

# Dayton's Bluff District Forum

Volume 38, No. 5

June 2024

"The Voice of the Community"

## Destination Skate Park

Mandy Okonek

If you've ever been to Heritage Park, chances are you were just passing through. Located at 735 Phalen Blvd, Heritage Park spans nine acres. Current amenities include a picnic shelter with a fire pit and a porta-potty. The City of Saint Paul website describes the space as an "ideal place for family gatherings," however, it is largely unused. Heritage Park Connects lower Swede Hollow en route to Lake Phalen via a paved biking/walking trail under a railroad bridge winding underneath a shade-tree canopy. The trail ends at the top of the hill where you meet the pavilion and large open field — the future home of a destination skatepark.

Last time (March of 2023) the *Forum* checked in with the Taskforce, they had successfully garnered the support of Senator Fong Hawj to allow the city to solicit and award a design-build authorization. With the green light for the design and support of Saint Paul Parks and Recreation, the next step is to secure funding. The Eastside Skatepark Taskforce was in full force tabling Earth Day weekend during our annual neighbor-

hood clean-up day. The crew is working hard to drum up community support and dollar bills to move forward with design and construction.

Bryan Murphy is managing the skatepark project for Saint Paul Parks and Recreation. He commented, "The taskforce is leading the community engagement phase of the project which will feed into a long-range plan amendment to the Bruce Vento Regional Trail Long Range Plan. They'll be undertaking fundraising for the project, but Parks and Recreation is also trying to connect with some of our funding sources to connect funding for the project. There isn't a specific timeline at the moment for development but will become more clear once funding is identified."

I took a moment to make Heritage Park my destination. I didn't bike through on my way somewhere else. I stopped and wandered around. It was easy to feel the possibility of this vast space transforming into a destination recreation facility. The tall brown wooden park signs share a torn-up and sun-faded history of the industry boom of the Payne-Phalen community. These signs are ready to include a new narrative. Stay tuned to the *Forum* for updates on this developing story. Until then, let's all start seeing skateparks. Or maybe just the one big one. That's all we need.

## Community Fun Day

Metro State

Join us on Saturday, June 22 for outdoor activities, food, and entertainment for the whole family at Community Fun Day! Hosted by the Metro State University Library and Learning Center and the Dayton's Bluff branch of the Saint Paul Public Library. FREE and open to the community!

Featuring: The Free Book Buggie with free reading materials to children. Open

Eye Theatre presents a live performance of their show *Molly and the Magic Boot*. Fun Lab's STEAM programming for tweens age 7-11. Lawn games, arts and crafts, light food, and more!

Community Fun Day will take place in the Metro State Community Labyrinth and lawn, located next to the Library and Learning Center at 645 East 7th Street.

Activities begin at **11 a.m.** with the puppet show at **1 p.m.** Everyone is encouraged to bring their own lawn chair or picnic blanket to relax and enjoy the festivities.

Learn more at [libguides.metrostate.edu/Community-FunDay/](http://libguides.metrostate.edu/Community-FunDay/)

**LIBRARY & LEARNING CENTER**  
**20th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

**COMMUNITY FUN DAY**

LIVE PUPPET SHOW - SUMMER SPARK  
FOOD - LAWN GAMES - FREE BOOK BUGGIE  
CRAFTS FOR TWEENS - STORY STROLL

**SATURDAY, JUNE 22**

ACTIVITIES BEGIN **11 AM**  
PUPPET SHOW **1 PM**

METRO STATE LIBRARY COMMUNITY LABYRINTH  
645 EAST 7TH STREET, SAINT PAUL

METRO STATE UNIVERSITY | SAINT PAUL PUBLIC LIBRARY

**FREE AND OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY**



Mandy Okonek

Heritage Park, located just west of Arcade St. with an entrance on Neid Lane, will be the future home of a new East Side skate park.

## Happening at Rec Centers in June

### Summer Rec Check

June 17-August 22

@Battle Creek Rec Center

Summer Rec Check has everything you love about our school-year Rec Check, but with a summer twist! Activities include crafts, art, tennis, cooking, swimming, gym games, water fun, outdoor nature activities, outdoor play, fitness, kitchen science, field trips and more. Partnering with the Saint Paul Public Library, youth are encouraged to keep reading all summer through fun literature activities and programs. A daily snack is provided. Youth must be entering grades 1-5 in the fall to enroll.

