

Save the Dayton's Bluff Library

Sage Holben

The block on which I live has been permeated with street theater and drama, thick with chaos of extended families of up to 20 members at any one time and ages from babe in arms to grandparent. Too often lately I want to bury my head or succumb to a full numbness to my surroundings. It's not only the volume of noise and screeching; it's not only the flophouses on wheels. I want to sometimes create a barrier between me, on my porch or in my living room, and the children and adults sleeping in cars - not just one, but three to six vehicles from the same family; a barrier that will numb memories from my own childhood of sleeping in cars or peeling mold off four day old instant mashed potatoes. I am not speaking from privilege when I vent on this neighborhood topic.

Very few houses on my block have yards conducive to active play. The closest playground is across busy Third Street and the playground is as decrepit and uninteresting as it could be. These displaced children are fantastic—a joy to have visit on my porch and yard. It's the screaming and cursing adults that abrade one's nerves. Yet these kids are being taught that the street is their playground; the reality is, they do well in avoiding the UNFI and other food co-op semis and speeding cars—until the day they don't.

Here's where my sociology prof would say, "So what's your point?"

I wanted to set the scene of one small part of Dayton's Bluff. It's a small area but significant. One point is that as I have interacted with the 'owners' of this block, I find that they



somewhat resemble the City of Saint Paul. My mind doesn't shut down; and it formulates ungodly ideas at times. The likeness to Saint Paul. It's not always the leader, the elected or appointed official who poses decisions that greatly affect policies - or budgets. For days I had been contemplating the City budget issue and the announcement to close the DB public library. The whole plan of closing Dayton's Bluff; of shifting funds to newer libraries and/or those in more prestigious

or economically stable areas anger and disappoint me.

On August 2 I went to the City's Library System's website and came across a page with photos and contact info for director Martha Hartman and three other

the strong belief that a community and its children especially deserve and are entitled to a strong, city-supported library where local residents can make healthy, smart connections with other community members. I haven't returned to the website. I hope communications has persuaded the director to rethink her letter—and, if, by chance, the director had any influence with the Mayor, perhaps they would both rethink the closure of Dayton's Bluff Public Library.

Here, in part, is the original library-site letter to the public:

"Residents have told us libraries are a place to do life and to be introduced to new ideas and new people.

"Libraries are an essential element in the infrastructure of a healthy and thriving city. They are deeply accessible public spaces where all of our community members gather and find connection with each other.

"This strategic direction will guide SPPL's work for the next four years and is based upon the insights our community members have shared with us. Many of the goals deepen SPPL's commitment to its foundational work. And with those goals, we will continue to evolve our approach and our services to meet the needs, hopes..." [I am sorry—that's all I could salvage]

personnel. Under Martha's photo was a lovely, affirming letter to the people of Saint Paul. I went back to the page a few days later and the page was 'cleaned' of the personnel photos and the communication person's contact info which is what I wanted. As it happened, I had taken some screen shots of the director's letter—not great shots, unfortunately, but I am including some of what I have.

The current website page is lacking in

Spend Your October at the Library!

Dayton's Bluff Library

Throughout October, adults, kids, and teens can find a variety of things to do at the library. From an anime convention to author event, there is something for everyone! Find the full list of activities at sppl.org/events.

Toshocon is Saint Paul Public Library's free, family-friendly anime convention—created for teens but open to all ages and all fans! Join us on October 10 from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. at Arlington Hills Library and Community Center to celebrate anime, East Asian arts, and pop culture through cosplay, hands-on crafts, live performances, and more. Learn more at sppl.org/toshocon.

Club Book brings best-selling and award-winning national and regional authors to library communities throughout the Twin Cities. On October 17 at 2 p.m. at George Latimer Central Library, heard from Trevor Baldwin, the nephew of – and family ambassador for – one of the last century's most indispensable literary luminaries. James Baldwin was the singular voice behind transcendent classics like his semi-autobiographical debut *Go Tell It on the Mountain*, incisive cultural critique *Nobody Knows My Name*, and the Civil Rights Era touchstone *The Fire*

Next Time. Learn more at ClubBook.org.

