

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

Volume 38, No. 4

May 2024

"The Voice of the Community"

Here Comes a Regular!

Mandy Okonek

Brandon Gerster knows the favorite frosty treats of all his regular customers. During his 23-year tenure managing the Dairy Queen on Maryland and Clarence, many regulars became friends. John, also known as "large cone guy," always ordered two large cones and six large vanilla malts. The two ice cream cones were a personal indulgence; he ate those while he waited for his malts. In a recent heartfelt post on an East Side social media page, Brandon announced the closure of what was a favorite summer haunt for many East Siders. The Dairy Queen on Maryland and Clarence is now permanently closed.

At 14, Brandon was hired to dip Dilly Bars after school. At 17, he was promoted to manager, a position he held steadfastly through the transition of two different owners and the shifting dynamics of a neighborhood he holds dear. Brandon possessed what some may say is the

lost art of good customer service. His hospitality skills went above and beyond ice cream. Brandon was quick to offer a hand to people in need either by changing tires in the parking lot or helping people in traffic accidents before first responders could arrive. For him, Dairy Queen was more than just a paycheck.

Chances are if you frequented Dairy Queen, Brandon knew your order. Maybe, more importantly, he cared. From the people who loved the chocolate fudge shake and whose son just went off to college in Duluth, to the older couple who would stay and chat in the drive-through, you were more than customers. Brandon remembers you fondly. Two-cone-six-vanilla-malt-guy, John, keeps in touch, often texting over the holidays. Brandon didn't comment on why Dairy Queen closed or what was next. For Brandon, it was always about the people he served, "all the regulars I have had over the years and how we both watched each other grow older and we became friends more than just customers." Brandon concludes, "I love the East Side [and] I loved that Dairy Queen more than anyone will ever know."



Mandy Okonek

The Dairy Queen on Maryland and Clarence has permanently closed, but many East Siders have great memories of the establishment.

Art in the Hollow 15 Years of Art on the East Side!

Art in the Hollow

Swede Hollow Park is hard to find, but we'll help you out on June 1. 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 ruins of 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!

Details: **Saturday, June 1, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.** Where: Swede Hollow Park
Parking: Saint Paul Brewing, 688 Minnehaha Ave E, St Paul.

Interested in being an artist or vendor? Information and registration can be found in the link:

artinthehollow.org/artists.html.

ART IN THE HOLLOW



Greg Cosimini

The roof has been installed on one of the Gold Line BRT stations at Mounds Boulevard near Third Street.

Gold Line BRT Construction Update

Compiled from information provided by Metro Transit

metrotransit.org/gold-line-project

The METRO Gold Line will open on March 22, 2025, project leaders have announced. The Gold Line is one of three new BRT lines Metro Transit will open next year, expanding the region's network of METRO lines that provide reliable, all-day service and stations with amenities like heated and lighted shelters.

Construction on the Gold Line and related improvements, such as a new bridge connecting the cities of Oakdale and Woodbury, began in late 2022. Construction is currently 41% complete, advancing on time and under budget. The \$505.3 million project is being largely funded by the Federal Transit Administration and Ramsey and Washington counties.

When open, the Gold Line will provide all-day, daily service between downtown St. Paul and Woodbury. Buses will travel in dedicated lanes for about 70% of the 10-mile route, serving stops in St. Paul, Maplewood, Landfall, Oakdale, and Woodbury.

Road Closures, Ongoing Construction and Traffic Impacts

*On April 15, Johnson Parkway closed between Wakefield Avenue and Hudson Road underneath Interstate 94 as crews construct a bus-only bridge over Johnson Parkway. Follow posted detour route via

3rd Street, Etna Street, and Burns Avenue. The closure will remain in effect through June 2024. Pedestrian access along Johnson Parkway under I-94 will be maintained.

*Station construction continues near the intersection of Mounds Boulevard and Third Street. Crews install the station roof.

*Crews pour concrete for sidewalks and install lighting along Hudson Road between Maple Street and Johnson Parkway.

*Bridge construction continues at Johnson Parkway as crews construct bridge abutments.

*Maple Street pedestrian bridge remains closed but will reopen in 2024.

* Hudson Road east of Frank Street to Griffith Street remains closed. Access to properties is maintained from the west to Frank Street.

*Concrete lanes adjacent to Hudson Road are future bus-only lanes for the Gold Line route. They are closed to regular vehicle traffic.

*White Bear Avenue is closed until fall 2024 between Old Hudson Road and the eastbound I-94 on- and off-ramps.

*Old Hudson Road is closed between Ruth Street and McKnight Road as crews reconstruct the roadway and install underground utilities. The western driveway access on Old Hudson Road to Sun Ray Shopping Center is closed. Access to Sun Ray Shopping Center is maintained from McKnight Road. Local business access from Ruth Street to Pederson Street is maintained from Ruth Street.