Ages 6-12

1-4 p.m.

### Kids Pottery Class/Clay Creations

June 18

@Battle Creek Rec Center

Participants will create their very own pottery pieces out of air dry clay and let their creativity fly by painting their works of art.

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

Ages 8-17

6-7:30 p.m.

### Brothers United

June 19-August 21

@Dayton's Bluff Rec Center

In this class kids will learn about themselves, and focus on building self-esteem. Recognize what emotions are, and how they make them feel. How they can

manage their emotions. Kids will get a journal and learn how to use it. Kids will learn about hygiene and how that affects them. Hair care as well building relationships with other youth.

Ages 8-12

5:30-7 p.m.

### Summer Safety Camp

June 24-27

@Battle Creek Rec Center

Participants will be introduced to safety tips that they will be able to use every day. Agencies that will be joining us are: St. Paul Police, St. Paul Fire, MN State Patrol, Pet Safety, MnDOT and more.

Ages 6-9

4-5 p.m.

### Bake Like a Boss

June 27-August 28

@Dayton's Bluff Rec Center

Contact the rec center for description.

Ages 8-12

5:30-7 p.m.

### Healthy Snacks

June 28-30

@Battle Creek Rec Center

Youth will learn how to prepare at home snacks like ants on a log, yogurt parfait, M & M energy bites, frozen bananas and more.

Fee: \$5

Ages 7-14

10-11 a.m.



## We Want Your Feedback!

The *Forum* would like your feedback.

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

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

[daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com](mailto:daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com) with your details so that we can begin sending you our paper digitally!

Other feedback about our newspaper is welcome, as well.

# Recipe

## Salmon Pastries

*Sage Holben*

One 7 ¾ oz. can salmon, drained, flaked; skin and bones removed.

\*\*NOTE as with any older recipe using packaged/canned ingredients, most have changed decreased weights or amounts, so you may have to accommodate.

### Ingredients:

- 2 beaten eggs
- 1 C. cream style cottage cheese, drained
- 1 ½ tsp. dried dill weed
- 1/2 C. finely chopped cucumber
- 1/4 tsp. Lemon pepper
- 1/2 of a 16 oz. Pkg phyllo dough (12 sheets)
- \*this package size has changed,



look for its equivalent\*  
-3/4 C. margarine OR butter, melted

### Directions:

In small mixing bowl combine salmon, egg, cottage cheese, cucumber, dill weed, and lemon pepper.

Unfold phyllo, spread one sheet flat. Brush with some of the melted butter or margarine. Top with a second sheet, repeat brushing and with the third sheet. Keep unused sheets covered with damp towel as phyllo dries out very quickly.

Cut the stack of buttered sheets lengthwise into 2" strips. Place one scant tablespoon of salmon filling near the end of each strip. Fold end over filling as if folding a flag triangularly. Fold complete strip. Continue with each. Place baking sheet in preheated 350 degree oven. Bake until lightly browned, approximately 10 minutes.

*If you'd like to submit your favorite recipe, please send it to: [daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com](mailto:daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com).*

## Happenin' in the Neighborhoods

*G. B. LeRoy*

While wandering around the East Side, I found out some good news recently: After being closed for a long remodeling, the Swede Hollow Café at 725 7th Street East is now open. They posted on their web site that "Our outdoor patio, indoor main, and upstairs dining are open! Order ahead and pick-

up curbside!"

Another positive happening occurred on May 1. The American Legion Post 577 at 1129 Arcade Street began offering food from Dark Horse Bar & Eatery in downtown St. Paul. A few of the chefs and at least one server are sent from their restaurant from 3-8 p.m. every Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.

The spot was almost filled the first night. The Legion web page would like people to follow their page for other specials and events including Bingo games and meat raffles.



## Friends of Swede Hollow

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

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

In the spirit of the area's past, we serve Hamm's beer along with other beverages and snacks. The meeting is **June 18** and starts at **6:30 p.m.** and is an excellent resource for park updates and events.

