caucus, and named Chair of the Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee starting in January.

“I am honored to be elected Senator Chair of the LCCMR. It’s an important position that requires an understanding of how critical our state’s land, water and environmental resources are to Minnesota’s quality of life,” said Sen. Hawj, who was already serving on the commission before being elected Senator Chair. “I am pleased to be able to play a key leadership role in how our state funds those resources.”

The 17-member LCCMR, recommends projects — primarily from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) — that help maintain and enhance Minnesota’s environment and natural resources. The LCCMR is made up of five Senators, five Representatives, five citizen appointed by the governor, one citizen appointed by the Senate, and one citizen appointed by the House.

It’s not always been easy, said Sen. Hawj. “It’s not always been easy, but I’m honored to have the opportunity to serve in leadership positions when important decisions are being made. It’s because of the support of my Senate colleagues and the people of the East Side of St. Paul who elected me. I know I have a lot of responsibility to make decisions about the future of our state’s environment and natural resources and I’ll do my best to honor those decisions.”

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Second place winner, Among Ice and Water.

Third place winner, Winter Walk.

Honorable Mention, Before Sunrise.

Honorable Mention, Northern Cardinal in the Sun.

First place winner, Through the Looking Glass.

Congratulations to the Winners of the Friends of Swede Hollow 2022-2023 Winter Photo Contest!
Bits and Pieces

G.B. LeRoy

James Ranstrom posted this following about old St. Paul, Minnesota, on Face- book that features a creek not far from Phalen Creek.

“Once of the greatest folly’s of early St. Paul was to dam up Trout/Phalen Creek in 1850. Promoters used brush and wood to plug the stream so that a area of slack water would allow steamboats to go two miles up Trout Creek. Such was the idea of competing entrepreneurship. Promoters further claimed this landing would be farther north than St. Paul’s lower landing or Cheever’s Landing in St. Anthony (pretty close to being true). Of course, you would have to deal with the bottomless quagmire of the surrounding area. Fortunately, nobody really bought into this scheme and Baptist Hill came to the rescue supplying nearly endless fill to make the area somewhat habitual and provide solid land for railroads. This 1848 map still shows the hemorraging effects of trying to modify the early landscape of St. Paul. Bad idea, Sir!”

There were four St. Paul educators included out of only 11 finalists for Minnesota Teacher of the Year. The four who teach in St. Paul schools are Michael Houston (math) and Molly Keenan (social studies) from Harding High School, Sorcha Nix (science) from Open World Learning and Fathimath Eliza Rasheed (theatre) from Global Arts Plus upper campus.

Another recent item that Mike Ries put up on Facebook was about the old Viaduct Inn that was on 1056 East 7th Street.

“One of many East ‘Side bars that fell victim to changing times. When the large employers on the East Side, Ham- mers, Whirlpool, 3M went out of business or relocated, the bars their employees fre- quented fell on hard times. The Viaduct was purchased by the Saint Paul Port Au- thority, in July 2008 and using their usual great public relation skills, had the Viaduct demolished in the fall of 2008 without any public notice. To be fair to the Port Authority, the building had some issues with mold and the previous owner had sold off most of the interior that was of any value. The Port Authority did give the East Side what it needs most, another vacant lot.”

Kids Corner

Suggested Titles by Dayton’s Bluff Library Staff

In May, we celebrate Asian American and Pacific Is- lander month. There are so many amazing children’s books by AAPI authors, and this month we’re excited to share some writ- ten by authors who live right here in Minne- sota!

A Map Into the World written by Kao Kalia Yang and illustrated by Seo Kim

Paj Ntaub, a young Hmong American girl, spends a busy year with her family in their new home, and seeks a way to share the beauty of the world with a grieving neighbor.

The Most Beautiful Thing written by Kao Kalia Yang and illustrated by Khoa Le

Drawn from Kao Kalia Yang’s childhood experiences as a Hmong refugee, this heartfelt picture book offers a win- dow into the life of a family with little money and a great deal of love.

My Footprints written by Bao Phi and illustrated by Bassa Tran

Upset after being bullied, Thuy, a Vietnamese Ameri- can, pretends she is different creatures, including an especially strong, wonder- ful being made up of her two mothers and her- self. Includes note about the phoenix and the Sarabha.