For updated information on the Gold Line project, questions, comments, or concerns visit metrotransit.org/gold-line-project, email goldline@metrotransit.org or call 651-602-1919

We Want Your Feedback!

The *Forum* would like your feedback.

Would you be interested in receiving the *Forum*, sent directly to your personal email each month?

If this is something you'd like, please send an email to

daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com with your details so that we can begin sending you our paper digitally!

Other feedback about our newspaper is welcome, as well.



Neighborhood Flea Market

May 18, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Sponsored by Friends of Swede Hollow
Located in Hamm's Park, on the corner of Greenbrier and 7th.

VENDORS NEEDED!

Contact Michel Taylor at taylor672@comcast.net

Tables provided

PayPal™
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@Dayton's Bluff
District Forum

Friends of Swede Hollow

If you have a passion for history and preserving nature, please join us for our monthly meeting on the third Tuesday of every month.

Our meetings are held at the historic William Hamm's mansion, 668 Greenbrier St.

In the spirit of the area's past, we serve Hamm's beer along with other beverages and snacks. The meeting is **May 21** and starts at **6:30 p.m.** and is an excellent resource for park updates and events.

For more updates email taylor672@comcast.net or call Michel at 651-442-3366.

Dayton's Bluff District Forum Board Meeting

The *Forum* is seeking writers and help with online content, idea generation, and ad sales — join us at our next meeting on **Friday, May 3 at 11 a.m.**

If you'd like to attend, call 651-776-0550 or email daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com for more information.

We are currently meeting at the Dayton's Bluff Library.

Need Groceries?



If you are 60 or older, you may be eligible to receive a box of nutritious food every month from Second Harvest.

This box is part of a program called NAPS, and we can help you apply!

Give us a call at 651-683-2326, and someone will assist you with your application.

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

Make a difference in your community by becoming a State Health Insurance Assistance Program certified Medicare Counselor. Help people understand their Medicare options.

Visit Metroaging.org/volunteer.

Police Community Meetings

The Eastern District Saint Paul Police hosts their monthly meetings for community members at the Eastern District Police Office at 722 Payne Avenue, on the corner of Payne and Minnehaha Avenues.

The meetings are intended as a time to learn, listen, and address people's concerns about crime and other issues on the East Side. Policing meetings are held at **9 a.m. and 6 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.

Family Homeless Prevention Assistance Program

Family Homeless Prevention Assistance Program (FHPAP) funds can help single folks, too.

Here is a list of agencies that help with deposit and/or rent assistance through FHPAP:

Neighborhood House: 651-789-2500
MN Community Care: 651-266-1290
American Indian Family Center: 651-793-3803

CLUES: 612-746-3550,
YMCA: 763-493-3052

Face-to-Face: 651-224-9644

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 was recently launched as an alternative to calling 911.

Mattress and Box Spring Recycling

Saint Paul has partnered with Second Chance Recycling and Ramsey/Washington Recycling & Energy to offer residential mattress and box spring collection and recycling at no additional cost. For free curbside pick up, Saint Paul

residents must first schedule a pick up time and date with Second Chance.

For more information and scheduling details, visit stpaul.gov/mattressrecycling.

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

Xcel Phone Numbers

Gas Leak: 800-895-2999. Power Outage: 800-895-1999 .

Call 811 before you dig: Before starting that roto-tiller 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 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!

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 13 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 are on the schedule. 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 1-888-575-2954 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, SMRLS will provide one.



THE HISTORIC
MOUNDS
THEATRE

May 3, 4, 5: Twin Cities Comedy Festival. The first-ever Fearless Twin Cities Comedy Festival! Different shows each day. **Friday May 3, 6 p.m. – 10 p.m.:** Reservoir Frogs, Secret Neighbors, Hot Tub Confessions. **Saturday May 4, 4:30 p.m. – 10p.m.:** Chronicles, Double Blind Improv, Erick and Friends, Ameera Khan. **Sunday May 5, 4:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.:** Mike Dee: Sketch!, Rian Velichor, Mimeo-Lot. Tickets: \$15 each day.

Visit moundstheatre.org to purchase tickets and get more information on upcoming events.

The Historic Mounds Theatre is located at 1029 Hudson Road, St. Paul, MN 55106; 651-772-2253; historicmoundstheatre@gmail.com

Chess Club

Come join us at Karibu Grocery and Deli, located at 719 Payne Ave. in St. Paul for a weekly game of chess. All levels are welcome. We play every **Wednesday from 6-9 p.m.**

Community Garden Plots Available

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

Neighborhood Conversations About Food

We're hosting a new event, and we'd love to see you there. Join us for Neighborhood Conversations about Food Justice on the Bluff, **May 6 at 3:30 p.m.**

Email Becky about details and registration: beckym@daytonsbuff.org
Space is limited, reserve now.

