

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

Volume 39, No. 2

March 2025

"The Voice of the Community"

Swede Hollow Nature Pre-School

Mandy Okonek

East Side neighbor Kristenza Nelson's connection to nature is nothing short of magical. Connecting with the beauty of every season, she takes her students outside daily, even in the winter. A seasoned early childhood educator, Nelson is a play-based learning expert with 15 years of experience as a lead teacher at Dodge Nature Preschool. But she always dreamed of opening a school of her own. Last summer, with the perfect space opening in her main-level apartment, Nelson seized the chance to turn her dream into reality — opening a school that celebrates the wonders of nature in every lesson in her home.

Nestled within the Upper Swede Hollow community, Swede Hollow Nature PreSchool (SHNP) opened its doors in the fall of 2024 at 653 North Street. Children ages 2.5 to 5 immerse themselves in nature and the local community daily. Whether traversing through the beautiful Upper and Lower Swede Hollow Park, exploring the East Side Sculpture Park, or visiting Dayton's Bluff Library, SHNP students embrace the adventure of learning in their community classroom.

Nelson shared that: "Nature-based education is a holistic approach to early childhood education. It fosters critical thinking skills, problem solving, builds confidence and independence. It promotes social skills, collaboration, empathy, creativity, and connection, connection to the very land beneath our feet, to

each other and to the broader community in which we live. Learning occurs intrinsically for children through authentic, meaningful and repeated experiences in nature."

Back inside at 653 North Street students surround a water table. With eye droppers filled with different colored water, they mix colors into molds for what will be their ice creations. If this all feels a bit science-y you are correct. Learning through play is the basis of SHNP's curriculum. The best part? When students return the following day to examine their frozen creations. They even have an up-cycled gutter ramp to roll their ice art down from their outdoor playhouse. Fun with physics? You betcha.

Each room in SHNP is a whimsical Imaginarium of wonders. There are books about bugs and animals, blocks, large wooden roller-coaster-like tracks to roll marbles, and even a shadow puppet theater. Open-ended materials and opportunities for interactive play abound.

One neighbor and parent shared, "What I love about this school is that it utilizes the community. Everyday my son goes on walks in the neighborhood, and often in Swede Hollow Park. He is learning to embrace his curiosities and be more observant of his world. He is more appreciative of nature and is using skills he learns in his school at home! I love that he is outside so often and gets dirty and learns while he plays."

SHNP is licensed by Ramsey County and is in the process of obtaining the Parent Aware accreditation. Nelson is now enrolling students. For more information about SHNP or to schedule a tour please visit swedehollownaturepreschool.com for more information.



Kristenza Nelson

SHNP students enjoy exploring Phalen creek.

Getting the East Side Outside!

Swede Hollow Nature Pre School
NOW ENROLLING!

Schedule Your Tour!

(612) 361-7402

SwedeHollowNaturePreSchool.com

Save the Date!

Compiled from information provided by Metro Transit
metrotransit.org/gold-line-construction

The METRO Gold Line will open for service on March 22, 2025! Watch for more details as the day approaches.

Until then, Metro Transit will be testing the new route. Expect to see buses running on the guideway. Metro Transit will

also turn on and test station amenities.

We want to thank you for your patience throughout Gold Line construction and look forward to offering this new bus service to your community in spring 2025.

REMEMBER: For your own safety, please do not walk, bike, or drive on the new Gold Line bus guideway.

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



Greg Cosimini

In preparation for the METRO Gold Line opening for service on March 22, 2025, tests are being conducted to check out the traffic lights and the guideway itself. This bus was spotted heading west on the guideway near Cypress St. on Sunday February 9th.

Glen Mansfield Remembered

Greg Cosimini

Anyone who has lived in the Earl-Hudson area of Dayton's Bluff over the past 30 years probably knows Glen Mansfield or at least recognized him when they saw him. Besides frequenting some of the local establishments, he also worked to make the neighborhood a better place to live. Unfortunately, Glen died in early February after a five-year battle with cancer.

Glen was an independent soul who liked to live life on his own terms. Having worked at being an auto mechanic, a cab driver and many other jobs in the past, he built up a tremendous store of knowledge on many subjects. He was a jack of all trades and a master of some. There was almost nothing he couldn't repair including bicycles, lawn mowers, snowblowers, cars, trucks, RVs and boats. He was always finding discarded items, fixing them up and often just giving them away.