Astrid and Apollo written by V.T. Bida- nia and illustrated by Dara Lashia Lee

Astrid and Apollo are heading to the farm with Grandma and Uncle Meng! The twins enjoy Grandma’s funny stories and Uncle Meng’s magic tricks while picking vegetables to sell at the farmers’ mar- ket. But Uncle Meng is looking for something else to pick—a magic pep- per! Can Astrid and Apollo help make Pile Meng’s long-held wish to find a magic pepper come true? Readers will love joining the twins on their ad- ventures in this chapter book series about a Hmong American family.

Suni Lee by Jon Fishman

Suni Lee won the gymnastics individual all-around gold medal at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021. Learn how this US gymnast achieves her remarkable routines and explore what her life is like outside of gymnastics.

City Council Approves Deeply Affordable Housing Funds for Ashland Apartments

City of St. Paul

The Saint Paul City Council approved using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding for the Ashland Apart- ments, a supportive housing develop- ment by RS EDEN for extremely low-in- come residents.

The project involves the rehabilitation and adaptive reuse of an existing, vacant building at 512 Ashland Avenue in the Summit-University neighborhood. The repurposed property will feature 17 single room occupancy units for individuals with incomes restricted to 30% Area Me- dian Income (AMI) or below for the next 40 years. 10 of the units will be specifi- cally reserved for homeless individuals and all 17 units will be reserved for per- sons with a disability and will have sup- portive services provided.

Prior to 2021, RS EDEN operated this site as a group residential facility. They will continue to serve as the owner, prop- erty manager and service provider.

“This investment in supportive housing is vital for our growing city, and I'm proud that it found its home in Ward 1,” said Councilmember Russel Balenger.

“The Ashland Apartments have served vulnerable members of our community for years, and I'm thrilled that it will con- tinue to do so in partnership with RS EDEN.”

The rehabilitation work should begin in April and will involve external renova- tions (including roofing, siding, windows and security improvements) and interior improvements (such as plumbing, boiler, flooring and an expanded commercial kitchen).

Once the upgrades are complete, resi- dent referrals will come through Ramsey County Coordinated Entry as well as from a network of local residential providers.

Ramsey County has also allocated capi- tal funding support from their Inclusive Housing Development spring 2022 solic- itation and all 17 units were awarded Housing Support subsidy from Ramsey County Community Human Services.

“Investing into Ashland Apartments represents our dedication to serve our residents, including those previously homeless or incarcerated, in order to build a resilient and equitable communi- ty,” said Ramsey County Housing Rede- velopment Authority Board Chair Mai Chong Xiong. “We are extremely grate- ful for our partnership with the City of Saint Paul and the commitment we’ve made together to ensure investments into deeply affordable housing infrastructure are strategic and provide safe, stable, and permanent housing for our residents who need it most.”

The City of Saint Paul and Ramsey County pledged to dedicate $74 million in federal ARPA funding for deeply af- fordable housing in December 2021. This is among the largest public invest- ments in deeply affordable housing in the country. The City’s investment of $37.5 million into the 30% AMI Deeply Affordable Housing Fund will support multiple recommended projects, and once approved, should create 225 new units of housing for Saint Paul families earning 36% or less of Area Median In- come.

“The support from both the City of Saint Paul and Ramsey County is allow- ing RS EDEN to further propel its mis- sion by better responding to the commu- nity need for safe, affordable and sup- portive housing,” said Caroline Hood, President and CEO of RS EDEN. “As we work to tackle the growing homeless population in our community, our part- nerships are that much more critical.”
What’s Happening at the Dayton’s Bluff Library?

Check out a new read from Dayton’s Bluff Library

Saint Paul Public Library staff at the Dayton’s Bluff branch connect visitors to great books every day. Not everyone is aware of the wide variety of titles available at the public library that are free to check out and take home.