Spring Migration Birding at Swede Hollow Park

May 19, 7-9 a.m.

Saint Paul Audubon Society joins with Friends of Swede Hollow, and Friends of the Parks and Trails of St. Paul, and Ramsey County to offer this great spring birding experience in the heart of St. Paul. Come learn about the history of the site and see what spring migrants might be passing through the Hollow. Those who do not want to walk the route can bring a folding chair and join Kiki Sonnen for a "bird sit" opportunity at the meeting spot.

Information: Bring binoculars and a

field guide if you have them. Dress for the weather and wear comfortable walking shoes. Binoculars are available to borrow.

Directions: Meet at the entrance to Drewry Tunnel at Swede Hollow Park across from 622 Beaumont Street, East, St. Paul 55130. Off-street parking available at the Hope Community Academy at 720 Payne Avenue, Saint Paul 55130.

Registration: No registration is required. See you and your friends at the Drewry Tunnel.

Difficulty: Approximately 1.5 miles on rolling paved paths. Mostly flat, with a short, moderate decline at the start and incline at the end. No toilet on site.

Leaders: Kathy Sidles 651-233-6804 or kesid@aol.com and Chase Davies rockybirder@gmail.com.

Who should attend? Both experienced and beginning birders. All

are welcome!

This event is sponsored by the Saint Paul Audubon Society, the Friends of Swede Hollow, and the Friends of the Parks and Trails of Ramsey County.



The Great Crested Flycatcher by Carl Hoang

Memorial Day Memories

Steve Trimble

Memorial Day is on Monday, May 27 this year. The holiday, originally called "Decoration Day," was first observed in St. Paul on May 30, 1870, when local Civil War survivors decorated the graves of around 60 deceased Union soldiers, mostly in Oakland Cemetery.

There are many former residents of our neighborhood who are buried in Oakland. Lyman Dayton is there, although that wasn't always the case. When he died in 1865, as sometimes was done in those days on large estates, he was laid to rest on his grounds near today's Conway and Maria. When the land was sold for a house in 1869, his remains were placed in an unmarked grave in Oakland Cemetery. Then, in 1995, the Dayton's Bluff Community Council raised funds and purchased a headstone for his grave. Anyone interested in putting some Memorial Day flowers by the headstone of the person who gave this community its name?

It was suggested that there should be a Dayton's Bluff history walking tour in Oakland Cemetery. To name a few of our past residents buried there:

William Hamm and his son William Jr. – the one who was kidnapped in the 1930s – who were owners of the Hamm's Brewery; Frederick Knauff, a prominent German-born grocer, real estate dealer and member of the Minnesota Territorial Legislature; and Samuel Mayall, a lawyer and a leader in the Anti-Monopoly Party, who once lived in a mansion on East 7th Street where today's Dellwood Gardens is located.

Of course, not all of the Dayton's Bluff residents who had a plot in the cemetery were prominent. One of them, Prussian-born Joseph Arth, was listed in the 1860 census as a "day laborer." He and his wife came to St. Paul in 1857 and built a house at 700 Plum Street. While they were not part of the community's upper crust, a newspaper commented in an article on the couple's golden anniversary, "they provided for their children properly, which although not constituting great wealth, was sufficient for their advancement."

One of the more interesting soldiers buried in Oakland Cemetery in 1871 was Nathaniel McLean. He was born in New Jersey in 1787 and moved to Ohio where he was elected to three terms in that

state's Legislature. Then it was off to Minnesota in 1849, the same year as Lyman and Maria Dayton. He published one of the first newspapers in St. Paul, successfully dabbled in real estate, and served as Ramsey County Commissioner. His soldiering happened long before his arrival in Minnesota. He served as a First Lieutenant in the Ohio Militia during the War of 1812, and is possibly the only combatant from that conflict to be buried at Oakland. There was once a McLean township in today's Mounds Park area, and McLean Street is named for him. He and his wife Hester had 11 children. One early writer described him as a "tall, slender gentleman, a little lame in his older years, rapid talker, a truthful, honest, good man."

Another soldier, a member of the Dayton's Bluff Burger family – no, not Warren – is also interred in Oakland Cemetery. Joseph Burger rose to become a captain in Company H of the 2nd Minnesota, but it was as a teenage private that he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for action on February 15, 1863, at Nolensville, Tennessee. His citation reads that he "was one of a detachment of 16 men who heroically defended a wagon train against the attack of 125 cavalry, repulsed the attack and saved the train."