For more updates email [taylor672@comcast.net](mailto:taylor672@comcast.net) or call Michel at 651-442-3366.

## Dayton's Bluff District Forum Board Meeting

The *Forum* is seeking writers and help with online content, idea generation, and ad sales — join us at our next meeting on **Friday, June 7 at 11 a.m.**

If you'd like to attend, call 651-776-0550 or email [daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com](mailto:daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com) for more information.

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

## Need Groceries?

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



This box is part of a program called NAPS, and we can help you apply! Give us a call at 651-683-2326, and

someone will assist you with your application.

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

Make a difference in your community by becoming a State Health Insurance Assistance Program certified Medicare Coun-

selor. Help people understand their Medicare options.

Visit [Metroaging.org/volunteer](http://Metroaging.org/volunteer).

## Police Community Meetings

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

The meetings are intended as a time to learn, listen, and address people's concerns about crime and other issues on the East Side. Policing meetings are held at **9 a.m. and 6 p.m.** on the third Tuesday of each month. Bring your neighbors!

Call or email Robyn at 651-266-5580 or [robyn.brewin@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:robyn.brewin@ci.stpaul.mn.us) to ensure the meetings have not been canceled.

## Family Homeless Prevention Assistance Program

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

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

- Neighborhood House: 651-789-2500
- MN Community Care: 651-266-1290
- American Indian Family Center: 651-793-3803
- CLUES: 612-746-3550,
- YMCA: 763-493-3052
- Face-to-Face: 651-224-9644

## New National Suicide Prevention Hotline Number

988 has been designated as the new three-digit dialing code that will route callers to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. Text or Dial. 988 was recently launched as an alternative to calling 911.

## Mattress and Box Spring Recycling

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

For free curbside pick up, Saint Paul residents must first schedule a pick up time and date with Second Chance.

For more information and scheduling details, visit [stpaul.gov/mattressrecycling](http://stpaul.gov/mattressrecycling).

## Xcel Phone Numbers

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

Call 811 before you dig: Before starting that roto-tiller or heaving that shovel into the ground for *anything*, call 811.

At no charge, Xcel will have a trained technician check the area on your property or on the boulevard to make sure there are no wires, pipes, other hidden surprises in the designated digging area. Usually, someone checks within a day, marking the 'no-dig' area with painted lines, and everyone is safe!

## Dayton's Bluff Community Council Board of Directors Meeting

The Dayton's Bluff Community Council is inviting everyone to attend the Annual Meeting on **Monday, June 10 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.** at the East Side Enterprise Center at 804 Margaret Street.

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

Welcome address from the Board President, remarks from other local officials, 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](http://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](http://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; [historicismoundstheatre@gmail.com](mailto: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.**

## Community Garden Plots Available

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

## Saint Paul Public Library Offers Reading, Learning Fun for Kids and Teens All Summer Long

Saint Paul Public Library invites kids and teens to make the Library their destination for summer reading. Summer Spark, the Library's summer learning and reading program, encourages kids and teens to discover the joy of reading for fun all summer long.

To get started, kids and teens can stop in at any library location to pick up their Summer Spark Reading and Activity Log and pick out a free book to keep. Readers can track their reading and discover fun learning activities along the way.

Teens can read books and enter to win prizes; the more books read, the more chances to win.

Library staff are happy to help find

books for all interests and all ages and reading levels.

Most students in Saint Paul can check out books, e-books, audiobooks, and more with Library Go. Saint Paul Public Schools, and many charter schools, automatically enroll their students in Library Go, which is an easy-to-remember number based on students' school ID. There are no fines and no financial risks to families who borrow items with Library Go.

Suggested book titles and a calendar of events and programs can be found at [spl.org/summer](http://spl.org/summer).

### 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration:

It is hard to believe, but your local Saint Paul Public Library — Dayton's Bluff branch at 645 7<sup>th</sup> Street East — has been here for 20 years! Join us and the Metro State Library from 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. for a Community Fun Day Celebration. There will be food, games, activities, free books, and more!

