

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

Volume 41, No. 7

September 2026

*"The Newspaper of
the East Side"*

Local Firemen Answer the Call

Sandy Thompson

Every day while going home from work, it would bring me great joy to look up the street and see the American flag flying high and proud in veteran Bob Roth's yard in the Mounds Park neighborhood. But a few months ago, that changed as some high winds came through and snapped the rope that held the flag in place.

As the days passed, I knew that this was bothering Bob, especially since he couldn't fly his flag for the Fourth of July.

And as the days passed, I watched family and friends try to problem solve how to attach a new rope, with even his son trying to shimmy up the flagpole like *Survivor's* Ozzy easily going up a tree for a coconut!

Well that didn't work, nor did climbing on top of the roof. So I had to think of a different way. AHA!!! Why not ask the fire department?

So on my way home from work I stopped at Fire Station 7 at 1035 Ross Ave. and rang the doorbell. I asked whether they would ever do something for the community by helping a veteran put his flag back up on a 25-foot flagpole

— definitely a job needing a ladder!

All four firemen smiled and said, "Yes, let's do it now!" I was absolutely thrilled to have this immediate "yes" response. I called Bob to let him know that I had a surprise for him coming soon on his front lawn and that he should be prepared with his new rope and flag.

I would say that within 20 minutes, Chris, Lee, Sam and Bryce were all there with Ladder No. 7. It was amazing to watch them raise and maneuver the ladder through the trees in order to get to the flagpole on top of a hill.

All four of them met Bob with such great kindness and respect. They demonstrated great communication and leadership skills while doing a bit of training in order to reattach the rope and raise the flag in Bob's yard once again.

It was so great to see the smile back on Bob's face as he watched this all take place.

To me, it was the right thing to do. For the firemen it absolutely was the right thing to do — to help someone in need no matter what.

The call came in and our city's finest answered the call.

I want to thank Chris, Lee Sam and Bryce for the service to our community and also thank Bob for his patriotism.

A job well done guys!

p.s. I am happy to see Bob's flag fly again!

Photos to the right provided by Sandy Thompson



Two New EV Spots in Dayton's Bluff

Greg Cosimini

Two new EV Spots have been installed near existing Gold Line Stations in Dayton's Bluff. One is located at Cypress Street and Hudson Road, a block from the Earl Street Station, and the other at Maria Avenue and Conway Street, ap-

proximately two blocks from the Mounds Boulevard Station. These join three existing EV Spots in Dayton's Bluff at Conway and Bates, E. 7th St. and Bates, and Margaret and E. 7th St.

An EV Spot is a curbside location with two electric vehicle chargers, each capable of charging two vehicles at the same time. One charger (blue) is for privately-owned electric vehicles. The other charger (red) is for Evie Carshare vehicles which will be available for pickup and driving at the charger. For more information visit EVSpot.org.



Community Responders are partnering with the City of Maplewood to Support 911 Calls

Ramsey County

Community Responders are a new resource available in the City of Maplewood to help respond to some 911 calls. Community responders support calls through conflict resolution, de-escalation and community support in order to help

people through difficult situations. Using their training and lived experiences, they listen, offer support and connect people to local resources. By responding to these calls, community responders also help police, firefighters and emergency medical services focus on emergencies that require their response.

Community responders travel in normal cars, respond in pairs and wear branded clothing. You may see them in libraries, parks, at the mall and other community spaces as they support residents.

Community responders are employed by Roots Wellness Center in partnership with Ramsey County's Appropriate Responses Initiative. They will be active in Maplewood through the end of 2026 as part of a pilot.

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.

Welcome to the MAIR WINGS Team!

Metro State University

Welcome to the MAIR WINGS team! Our first group of peer mentors completed orientation August 5. Led by our Multicultural, American Indian and Retention Services—MAIR

team, the MAIR WINGS program helps students build meaningful connections, grow as leaders, and find community on campus through peer mentorship. We loved spending the day together and can't wait to welcome the next group of mentors on Friday! Want to learn more? Visit: metrostate.edu/.../culturally-responsive-support *Photo provided by Metro State University Facebook Page*





Meet Mnisota's Native Pollinators: Artist Talk & Bee Walk



Willard Malebear Jr.
Lakota Artist



Christine Bacumler
Environmental and Community Artist



Elaine Evans
Local Bee Researcher

Come spend the morning with us as we celebrate the native bees of Mnisota.

Hear from artist Willard Malebear Jr. about his inspiration and creation of the **Native Bee Lodge at Waḡan Ṭipi**.

Then, join local artist, Christine, & bee expert, Elaine, for a guided walk to discover the incredible diversity of native bees living among our prairies and learn how to support these relatives.

Saturday, Aug 29, 2026 | 10am-Noon
Waḡan Ṭipi Center
590 4th St E Saint Paul, MN 55106

register at: wakan tipi.org/events



This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.



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: September 8. 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 — join us at our next meeting on **Friday, September 18 at 11 a.m.** If you'd like to attend, email daytons-bluffdistrictforum@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 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 **September 21 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 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

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; historicismoundstheatre@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.



Dayton's Bluff Neighborhoods Celebrated National Night Out on August 4



Corrine Erickson

Carolyn Clark

Photos provided by Jane Prince and Greg Cosimini. Upper photos were taken at Upper Swede Hollow and the two photos to the lower right were taken at Mounds Park United Methodist Church.