Here are some collections to explore:

- **Graphic Novels** aren’t just bound collections of action-packed superhero comics, they’re all kinds of stories told in a set of panels. No matter your age or genre, there is a graphic novel out there for you. Here are a couple recommendations from our staff to get you started:
  - **Teen Monday Reads @ Dayton’s Bluff Library**: Join us every Tuesday evening from 6:30-8 p.m. for a safe and fun space to hang out, eat snacks, and meet new people. Stop in for Dangaregina and Dragons on May 2 and 16, Teens Know Best Book Club on May 9, and Teens Know Best on May 23rd.

- **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.

Current hours are available online at [library.org](http://library.org) or call 651-793-1699.

- **Best Book Club on**
  - May 2023
  - Terangement and install the circle. A circle is not a kumbaya gathering of neighborhood moments, to creating and carding furniture from alleyways [my de]

- **Porch**

  **ARISE! Speak Up! Act Up!**

  **Sage Holben**

  My Councilmember proclaimed to the recent “Community Conversation” group of residents gathered at the Dayton’s Bluff community/rec center that Saint Paul is in great shape and doing very well. I haven’t found anyone in my area who agrees with that, but I guess it’s all one’s perspective. Dayton’s Bluff district council director gave a half-hearted list of what residents could do on their own to make Dayton’s Bluff a better place to live and work while our district council continues to create order within the organization. Suggestions include everything from picking up other people’s trash and discarded furniture from alleeways [my description, not hers], creating pleasant neighborhood aesthetics, to creating and installing a traffic calming circle. FYI the circle is not a kumbaya gathering of friendly people, but a permanent structure that requires Public Works to bless the intersection and install the circle.

- **View From My Porch**

- **ARISE! Speak Up! Act Up!**

  **Sage Holben**

Most of the suggestions already happen simply because our local residents have largely found we cannot rely on support from our city-funded departments. I’m not saying ALL departments are not helpful or resistant. Sometimes getting help appears to be having a helpful connection, a rapport, perhaps how one person come in to play. It’s perhaps simply how one person thinks the person with power views the request or situation. I used to think differently about something and have come fully around now. I think someone who serves the public (i.e. policing, traffic or noise control, or other help on the requestor or situation.

- **Dayton’s Bluff Library, 645 East 7th Street, is a public library branch located inside the Metro 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. The outdoor book drop is always open.**

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- **All Saint Paul Public Library locations will be closed Thursday, May 11 for staff training and Sunday, May 28 - Monday, May 29 in observance of Memorial Day.**

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- **The April Fools’ Day blizzard brought with it some very heavy snow that damaged many trees in Dayton’s Bluff. This tree on Euclid at Cypress lost a large limb that blocked the street. The tree will need to be removed due to the extensive damage done to it.**

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Kimchi Hoang, an artist working in oil and watercolor, created abstract paintings in a group called exhibition “TECHO IN SPRING” that was recently shown at a venue at 967 Payne Avenue. She lived in Viet Nam while the war was raging and eventually came to the Twin Cities of Minnesota. She went to Minneapolis Community and Technical College and then onto the University of Minnesota, earning a Bachelor of Arts. Here are some of Hoang’s thoughts about her creations: “My artworks reflect my soul, my feelings, my inner work. Look closely and you can see images of the traditional culture that surrounded me in Vietnam and that is still a part of me. I engage with the world around me through art. I guide people to look inward and to reflect that surrounds them.” Another quote on the art leaflet said “My life has been shaped by many forces has moved in unintended directions. This is true of my paintings too. My ideas come to me in dreams or in fleeting memories. As quickly can, I commit the images to paper, and then I feel free and fortunate. I feel boundless happiness.” Hoang says that images seem to be random, but they come together “suggesting movement in the natural world” in these paintings, and viewers see “brush strokes moving like a gust of wind.” Hoang continues that she engages with the world through art. “I guide people to look inward, and to reflect on the environment that surrounds them. You can see that the artist strongly believes that “Art is an expressive language.”

Photos to the right by Steve Trimble

May Events Happening in Ramsey County

May 1, 12:15 p.m.; St. Paul City Hall-Ramsey County Courthouse Tour—Hour-long public tours are offered twice a month of Saint Paul City Hall-Ramsey County Courthouse, a 21-story art deco high-rise.

May 1, 1-2 p.m.; Virtual Job Club: Resumes and Interviews — Create a resume that gets you the interview.