Open Eye Theatre will present "Molly and the Magic Boot" at 1 p.m. The weekly Fun Lab for ages 7-11 will be incorporated into the celebration. More information is available at: <https://libguides.metrostate.edu/communityfunday>



Dayton's Bluff Library

The 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of Dayton's Bluff Library is on Saturday, June 22 from 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome!



Dayton's Bluff Library

Dayton's Bluff Library and Metro State Learning Center under construction in 2004.



## View From My Porch Death and Dying

Sage Holben

Death and dying — should I write about it or not? It's common to all people. Having, in the past seven months, attended as many funeral services, and the loss of three other acquaintances, death has been on my mind a bit more. Like almost any experience or situation, when "it" becomes personal, "it" becomes more real with actual consequences and possible needed action.

Tragic deaths — unrelated traffic accidents that took the lives of two of my friends in the prime of their lives; a family murder of two pre-ten-year-old children and their father's suicide; a young friend of mine butchered to death in a motel; a killing by shooting in front of my house as a neighbor and I watched; my best friend's new born baby. These are the ones that remain vividly in my memory.

When an aged person dies a "natural" death I accept it more easily, a given...I

am reaching that stage myself. My son and I have had conversations about the kind of funeral I would like; friends and I have talked about how we prefer to die — to have a certain amount of control over how and when we feel our acceptable quality of life has become non-existent.

And then my 19-year-old cat died last week. I sensed a week and a half before that he was dying — like me, just slowing down. Then a day of his taking more naps, not wanting his treats, still drinking water, and wanting



more hugs. Perhaps that last was more me than him. I have had smart cats (all house-only) as Sophie proved to be a wise feline. Tommy, though, who came to me about 16 years ago as a lost stray, was exceptionally intelligent.

Animal "experts" would state that animals don't have a thought process — of step by step and remembering, rather they have a sense of habit and repetition. Tommy, though, when he greeted me at the door when I came home from work, led me into the bathroom. He sat beside the bathtub, looked at me, then at the wall area a couple feet lower from the ceiling. Then, again, at me, then the wall. About half an inch of a screw point protruded. It was not there that morning. I called my landlord and he said he had been over around 8:30 a.m. to secure the loose stair-

way handrail on the common hallway side of the wall. He didn't realize the wall was so thin — he would fix it. I was



amazed that Tommy would think that I would want to know about that and that he would remember throughout the day.

Tommy showed affection in a way none of my previous cats did. We had close face to face conversations, and I really think that was why he responded as he did. He paid

close attention to my hand movement and my facial expressions. He would lie at my feet with his paw on my foot and stroke it, petting me as I would him. At night, in bed, he would often stroke my cheek. Lying there, he would position himself to first examine, from left to right across one bookshelf, the next above, left to right; he started doing that after a bat had bitten me as I slept. I believe he was checking for a returning bat.

Then he would hold his face about two inches from mine and search my eyes. I would swear he was looking into my soul to examine how I had lived my life that day. Then he would touch his nose to my forehead — an anointing or a kiss.

I have two fantastic sons who live elsewhere, and my heart has always over-

flowed with the love and the joy I have for them. But, dare I say, a cat (or dog) that has developed such positive human-like emotional qualities has earned the same overflowing love and appreciation.

My personal animal psychology says that having face to face "conversations" with an animal has been a large part of relational development. Does it help that he had his own "gallery" of cat pictures on his eye level? Or that I would read cat poems to him, and he appeared to listen?

As night approached on his last day, I watched his breathing and facial expression, his eyes, and I was aware that cats don't always tell us of the physical pain they feel. His last resettling was on the rug next to my bed. It was almost midnight. I spread a quilt on the living room



rug, placed his favorite orange cashmere throw on it, with pillows for me. I carried him from the rug to the quilt and we lay down so he could die. As I rested my hand lightly on his body he opened his mouth three times with deeper breaths, looking at me, and he "passed". Odd word, I always thought. We are dying even as we live, and passing through this world is what we do. I left my hand on Tommy,

not wanting to let go, even as his body grew cold. My neighbor and friend, John, came and dug a grave for Tommy — under the lilacs. Rest in peace, Tommy.