Looking for something at Dayton's Bluff Library? Here are some upcoming events:

FunLab (Perler Beads, 3D Pumpkins, Black Poetry Day, World Origami Day, Halloween) – Saturdays @ 2:30-4 p.m. Drop in to hang out and make cool stuff at FunLab!, a STEM program designed for ages 7-11.

Teens Tuesdays (D&D, Teens Know Best, Teens Writers' Guild) – Tuesdays @ 6:30 – 8 p.m. For teens 12-18.

Adult Dungeons and Dragons – Thursday, October 15 @ 6 – 8 p.m. Every third Thursday, play D&D – open to first time adventurers and seasoned dungeoneers.

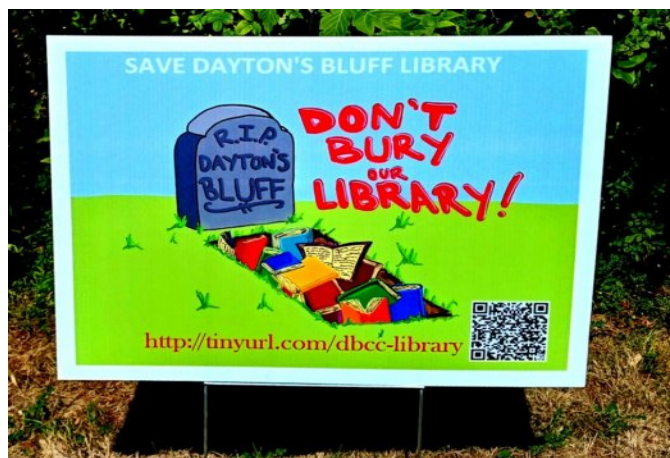
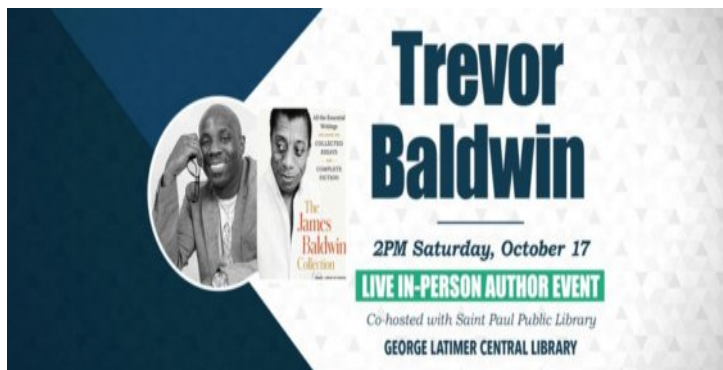
Community Seed Circle – Wednesday, October 21 @ 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. Join Urban Roots, Metro State Library, and St. Paul Public Library Dayton's Bluff Branch to sort, process, and tidy up the East Side Seed Library.

Temporary Tattoos – Wednesday, October 21 @ 6:30 – 8 p.m. Join us for Fall Break at the Library and make your own semi-permanent tattoos!

Game Night – Thursday, October 22 @ 5:30 – 7 p.m. All ages welcome to play video, card, or board games with us!

Code Savvy – Saturday, October 24 @ 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. Introducing students ages 8+ to the exciting world of computer science.

Learn more at sppl.org/events.



Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I am proud to support María Isa Pérez-Vega for Ramsey County Commissioner because she understands that government should work for everyone, not only the people with the most money, power or access.

María Isa is a strong Latina leader, but she is also an artist, a mother and someone who feels deeply connected to the people she represents. That matters to me. Artists understand that culture is not an extra. It is how communities tell their stories, protect their history and remind people that they belong.

Here on Saint Paul's East Side, immigrant families and communities that have been historically underserved are an essential part of who we are. María Isa understands what our neighbors have been through and how exhausting it can be to navigate systems that were never designed with them in mind. She does not talk about people from a distance. She

shows up, listens and makes space for their voices.