Since this column started out with the first Decoration Day and veterans, I would be remiss if I didn't mention an interesting woman who should be remembered on Memorial Day. Her name is Mary Colter. She was born elsewhere, but raised in St. Paul, graduated from Central High School and attended California School of Design in San Francisco. She returned to Minnesota and was a highly-regarded teacher of arts and crafts at Mechanic Arts High School for 15 years. She lived in Dayton's Bluff for a time, but did leave St. Paul. Fred Harvey of Harvey House fame asked her to start designing 21 of his railroad and tourist area projects.

Colter is now remembered as "the architect of the Southwest" for her rough-hewn designs, combining Spanish and Native American influences in a modern manner. Her five structures on the south rim of the Grand Canyon and buildings below are the most well-known; however, Colter considered La Posada her masterpiece. When it was closed by the Santa Fe railroad in 1957, she remarked, "there is such a thing as living too long." Mary Elizabeth Colter died shortly afterward in 1958, and her body was sent back to St. Paul where she now rests in a small family plot. Like the others in this article, she deserves to be remembered and to have her grave decorated on May 27.

DONATE TODAY



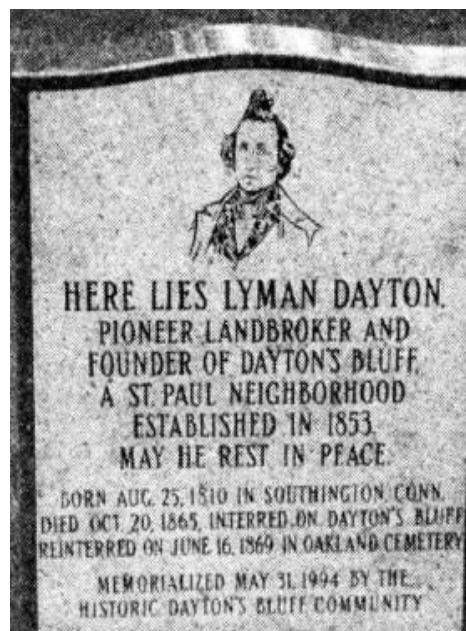
NOTICE

The *Forum* would like all our readers to know that we do not endorse anyone in politics. Just because we are not paid for a politician's ad does not mean we support that person.

We have had two politicians within the last year decide not to pay their outstanding ad invoices. The money that is owed to the *Forum* could pay for a month's worth of printing. This is why ads and donations mean so much to us!

Moving forward, we will require all businesses and anyone wanting to take out an ad in the paper to pay for it in full before going to print.

Ads will also run as they are submitted—whether they have typos, the coloring is off, photos are stretched, etc.



Gravestone of Lyman Dayton



Mary Colter

Explore Spoken Word, Songwriting, and Poetry Out Loud at the Library Free Events

Saint Paul Public Library (SPPL) is partnering with COMPAS and local artists Desdamona, Kashimana Ahua, Kyle Tran Myhre, and Sun Yung Shin to lead free, interactive workshops on Wednesday evenings from 6-7 p.m. in May at George Latimer Central Library, 90 4th Street West. Participants will share stories, build skills, and explore new ways of expression through poetry and performance in a fun and supportive space. All experience levels are welcome!

Discover the power of spoken word poetry with Desdamona and Kyle Tran Myhre, grow your poetic writing skills with Sun Yung Shin, and explore the tools of lyric writing with Kashimana.

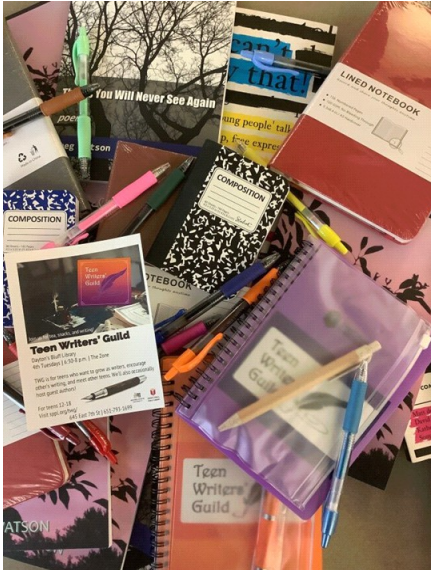
The program series ends on the final Wednesday of the month with an open mic night where participants from the workshops can celebrate and share their work with one another. Everyone is welcome to attend the participants' perfor-

mances.

Out Loud at the Library events, supported by funding from The Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library, are free and open to the public. Registration is encouraged, but not required.