# Gold Line BRT Construction Update

Compiled from Information provided by Metro Transit  
metrotransit.org/gold-line-project

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

When open, the Gold Line will provide all-day, daily service between downtown St. Paul and Woodbury. Buses will travel in dedicated lanes for about 70% of the 10-mile route, serving stops in St. Paul, Maplewood, Landfall, Oakdale, and Woodbury. The route through the East Side of Saint Paul including Dayton's Bluff runs parallel to and north of I-94.

### Road Closures, Ongoing Construction and Traffic Impacts

\* Johnson Parkway is closed between Wakefield Avenue and Hudson Road underneath Interstate 94 as crews construct a bus-only bridge over Johnson Parkway. Follow posted detour route via 3rd Street, Etna Street, and Burns Avenue. The closure will remain in effect through June 2024. Pedestrian access along Johnson Parkway under I-94 will be maintained.

\* Crews conduct formwork in preparation for decking installation on the bus-only bridge at Johnson Parkway in mid-May.

\* Mounds Station construction continues near the intersection of Mounds Boulevard and Third Street as crews install roofing for the bus shelter and pour concrete for sidewalks at the station area.

\* Crews install sod along Hudson Road between Maria Avenue and Earl Street.

\* Crews install lighting along Hudson Road between Earl Street and Griffith

Street.

\* Crews work at the stormwater pond near the intersection of Griffith Street and Johnson Parkway. Activities will continue through the summer. Crews will begin by removing any standing water. Following this activity, crews will add a sand drainage layer to the pond before installing drainage pipes. After the pipes are installed, grading and seeding will occur for temporary erosion control prior to final landscaping and site restoration later this fall.

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

\* Crews begin work on either end of the Maple Street pedestrian bridge.

\* Hudson Road between Wilson Avenue and Maple Street closed to traffic. Local access to residences will be maintained.

\* Hudson Road between Cypress Street and Maple Street is temporarily one-way only (going west).

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

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

\* Hudson Road from Old Hudson Road to east of Kennard Street is closed to traffic. Local access is maintained.

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

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

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



Greg Cosimini

Construction continues on the Johnson Parkway overpass (top) and the Maple Street pedestrian bridge (above).



@Dayton's Bluff District Forum



## NOTICE

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

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

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

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

### 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 July issue of the *Forum* is June 10, 2024.**

## Letter to the Editor

Jane Prince

Each day we open the *Pioneer Press* to another announcement of an exodus from downtown Saint Paul: TKDA Architecture and Engineering's 300 employees are moving to Bloomington, 75 US Bank employees are leaving. Ramsey County is closing its East Office Center on Kellogg (which houses the "Safe Space" overnight homeless shelter). And Madison Equities, which owns over 40 percent of downtowns office buildings and commercial real estate just put most of its downtown portfolio on the market. Many of our downtown employers are not requiring employees to come back to work, which means office tenancy is down, and with it the property tax valuations of these buildings will plummet.

What does this mean to us as Dayton's Bluff residents? Understanding property taxes isn't always easy, but in this case it's simple math. When Saint Paul's commercial tax valuations decline, the tax burden shifts to residential property owners. And almost everyone I know agrees that it is hard for East Siders – especially families and elders on fixed incomes – to sustain ever increasing property taxes.

Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey is confronting the same dilemma across the river, and he is alerting Minneapolitans that their city will face choices that will inevitably lead to an increase in property taxes. The *Star Tribune* met with Mayor Frey and his finance experts to discuss the

problem, "We've got work to do" to figure out how to balance the city's budget and manage its tax implications.

I'd feel a whole lot better if I saw Saint Paul Mayor Melvin Carter show a willingness to engage in those same difficult conversations here with us. Instead, we see our city at the legislature angling for bonding money for large new parks facilities downtown – like the proposed Mississippi River Balcony – an amenity now losing its constituency of downtown workers.

At a difficult time like this, we in Dayton's Bluff can be proud of the ways in which we have faced challenges in our own community and the ways in which we come to together as neighbors, district councils, employers and workers, non-profits, arts organizations, foundations and government leaders, to make things happen.