He made his living doing odd jobs around the neighborhood. In winter he plowed and shoveled snow. During the rest of the year he mowed lawns, took care of yards and gardens, trimmed trees, built fences and stairways, hauled junk, and still found time to go to the lake and enjoy nature. He helped with the Mounds Theatre renovation and planted flowers here and there to make the neighborhood nicer. No job was too large or small for him to tackle. However, when the workload was too heavy for just one person, he found people who needed a job and

shared his earnings with them. He was always there to help those less fortunate than himself.

Glen liked to walk, bike or drive around the neighborhood, talking to anyone he met and keeping an eye out for unusual conditions and activities. If something happened in the streets and alleys, it was highly probable that Glen had the scoop on it.

Having lived a colorful existence for many years, Glen had plenty of stories to tell. Most are lost now but in 2013 he did publish a small collection of them in a book titled "Collage of True Short Stories." It is still available from Amazon. It includes stories about a Christmas when he was a boy, a turtle, a little bird, and his experiments concerning how people could get disoriented in water and drown.

Glen also announced in the book that he planned to run as a write-in candidate for president of the United States in 2016. His platform was based on his "New World Wide Monetary System to Provide Immediate Full Employment at the Cost of Living to Bring an Abrupt End to World Hunger and Economic Strife." He had been working on this system for 35 years and regularly produced updated white papers detailing his latest version. He sent these to politicians from the local level all the way up to the President of the United States.

In 2005 Glen ran for mayor of Saint Paul. He participated in a mayoral debate but didn't make it through the primary election. He often talked of running again but never got around to it.

Glen Mansfield may be gone now but he will be remembered for a long time.



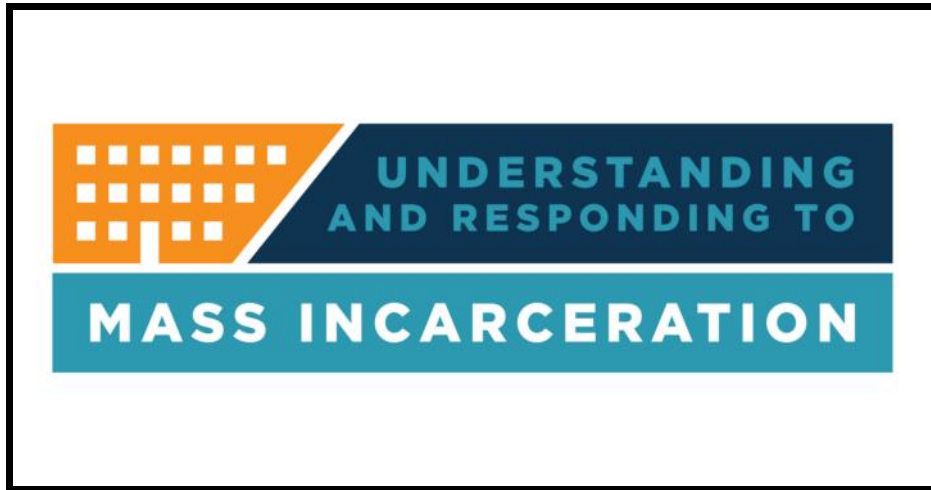
Understanding and Responding to Mass Incarceration (URMI) Conference Being Held April 11

Brian Higbee

On April 11, 2025, the annual Understanding and Responding to Mass Incarceration (URMI) conference returns to Metro State University. The URMI 2025 theme Wrongful Conviction, Wrongful Incarceration will amplify the voices of those whose lives have been disrupted by wrongful conviction and incarceration — those unjustly incarcerated, their loved ones,