May 2, 9, 1-4 p.m.; Housing and Conciliation Court Self-Help Center — Free legal consultation from volunteer attorneys is available for those with Conciliation and Housing Court issues.

May 2, 6, 4-5:30 p.m. and 6-7:30 p.m.; Power Within Us — Power Within Us helps support young adults who are currently on probation in Ramsey County connect to paid job training and education programs.

May 4, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; Open Senior Skate at Aldrich Center — Senior Skate is open to 55-plus.

May 4, 8 a.m.; Spring Bird Discovery Walk — Join our experienced birding volunteers to learn about birds of the area.

May 4, 10 a.m.-noon; Drop-In Discovery Stations — Tamarack’s Discovery Hosts will be on-hand on Saturday mornings with nature’s most wonderful surprises!

May 7, 3:30-5 p.m.; Free Open Skate at TCO Sports Garden—Sharpen your skating skills or just get out on the ice for some exercise! Open sessions are free and open to all ages and skating abilities.

May 8, 1-2 p.m.; Virtual Job Club: Networking — Join this job club session to learn job networking methods.

May 9, 11 a.m.; Union Depot Tour — Tour Union Depot to learn about the history, recent renovation, sustainability initiatives, expanding transit options and much more.

May 10, 11 a.m.-noon; Youth Works! Orientation — Come learn about Youth Works!, a county-wide youth employment partnership initiative.

For more information about these events, go to ramseycounty.us/calendar and choose May dates on the left-hand side.

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

1368 Minnehaha Ave. E., St. Paul, MN 55106
phone: 651-776-0550 E-mail: daytonsbllufdistrictforum@gmail.com

We are currently printing and distributing our newspaper quarterly. The paper is available online at daytonsbllufdistrictforum.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 published 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 daytonsbllufdistrictforum@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.

Board of Directors: Greg Cosimini, Karin DuPaul, Sage Holben, Jennifer Gascoigne, Steve Trimble
Editor/layout: Allison Lund-Zalewski; Editorial Associate: Mark Gallagher
Staff: Mandy Okonek

Read the paper online at daytonsbllufdistrictforum.org
Gold Line BRT Construction Begins in Dayton's Bluff

Compiled from information provided by Metro Transit metrorail.org/gold-line-project

Metro Gold Line bus rapid transit (BRT) line construction has begun in Dayton's Bluff.

In early April the noise wall along Hudson Road was removed in most areas from Earl St. to Third St. along with the hill it was sitting on from Earl to Cypress. The outside lane of westbound I-94 from Etna St. to Mounds Blvd was closed and a temporary barrier was installed to facilitate work on the Gold Line route. Preparations for the Mounds Blvd. station and BRT lanes have begun from Third St. to the dead end on Conway St.

On April 17, Earl St. was closed over I-94 between Hudson Road and Pacific St. The closure will continue until early summer 2023. At the same time, Hudson Road was closed between Cypress St. and Earl St., including the Earl-Hudson intersection. This closure will be in effect until at least May 1 as crews remove pavement and excavate the area for utility construction.

Work on the storm water holding pond near Griffith St. and Johnson Pkwy., beginning with the installation of the clay liner, should begin by late April assuming ground conditions are dry enough.

The staging area near Hudson Road and Griffith St. has begun to fill up with building materials and construction equipment. A section of the noise wall has been removed to allow heavy machinery to move from the staging area onto the cleared westbound lane of I-94.

This is a very complex and dynamic project so changes to this schedule could occur. For updated information on the Gold Line project, questions, comments or concerns visit metrorail.org/gold-line-project, email goldline@metrotransit.org or call 651-602-1919.

Photos below and to the right by Greg Cosimini

You got somethin' to say? Say it here!

The Dayton’s Bluff District Forum welcomes all opinions and neighborhood anecdotes — send yours to:
daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com

Want to write about something that interests you? We want to hear it! Submit your stories and articles to the email above.

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

Deadline for the June issue of the Forum is May 10, 2023.