Just the other day, at Swede Hollow Cafe, I overheard a customer say to her companion: "This neighborhood is looking GREAT! I can't believe how much is going on here!"

When I have posted in Facebook about my deep frustration and concern about downtown, I've been asked, "Can the City Council play a leadership role, even if the Mayor does not?"

THE ANSWER IS YES. We have a great new City Council, made up of strong, smart representatives of our wards. They are learning quickly, and they are asking the right questions. I can attest, being a new councilmember can be like "drinking from a fire hose." At the same time, there is a vital leadership role they can and are playing right now, downtown.

While we think of them as our city

councilmembers, they also serve as the Saint Paul Housing and Redevelopment Authority, the arm of the city that finances its housing and economic development activities, downtown and citywide.

The HRA Chair is Ward 2 Councilmember Rebecca Noecker, a diligent representative for downtown for the past eight years, and the HRA Vice Chair is our new Ward 7 City Councilmember Cheniqua Johnson. These two are a powerful duo who are already well known to our downtown partners. Councilmember Johnson worked as a program officer for The Saint Paul and Minnesota Community Foundation and brings powerful skills and connections to her new position.

I believe HRA Commission Chair Noecker and Vice Chair Johnson and their colleagues are in a wonderful place to convene our downtown partners, such as the Saint Paul Area Chamber of Commerce, the Capital River District Council 17, the Downtown Building Owners and Managers Association, the Lowertown Futures Fund, our philanthropic community, the Saints, the Wild, Visit Saint Paul, MPR and the *Saint Paul Pioneer Press* to activate strategies – some of which are in progress through Joe Spencer and the Downtown Alliance – to invite everyone to apply their strengths and knowhow to turn downtown around.

This effort should involve talented developers like Rich Pakonen and Chris Sherman currently investing in two vital downtown projects. We need to routinely seek and follow the wisdom of our Fortune 500 CEOs at Ecolab and Securian.

And just today, I learned from Councilmember Noecker that the Downtown Alliance on Friday, assembled a workgroup to focus its energies and expertise

into spurring investment in vacant and underutilized downtown real estate; in particular the Madison Equities holdings that make up so much of our commercial space. And more good news: Securian CEO Chris Hilger and HRA Chair/Councilmember Noecker will chair this new initiative – where I'm confident the best ideas from our partners will be heeded.

I urge the workgroup to reach out to Governor Walz and Saint Paul's legislative delegation to assist in reviving our Capital City. Governor Walz played a very important role in convincing the Target Corporation to reinvest in downtown Minneapolis. In Saint Paul, the state is part of our biggest problem, terminating leases where its workers have filled downtown buildings for decades.

We need everyone at the table so that we have maximum "intelligence" on which employers, bars, restaurants, and businesses may be weighing a decision to move. Was there an opportunity to persuade US Bank or TKDA to stay?

In cases where downtown companies are contemplating a move, we need to make them part of the greater whole and a greater vision. We need to strategically consolidate all of our economic development resources through the Saint Paul Department of Planning and Economic Development, the Port Authority, the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development to create new strategies and incentives to help restore vitality and confidence in our central business district. We have the talent; what we need is the leadership and the shared determination to overcome current conditions.

Jane Prince

1004 Burns Ave., Saint Paul, MN 55106

## Local Farmer's Markets Now Open

Compiled from information provided by [stpaulfarmersmarket.com/](http://stpaulfarmersmarket.com/)

The St. Paul Farmers' Markets are beloved community gathering spots where local farmers and artisans come together to offer fresh produce, baked goods, handmade crafts, and more. Located in the heart of St. Paul and surrounding areas, these vibrant markets have been a staple of the community for 170 years, offering a unique shopping experience and a chance to connect with the people who grow and make the goods you buy. With a festive atmosphere, live music, and plenty of tasty treats to sample, St. Paul Farmers' Market is a must-visit destination for anyone looking to support local businesses and enjoy the best of what the community has to offer.

### Downtown St. Paul

Now open every Saturday and Sunday! Free parking on Prince St. and Peddy-Cab rides from the lot to the market!

Our flagship farmers' market is located at 290 5th St. E, Saint Paul.

