Santa Claus is Coming to Town—Christmas 2023

Santa & Albert’s Holiday Play: Albert’s Big Surprise
Weekends through December 17
@Buchaman's on Lyndale, 6010 Lyndale Ave S, Minneapolis
Buchaman’s annual Holiday Play is perfect for all ages and there’s a chance to sing Christmas carols and meet Santa after most shows.

Santa Visits the North Pole Express
December 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10
@Union Depot, 214 4th Street East, Saint Paul
Guests travel in vintage railcars with Santa through hundreds of luminaries. Then roast marshmallows on a fire. $41-$64.50 per rider (Tots 2 and under FREE).

Santa at the Holiday Hop
December 2
@Historic Downtown, North St. Paul
City-wide holiday activities traditional include visits with Santa. 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Holly Trolley
December 2-3
@Como-Harriet Streetcar Line, 2330 W 42nd St, Minneapolis
Take a trolley ride with Santa and roast marshmallows on a fire. $5 per rider.

Santa’s Train Shop
December 2-17
@Minnesota Transportation Museum, 193 Pennsylvania Ave E, St Paul
The museum is transformed into Santa’s Train Shop with live musicians, activities, train rides, pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus, and lots of museum fun. Tickets $9.318 or $50/family of 4-6.

Santa Sleigh Experience at The Hitching Company
Weekends through December 17
@The Hitching Company, 925 N. 5th Street, Minneapolis
Visit includes include crafts, a carriage ride, and photos with Santa. $21.95 per rider (Under 3 free on lap).

Vinternaatt
December 2
@Como-Harriet Streetcar Line, 2330 W 42nd St, Minneapolis
An evening trolley ride with Santa through hundreds of luminaries. Then roast marshmallows on a fire. 6:30-8 p.m. $6 per rider.

Santa & Elves at European Christmas Market
Through December 17
@Union Depot, 214 4th Street East, Saint Paul
Santa along with his elves and reindeer will be at Union Depot’s European Market. Kids can also go on a scavenger hunt and families can stroll through the market full of handcrafted goods and a selection of food. FREE to visit.

Dinner With Santa
December 9
@Duluth & Case, 1020 Duluth St, Saint Paul
Ring in the holiday season at this fun family event. Activities include dinner, arts and crafts, and a visit with Santa. FREE.

Santa at Winterfest
December 9
@Town Square, White Bear Lake
Santa will be strolling Town Square spreading holiday cheer, along with carolers, horse-drawn trolley and all around merriment. Bring your own camera to get a photo with Santa. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Santa’s Workshop
December 10
@Landmark Center’s Muesser Cortile, 75th St. W., St. Paul
Snap a free pic with Santa and then enjoy games, story time with J.B. Eckert and gift-making. 1-3 p.m. FREE.

Pictures With Santa
December 10
@Como Park Zoo & Conservatory, 1225 Estabrook Dr, St Paul
Visit with Santa Claus in the Marjorie McNeely Conservatory for a photo opportunity in the lush gardens. Bring your own camera and find the perfect spot for your photo. 8-10 a.m. $5 per and Registration Required.

Winter Wonderland
December 14
@North Dale Rec Center, 7141 4 St Albans St N, St Paul
Santa will visit this wonderland of winter activities. Best for kids 12 and under. 6:30 p.m. FREE.

Santa Night at Night Trains
December 16-23
@Twin City Model Railroad Museum, 668 Transfer Rd Ste. 8, St Paul
Night Trains runs every Saturday night through February, but on these two nights only, visitors can meet with Santa. 3-7 p.m.

Santa’s Workshop
December 19
@Battle Creek Rec Center, 75 Winthrop St, St Paul
Kids can shop for family and friends and get gifts wrapped, while parents wait in the waiting area. No item over $1. 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Holiday Express at Phalen Rec Center
December 21
@1000 E Wheelock Pkwy, St Paul
Take a photo with Santa, enjoy cookies and cocoa and do a craft project. Bring your own ice skates to skate under the lights. 6-9 p.m.

For more information about these events, visit familyfunwincities.com/santa-claus/.

Saint Paul Awards Nearly $1.3 Million in Funding to 66 Arts and Cultural Organizations
City of St. Paul
The Saint Paul City Council has approved $1,294,853 in Cultural Sales Tax Revitalization (STAR) grants to support programming, capital improvements, and organizational development activities for 66 local nonprofit arts and cultural organizations.

A mayoral-appointed board of up to nine members of the Saint Paul arts community reviewed all applications and made funding recommendations to the Mayor and City Council prior to approval at the November 15, 2023, council meeting.