- May 1, 6-7 p.m.: Spoken Word workshop led by Desdamona
- May 8, 6-7 p.m.: Poetry Writing workshop led by Sun Yung Shin
- May 15, 6-7 p.m.: Songwriting workshop led by Kashimana Ahua
- May 22, 6-7 p.m.: Spoken Word and Slam Poetry led by Kyle Tran Myhre
- May 29, 5-7 p.m.: Open Mic Celebration:

Call **641-266-7000** or visit sppl.org/events for more information.



If you have any teen poets and writers in your life, Dayton's Bluff library hosts Teen Writers' Guild (TWG) on the 4th Tuesday of every month (May 28 this month) from 6:30-8 p.m. We provide a chill space to write, talk about each other's work, and meet other writers. There is also an art space if you prefer other

mediums. sppl.org/twg

We have teen events every Tuesday that include snacks, making connections, and great conversation.

Call Dayton's Bluff Library at 651-793-1699 or visit sppl.org/locations/db for more event information.

New Digital Game and Fishing Licensing in 2026

Bahea Manasra

Senator Founq Hawj presented in his Committee on Environment, Climate and Legacy to discuss SF3905, which establishes a new electronic licensing system to support the Department of Natural Resources with accepting electronic game and fishing licenses starting in March 2026. Committee Chair Founq Hawj issued the following statement:

"I'm proud to serve as chief-author of this legislation so we can support the Minnesota Department of Natural Re-

sources in their efforts to modernize our game and fishing licensure application system. We live in a time where technology and environmental preservation serve as economic engines for our state. There are a handful of other states that have implemented an electronic licensing system and I'm happy to see Minnesota soon joining the list. Our new system will create a convenient and efficient method of submitting licensure applications, further removing existing barriers for our hunters and fishers. I'm looking forward to furthering this legislation and continuing to support our hunting and fishing communities."

The March 5 Environment, Climate and Legacy Committee hearing recording can be found at youtube.com/watch?v=VNd-wtF_1s.

You got somethin' to say? Say it here!

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

daytonsbluffdistrictforum@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, 2024.

Faith City Gala to be Held May 10

Faith City Church

We invite you to join us for an evening of celebration as we look forward to the life of Faith City Church. Our annual Faith City Gala will be held on Friday, May 10 at 6:30 p.m. at the MN Humanities Center in Saint Paul, Minnesota and we would love for you to join us!



After five years in the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood, we have rooted ourselves in the work of not only temporary and immediate nourishment for our neighbors but sustaining and working towards generational change!

As we move into 2024, we look forward to the official launch of our Social Kitchen Fellowship — a paid fellowship with direct employment and self-employment opportunities! Our final hurdle is to invest in a food truck. We would love the opportunity to tell you more about what it looks like to create sustainable change through youth culture and design a pathway for young adults to build transferable skills and generational wealth.

Please join us, May 10, for music by local artist America Y Los Sentimientos, a silent auction and a delicious dinner! Come hear more about how you might partner with Faith City Church.

Get your tickets at eventbrite.com/e/faith-city-church-spring-gala-tickets-797990068777.

Happening at the Battle Creek Rec Center in May

Martial Arts

May 4 through 25

@Battle Creek Rec Center

Students will learn about Martial Mobility, which stems from foundational martial arts movements /structure for discipline and exercises for all ages

Fee: \$30 for residents, \$45 for non-residents

Ages 7-18

9:30-11:30 a.m.

Tennis 4 Beginners

May 1 through 22

@Battle Creek Rec Center

This is an introductory course teaching the fundamental skills of tennis. Focus includes: basic strokes; strategy; rules; scoring; etiquette; practice drills; singles and doubles play. The more experienced students will receive instruction on use of spin; court positioning; footwork; and advanced strategies.

Free

Ages 12-16

5:30-6:30 p.m.

Badminton 4 Beginners

May 10 through 24

@Battle Creek Rec Center

A course teaching the fundamental skills of badminton. Basic strokes; the overhead and the underhand clears, the high, low, flick and drive serves, drive, drop, and smash; history, rules, scoring, and court etiquette. Basic singles and doubles court play and game strategies. In addition, warm-up and cool-down procedures, as well as conditioning and nutrition for sport participation will be covered.

Free

Ages 12-16

5:30-6:30 p.m.

Create a Gift For Mom

May 11

@Battle Creek Rec Center

Participants will plant their own flower and make an art project to give to their parent.

Fee: \$5

Ages 6-14

10 a.m.-noon

Spring Canvas Painting

May 21

@Battle Creek Rec Center

Pick up a brush and follow along as we create a fun spring themed painting. Participants are encouraged to get creative and have fun. All supplies included.

Fee: \$10 for residents; \$15 for non-residents

Ages 8-12

6-7:30 p.m.