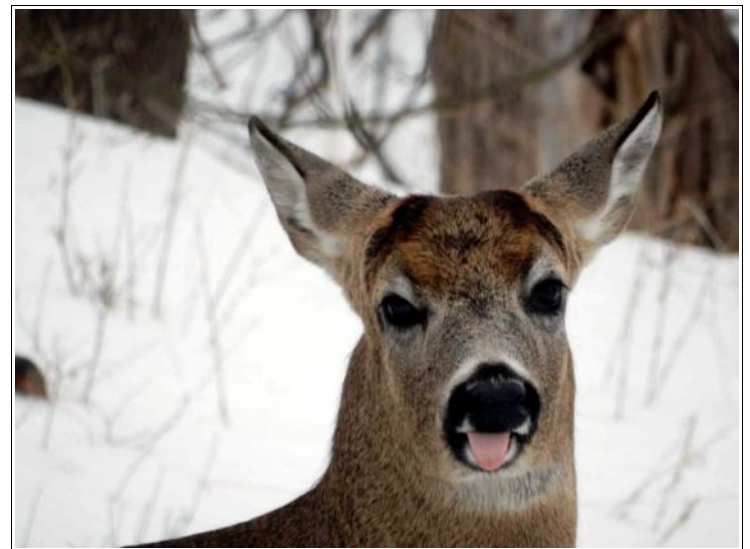
and their communities. Wrongful conviction may occur due to prosecutorial and police misconduct, ineffective legal counsel, dubious or flawed forensic evidence, false confessions, and mistaken eyewitness identification.

Wrongful conviction and incarceration disproportionately affect communities of color, thus bolstering the system of mass incarceration and disenfranchisement. These realities damage the marginalized and the public good, demanding urgent response. Join us for a powerful gathering where we will hear from those with lived experience, alongside experts, panelists, and in breakout sessions. We will explore these critical issues and offer specific action steps toward systemic change. URMI is free and open to the public. Registration details coming soon.



Mounds Park Wildlife

Photos by Bob Roth



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 St. John's Lutheran Church at 765 Margaret St., back entrance. For the most accurate information on the next meeting, email Michel or follow us on Facebook.

The meeting is **March 18** and starts at **6:30 p.m.** and is an excellent resource for park updates and events.

For more updates email taylor672@com-cast.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, February 28 at 11 a.m.**

If you'd like to attend, call 651-776-0550 or email daytonsbluffdistrictforum@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. Police meetings are held at **9 a.m. and 6 p.m.** on the third Tuesday of each month. Bring your neighbors!

Call Jacque Englund at 651-266-5548 or email Jacque.Englund@ci.stpaul.mn.us to ensure the meetings have not been canceled.

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.

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, or 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 meeting on **Monday, March 10 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, and 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 le-

gal 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.

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



April 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 13: *The Tin Woman*. Reeling in the wake of an unexpected heart transplant, Joy finds herself drawn to contact the donor's family. A tempestuous meeting ensues resulting in a roller coaster of tears, laughter, and healing. An intimate and poignant play, *The Tin Woman* explores the power of human connection. See website for more information.

Visit moundstheatre.org for more information and to purchase tickets.

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.**



Winter Warming Spaces

Ramsey County

Four Winter Warming Spaces in St. Paul are open to anyone in need of a place to warm up overnight. The spaces offer seating, blankets, light snacks and warm beverages. They also provide winter warming supplies such as mittens and hats when available.

The Winter Warming Spaces are open from **9 p.m. to 7 a.m. every night through March 31.**

Locations:

The Holy Christian Church
125 Stevens St. W., Saint Paul
Women only

Saint Paul Reformation Lutheran
100 N. Oxford St., Saint Paul

Families and youth ages 1-24 only

Phalen Activity Center
1530 Phalen Dr., Saint Paul
Single adult males only

Newell Park Building
900 Fairview Ave. N., Saint Paul
Single adult males only

Additional Services:

When temperatures reach zero degrees or below, and/or when windchill reaches -15 degrees or below, additional local shelter beds or warming spaces may become available. Contact Ramsey County staff at 651-266-1035 or email ColdWeatherReferrals@ramseycounty.us to receive a referral.

Reach family shelter staff at chs.-fas.shelterteam@ramseycounty.us from 7 a.m.-5:15 p.m.

Shuttle service is available.



WINTER WARMING SPACES

Overnight winter warming spaces are now open.
For more information, call 651-266-1035.



-  **The Holy Christian Church**
125 Stevens St. W, St. Paul
For women
-  **St. Paul-Reformation Lutheran Church**
100 Oxford St. N, St. Paul
For families and youth ages 18-24
-  **Phalen Activity Center**
1530 Phalen Dr, St. Paul
For single adult males
-  **Newell Park Building**
900 Fairview Ave. N, St. Paul
For single adult males




Open nightly: 9 p.m. to 7 a.m. 