Open Hours: Saturdays 7 a.m.– 1 p.m., Sundays 8 a.m.– 1 p.m.

### Roseville

The market is located at Corpus Christi Church at 2131 Fairview Ave N, Roseville.

Open Hours: Tuesdays 8 a.m.–12 noon.  
\*No market on August 27\*

### Andover

Due to construction, the market has moved down the road to Riverdale Church in Andover.

Take the Bunker Lake Blvd Frontage Road to our new address: 3210 Bunker Lake Blvd NW, Andover.

Open Hours: Tuesdays 2 p.m.–6 p.m.

### Burnsville

The market is located at Mary Mother of the Church at 3333 Cliff Rd E, Burnsville.

Open Hours: Thursdays 11:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

### House of Hope

The market is located at House of Hope Church at 797 Summit Ave, Saint Paul.

The farmers market occurs in the parking lot on the corner of Holly Ave and N Avon St.

Open Hours: Fridays 1:15 p.m.– 5 p.m.

### Aldrich Arena, Maplewood

The market is located at Aldrich Arena at 1850 White Bear Ave.

Open Hours: Wednesdays 8 a.m.– noon.



## Dayton's Bluff District Forum

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We are currently printing and distributing our newspaper quarterly. The paper is always available online at [daytonsbuffdistrictforum.org](http://daytonsbuffdistrictforum.org). This publication of Hopewell Communications, Inc., a nonprofit organization, is intended to provide a forum for the ideas and opinions of its readers and to be an instrument for developing community awareness and pride. Signed articles do not necessarily represent the views of the *Forum*. Material from this paper may be republished if it is attributed to the *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* and to the author, if any. Articles and letters to the editor are welcome and may be emailed to [daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com](mailto:daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com), or mailed to the address above. The *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* is delivered to businesses in the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood when the budget permits. To find out where you can pick up a printed issue, send an email to the address above.

Board of Directors: Greg Cosimini, Karin DuPaul, Sage Holben,

Jennifer Gascoigne, Steve Trimble

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

Staff: Mandy Okonek

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

# Some Short Pieces of St. Paul History

Steve Trimble

Here are brief summaries of some June historical events. You might want to look up additional information for a fuller understanding of the event. There are other items that I didn't include such as Flag Day, Father's Day, Juneteenth National Independence Day, and the official beginning of summer.

June 3, 1900: The *St. Paul Globe* had an article on this day covering the opening of the Harriet Island Free Baths. There were ceremonies in the afternoon, lauding the city of St. Paul for possession of a finely appointed public bathing establishment, a gift to the city from Dr. Justus Ohage, head of the Municipal Department of Health.

Ohage mortgaged his home to pay for the land and to build two bath houses, a refreshment pavilion, gardens, and trails. There also were a small restaurant for food and coffee and sandwiches, playgrounds, exercise grounds, and a little zoo.

The bathhouse was 320 feet long with separate men and women's sides that opened onto the Mississippi and the swimming beaches were known as "public baths." There were also a few lined bathing pools. There were attendants and swimming teachers. The laundry cleaned 5,000 suits and 10,000 towels every day.

Conditions of the gift were that no alcoholic liquors or cigarettes would be brought in or sold or given to others and that it remained under the Municipal Department of Health. There were thousands of summer visitors, but as sewage fouled the river, people turned away, and by the early 1920s the baths and park features disappeared.

June 6, 1955: Parkway Little League and Pony Leagues, located in the St. Paul East Side, played their first game on this evening. At the end of the season, the league had raised over \$3700 and it was time for a permanent home.

The parcel of land on East Third Street just east of Earl had been purchased and had its own unique characteristics. They appealed to the businessmen and local residents and with many donations Parkway had the money to begin grading and working on the playing fields and even later to complete construction of a

concession building.

Through the years, Parkway has had numerous additions including team dugouts, chain link fencing, batting cages, and even an additional field in 1993. At present Parkway has different programs for young people interested in playing ball at all ages, boys and girls, starting with Tee-ball.

The organization is a totally self-supporting non-profit organization that receives no monetary funding from state or federal sources. Funding for the program comes only from registration fees, business donations, charitable gaming donations, business advertising on outfield fences, and proceeds from the concession stand. All staff positions from the Board of Directors to the umpires and coaches are performed on a voluntary basis.