View From My Porch

Dr. J Break-Up Letter

Sage Holben

Over the years I've broken up with boyfriends, girlfriends, and a husband. Never have I received a break-up letter as poignant yet laughable as the retirement letter from a specialized physician who performed my cataract surgery. I will refer to this person as *Dr. J*. Such a name reference usually sounds endearing to me. In this case it is anything but endearing. Our relationship was short. I don't recall ever having had an appointment with him until the woman who gave me a yearly eye check-up told me it was time in my life for cataract surgery. I will note that I took that to mean my eyes had degenerated to that point in my aging process.

Since then, as my increasing distrust of my HMO and our country's medical system grows, and with worsened instead of improved eyesight since my cataract surgery, I have come to believe there is a time in our aging lives that we who are fortunate to be insured, become *cash cows* for the medical capitalistic system.

Dr. J wrote:

"Dear Sage: [surely this must be a form letter sent to all his patients; if it is solely to me, its sarcasm is quite evident to me]

I will be retiring in July 2023 from my practice at [HMO Clinic] after 32 years. It has been my honor to care for each of my patients. I am grateful, grateful for the trust and confidence you have placed in me and grateful for being part of a strong team.

[Any "trust and confidence" I had placed in him was destroyed within the first two meetings. As to the "strong team" reference; when two members of his "team" spoke to him on behalf of this patient, he shrugged and walked out of the room]

"I hope you will continue your care with [HMO Eye Clinic]. I have complete faith that you will receive excellent care from any of my colleagues. We are a very talented group of ophthalmologists and optometrists. We continue to recruit new talented doctors. Our

electronic medical record will allow a seamless transition"

[The above benefits had no basis in my experience — from the "excellent care" to electronic medical records. At the post-op exam the day after my left eye surgery, the doctor said he was canceling a Friday appointment he had scheduled with me — not needed he indicated. Several days after the canceled appointment I looked at the *mychart* entry for that day and according to his entry, the patient and doctor talked about several topics he had listed. We did not meet in person, on the phone, or online that day. I reported to Member Services in the event a charge were made for the non-existent visit. Several weeks later the wording was changed. So, no, trust or faith is not something I relate to my HMO specialty clinic.]

"If it is more convenient, you may visit our other clinic locations in Arden Hills, Bloomington, Como, St. Louis Park, Woodbury and soon to be opened in Apple Valley.

Thank you for helping to make my career so enjoyable. A true delight has been our conversations and hearing your stories. I wish good health and happiness for you and your family."

Apparently, Dr. J had a vivid imagination — perhaps he spent much of his time at his computer and printer writing speculative fiction. Perhaps he has prepared well for his retirement. We never had "conversations" let alone delightful ones. I never shared stories with him. He was not one to speak beyond "here, hold this."

I never saw it coming, the white rapids ride that he, my apparent "bestie" would take me on in the following month. He, Dr. J, promised I would see the world with more clarity and brightness. Instead, I see it with more cloudiness and less joy since that May 9 surgery. That morning, without my glasses, I read several chapters of William Kent Krueger's *Ordinary Grace*. That was the last time I read anything without needing a magnifier and/or very bright light and with any amount of joy. Cataract surgery changed my life. Reading with bliss is gone. I now must limit it because of aching head or eyes, limited lighting or clarity; even magnifiers don't help in reading dosage and caution labels on containers or packages. Subtitles and TV weather warnings are unreadable for me now; connecting elec-

tronic equipment is impossible as I cannot distinguish the minuscule numbers, timers, temps on kitchen appliances or sound equipment. I could do all this the day before the cataract surgery I was told I "needed".

When I questioned Dr. J about the outcome of the procedure on my first eye, he shrugged. After surgery on my second eye, I received my new bifocals and a test page to read. I saw only a dark line of letters indistinguishably smushed together, I was told, "give it time". Neither the shrug nor the empty words helped. I was regretting the day I did not cancel surgery as was my first intuition, and sever my connection with this "doctor."

Several days before my first scheduled surgery, I had called his office with a question about what kind of sedation would be used. I explained that I had been told of various sedation methods, and during a previous surgery I had been intubated without my knowledge and was not told of it until learning later when I asked several nurses if I had been intubated. They checked my records and found nothing noting that I had been intubated.

However, another nurse, overhearing this exchange, offered to check the post-surgery notes. He found that I had been intubated, but did indicate that intubation had been removed after surgery. This was my concern about upcoming surgery. Dr. J somewhat badly described the sedation process he would use. Then indicated, *"Now you can go find something else to worry about."*

Dr. J's tone in his retirement notification was much more personable than he ever used in person. I would have said "face to face", but in all my in-person visits, he normally sat at his computer or printer with his back to me. I would recognize the back of his head much before I would his face. The tone of his retirement letter suggested several thoughts to me — had someone pushed him to write this (how many of his patients have believed they had been medically offended?): Of course this was a form letter of retirement notification, but I found his phrasing to be personally nauseous and sardonic:

"...it has been my honor to care.....grateful for the trust and confidence you have placed in me...grateful for being part of a strong team...Thank you for helping to make my career so enjoyable...a true delight has been our

conversations and hearing your stories..."