“This was one of our most competitive rounds in years, with over $3 million requested and only $1.3 million of funds available,” said Bethany Gladhill, Business Director for FilmNorth and the Vice-Chair of the Cultural STAR board. “The applications were incredibly diverse, highlighting our city’s rich cultural life.”

“Empowering our vibrant arts scene through targeted support ensures our community remains a hub of creativity, expression, and cultural vibrancy,” said Mayor Carter. “The Cultural STAR grants signify our commitment to nurturing local talent and fostering the growth of our diverse artistic community.”

For more than 25 years, the Cultural STAR program has used a portion of a half-cent sales tax to strengthen the City of Saint Paul’s arts and cultural sector and support downtown as a vital cultural destination. This funding was authorized by the Minnesota State Legislature in May 1993. In 1994, the Saint Paul City Council officially established the Sales Tax Revitalization (STAR) program, which includes support for both Cultural STAR and Neighborhood STAR, which provides competitive funding for capital projects in Saint Paul neighborhoods.

“The Cultural STAR program is a vital resource to increase the vibrancy of our community,” said Jimmy Loyd, the city’s economic development director. “These grant funds support and grow our local arts and cultural organizations while also creating new opportunities for residents and visitors to explore and enjoy the diversity and vitality of Saint Paul.”

The most recent funding round will help support events such as Rondo Night at the Winter Carnival, mobile mini concerts from the Bach Society of Minnesota, the Transforming Generations Pride BBQ Festival, the Flint Hills Family Festival, the Lowertown Sounds music series, the Minnesota Qeej and Hmong Arts Festival, and the COMPAS Emerging Young Artists Juried Student Show, all in downtown Saint Paul.

See Arts, Page 6

Read the paper online at daytonsbluffdistrictforum.org
Gold Line BRT Construction Update
Compiled from information provided by Metro Transit
metrotransit.org/gold-line-project

The Metro Gold Line will be a bus rapid transit (BRT) line that operates primarily within bus-only lanes. Gold Line will provide frequent, 10-15 minute, all-day service in both directions, seven days a week. The planned 10-mile route is between St. Paul and Woodbury with bus-only lanes being constructed generally north of and near Interstate 94. It will become operational in 2025.

Work to be done by December 1:
* Lane closures in Downtown St. Paul will reopen as crews wrap up paving work.
* 1/4 mile ramp closures that will reopen include Mounds Boulevard, Ruth Street, and Century Avenue ramps.

* All lanes closed on I-94 for Gold Line construction will reopen to traffic.
* Mounds Boulevard and Ruth Street bridges over I-94 will reopen.
* Hudson Road reconstruction between Maria and Griffith Street will be completed. Hudson Road will be closed at the Maple Street pedestrian bridge as crews continue work over the winter on the bridge abutments.

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

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, January 5 at 11 a.m. If you'd like to attend, call 651-776-0550 or email dayton bluff district forum@gmail.com for more information.

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

Dayton's Bluff Community Council Board of Directors Meeting

The Dayton's Bluff Community Council is inviting everyone to attend the Annual Meeting on Monday, December 11 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the East Side Enterprise Center at 804 Margaret Street.

Come meet your neighbors, share your ideas, hear from others, and elect board members. Your voice matters!

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

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 just launched as an alternative to calling 911.

Xcel Phone Numbers


Call 811 before you dig. Before starting that rotor-tiller or heaving that shovel into the ground for anything, call 811. At no charge, Xcel will have a trained technician check the area on your property or on the boulevard to make sure there are no wires, pipes, other hidden surprises in the designated digging area. Usually, someone checks within a day, marking the 'no-dig' area with painted lines...and everyone is safe!

Dayton's Bluff Community Council Board of Directors Meeting

Gresham

December 1, 2, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 22 & 23: It's an Honourable Life. This annual Star Trek fan production is basically It's a Wonderful Life with Klingons. 7:30 p.m. except Dec. 10 & 17 at 2:30 p.m. (matinee).

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

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

Chess Club

Please 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.

Read the paper online at dayton bluff district forum.org
Holiday Events Happening Throughout the Month

Keg and Case Holiday Market
Weekends through December 23
@Keg and Case
Indoor holiday market with Carolers, local artisan pop-ups along with Happy Land Tree Lot starting Nov 18, open 7 days a week!

Landmark Center Old Fashioned Holiday Bazaar
December 1 through 2
@Landmark Center
In its 44th year, this holiday tradition is your go-to for finding unique and handcrafted gift items by the area’s finest artists. Festive music and delicious treats add to the enjoyment of holiday shopping.