 Dayton's Bluff
Greater East Side 


I Saint Paul's East Side!

 Payne Phalen
Southeast (Battle Creek - Highwood) 



Brad Griffith, Realtor® - Edina Realty
Proudly Serving Saint Paul's East Side
call or text (651) 263-2830





Instagram

@Dayton's Bluff
District Forum

View From My Porch: Turtle Soup

Sage Holben

I was recently thinning my cookbook collection and found the following recipe. It brought a chuckle, reminding me of last summer when my neighbor brought a painted turtle to me (it was traveling on the public sidewalk near my Little Free Library, nowhere near a water source). After taking it to an appropriate spot recommended by Wildlife Rehabilitation, I jokingly told my neighbor I had considered making a turtle soup, as we used to eat in Door County. She was not amused. The following is not a Door County recipe and I have never made turtle stew.

Turtle Soup

- 3 pounds turtle meat
- 3 tablespoons salad oil
- 3 tablespoons flour
- two 1-pound cans of tomatoes
- 6-ounce can tomato paste
- 1 pound onions, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 green peppers, chopped
- 1 bunch green onions (with tops), chopped



- 1 rib celery, chopped
- 1 cup dry sherry
- 8 whole cloves
- 4 bay leaves
- 1 tablespoon salt
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- ½ teaspoon Allspice
- ¼ teaspoon red pepper
- 6 hard-cooked eggs
- 1 lemon, sliced
- ½ cup butter

Simmer meat in enough water to cover it, about 2 hours, or until tender. Cut into bite-sized pieces. Blend oil and flour. Stir in tomatoes, tomato paste, onions and garlic. Cook over low heat 20-30 minutes. add to meat and broth. Add the next 10 ingredients. Cover and cook over high heat for 30 minutes. Mash egg yolks; chop egg whites. Add to thicken the stew. Cook over low heat for 3 hours. If stew gets too thick, add water, but stew should not be like soup. One half hour before serving, add lemon and butter. Makes 8 servings.

>Check weights on canned items. Canned amounts have gotten smaller and may need recipe adjustments.

Source: Recipe was submitted by Mrs. Elmer Hilpert. The Saint Louis Cookbook: Bicentennial Issue, Reprint 1964

East Side Elders Services

East Side Elders

Rides (transportation program re-opening soon)

Many seniors have given up their car keys but still need to get out and about. Volunteer drivers take seniors to medical appointments, the grocery store and other destinations such as a senior program or special events.

Friendly Callers (in-person visits currently on hold)

A friendly chat can do a great deal of good for a senior who is unable to leave their home, particularly in bad weather, or doesn't have family around to drop in to make sure all is OK. ESE volunteers can be matched with a specific senior, or can be on-call on an as-needed basis. A quick phone call is sometimes all that is needed to make sure that the senior has what they need.

Chores

Volunteers can help with outdoor and indoor chores such as changing a light-bulb, organizing a closet, or raking leaves.

Weekly Wellness Program

Volunteer nurses and other healthcare volunteers can check your vital signs, such as blood pressure, talk to you about good nutrition or your health in general. We offer the Weekly Wellness Program for the residents at Parkway Gardens

Apartments and the Elders Lodge.

Caregiver Support

Our staff will work with you to see how we can best support you in your caregiver journey. Give us a call today!

Legal Clinics (currently on hold)

Our volunteer lawyers can help you with a will, healthcare directive, or power of attorney. Call us today to ask about our next clinic.

Resource Referral

The East Side Elder's program staff are a great resource for information about other services in the area — give us a call today at 763-325-3473 or 651-335-8840.



DONATE TODAY

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 April issue of the Forum is March 10, 2025.

Women's Historic Recipes

Found by Steve Trimble

Since March is noted as Women's History Month, I thought it would be a good idea to feature several recipes that were written by women. They were selected by First Lutheran Church and published in "Favorite Recipes of First Lutheran Church." It was made for their 150th anniversary in 2004. The institution is actually the first Lutheran Church in Minnesota and is still operating in the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood just north of E. 7th Street near Metro State University.