She has fought for housing, food access, health care and meaningful investments in Saint Paul. At a time when the Trump administration is threatening basic services our neighbors depend on, I want a commissioner who will stand up for this community without forgetting who is most likely to be left behind.

She also has a record of getting things done. María Isa helped pass more than \$1 billion in state investment for housing and secured funding for food and medical needs in Ramsey County. She also helped direct state support to CHS Field, Roy Wilkins Auditorium, RiversEdge and the Science Museum of Minnesota. Those investments support jobs, bring people downtown and help keep the heart of Saint Paul alive.

Remember to turn your ballot over this November and vote for María Isa Pérez-Vega.

Thank you,
Liza Sterletske

Friends of Swede Hollow

If you have a passion for history and preserving nature, please join us for our monthly meeting.

Meetings will be held at the East Side Eagles Club at 287 Maria Ave. at 6 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month. Next meeting: October 13.

Meetings are an excellent resource for park updates and events. For more updates, email Michel at friends.swedehollow@gmail.com, follow us on Facebook, or visit friendsofswedehollow.org.

Dayton's Bluff District Forum Board Meeting

The *Forum* is seeking writers and help with online content, idea generation, and ad sales.

If you'd like to attend, 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 commu-

nity 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 Robyn Brewin at 651-266-5580 or email RobynBrewin@StPaul.gov 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 **October 19, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.** at Dayton's Bluff Rec Center, 800 Conway 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,

The Forum is Hiring an Ad Manager!

The *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* is hiring! We are looking to add an integral member to our team as we expand and grow our community news source through advertising sales.

This is the perfect opportunity for students with a graphic design, business, or marketing background or degree.

Hours are flexible and training will be provided. Compensation is a generous

25% commission per ad, per month. Experience creating ads is a bonus, but not necessary. Ad manager will be paid once the ad is paid.

If you are looking for gaining experience in advertising or community engagement, please send a short email with your qualifications to daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com, for consideration in this exciting opportunity.





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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 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.

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



THE HISTORIC
**MOUNDS
THEATRE**

October 1-3. *What is Broadway?* Open Door Community Theatre presents our 3rd Annual Jeopardy-themed Cabaret Fundraiser. New categories, new songs, and all the interactive game-show fun you've come to expect! We had an incredibly talented group of auditioners for this year's show, and we're excited about our cast of triple-threat performers, featuring many familiar faces and a few newcomers! Showtime: 7 p.m. Tickets: \$40 General Admission; \$100 VIP – table/reserved premium seating includes one drink ticket, heavy appetizers (enough for a meal) and desserts.

October 10-31 (weekends). *Kate Hamill's Dracula – A Feminist Revenge Fantasy. Really*, presented by Night Fire Theatre. When your survival is at stake... will you be able to distinguish the monster from the man? Both terrifying and riotous, Kate Hamill's imaginative, gender-bending "feminist revenge fantasy" is like no Dracula you've ever seen—exploring the nature of predators and reinventing the story as a smart, disquieting, darkly comic drama. Showtimes: Fridays, Saturdays and Monday Oct.19 (Industry Night) 7:30 p.m.; Sundays 2:30 p.m. Tickets: \$15, \$25, \$35 (VIP) and Pay-What-You-Can.

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.**



Apply for Homestead Classification Online

Ramsey County's new online homestead application portal is now open. Property owners can easily apply for homestead classification through the county's Smart-File system at RamseyCountyMN.gov/homestead.

Homestead classification may provide a property tax reduction for residents who own and occupy their home as their primary residence. Applicants can create an account to complete the online application, upload required documents, and receive updates about their submission.

Residents should be prepared to provide proof of ownership and occupancy as part of the process. Processing times may vary based on application volume.

For questions or assistance, contact the Assessor's Office at 651-266-2040 or askhomesteads@ramseycounty.us.



Buster Goes to the Swede Hollow Café

Mandy Okonek

On the last day of August, our beloved local café changed hands. Neighbors gathered for one last memory of the place where we all met for coffee and cinnamon rolls. Owner Shirley Yang is keeping the brand alive through catering and pop-up events. A recent *Pioneer Press* article reported that new owner Jenny Niemel will transform the space into Finn Hollow, a cafe-and-sauna-based retreat center that will open a coffee shop this October.