June 5, 1885: *The Western Appeal*, a St. Paul African American newspaper initially a six-column folio, made its debut on this day. It became the most successful African American newspaper in the city's history. It came out every Friday containing news, editorials, advertisements and a literary page. The paper struggled financially within a year. Two prominent St. Paul residents became the management team and provided job order printing services.

John Quincy Adams moved to St. Paul from Kentucky in 1886 to work as the editor and became the driving force behind the newspaper. Adams was a strong Republican and expressed his opinions through the paper's editorial page. The newspaper even received funding directly from the Republican Party, which was not unusual at the time. Adams soon fully owned the *Appeal* and supervised both its business and editorial sides. The newspaper boosted the community, expressed group frustrations and often called for action opposing racism.

As the 20th century progressed, the *Appeal* slowly got smaller and closed its last regional office in 1913. Adams remained editor until his death in 1922. Adams' son, John Jr., took over the *Appeal* and hired Roy Wilkins, then a young graduate student, as editor. The newspaper struggled, and lasted only another year.

June 10, 1995: On this day Wing Young Huie's "Outdoor Gallery" at University Avenue and Dale Street would be ending. The local photographer had taken thousands of photographs in two years, documenting daily life in St. Paul's Frogtown neighborhood. 175 of these black and white images were mounted on four by

eight-foot foam panels that hung from metal structures. The photos of adults and children were in kitchens and other inside rooms, on families sitting on front porches and at funerals in churches.

The 40-year-old Huie was born in Duluth to Chinese parents and moved to downtown St. Paul as a young man. He was trained in journalism and made his living as a freelance writer. This project was funded by grants. Huie said the display wasn't a documentary, but more a personal photo album. He gave copies to residents hoping that a sense of pride would protect the display from vandalism. He was right, and only one or two were taken

Photographs and Conversations in an Urban Neighborhood.

Huie later said "I thought about putting them on some of the boarded-up houses in the area, but that seemed to make some kind of statement that I didn't intend. The street just seemed like the right place for them."

June 12, 2018: The drama had begun on this day when a motley brown raccoon appeared in a niche in an outside wall of the Town Square building. The next day, it switched over to the side of the nearby UBS Plaza a 25-story office tower. The animal slowly climbed another 20 stories and was resting on a ledge. The raccoon had stopped Tuesday afternoon for a nap just two stories below the UBS Plaza roof. Workers couldn't try to grab it because the windows couldn't be opened.

Large crowds of people were now gathered and gawked on the street below. The ascent even drew the attention of national news outlets, including CBS News, the *Washington Post*, and Fox News. The Animal Control officials set up traps with food in hopes of luring him if it reached the top.

The raccoon completed her climb in the cover of darkness and reached the roof of the UBS Plaza about 2:30 a.m. It was caught in a live trap baited with soft cat food that evening, and picked up by Wildlife Management Services. Technicians from Wildlife Management Services carried the now-caged one-year-old raccoon and released it in an undisclosed location. They said the animal was "all good and healthy."

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

Stephanie Harr

Sarah Ryan

## Donations made in 2022 through Give MN that deserve recognition:

Jean Comstock

Jeanelle Foster

Andrew Barbeau

## Friends of the Forum

Dear Reader,

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

For the past three years we have been soliciting donations through our Friends of the *Forum* program. Thanks to the donations from readers like you, we have been able to keep the paper up and running. If you value this community source of information, please consider filling out the form below. Any amount is appreciated; you may also make memorial donations, or include the *Forum* in your legacy planning. **If you have been our Friend in the past, please consider making a donation in 2024. Our goal for 2024 is \$2,500; will you help us reach our goal?**

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

\$100 \$50 \$25 Another amount \_\_\_\_\_  
Or give online: [givemn.org/organization/Hopewell-Communications-Incorporated](http://givemn.org/organization/Hopewell-Communications-Incorporated)

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Thank you for your support!

Read our paper online at [daytonsbuffdistrictforum.org](http://daytonsbuffdistrictforum.org)