Swedish Meatballs

Keli Moffat

- 1 1/2 pounds ground meat
- 1/4 teaspoons garlic salt
- 1 cup oatmeal
- 1/2 teaspoon allspice
- 1/4 cup finely chopped onion
- 1 egg beaten
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 2/3 cup milk
- 1/4 teaspoons pepper
- 2-3 beef bouillon cubes
- 1/2 teaspoons ginger, optional
- 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg
- 2 cups boiling water
- 1/4 cup flour
- 1/4 teaspoon onion salt
- 1 cup cold water



Mix the meat, oatmeal, onion, salt, pepper, spices, egg, and milk together. Shape into 24 meatballs.

Oven or pan fry until browned. In pan, add bouillon and boiling water. Shake together flour and cold water; add to thicken broth. Serve over rice, noodles or potatoes.

Tuna Pasties

Julie Reitter Heber

- 1 6-ounce can tuna, drained and flaked
- 1/4 teaspoons salt, optional
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 1/3 cup sour cream
- 1/4 cup celery, finely chopped
- 1 package refrigerated baking powder biscuits
- 1 tablespoon chopped parsley

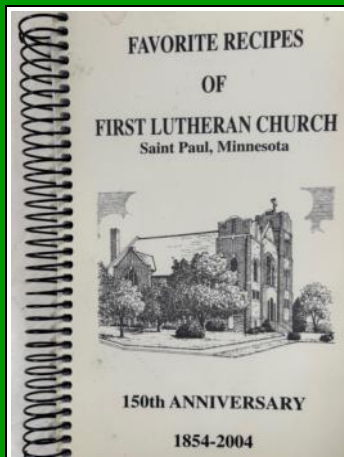
In a bowl, combine tuna, cheese, parsley, salt and sour cream.

Pat or roll each biscuit into a 3"x4" oval, and place biscuits on buttered baking sheet.



Place about 1/3 cup tuna mixture on each biscuit. Top

with remaining biscuits and seal edges with a fork. Brush tops with melted butter. Let stand 15 minutes. Bake in 400°F oven for 15 to 18 minutes or until golden brown.



Bette Johnson's Best Ever Chili

- 2 pounds ground beef
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1 cup chopped onions
- 2 1-pound cans tomatoes or more if desired
- 1 cup chopped green pepper
- 1-6 ounce can tomato paste
- 2 1-pound cans kidney beans drained (reserve bean liquid to add later if needed)
- 2 cloves garlic, sliced fine
- 2 tablespoons chili powder or more if desired



In large skillet, brown first four ingredients. Add beans and remaining ingredients. Cover and simmer 1 1/2 to 2

hours. Can be frozen for later servings.

This is a thick chili.

My Grandmother's Swedish Pancakes

Marilyn Carlson

- 2 cups milk
- 1 cup flour
- 4 tablespoons butter
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 4 eggs
- 1 tablespoon salt

Heat cast-iron frypan. In a separate saucepan, heat the milk and butter. Let cool slightly. Beat eggs and add dry ingredients.

Pour small amounts of batter onto frypan. Roll it around to make it thin. Turn when bubbles appear.



Serve with loganberries, syrup, jam, cinnamon, sugar, etc. Serves 4 to 5.

I always double the recipe.

First-of-its-Kind Mental Health Urgent Care for Youth Helps Close Gaps in Care

Ramsey County

Last year, Social Services staff were given a unique opportunity through a state grant to expand services provided at the Mental Health Urgent Care. The Mental Health Urgent Care located at 402 University Ave. E. became the first in the state to support youths ages 13-18 and their families with extended, urgent care hours, the 24/7 crisis line, and off-site respite services.

Ramsey County has offered

crisis mental health services for adults at the Mental Health Urgent Care for several years, but not to youths. The expansion aims to reduce the burden on local emergency rooms, provide more appropriate mental health crisis interventions, and respond to feedback from community about the need for more resources for youth. The grant-funded expanded services and remodeled space are intended to serve as a model for the rest of the state to support the health and well-being of our communities — particularly our young people — and help close current gaps in care.