But this is really a story about my cat. I've lived across the street from Swede Hollow Café for over 20 years. It was the first place in my new neighborhood that felt like "my spot." I'm grateful to the neighbors who believed in the impossible back then and helped transform a derelict building into a place that would change so many lives. But it wasn't the cinnamon rolls that were life-changing; it was the memories and the people. For me, it marked the start of a series of misadventures involving my four-legged, tailless, Garfield-shaped domestic short-hair, Buster.

As I sat down to write about the closing café, Buster was on my mind. He loved the café, too. He passed away this year at 20 years old, and I can't help but connect the unfolding of my life to his time on this planet. For a few years, the café was the highlight of our Saturday mornings.

When I first moved to North Street, I rented a place with a backyard overlooking Swede Hollow Park with two roommates, one of whom I would later marry. When the opportunity to buy the house next door came up, we jumped at it. But there was one problem. We were dead broke. That wasn't for lack of trying. Nick worked full-time at the Sportsman's Guide, I worked full-time at The Electric Fetus, and we both worked at KQRS on a Sunday local music program. Yet we lived hand to mouth. The need for a down payment pushed me back to working nights at my old gig, Blockbuster Video on Suburban Avenue.

One night, before closing, I took out the trash and pulled open the wooden enclosure to find a young tabby rooting through it. He was maybe eight months old, barely more than a kitten. No big deal, except it was the dead of February, with temperatures below zero.

I hung out with him and gave him a few pets. He was really friendly, and I was sure he wasn't a stray. I smoked a cigarette, then walked back to finish my duties; we were open until 11 p.m. back then. The cat followed me, so I let him into the store. After a few quick texts to my boss, Dennis (a total pushover), it was clear we couldn't keep a "shop cat" while I looked for his owner. So I brought him home. After several futile attempts to find his family, I adopted him. But Buster didn't want to stay in the

house; clearly, he was a street cat, so I let him explore.

When you are poor, payday is a thing. It's a celebration; there's even a countdown. We negotiated to pay bills in part and then paid the mortgage in full. But every other Saturday after payday, Nick and I would treat ourselves to a café breakfast before paying *any* bills. This was the era of caramelized French toast, topped off with a large white turtle mocha for Nick and a large Cubano with an extra shot of espresso for me. But Buster would beat us to the café every Saturday. He explored and came home whenever he wanted, staying out so late on Friday nights that he would end up sleeping on the front porch. The staff would arrive to start cooking in the wee hours of the morning, and sometimes they'd prop the back kitchen door open. Buster saw this as an invitation. This is how we met the former manager, Renee.

After so many people tried to adopt Buster because he was so dang friendly, we printed "He's Not Your Cat" on his name tag, along with Nick's phone number. Most Saturdays, we awoke to a call from Renee asking us to come get Buster because he was in the kitchen again. Sometimes he tried to swipe a treat or jump on someone's table, and Renee escorted him out. He had this move where he would raise up his paw from under the table, extend his claws, and pull down a cinnamon roll. When Buster had been gone for two weeks without checking in at home, Renee spotted him in the courtyard and walked him home herself.

Everyone at the café knew Buster. He loved attention. After years of patronage and the loss of his tail in a fight with a raccoon (Buster won, paws down), he became a reluctant indoor cat.