Holidays on the Hill Tour
December 1-31
@James J. Hill House
Experience Christmas in 1910—both upstairs and downstairs—in the sumptuous Gilded Age mansion of railroad titan James J. Hill. Enjoy self-guided access to holiday-themed exhibits and a 60-minute guided tour highlighting holiday stories and memories from both the Hill family and their staff.

North Pole Express
December 1-3; 7-10
@Union Depot
All aboard! The North Pole Express is chugging into Union Depot the first two weekends of December. Take a short train ride to the North Pole, meet Santa and his elves and enjoy meeting some entertaining characters along the way! Tickets must be reserved in advance.

Tree Lighting and Movie Night
December 2
@Union Depot
This year marks the 10th anniversary of the 2012 Union Depot building restoration and the tree lighting includes a special celebration. The evening includes the unveiling of the St. Paul Winter Carnival 2023 button followed by live entertainment from The Mistletones and the Tree Lighting Ceremony. Finish the evening with the classic holiday movie, Elf. The tree will be lit through the remainder of December on the North Plaza, the perfect backdrop for family holiday photos!

The St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, Corelli's Christmas Concerto
December 2
@Orway Center for Performing Arts
Get in the holiday spirit with a full-bodied work that is both mournful and energetic, SPCO trumpeter Lynn Erickson will play a dazzling Baroque concerto.

Christmas in Germany
December 2-3
@Germanic-American Institute
Experience German holiday traditions during his two-day event featuring authentic food and drink, local vendors and fun activities for all ages. An outdoor food market will have beer, hot mulled wine, bratwurst and German cake.

European Christmas Market
December 2, 3, 8, 9, 16, 17
@Union Depot
This European-inspired, open-air market and magical Christmas Village at Union Depot is the most authentic Christmas Market in Minnesota. Shop for handmade European crafts or unique gifts from local vendors, drink Glühwein (spiced mulled wine), and taste European-inspired delicacies during four weekends in November and December.

11 Wells Holiday Market
December 2, 9, 16
@11 Wells
Every Saturday morning in December leading up to Christmas, 11 Wells is hosting a holiday market. Stop by to get some holiday shopping done and enjoy delicious cocktails while you do.

Night Trains
December 2, 9, 16, 23
@Twin City Model Railroad Museum
Saturdays through Feb 24 (plus bonus dates around Christmas/New Year’s) | Twin City Model Railroad Museum. For more than 80 years, the Twin City Model Railroad Museum has created to-scale displays of trains and depots. The annual Night Trains events illuminate these tracks at this great family outing. Tickets must be purchased in advance.

Holiday Flower Show
December 2 through January 7
@Marjorie McNeely Conservatory
The Holiday Flower Show tradition began in 1925 and continues to be the most anticipated and visited flower attraction at the Conservatory. Elegant white poinsettias accented with plants will fill the Sunken Garden with warmth and light.

Holiday Maker’s Market
December 3
@Urban Growler Brewing Company
Shop local while you sip local from over 20+ different vendors at makers at Urban Growler. You’re sure to check lots of gifts off your list at the first woman-owned brewery in Minnesota!

Christmas Festival Concert, Christmas Together with Steven C.
December 7, 8
@Cathedral of St. Paul
Gather your friends and family for a festive evening of music and celebration at the Cathedral of Saint Paul! Multi-platinum recording artist and composer, Steven C, will perform his 7th annual Christmas Together concert the first two nights of the Cathedral Christmas Festival.

Cathedral Christmas Market
December 7 through 9
@Cathedral of St. Paul
Get festive at this European-styled outdoor Christmas Market in the back Cathedral Courtyard. It will be festively decorated with plenty of delicious warm food, and cold and hot drinks, including mulled wine known as Glühwein, a warming treat with music, and unique gifts for sale.

A Hyyge Holiday
December 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17
@Circus Juventas
Bring the magic of circus to your yuletide celebrations with A Hyyge Holiday. This Cirque du Soleil-style performance flips, tumbles, and careens through glittering woods and snow-dappled clearings and will transport audiences to the beautiful and bewitching North Woods and leave them exhilarated by soaring acrobatics and dazzling artistry.

It’s a Wonderful Life—A Live Radio Play
December 8 through 23
@St. Paul Hotel
Reconnect with the magic of the holiday season and step back in time with this live radio play. See this classic story brought to life through a live performance as a WCCO radio drama at The Saint Paul Hotel. Don’t miss your chance to experience the magic of this timeless tale with your family and friends. Tickets include dinner and the show.