Contrary to his charmingly penned words, he demonstrated no sense of honor in his professional care; our visits were non-conversational, nor were they "delightful" but intensely silent, and certainly there was no telling or "hearing your stories".

When, during my pre-surgery prep for my right eye, I experienced a retina storm, the attending nurse/tech told him, in my presence, what I experienced; he walked out of the room with a shrug, but no comment. During the same period, when I wondered to the nurse/tech about intubation and my concern because I had not been asked or later informed of being intubated, the attending asked Dr. J when he came again into the room. He went out, and came back, indicating he checked and that I was told during the surgery in question that I would be intubated (i.e. told while I was still sedated). He said this off-handedly as he walked out of the prep room.

The next day, at my post-op meeting, I had reading material with me: a magazine, a book, a newspaper, medicine container, and a piece of mail. I said I cannot see to read most of these. I need ultra bright light and/or a magnifier, depending on the kind of paper, darkness of ink, and size and style of font. The letters jumble into one dark indistinguishable line. Still sitting with his back to me, he reached to the wall bracket with business cards, held one over his shoulder to me and said, "Read this." With the high quality, crisp black printing on sharp white cardstock, I could read the largest of the three or so lines of lettering...cardstock, ink, font not replicating every day reading material.

It's the wording, timing, tone of Dr. J's letter that led me to sense that he was prodded to write his letter, much like a mom tells her child to apologize. When this first began I had called different administrators of my HMO. All polite in how there were no promises or offers of "looking into," correcting as best they can. Just polite...indicating they were there to listen. What more could I say — my eyesight was better before the recommended cataract surgery...and no one is responsible. It's due to some of these experiences that make me think there is good reason my HMO's new CEO is a lawyer, not a physician.

Limited Edition Laser Loon Saint Paul Library Cards

Due to popular demand, additional limited-edition Laser Loon Library cards and stickers are now available!

We couldn't let the imaginative state flag submissions get lost in the stacks. Get your laser-eyed loon library card and get loony at your library...dive deep into all your library has to offer!

Residents can stop by any of Saint Paul's library locations, including Dayton's Bluff, during open hours to sign up for a Laser Loon library card and receive a 15% coupon for The Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library's online shop which features Laser Loon merchandise.

Existing card holders can get a limited-edition Laser Loon sticker for their library card. Existing cardholders will receive a new account number if getting a replacement card.

For more information visit: spl.org/laser-loon

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

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We are currently printing and distributing our newspaper quarterly. The paper is always available online at daytonsbuffdistrictforum.org. This publication of Hopewell Communications, Inc., a nonprofit organization, is intended to provide a forum for the ideas and opinions of its readers and to be an instrument for developing community awareness and pride. Signed articles do not necessarily represent the views of the *Forum*. Material from this paper may be republished if it is attributed to the *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* and to the author, if any. Articles and letters to the editor are welcome and may be emailed to daytonsbuffdistrictforum@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.

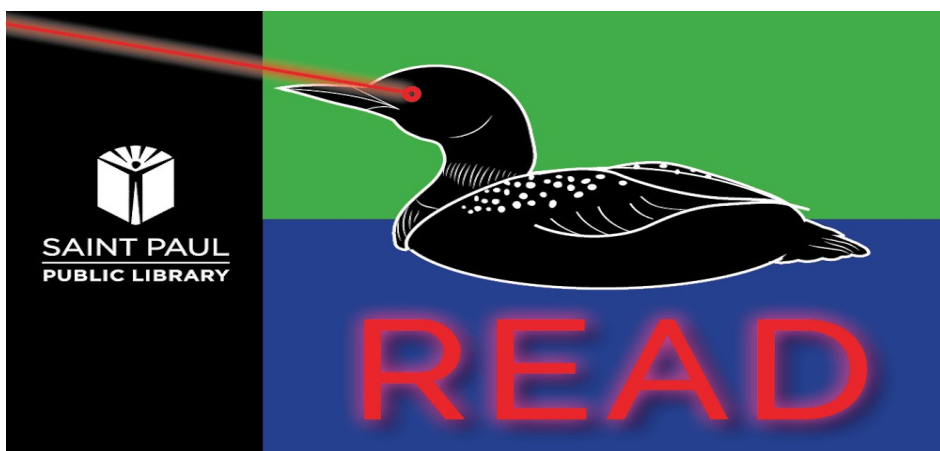
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Next issue: June 2024. **Deadline for material: May 10, 2024.**



History Events That Happened in May

Steve Trimble

May 2, 1914: Sounding their battle cry of "Votes for Women," 1,500 suffragists stormed the St. Paul Auditorium at noon on this day, waving their colors of yellow and black, a newspaper wrote. It was a major rally designed to increase support for ratification of the constitutional amendment allowing women to vote. The goal of this day was to demonstrate commitment to the cause and to showcase the group's organizational capacity to affect



MN Historical Society

National Woman's Party in Minnesota.

male lawmakers.