Read our paper online at daytonsbluffdistrictforum.org
The Story of the Hot Dish

Put together by Steve Trimble

Minnesota is well known for the use of the term of one food as Hot Dish instead of Casserole. Some other places that do the same are areas of western Wisconsin and eastern North Dakota. There is a question about when the use of Hot Dish began. At least people have been researched and up until now the earliest written record of Hot Dish has been found in a cookbook in Mankato published in 1930. There may be some older writings discovered and we might never know if people were using the phrase in discussions. Here is the 1930 recipe that you might want to try. I have found some early St. Paul Hot Dish recipes. Notice they also include some canned ingredients.

Hot Dish

Mrs. C. W. Anderson, Grace Lutheran Ladies Aid, Mankato, p. 49

Directions: Fry two pounds of hamburger, fry, but not till brown, two large onions. Boil in salted water until tender one box Creamettes. Put in baking dish the fried hamburger, onions, Creamettes, and add one bunch of celery cut up, one can of peas, one can of tomato soup, and one quart tomatoes, salt and pepper. Stir all together and enough water so liquid covers all. Bake.

A variation of “Dad’s Hot Dish” from the top-eight corner recipe

Hot Dish

The Four Circle Cook Book, Ladies Aid Society of Fairmount M. E. Church, St Paul Minnesota, 1935, p. 23

Ingredients:
-1 cup rice, cook and drain
-1 can Golden Bantam corn starch
-1/2 cup cubed American cheese
-1/2 cup milk
-1 green pepper, cut fine and simmer in 1 tablespoon butter
-1 1/2 red pimento chopped
-1 pound lean pork steak, diced and browned in butter

Directions: Mix all and bake one hour. Serves 8.

Hot Dish with Tater Tots

Mrs. E. Santa, Be Our Guest, Memorial Lutheran Church, 1212 Earl Street, St. Paul, Mn.,1979, p. 80.

Over the years the recipes changed as cooks created new taste treats with the dish. One example is the introduction of the Tater Tots that were invented in 1953. Soon after that Tater Tots were being used in Hot Dishes.

Ingredients:
-1 package frozen tater tots
-16 ounce water chestnuts, sliced
-1 1/2 cup uncooked rice
-1 can cream of chicken soup
-1 1/2 cup cooked celery
-3/4 cup water
-1 1/2 can peas, drained and save juice
-1 1/2 cup mushroom soup
-1 1/2 pound ground meat, thinned with pea juice
-1 2/3 cup button mushrooms

Directions: Preheat over 325. Mix all ingredients together (except mushroom soup and pea juice) in large 9x13” casserole the day before you are going to serve. Before baking pour mushroom mixed with pea juice (1 cup) over mixture. Then cover with tater tots and then sprinkle with grated cheese. Bake 1 hour and 15 minutes at 325. Serves 15.

Tuna Fish Hot Dish

Mrs. W. S. Kindle, Favorite Recipes Ladies Auxiliary, Cherokee Presbyterian Church, St. Paul, Mn. 1930’s, p. 29

Sometimes the recipe mentions Dad or Grandma or other names as part of the recipe. Here’s one for Dad.

Ingredients:
-1 1/2 pounds ground beef
-1 1/2 quarts sliced potatoes
-1 onion
-a little celery and green pepper
-1 can tomato soup

Directions: Place potatoes in baking dish alternating with beef and onions, celery and pepper. Pour tomato soup over top. Bake in slow oven 1 hour. Serves 8 people.

Hot Dish

The Four Circle Cook Book, Ladies Aid Society of Fairmount M. E. Church, St Paul Minnesota, 1935, p. 23

Ingredients:
-1 1/2 pounds ground beef
-1 1/2 cups sliced potatoes
-1 onion
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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 source of information, please consider filling out the form below. Any amount is appreciated; you may also make memorial donations, or include the Forum in your legacy planning. If you have been our Friend in the past, please consider making a donation in 2023. Our goal for 2023 is $2,500; will you help us reach our goal?

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

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Thank you for your support!

Read our paper online at daytonsbuffdistrictforum.org

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: daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com

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-Donate by going to: givemn.org/organization/Hopewell-Communications-Incorporated.

-Be sure to keep up with us online in one of three ways:
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Many thanks to our Friends of the Forum 2023 donors:

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