December Holiday Bazaar at The Black Market
December 9
@The Case Building
The Black Market invites you to start, or finish, your holiday shopping buying from local, black-owned businesses in the Twin Cities. Shop a multitude of vendors providing services, home goods, personal care items, books, art, gifts and more - many of which will be offering special deals and sales for the holiday season.

Holiday Bake Sale
December 9
@Union Depot
Take home treats from the top bakeries in the Twin Cities at the annual Holiday Bake Sale at Union Depot. Shop 30+ local bakeries and food vendors in a day filled with cookies, candy and fun! Enjoy live entertainment, meet local bakery influencers and be the first 200 in line for a free gift bag!

The Nutcracker
December 9, 10
Don’t miss this holiday tradition! Metropolitan Ballet’s 17th annual Nutcracker! The classic story comes to life with fresh choreography and a cast of talented artists under the direction of Erik Sanborn of the Metropolitan Ballet. A family favorite that’s delightful for all ages! @Fitzgerald Theatre

Santa’s Workshop
December 10
@Landmark Center
Get a free photo with Santa, and stay for games, gift making for loved ones, JB Eckert reading classic children’s Christmas stories and a festive holiday setting at Landmark Center.

The St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, Handel’s Messiah
December 16
@Orway Center for Performing Arts
Celebrate the holidays with one of classical music’s most beloved traditions and join the SPCO for our extremely popular annual performances of George Frideric Handel’s “Messiah”.

GLOW Holiday Festival
Select dates through December 31
@CHS Field
Stroll through a dozen seasonal scenes featuring over a million holiday lights, SELFie Plaza, Enchanted Forest, Bright Bikes, Tremendous Tree, and so much more! Plan a stop by the GLOW Gift Shop to stock up on unique gifts from local artisans. This brilliant event is fun for the whole family.

For a full list or more information about the events listed above, visit visitstpaul.com/blog/holiday-event-picks.

Read the paper online at daytonsbusinessdistrictforum.org
Letter to the Editor

Gold Line: Here Are My Demands

At this writing, Metropolitan Council contractors just dropped the pieces for the new pedestrian bridge crossing I-94 at Maple Street. It was one of the prewinter projects of the Gold Line rapid bus corridor.

When finished, the Gold Line will provide a dedicated road for buses between downtown St. Paul and Woodbury. The construction chaos has touched many lives.

The construction has been a nightmare for Dayton’s Bluff residents and commuters. Hudson Road at Earl Street has been a no-man’s land and Leo’s Chow Mein posted direction signs at area intersections to help customers find them among the relentless detours. I’m not sure who will use the bus Woodbury workers heading to downtown St. Paul? Or Dayton’s Bluff grunts heading to service jobs in Oakdale and Woodbury?

But for all the inconveniences construction has caused, I’ve decided to put my foot down. Here are my neighborhood demands when it is finished.

First, a coffee shop on Hudson. One that makes those delicious chocolate-filled croissants. Open 24 hours.

Next, a pharmacy with no drive-thru. Get out of your cars!

The Mounds Theatre must become a full-time movie spot. I want commuters on I-94 and the Gold Line to asphyxiate on movie butter popcorn.

A neighborhood cannabis dispensary. So we can better serve Gold Line clients when they stop at Earl Street station with anxiety.

A veterinarian staffed doggy and cat daycare. Wait… why not a fully-staffed daycare for humans!

Goodness knows how many millions of dollars have been dedicated to the Gold Line. Or how many more with inevitable cost overruns.

But the project should benefit neighborhoods at a premium for the disruption it has caused.

Hmmm. Chocolate croissants!

-Doug Champeau

Cross-Country Ski Passes Now Available

Ramsey County

Mutual Ramsey County/Saint Paul cross-country ski passes for the 2023-2024 season are now available for purchase online. Passes are required for skiers age 12 and older. Ski passes may be purchased in person at Tamarack Nature Center, Battle Creek Recreation Center, and Como Regional Park starting in December.

Ramsey County/Saint Paul ski passes allow access to 4 km of lighted, machine-made snow trails at the Winter Recreation Area at Battle Creek and 53 km of groomed natural snow trails at Ramsey County and Saint Paul parks.

Thank You

Forum Staff

The Dayton’s Bluff District Forum staff want to thank our readers for their generosity donations this year.

We raised $1,000 in donations from people like you! We would like to raise $2,000 for the 2024 year and you can help us achieve that. With your donations, we are able to keep printing our newspaper.