Community feedback

Community, hospital partners, and staff attended information sessions and participated in a survey that guided programming and decision-making throughout

the expansion. Family involvement is key at the Mental Health Urgent Care and puts families at the center of decision-making on their path to stabilization.

The youth expansion was soft-launched in August and now, after a revision of the billing structure based on important community feedback, is being promoted widely to reach youths and their families across Ramsey County.

At a time when the U.S. Surgeon General has declared youth mental health a public health crisis, these new resources are needed more than ever. The Mental Health Urgent Care empowers our youth and families to care for their mental well-being by increasing access to psychiatric and mental health care 365 days a year. Ramsey County is here to help, every step of the way.

Attend a Showing with Mounds Park Community Garden in March

Mounds Park Community Garden

Members of the Mounds Park Community Garden have been offered a special invitation to attend the world premiere of "Fifty Boxes of Earth" at Park Square Theater, on **March 2 at 2 p.m.** This is a special performance of their run as it will be followed by a talkback with playwright Ankit Raturi.

This play contains themes of migration, belonging, loss and growth, family and community, and the tensions between fear and joy. This production can be very impactful for those in our

community who are working to make a thriving and nurturing home for themselves and others.

Theater Mu strives to make all of their performances accessible. Tickets are Pay as You Are for every performance starting as low as \$10. They've offered to host an "affinity night" for our garden members. Attendees on the designated night would receive a special shout-out from the cast and a gift bag. Stay tuned for instructions on how to purchase tickets for the affinity performance.

Thank you to Theater Mu for this unique opportunity!

Get tickets at theatermu.org/fifty-boxes.

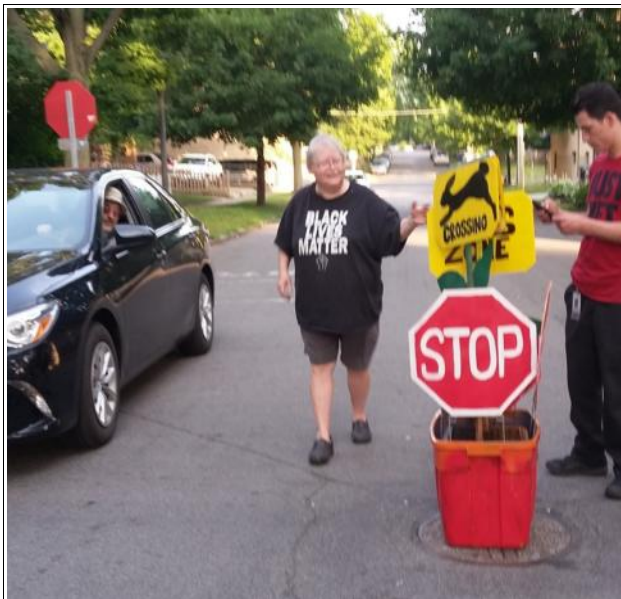
For more information on becoming a member contact moundsparkgarden@gmail.com 360-510-3085

A Plea For Help in Slowing Traffic

Photos by Sage Holben

Shown is the intersection of Fourth & Bates, Dayton's Bluff. Neighbors have pleaded for help in slowing traffic for over 20 years. Jim Wardlaw, approximately 20 years ago, managed to get two stop signs installed. Several porch, Zoom, and coffee shop meetings since then, with Public Works director and two past city council members supporting the neighborhood, have come up with nothing. We have done the city's Paint the Pavement program two or three times resulting in only one day's reprieve from speeding and/or non-stopping traffic off our three busy arterial streets—East 7th, 3rd, and 6th Streets.

I have placed at least eight "intersection art" installations to help slow traffic—all illegal and with varying results. This painting has been probably most effective. Sometimes people drive slow enough to talk or hand out a gift card for actually stopping.



Events Happening at Area Rec Centers

Visit St. Paul

Adult Yoga of Self-Discovery

March 1 through April 26

@Battle Creek Rec Center

Begin your year with a journey of self-discovery! In this yoga class, you'll connect with your inner wisdom through mindful movement, breathwork, and guided meditation. This supportive and nurturing environment will help you to explore your inner landscape, develop strength and flexibility of body and mind, and cultivate a deeper connection to yourself and your well-being. All levels are welcome and supported in this class. Must Bring your own yoga mat. There will be no class on April 19th.