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.



@givemn.org/organization/Hopewell-Communications-Incorporated

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 October issue of the *Forum* September 10

Volunteer at the Library
with Reading Together!

Dayton's Bluff Library

Saint Paul Public Library is seeking volunteers for Reading Together! Volunteers are paired one-on-one with a student in grades K – 5 to help them advance their reading skills, reach their reading goals, and foster a love of reading.

Many volunteers say the experience is rewarding and inspiring. As one shared, “It is personally gratifying to see my student have that lightbulb moment and know that we achieved this success together.”

Volunteers must be 18 years or older, pass a background check, complete a training, and meet one-on-one with a participant for one hour per week at Dayton's Bluff Library, or other SPPL locations such as Arlington Hills, Hamline Midway, Highland Park, Merriam Park, Rice Street, Rondo Community, or Sun Ray libraries. This program runs from October through May. Apply to be a volunteer at sppl.org/volunteer.

What's happening at Dayton's Bluff Library this month:

Adult Dungeons and Dragons – Thursday, September 17 @ 6 – 8 p.m. Every third Thursday, play D&D – open to first time adventurers and seasoned dungeoneers.

Art Class: Stitched Bookmarks – Monday, September 21 @ 6 – 7:30 p.m. Try something new every month at our art class for adults.

Code Savvy – Saturday, September 26 @ 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. Introducing students ages 8+ to the exciting world of computer science.

Game Night! - Thursday, September 24 @ 5:30 – 7 p.m. All ages welcome to play video, card, or board games with us!

FunLab – 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 Book Club, Teens Writers Guild) – Tuesdays @ 6:30 – 8 p.m. - For teens 12-18.

Find more information for Dayton's Bluff events at sppl.org/locations/DB.



Technology Enhances
Local Birdwatching
Experience

Wendi Storhoff

Singing its song from a treetop in Swede Hollow, a migrating rose-breasted grosbeak was identified by a birder who was silently holding up her cellphone.

Fourteen birders had gathered for this *Spring Migration in the Heart of the City* event. Introductions were made over coffee and blueberry muffins and loaner binoculars were distributed before heading along the paved Bruce Vento Trail through the park. Attendees came from St. Paul and suburbs. Several folks had participated in birding events previously and carried their cell phones with purpose.

The green leafiness of the trees on a morning in May created a challenge to sight the birds, even with the aid of binoculars. Several of the birders had downloaded an app called Merlin Bird ID, which “listened” to the birdsong and almost in-

stantly displayed a color image and common name of the species on their phone screens. One participant described themselves as a “casual birder” and even so, was familiar with the Merlin app.

Merlin, the free app from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology has been a game-changer, creating efficient bird identification without the use of a birding book or a search engine. Granted, manuals and search engines have advantages as well and serious birders like Kathy Sidles utilize print resources plus technology for research and enjoyment.

Kathy, a longtime volunteer guide, uses the Merlin app but acknowledged that it may not be “foolproof.” And, as the app relies on sound rather than sight, Kathy noted that “Merlin does not pick up the birds that are not saying anything!”

A red tailed hawk was perched on a branch of a bare tree across the Hollow from the group. The hawk was visible to the naked eye, but several birders raised their binoculars for a closer look. Binoculars were available to borrow for those who came without them. The Merlin app was not particularly helpful in this case as the hawk was visible and not ‘saying anything.’

The group members with the assistance of the Merlin app, identified both resident and migrating birds including mallards, housewrens, brown thrashers, red-eyed vireos, killdeer, and cowbirds. The app has a feature for the user to create a “life list” which tracks a record of every bird identified.

An alternative option using a classic tool, a pencil, was also available for this event. An option to sit and sketch birds on a sketchbook was offered by Kiki Sonnen, President of St. Paul Bird Alliance.

Spring Migration in the Heart of the City was hosted by St. Paul Bird Alliance and Friends of Swede Hollow, with support from Friends of the Parks and Trails of St. Paul and Ramsey County, and the St. Paul Public Library.

An upcoming birding event, *Fall Migrants and Grassland Goldenrod at Battle Creek Park*, hosted by the St.Paul Bird Alliance will be held at Battle Creek Park, **September 5**, in St. Paul. For more information and future local birding events, refer to saintpaulbirdalliance.org

Friends of the
Forum 2026

Make a donation today!

John Vaughn

Sofia Santana

Richard and Georgette
Kleinbaum

Diane May

Kristenza Nelson

Kathy Sidles

Samuel Carey

Stephen Wunrow

Amanda and Gunnar Johnson

Rebecca Noecker

Anne Kelly

Joe and Joann Nathan

Birdie Golden

Ryan J Dusil

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?

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

\$100 \$50 \$25 Another amount _____
Would you like to receive the online-only issues via email? Yes___ No___
Or give online: givemn.org/organization/Hopewell-Communications-Incorporated

Name _____ Email _____
Phone _____
Address _____ City, State, ZIP _____

Make checks payable to: Dayton's Bluff District Forum and mail to 1368 Minnehaha Ave. E., St. Paul, MN 55106. For more information, daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com.

Thank you for your support!