Donations ranged from $25 to $100, with the average donation being $25. Just a small amount adds up!

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for keeping our neighborhood newspaper going!

Recipe

Violet Jelly

Sage Holben

- Pick one quart of violet blossoms and place in large jar.
- Pour boiling water over flowers. Fill jar with water to cover violet.
- Let stand overnight. This be the “infusion”.
- Transfer violets to strainer and let drain. Press blossoms against sides of strainer with spoon.
- To three cups of infusion add juice of one to two fresh lemons.
- Add one package of Sure-Jell pectin
- Bring to a rolling boil. Add three cups of sugar and cook until jelly tests done (approximately 5 minutes). Skim.

Great on crackers or muffin or with a creamy brie.

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

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 February issue of the Forum is January 10, 2023.

Dayton’s Bluff District Forum

December 2023

Read the paper online at daytonsbluffdistrictforum.org
View From My Porch: Zombie at My Door

Sage Holben

Five children stood eagerly at my door waiting for a Halloween treat. Though fewer children were trick or treating this year, costumes were impressive. A young boy, perhaps 12 years old, stood to the left of me. I couldn't take my eyes off his face, even as I asked each child his/her choice: “Goodie Bar or Nut Roll? U.S. Constitution booklet?” The boy’s eyes were visible and appeared undamaged, but the left eye was surrounded by what appeared to be plaster with grid imprints. His eyes magnetized me. They never left of me. I couldn't take my eyes off his face, even as I asked each child his/her choice: “Goodie Bar or Nut Roll? U.S. Constitution booklet?” The boy’s eyes were visible and appeared undamaged, but the left eye was surrounded by what appeared to be plaster with grid imprints. His eyes magnetized me. They never

when he was about the age of my Hal- loween visitor. My friend is now 18 years old and in jail. Four short years ago we shared life stories and (I was going to say hopes for the future, but he had no hopes). He said then that he anticipated an early death, probably violent. He is in jail at this writing, for illegal possession and use of a firearm. His questions four years ago were largely about right and wrong, what are heaven and death like, and what's wrong with car-shopping? These days his questions are ‘can you put more money into my phone or canteen account?” He doesn’t respond with much intention to my suggestions of keeping a simple expenditure tally to better understand spending 25 cents per text message, the value of one ‘imma’ word in a single text message compared to well-phrased and possibly helpful 60 words; encouragement to examine his use of time or his expectations appear to flutter like a leaf in our chilly winds.

My friend has been in jail for over a month and sounds as zombie-like as the youth at my door appears. He sounds so flat and without hope. I think I have heard him laugh only once in the years I’ve known him; seen him spontaneously smile perhaps three times, one of them being from his defense table to me in the visitor’s seating. His voice, the last time he called, sounded dead and lost; it wasn’t a bad phone connection. How does a 12 or 14 year old who expects to die an early and violent death trust in or believe in any afterlife or hereafter? His eyes, his face, were devoid of life. Perhaps he was portraying a zombie, but he was too real.

The young man in his zombie-like state resembled another young man I knew who had had a recent accident. In the lamp-lit Halloween darkness, I appeared to be plaster with grid imprints. But the left eye was surrounded by what appeared to be plaster with grid imprints. His eyes magnetized me. They never

December 2023

Donations Needed for Us to Print

Help Us Deliver to Your Door Again

The Dayton’s Bluff District Forum staff is asking you to support our newspaper! Just a small donation can help us get our newspaper back to the printing press each month, so that you can read a hard copy! Your donation will go toward printing costs. We miss having our newspaper displayed in the businesses on 7th Street. We have found a new printer and are able to print for less each month. We are so close to meeting our goal to print each month, and we know your donations would bring us one step closer to printing your favorite paper! We are also working toward enough donations for our mailing permit so that the post office can deliver our monthly newspaper right to your door again! If you’d like to see future issues printed again, please consider donating. We have three ways for you to do so:

- Donate electronically via PayPal at: daytonsbuzz.buzz@gmail.com
  - Make checks payable to Dayton’s Bluff District Forum and mail to: 1368 Minnehaha Ave E, Saint Paul, MN 55106

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

Own a business? Consider taking out an ad with us for a future issue.

Yes Virginia, Summer Will Return to Dayton’s Bluff and Swede Hollow!

Brad Griffith

Falling temperatures and snow are signaling that winter has its grips on Dayton’s Bluff and Swede Hollow. Swede Hollow is a beautiful place to visit in the Winter, however for you snowbirds and wannabe snowbirds perhaps it’s best to revisit the Swede Hollow in the summertime.