Cost: \$70

Age: 18 and up

10-11 a.m.

Girls Cooking and Crafting

March 3 through May 28

@Dayton's Bluff Rec Center

Girls empower each other! Come and meet new friends. On Mondays we will create unique crafts, and on Wednesdays we will cook yummy creations!

Age: 10-17

5:30-7 p.m.

Martial Arts

March 5 through May 28

@Dayton's Bluff Rec Center

Youth will learn the art of Liang Shaolin Kung Fu. They will improve their endurance and discipline. This class is meant for beginners. Space is limited. Participants must call the center to register.

Age: 6-17

5:30-7:30 p.m.

G.I.R.L. Group

March 5 through May 28

@Dayton's Bluff Rec Center

Girls in Real Life is a girls group where they will empower each other, and decide what they want in the group, such as Spa Day, Field Trips, Cooking, Arts and Crafts and more!

Age: 10-17

6-7:30 p.m.

Sew What

March 6

@Dayton's Bluff Rec Center

Participants will learn basic sewing skills, terms, stitches, and how to read a pattern. Learn parts of the sewing machine, complete a sewing project.

Age: 10-17

5:30-7:30 p.m.

Coding for Kids

March 6 through May 1

@Dayton's Bluff Rec Center

Coding is an essential skill that will prepare your kids to succeed in an increasingly digital world, which is the way of the future. It influences and innovates every aspect of our lives. Now more than ever, it's crucial that kids become digitally literate and that they understand the devices they use on a daily basis. Learning to code is empowering. It gives kids the tools to bring their ideas to life, express themselves, and opens a world of options for their future. Students will use self-paced online coding sites to learn how to build mobile and PC based applications, games, and much more

Age: 10-17

5:30-7 p.m.

Cribbage Night

March 11

@Battle Creek Rec Center

Join us and learn how to play cribbage. Participants will then play matches. Please register.

Age: 10 and up

6-7:30 p.m.

Origami Making

March 13

@Battle Creek Rec Center

Participants will use their creative minds to create unique projects out of paper.

Cost: \$5 for residents; \$8 for non-residents

Age: 5-15

6-7:30 p.m.

Make Your Own Board Game

March 15-29

@Battle Creek Rec Center

Participants will plan out their game of choice, create the board game and then play. This class meets 3 times March, 15, 22, and 29th.

Cost: \$5 for residents; \$8 for non-residents

Age: 8-13

10 a.m.-noon

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

1368 Minnehaha Ave. E., St. Paul, MN 55106

E-mail: daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com

While we are not currently printing, the paper is always available online at daytonsbluffdistrictforum.org. This publication of Hopewell Communications, Inc., is intended to provide a forum for the ideas and opinions of its readers and to be an instrument for developing community awareness and pride. Signed articles do not necessarily represent the views of the *Forum*. Material from this paper may be republished if it is attributed to the *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* and to the author, if any. Articles and letters to the editor are welcome and may be emailed to daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com, or mailed to the address above. The *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* is delivered to 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, Steve Trimble

Editor/layout: Allison Lund-Zalewski; Editorial Associate: Mark Gallagher

Staff: Mandy Okonek

Next issue: April 2025. **Deadline for material: March 10, 2024.**

Women's History Offerings

Steve Trimble

Since March has been chosen to be Women's History Month, here are a few short pieces of St. Paul women. I hope you enjoy them. Maybe you want to find out more about any of them. Let the *Forum* know what you uncovered.

January 3, 1917: The new "Home for the Friendless" as it was known, opened its doors at 753 East Seventh Street on this day. Its origin was in 1867 when church women, including Harriet Bishop, formed a sewing group to raise money to start an institution to provide shelter for destitute women and children. They initially rented a house on Walnut Street in 1867 and later bought a house on Collins Street that was aging and became too small for their needs.



MN Historical

A poster of an event the Ladies of the Home for the Friendless put on.

They then built a three-story Tudor style building for the new Home for the Friendless with six double and 39 single rooms. It formally opened to the public in 1917 with a golden jubilee celebration. Mercifully, in 1935, the new name became "The Protestant Home" and the term for the people there was changed from "inmate" to "resident." Initially people could buy a life membership for \$1,000.