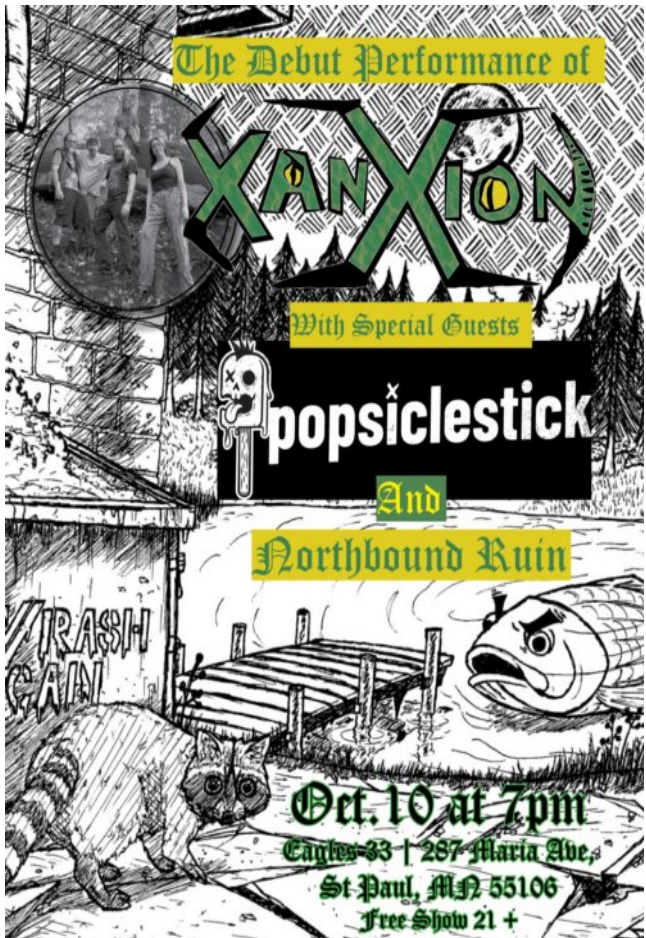
When I went to the café for the last time, the Friday before it closed, with my 15-year-old kid, I told her these stories. For her, the café was the first place she went on her own to buy a coffee and a cinnamon roll (ok, maybe the cinnamon rolls were life-changing?). I think the café had a special meaning for all of us, a story, or maybe one of those conversations you'll always remember. For me, the years Buster spent at the café marked the beginning of my life on North Street and the start of nine lives of adventure for a cat with more stories than I can tell in one article.

I've been married for 20 years. Buster lived to 20. For 20 years, I've enjoyed countless cups of coffee, enough cinnamon rolls to qualify as pre-diabetic, and my time at one small brick-and-mortar coffee shop that's been part of my life for decades.

I have so many memories at Swede Hollow Café, but the years spent chasing my cat out of the kitchen are the ones I'll never forget.

If you have stories, memories, or musings about the Swede Hollow Café, including the cinnamon roll recipe, we want to publish them. Email them to us, or better yet, email the cinnamon roll recipe to me.

Buster graphic in top right corner provided by Raven Okonek



Ramsey County Adds More Cities to Food Scraps Pickup Program

Ramsey County

Ramsey and Washington counties are bringing a new way to recycle food scraps from home. In addition to Maple-

wood and North St. Paul, Ramsey County residents living in Arden Hills, Gem Lake, Little Canada, Mounds View, New Brighton, North Oaks, Shoreview, Vadnais Heights, White Bear Lake and White Bear Township can now sign up for the Food Scraps Pickup Program.

Get started today by visiting FoodScrapsPickup.com or calling 651-661-9393 to sign up and order your free supply of food scrap bags

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 November issue of the *Forum*
October 10**

DONATE TODAY

Booya in October

Compiled by Greg Cosimini

Each Thursday of October: Saint Paul Brewing. 688 E. Minnehaha Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55106. 3:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. Bring your own container or buy ours for dine-in or take-out. Sold by the cup, bowl or quart. Enjoy the last hurrahs of autumn on the patio within the ruins of the Hamm's stables.

October 11: St. Pascal Baylon. 1757 Conway Street, Saint Paul, MN 55106 10:00 a.m.-2 p.m. Drive-through only, no dine-in or personal containers. Cash, check or cards accepted.

Oct. 11: North St. Paul Fire Department. Casey Lake Park, 2101 E. 17th Ave., North St. Paul, MN; 11 a.m. until gone.

October 17: Arcade Phalen American Legion Post 577. 1129 Arcade Street,

Saint Paul, MN 55106. 11 a.m. until gone.