From June 21 through September 23, 2023 the Friends of Swede Hollow held the Swede Hollow Summer Photo Contest, as judged by the East Side Arts Council were: First Place Winner: “Forest Bathing” by Mandy Okonek; Second Place Winner: “Reflections of Hamm’s” by Wolfie Browender; Third Place Winner: “Morning After the Rain” by Kari Soeffker; Honorable Mention Winner: “Baby Wood Ducks on a Log” by Kathy Sidles; and Honorable Mention Winner: “Baby Wood Ducks on a Log” by Kathy Sidles.

Congratulations to All!

For further information on the Friends of Swede Hollow and activities within Swede Hollow Park, contact Michel Taylor at (651)442-3366 or taylor672@comcast.net.

For further information on the East Side Arts Council visit www.eastsideartscouncil.org.
With the holidays just around the corner, we are taking a break to spend time with our families, friends, and neighbors. We will not have a January issue, but please keep your eye out for our online only February issue!

Stay safe during the holidays and enjoy the many events St. Paul has to offer!

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Stay safe during the holidays and enjoy the many events St. Paul has to offer!
Winter is Coming and You Can Head Inside to Enjoy Programs for the Whole Family at Dayton’s Bluff Library

Saint Paul Public Library is here for families with welcoming spaces and fun activities during the winter months. Visit your library for big fun and big learning when school is out from December 27-January 6! Kids ages 7-11 will find free art and STEM activities to do, and they can meet new Pokemon characters during Fun Labs on Saturdays from 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Learn more at spll.org/winter-break.

Dayton’s Bluff has free programs all month long for every age. Visit spll.org/events to learn more about these offerings:

Family Storytime for young children every Wednesday at 2:30 p.m.

December Events

December 4, 1928: Danny “Dapper Dan” Hogan, an underworld figure settled in St. Paul and lived at 1607 West Seventh Street on this day. He was a natty dresser who organized major crimes in the city that was already a sanctuary for criminals. Hogan was also involved in planning armed robberies in towns surrounding St. Paul as well as fencing and laundering money.

Hogan got behind the wheel of his Paige coupe on this day, turned on the ignition, and stepped on the starter. Hogan’s right leg was smashed beyond recognition. He was rushed to a hospital, slipped into a coma, and died a few hours later. The case remains unsolved, but most believe that he was done in by Harry “Dutch” Sawyer, his erstwhile second-in-command. An estimated 2,500 people came to the funeral. Underworld bosses from New York and Chicago sent flowers that adorned his casket.

December 7, 1955: Nagasaki, Japan became Saint Paul’s sister city on this day. It was the first such partnership between an American and an Asian municipality. The term at the time was “town affiliation” and the two locations were matched by “Operation Town Affiliation, Inc.” which was set up to promote international understanding. The organization decided that the two had similar populations and relative importance to national life. The St. Paul City Council issued a proclamation, formally recognizing the affiliation and gave out small statuettes of the Vision of Peace, a large onyx figure in the courthouse. Telegrams from assorted Japanese leaders were read and there was an announcement that 500 Japanese kokeshi dolls would be handed out to St. Paul residents who sent a written request to the mayor. A pen pal system between American and an Asian municipality. The families that somehow stay intact can support each other in so many ways.

December 10, 1980: Kao Kalia Yang, a Hmong homecomer, was born in the Ban Vinai Refugee Camp in Thailand on this day. “I grew up in a place where I was surrounded by death,” she once said. Yang came to Minnesota in the summer of 1987, along with her parents and older sister. The family leaving Laos and Thailand was all about finding opportunity. While money, support local businesses and fill your home with one-of-a-kind items. Not sure where to start? Here are some tips:

Antique Stores have home goods that date back to at least a century ago. Tip: Pay with cash and you might get a discount.

Auctions are public sales where items are sold to the highest bidder. They can be online or in person. Find one online, or wherever you find your local community events.

Local teams playing D&D.

Some Interesting December Events

Steve Trimble

December 11, 1956: A groundbreaking ceremony for a new building to house Our Lady of Guadalupe Church was held on this day. It would be a great improvement over any of the previous buildings. Completed in 1961 the new building housed a church, offices, a parish center, a kitchen, and a school.