Over the years, several additions were made to the original building and different organizational structures emerged, but it always remained a residence. The building still stands in the middle section of today's structure. The mission slowly changed, and the focus became providing eldercare. A portion of the original building still stands.

January 5, 1913: The *Pioneer Press* on this day featured an article about the two new women "police inspectors," Margaret V. Kelly and Mrs. W. A. "Minnie" Moore. Women's organizations concerned with the welfare of women and children had long pushed for their hiring. Appointed on the first day of January, they had just made

their first report at the YWCA to a group of women who will supervise the work of the new inspectors. The two women said they were preparing to inspect dance halls, wine rooms and other "objectionable places." The "street mothers," as they were called, also went to theaters and chop suey places and reported on scandalous movies.

Kelly and Moore performed their jobs with a high degree of emphasis. During their first year, they chased women and children out of saloons, and monitored dance halls in the new theaters. They also visited local schools, hotels, factories and hospitals.

At the station, they were in charge of girls and lost children and were present at the examination of the person or clothing of a female prisoner. The duo was so successful in their first year that more women were hired by the Department, paving the way for all future policewomen in the city.

January 14, 1938: The Hallie Q. Brown House moved into its first permanent building in St. Paul on this day. It was started by the Hallie Q. Brown Community Center, Inc., an African American, non-profit social service agency. It was named for the African American educator, elocutionist, women's suffrage leader, and author. The group was incorporated on April 1, 1929. An advisory committee met to formulate new plans for a community center to be housed at the former Central Avenue Branch of the Y.W.C.A. It moved around quite a bit and its initial home was in Union Hall at Aurora and Kent.

Myrtle Carden, who was from Pittsburgh, was hired as director, a position she held until 1949. During Carden's tenure, the institution offered tutoring, day camps for children as well as emergency food and clothing for needy families. Hallie Q. Brown herself often visited St. Paul and came to the Center when it opened. Hallie Q. Brown House was one of the settlement houses in St. Paul.

In 1972 they relocated in the Martin Luther King Center at 270 North Kent Street, and their primary service area doubled to include the entire Summit-University community. During the 1970s the organization became the Hallie Q. Brown Community Center.

February 20, 1913: The Swiss Ladies Society, designed to help new immigrants, was organized by a group of six women sitting at Mrs. Helen Diesslin's kitchen table on this day. It was started at the suggestion of a member of the "Swiss Men's Society" which dated back to 1882. At the

first meeting they shared ideas on how to assist immigrant women, including help in learning English, raising children and understanding the cultural differences of their new surroundings.

The Swiss Ladies Benevolent Society of St. Paul, Minnesota was incorporated on August 10, 1915. While the society was primarily determined to preserve Swiss heritage, it also helped members in times of financial need. They might give them money for groceries or other needs. A death benefit was paid for members and in the early 1900s it was enough to pay for the entire funeral.

The Swiss Men's Society dissolved in 1990 and on November 19, 1991, the Swiss Ladies Benevolent Society voted to accept men into their organization as associate members. In 1995 the members of the Swiss Ladies Society even voted to delete the word Ladies from the Society name and they became the "Swiss Benevolent Society of St. Paul, MN."

March 19, 1982: The Women's City Club's building at 305 St. Peter in downtown St. Paul, designed by local architect Magnus Jemne, was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on this day with a gala reception. Much of the impetus



MN Historical Society

Women of the Women's City Club gather for a meeting.

for creating the club came from WWI experiences. Women who worked downtown at the time found that there was no place to gather socially. The idea of a club took hold gradually. The club's first president declared "Many of us had worked downtown during the war" and "we had no place to eat or talk." After the war there was some discussion of it in an informal, indefinite way.

The 1,000-member group decided to remedy the situation by building a Moderne style headquarters. The building contained an elegant lobby and first floor auditorium. The third floor had a lounge, a library and exercise area. Dining was on the top floor. A leading member said the building "reared in a tradition of individuality, incorporated with only one purpose in view—the maintenance of a club." It was a house for the comfort and intelligent diversion of its members. It was sold in 1972. For a time, the building also hosted the Minnesota Museum of Art.

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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.

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 tax-deductible donation in 2025. Our goal for 2025 is \$2,500; will you help us reach our goal?

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