October 18: St. Agnes Parish. 530 Lafond Avenur. Saint Paul, MN. 10 a.m.-2 p.m.. Booya for eat in and takeout.

October 24: Church of St. Mary Lowertown. 267 E. 8th St., Saint Paul, MN 55101. 8 a.m.-noon. Drive up booya sold by the quart; containers provided.

October 24: North St. Paul VFW Post 1350. 2483 E. 7th Ave., North St. Paul, MN; Noon until gone.

October 25: Knights of Columbus Council 4967 at Church of St. Peter. 2600 N. Margaret St., North St. Paul, MN. 8 a.m. until gone. Takeout available at church’s east entrance, containers provided.

October 25: St. Jerome School. 384 E. Roselawn Ave., Maplewood, MN. 6 a.m. until gone. Carry-out booya, containers provided.



Plaza Theater Reopens

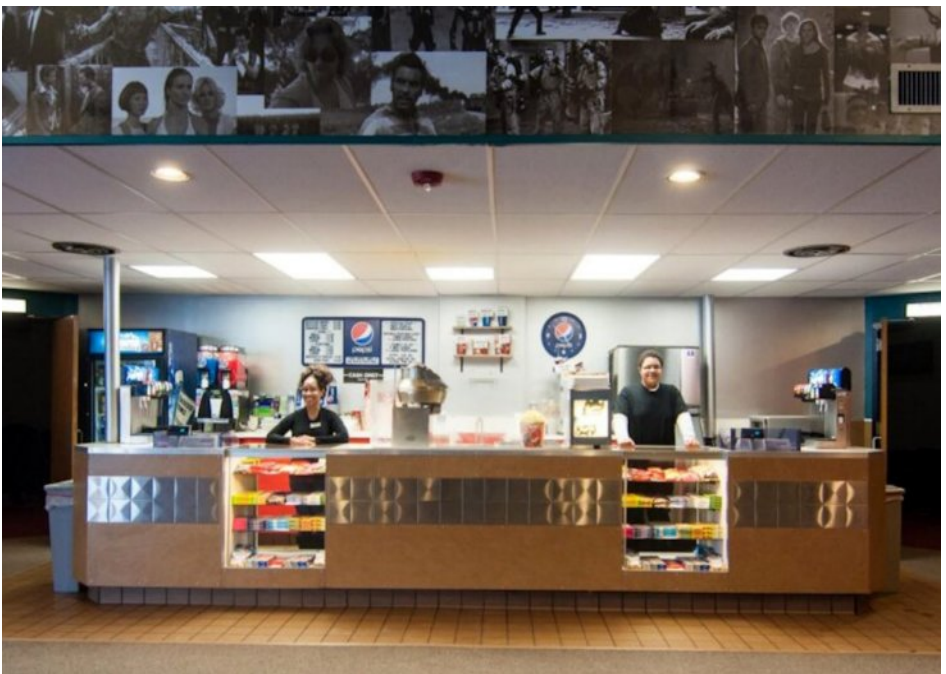
The Plaza Theater

The Plaza Theater has been bringing Hollywood hits to the East Metro since 1967, starting with its first showing: *Hawaii* with Julie Andrews. The Plaza closed in 2020 due to the pandemic lock-down and changes in the theater industry. But we’re coming back as the East Metro’s only second run movie theater!

The Plaza has been owned by Woodland Hills, the church next door, since 2002. Before closing in 2020, we ran the

theater through a job skills program for East Side youth. We plan to return to this model, running operations with a new job skills program in the coming months. Open on Friday nights and Saturdays (beginning Friday, September 11), we plan to show second run movies and retro features. At \$5 per ticket, The Plaza is a great deal for the whole family to come to the movies together. Plus, we’ll continue to use real butter on what our customers tell us is the best popcorn in the Twin Cities! The Plaza Theater is located at 1847 Larpenteur Ave E., Maplewood, MN 55109. For more information visit: theplazatheater.com

Photos provided by The Plaza Theater's Facebook page.