The church began when Our Lady of Guadalupe held its first Masses in both Spanish and English on Saint Paul’s West Side on February 22, 1931. The Mexican mission met in a former grocery store at 123 South Wabasha Street and was attended by three dozen Mexican residents. The chapel became widely known for its shrine to the Lady of Guadalupe. The group later purchased a building at 186 East Fairfield in 1939 that was renovated with a chapel, a rectory, and social center. The Mission was incorporated as a parish. By the end of the 1930s there were classes in religion, sewing, and English. Because of river flooding on the West Side flats, the parish bought five acres across Concord Street in 1955 for its still flourishing church. Eventually they closed the school. It was later reopened as the Guadalupe Area Project (GAP) an all encompassing center of education for struggling youth as well as adults.

December 17, 1980: Kao Kalia Yang, a prolific Hmong author, was born in the Ban Vinai Refugee Camp in Thailand on this day. “I grew up in a place where I was surrounded by death,” she once said. Yang came to Minnesota in the summer of 1987, along with her parents and older sister. The family leaving Laos and Thailand was all about finding opportunity. While yang also credits her 9th grade English teacher recognizing and encouraging her literary works. Upon graduation from Harding High School, she went to Carleton College.

Some of Yang’s books include The *Homecomer: A Hmong Family Memoir*, *The Song Poet, A Map Into the World*, and *Yang Warriors*. She currently has won four Minnesota Book Awards.

In an interview Yang said “Family is incredibly important. There was a time when all that we had was each other. I saw it for myself in the refugee camp and I see it even more clearly now that we are in America. The families that somehow stay intact can support each other in so many ways.

December 18, 1884: The East Seventh Street Bridge that spanned the railroad tracks and Phalen Creek was opened for traffic on this day. Since 1883 residents of Dayton’s Bluff had been asking for a replacement for the deteriorating wooden bridge that had been thrown up in 1873 and to connect their neighborhood to the rest of St. Paul. They also wanted a structure that could handle water pipes, heavy traffic, and when heavy streetcars could go up the hill to their community. The Improvement Arches with their construction were chosen to solve the special challenges at the site are now considered an almost unique architectural marvel. The arches, designed by local architect William Truesdell, are significant for their rarity and the ‘demanding nature of its skewed, helicoidal, stone-arch design.’

The arches were added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1980 and also placed on the American Society of Civil Engineers list of Historic Civil Engineering Landmarks in 2000. Prior to 1989 the railway tracks beneath the arched openings were removed and the area currently serves as a pedestrian and bicy- 

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Local teams playing D&D.

Estate Sales are sales where everything or most everything in someone’s house is for sale. Either the person is moving, or they’ve died. Find estate sales in The Star Tribune, Pioneer Press, your local paper, online community group, or wherever you find community events.

Facebook Marketplace is an online classified section on Facebook. To use this feature, you must be a member of Facebook. Tip: When searching, use terms to bring up more items.

Thrift Stores sell a variety of donated household items, including furniture, dishes, home decor, toys, books and clothing. Tip: Bring someone with while shopping.

Swap Meet: Many cities and community groups host swap meets, which are events where participants can trade or barter for items. Swaps can include clothing, costumes, garden supplies and more.

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East Side Eating Trimble’s Taste Trek

Forum contributor Steve Trimble has set out to eat at every locally-owned, sit-down restaurant on the East Side. He hopes to get the word out to Dayton’s Bluff about the eating options here on our side of town.

There are more restaurants than there is room for in the monthly paper, but at least 60 may now be found online at daytons-bluffdistrictforum.org. Click “East Side Eating” at the top of the home page. Steve Trimble can be reached at daytonsbluffdistforum@gmail.com.

Cora’s Best Chicken Wings

1143 Payne Ave E.
St. Paul, MN 55130
Phone: 651-776-0020
Menu: eastside.corasbestwings.com
Hours: 10:30 a.m.-8 p.m.
Facebook: facebook.com/CorasBestChickenWings

So here we are again on The Taste Trek. Until recently, I have only been reviewing locally owned (no chains) restaurants and only those that had sit-down dining. I have since done a couple of places that didn’t have inside seating but did have benches outside that could be used in good weather. I was looking at some posts for Cora’s Best Chicken Wings. And one of them said there was take-home, dining-in, and delivery. I often drove by Cora’s and perched, I had been wrong for these years, so I decided to stop there. There is no dining-in, but I had already done reviews in two other places with no indoor seating. So here goes:

Even before opening Cora’s door, a person can learn a lot about the food. There is a really large placard listing the menu and a stand that shows specials coming on a Saturday and items in the front window and another smaller menu in the entry. There is a counter that also has information above it and a person ready to meet you. Actually, he was helping someone get his to-go food.