The St. Paul Auditorium was decorated with large banners that said, among other things, "Our Government is of the People by Half the People" and "Convicts, Idiots, Lunatics and Women Cannot Vote."

A band and a chorus of 40 girls from Humboldt High School led those assembled in singing the suffrage hymn and patriotic songs. There were several speeches from local and national leaders. The action later continued outside. Then Dr. Mary Hartman, president of the St. Paul Political Equity Club, hoisted an American flag and led the suffrage parade out of Rice Park and through downtown St. Paul. The participants then boarded the streetcars to Minneapolis for a parade led by Mrs. A. R. Colvin of St. Paul.

May 4, 1985: The first Cinco de Mayo celebration on St. Paul's West Side was held on this day. The festival celebrated the Mexican heritage, culture, and history and united the local 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 gathered together to create the celebration. The goal was to celebrate the

community and its businesses, but also to establish the West Side as a destination place. The festival helped preserve culture, so residents no longer needed to have fear of displacement again, and preserve the memory of the community. In doing so, it had a vision of cultural economic stability, maintenance, and growth of ownership.

The most highly attended event was the Cinco de Mayo West Side Parade. Thousands of individuals came from all over to witness the West Side. The floats from local organizations within the community and authentic Mexican dancers trekked down Concord Street, now called Cesar Chavez Street. Highlights from this late event featured three stages of live entertainment, local dance groups, traditional ensembles, popular tunes, and dozens of vendors selling local goods and food.

May 10, 1958: A USS Ward canon was installed as a memorial on the Capitol grounds on this day during the year of the Minnesota Centennial. The Ward was an old destroyer recommissioned and sent to Pearl Harbor to operate on local patrol duties in Hawaiian waters. It was crewed by 115 reservists and at least 85 were from St. Paul. On the morning of December 7, 1941, the Ward was patrolling off the entrance to Pearl Harbor when she was informed by a minesweeper of a periscope sighting and a search was started.

They found that a submarine was attempting to get into the harbor by following a ship through the anti-submarine nets at the entrance. They found their prey and fired several times from the main guns, hitting the conning tower of the submarine, and dropped several depth charges that sunk the sub.

It was confirmed years later that it was a Japanese two-man midget submarine. They reported "We have attacked, fired upon and dropped depth charges upon submarine operating in defensive sea," all of his occurring a few hours before the Japanese carrier aircraft attacked Pearl Harbor. Sometimes this event is called "the first shot of World War II" for the United States.

May 15, 2007: The Payne Avenue State Bank at 961-63 Payne Avenue was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on this day. Constructed in 1923, with its four large classical columns, it probably is the most impressive building on this commercial corridor of the East Side. The fact that there was a streetcar line 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 im-



Saint Paul Historical

Old Swedish Bank Building.

portant to Germans, Italians, and other groups.

The Beaux-Arts style building was designed by William L. Alban 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.

May 18, 1893: Charles Rogers became the first person to commit suicide by jumping off St. Paul's High Bridge on this day. J. M. Karl, passed him on the bridge and they chatted. The conversation seemed odd to Karl, and he walked off but turned around and saw Rogers climbing over the protective railing. He rushed back, grabbed the man's arm, to get him back to safety. Rogers handed Karl a paper with the address 419 S. Grove. "I want you to take this horse and buggy home for me," he said, asking the young man to tell his wife what happened. Rogers twisted his arm away, jumped and dropped 200 feet into the Mississippi River. Rogers was one of the city's wealthiest businessmen who hadn't seemed to be troubled. However, a newspaper said he had been busy night and day getting his plant in production and surmised that "this severe work" may have "unbalanced his mind."

Karl gazed over the side of the bridge to the water where Rogers had disappeared. There was a whirling eddy and in a few moments, he saw the body come up. It floated down about 20 feet from where it struck the water, and then sank from Karl's view.

Many thanks to our Friends of the *Forum* 2024 donors:

Stephanie Harr

Sarah Ryan

Donations made in 2022 through Give MN that deserve recognition:

Jean Comstock

Jeanelle Foster

Andrew Barbeau

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 2024. Our goal for 2024 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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Or give online: givemn.org/organization/Hopewell-Communications-Incorporated

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Thank you for your support!

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