DBCC Leads the Fight to Save the DB Library

Greg Cosimini

The Dayton's Bluff Community Council is taking the lead in fighting the proposed closing of the Dayton's Bluff Library. It held a well-attended meeting at the Library on Monday evening September 14 where a plan of action was dis-

cussed. The plan includes “Don't Bury Our Library” yard signs, sending post-cards and emails to the mayor, city council members, the St. Paul Public Library Director and the Executive Director of the Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library, and providing general information regarding the proposed closing and what the citizens of Dayton's Bluff can do about it. For more details visit daytons-bluff.org.

Photo below provided by the DBCC's Facebook page



Mounds Park Community Garden Autumn Harvest Festival

The Mounds Park Community Garden invites you to a very special gathering: our Autumn Harvest Festival. It’s the perfect way to celebrate the season and enjoy a day full of fun, food, and festivities with friends and neighbors.



This event is open to everyone—whether you’re a member at the garden or just love a dang good harvest festival, we’d love to have you. The day includes a variety of autumn-themed activities, games, crafts, and friendly competitions. This is a potluck, so bring a dish to share, especially if it features garden-fresh ingredients or seasonal flavors. There will also be a dessert contest, so don’t miss your chance to showcase your best recipes! Beverages will be provided.
When: Saturday, October 3, 4:30 to 8 p.m. Where: Mounds Park Community Garden, 277 N. Cypress St.

Join the Save Food, Waste Less Challenge October 1-31

City of St. Paul

Join the upcoming Save Food, Waste Less Challenge happening October 1-31 and learn how to reduce waste in your household. Collaborate with other Saint Paul residents to reduce food waste through fun and educational virtual activities. Participants will gain resources to improve their kitchen skills, including shopping, prep, and storage tips. These skills help save time, money, and

make food last longer. With these learned skills, a family of four can save an average of \$3,000 per year! Sign up today for Saint Paul's team and join the national challenge at www.savefoodmn.ecochallenge.org. For additional helpful tips and tricks to prevent food waste, visit www.stpaul.gov/foodwaste.



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, Jessy Rehmann, Michel Taylor
Next issue: November. **Deadline for content October 10.**

Early Voting Locations

Ramsey County

Early voting is available Oct. 16–Nov. 2 ahead of the General Election on Tuesday, Nov. 3.

Oct. 16–23, Oct. 26–30
Countywide locations

- Ramsey County Elections–Plato Building
Mondays through Fridays, 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
- Ramsey County Library–Roseville
Mondays through Fridays, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.
- Ramsey County Library–Shoreview
Mondays through Fridays, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.
- Arlington Hills Community Center
Mondays through Fridays, 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

City-specific locations

- Maplewood City Hall (*Maplewood residents only*)
Mondays through Fridays, 8 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
- Spring Lake Park City Hall (*Spring Lake Park residents only*)
Mondays through Fridays, 8 a.m.–4:15 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 24

9 a.m.–3 p.m. at all early voting locations

Countywide locations

- Ramsey County Elections–Plato Building
- Ramsey County Library–Roseville
- Ramsey County Library–Shoreview
- Arlington Hills Community Center

City-specific locations

- Maplewood City Hall (*Maplewood residents only*)
- Spring Lake Park City Hall (*Spring Lake Park residents only*)

Tuesday, Oct. 27

Countywide locations

- Ramsey County Elections–Plato Building, 8 a.m.–7 p.m.
- Ramsey County Library–Roseville, 10 a.m.–7 p.m.
- Ramsey County Library–Shoreview, 10 a.m.–7 p.m.
- Arlington Hills Community Center, 10 a.m.–7 p.m.