Before ordering, I did ask a few questions about the eatery. I found out that the restaurant was named after one of the owners. Alfredo Cayetano and his wife Cora came from The Philippines. The family was involved with food in a different part of the Twin Cities in 1995 but chose to open on Payne Avenue in 1999, so they became one of the older restaurants on the East Side. There isn’t room to give all the offerings and ingredients, but from what you see below you can get the idea of what is there. The menu, that can be seen on-line, is in several sections that will be in capital letters.

CHICKEN FINGERS: Finger Fried Rice, Finger French Fries, Finger White Sauce with sauce chili, buffalo hot or Cora’s best sauce.

Finger French Fries gives you strip cut chicken breast rolled in garlic salt and pepper. Finger Fried Rice or white rice.

LO MEIN: There are different versions and sizes including Chicken, Shrimp and Beef, and a large Party Half Pan Chicken Lo Mein.

Chicken Lo Mein, beef, and shrimp. Value meal: five chicken wings, two cheese puffs, three egg rolls, fried rice bottled water.

FRIED RICE: Vegetarian Fried Rice with choice of meat. Large Vegetarian fried rice large for three to four people. Another Vegetarian Fried Rice serves one to two people or choice or meat. Mom Family Special consisting of small chicken Lo Mein, six-ounce orange chicken, 20 chicken wings, six cheese puffs, three egg rolls, and large fried rice.

FAMILY ORDERS: Double Down Boneless chicken Chicken Chunky: 12 ounce bag of chunky bites 12 cheese puffs (cream cheese wontons), six vegetable egg rolls, and one large fried rice or French Fries. Double Down Chicken Chunky: 24 ounces of boneless tenderloin bites and large fried rice or French Fries. #11 Super Family Deluxe: 50 wings, 12 cheese cream cheese wontons, six egg rolls, and large fried rice. HUNGRY MAN: 12 chicken wings with fried rice. Cashier’s Special 12 wings, six cheese puffs, three egg rolls (vegetables), and one small fried rice (vegetable). Super Family made up of 60 wings, 12 cheese puff or try a half-family pack.

#8 Big Meal Deal: 36 wings, six cheese puffs, four egg rolls, large fried rice. Party: A whopping 100 chicken wings with a choice of spicy or sweet and half and half.

MEALS: #1 Value Meal (Chicken Breast) six-ounce chicken chunky, two cheese puffs, one egg roll, fried rice, and bottled water. #3 Value Meal: (Wings) three wings, fried rice, two cheese puffs, three egg rolls, and bottled water. #4 Value Meal: (Chicken Nugget) four wings, two egg rolls, three cheese puffs, side of fried rice, and bottled water.

JUMBO MEALS: There are two of them. Szechuan Chicken with six-ounce boneless chicken, white rice, two cheese puffs, one egg roll, and bottled water. The other is Chicken Apritada with carrots, potatoes, peas, and tomato sauce. I looked it up and this is a traditional Philippine dish, something Cora probably learned to make in the Philippines.

SIDE DISHES choices are onion rings, three egg rolls, a group of cheese puffs, as well as four-ounce containers that you can buy in several kinds for 50 cents each.

I was not all that hungry so under the FRIED RICE list I opted for the #3 value meal (chicken wings) made from the three wings, two cheese puffs, one egg roll, fried rice, and bottled water.

A few other bits of information. They have a small parking lot on the south of their building. There is also other street parking nearby.

You can use the on-line order for your food to avoid standing around waiting for your take-out. With some of the really large orders you should call a bit before you show up. If you want, I believe that many of the dishes can be made with a vegetarian make-up.

Photos below provided by Steve Trimble

On the right is Alfredo Cayetano, the owner.

Friends of the Forum

Dear Reader,

The Dayton’s Bluff District Forum has been a volunteer-run newspaper since the 1980s and has always operated on a minimal budget. Each issue costs around $1,000 to produce per month. We have found a new printer and have adjusted the cost to print each month.

For the past three years we have been soliciting donations through our Friends of the Forum program. Thanks to the donations from readers like you, we have been able to keep the paper up and running. If you value this community source of information, please consider filling out the form below. Any amount is appreciated; you may also make memorial donations, or include the Forum in your legacy planning. If you have been our Friend in the past, please consider making a donation in 2023. Our goal for 2023 is $2,500; will you help us reach our goal?

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

$100 $50 $25 Another amount ______

Or give online: givemn.org/organization/Hopewell-Communications-Incorporated

Thank you for your support!

Make checks payable to: Dayton’s Bluff District Forum and mail to 1368 Minnehaha Ave. E., St. Paul, MN 55106. For more information, contact 651-776-0550 or daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com.

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