City-specific locations

- Maplewood City Hall (*Maplewood residents only*), 8 a.m.–7 p.m.
- Spring Lake Park City Hall (*Spring Lake Park residents only*), 8 a.m.–7 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 31

9 a.m.–3 p.m. at all early voting locations

Countywide locations

- Ramsey County Elections–Plato Building
- Ramsey County Library–Roseville
- Ramsey County Library–Shoreview
- Arlington Hills Community Center

City-specific locations

- Maplewood City Hall (*Maplewood residents only*)
- Spring Lake Park City Hall (*Spring Lake Park residents only*)

Sunday, Nov. 1

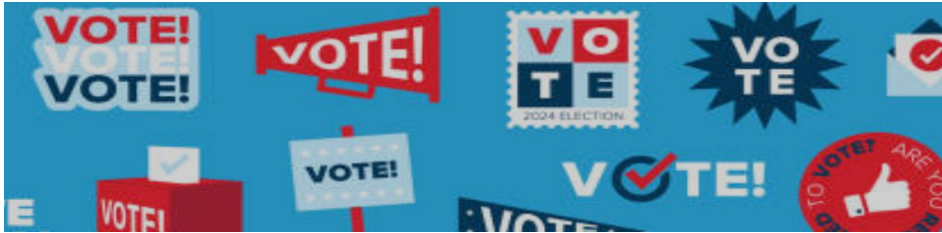
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Dayton's Bluff District Forum

Subscribe to the Forum

Interested in keeping up with hot news? Send your email address to daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com and request to subscribe to the *Forum* for free every month. Even if we don't print every month, there will be an online issue.

Student Salon 2026

Metro State University

The annual *Student Salon* exhibition at Metro State University's Gordon Parks Gallery features works in various media produced by undergraduate Studio Arts majors in their final year of study. "We are excited to showcase the exceptional range of artwork produced this past

year by Studio Arts majors at Metro State. These works reflect the rigor, experimentation, and highly creative practices our students bring to their artistic development. This exhibition celebrates not only what they have accomplished, but also their willingness to take risks, explore new ideas, and develop their individual artistic voices." — Dr. Megan Arney Johnston, Gordon Parks Gallery Director and Assistant Professor "The *Student Salon* showcases projects created by Studio Arts majors in their final year of study. These artworks stimulate

thought and wonder through the various materials and ways of presentation. It is so rewarding to witness the growth of this work over the course of the year." — Amy Sands, Professor of Studio Arts The *Student Salon* exhibit runs from Saturday, September 12 through Thursday, October 1. Gallery hours: Monday–Thursday, 1–7 p.m. Saturday, 11 a.m.–5 p.m. The Gordon Parks Gallery is located on the first floor of Metro State's Library and Learning Center, 645 East Seventh Street, on the Saint Paul campus.



Dayton's Bluff at the State Fair

Amerigo Vespucci
Forum State Fair Reporter

My first trip to the 2026 Minnesota State Fair was on the first Friday, the same day a record-setting crowd of over 204,000 other people also thought it was a good time to attend the Great Minnesota Get-Together. It may have been crowded and the traffic was terrible but at least all the lines were long and it was also hot and muggy. My second trip on the following Tuesday was much better, traffic- crowd- and weather-wise. It was Military Appreciation Day so I got to listen to the 34th Infantry Division "Red Bull" Band plus I talked to this year's Princess Kay of the Milky Way. My annual search for anything related to Dayton's Bluff was easier than usual

this year. It was hard to miss the hand-carved Hamm's Bear waving at me in the Creative Activities building. He stood about 3-feet tall and was created by Kathy Vos of Columbus, MN. Could she have some connection to Dayton's Bluff or does she just know good beer when she tastes it? She was awarded a red (second place) ribbon for her efforts. Once again, long-time Dayton's Bluff resident Greg Cosimini had an entry in the Creative Activities postcard competition. It won a blue (first place) ribbon in the Novelty Postcard category. His topic was "Murder Via Postcard" which featured murder-themed postcards. For what one would assume to be a rather gentle hobby, there were a scary number of postcards with "murder" in their titles, ranging from real life to movies to humorous. That was all I could find concerning Dayton's Bluff this year so I consoled myself with too many Peter's Wieners, corn dogs and various dairy products from the chocolate category.



Friends of the Forum 2026

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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 tax-deductible donation in 2026. Our goal for 2026 is \$2,500; will you help us reach our goal?

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Thank you for your support!