

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

Volume 39, No. 7

August 2025

"The Voice of the Community"

7th Street Live Returns August 9

Center for Broadcast Journalism

Mark your calendars — 7th Street Live! is making its grand return on Saturday, August 9, and you won't want to miss it!

This signature event is more than just a music festival — it's a celebration of culture, creativity, and community on St. Paul's East Side. As the new stewards of Power 104.7FM (formerly WEQY), we're proud to bring this beloved tradition back



another year with an even bigger vision. We're transforming the streets into a free-flowing festival space where generations and cultures connect. Whether you're dancing, eating, performing, or just soaking it all in — you won't want to miss 7th Street Live!

Details: Saturday, August 9, Noon-4pm on East 7th Street between Hope and Arcade Street.

Special thanks to our sponsors: East Side Funders Group, Old National Bank, Metropolitan Regional Arts Council, City of Saint Paul Cultural Star and Indigenous

Roots for investing in the power of community celebration.

Call for Art — We Belong Together

ArT at 967 Payne

Are you ready to help us celebrate the threads of humanity that unite us? Now in its sixth year, Solidarity Street Gallery invites visual artists of all backgrounds — local, national, emerging, and established — to help us shape a tapestry of belonging and submit work for a uniquely vibrant exhibition along Payne Avenue, St. Paul from **October 10-12**.

This year's theme, "We Belong Together", challenges artists to explore and illuminate the essence of belonging, togetherness, and shared experience. We are seeking artworks that go to the heart of our shared humanity and its enduring desire to belong — finding meaning and identity in the communities we build, and assembling a tapestry of empathy, mutual respect, and lived stories that transcend boundaries of race, culture, or origin.

We encourage submissions that invite viewers to look beyond their own "tribe" and embrace a broader, more inclusive community — one that enriches individual lives and fortifies society. We are looking to assemble an exhibition that reflects the profound strength, innovation, and creativity that diversity brings, while acknowledging that our nation's ongoing story is woven from many threads—each contributing to the success and promise

of this country we all treasure.

ELIGIBILITY

This call is open to all visual artists — whether you are local or national, emerging or established. There are no submission or exhibition fees. All artworks must be original creations by the submitting artist. We welcome a broad range of media and formats, including: paintings, drawings, illustrations, prints, digital works, and photographs; sculpture, from table-top pieces to outdoor/sidewalk installations; handcrafted artifacts and objects of cultural heritage; motion picture/video shorts; site-specific projects, performances, lectures, and panel discussions.

EXHIBITION FORMAT

Selected works from the public Call for Art will be featured in a range of venues, including galleries and storefront windows across more than 20 locations along Payne Avenue, transforming five to six blocks into a walkable "Street Gallery." This format connects the artists and artworks with diverse audiences who may not otherwise have access to high-quality art and insight into the artistic process. It also energizes the Payne Avenue commercial district, by involving local business owners in the arts and cultural celebration.

ArT at 967 Payne is pleased to serve as the main site for this fine-art exhibition and cultural celebration.

For further details, and our Artwork Submission Form, please go to: airtable.com/appJfKZIH4eHN8wo0/shrYHHPUEQGqxdJM



Join Us For Black Business Network's National Night Out!

Black Business Network

Tuesday, August 5 3–7 p.m. Payne-Phalen (York & Payne)

Come out for a powerful evening of celebration, culture, and community! This free, family-friendly event brings together over 400 families for an afternoon of fun, resources, and local flavor.

Enjoy: A live DJ spinning feel-good



music, free BBQ and food samples from Black-owned businesses, cotton candy and snow cones to cool you down, bounce houses and youth activities, and face painting and creative play.

The Free Book Buggie – grab free books for kids ages 0-18 (3:30–4:30 p.m.).

Our **\$1, \$5 & \$10 Community Raffle** with awesome prizes, vendor marketplace, and community resources.

We recommend bringing your own lawn chairs or blankets. Hydration stations and shaded seating will be available to help beat the heat!

This event is open to all! RSVP to let us know you're coming and stay updated:

eventbrite.com/e/east-flavor-side-national-night-out-powered-by-bbn-tickets-1218724861869.

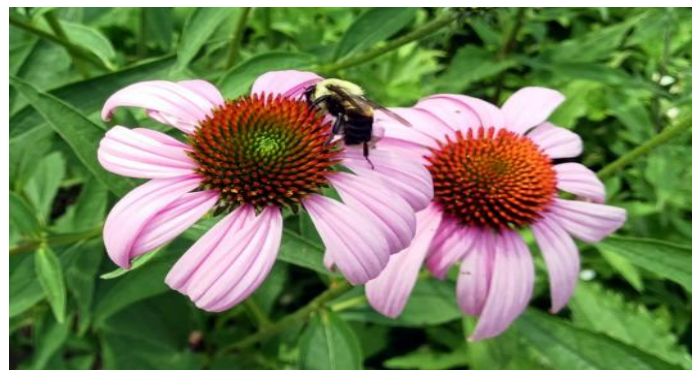
-side-national-night-out-powered-by-bbn-tickets-1218724861869.

Como Community Seed Library Has Extras!

Nathaniel Barber

Alert! If you need free tomatoes and peppers, we've got the free hook-up! Our friends at Como Community Seed Library have an abundance of plants in need of a home.

Email, Dawn Lamm, for pick up: dlamm@comoseedlibrary.org and to see what's available for adoption.



Greg Cosimini

Bees on purple coneflower.s



Sage Holben

The Dayton's Bluff District Forum had a table at the June Art in the Hollow, educating guests about the newspaper.

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 daytons-bluffdistrictforum@gmail.com, for consideration in this exciting opportunity.

Hamm's Finds a Home at Obb's

Greg Cosimini

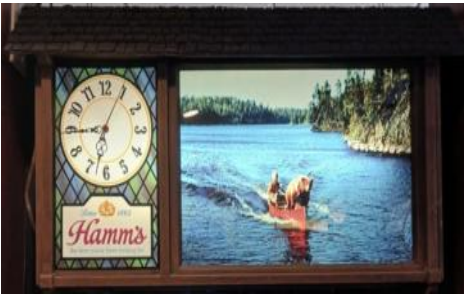
Hamm's Brewery and Hamm's beer have connections to Dayton's Bluff that date back to 1865. Minnesota was the "Land of Sky Blue Waters" and that water originally came from wells in Dayton's Bluff. But time passed and the brewery changed hands several times until it finally closed altogether, ending beer brewing in the neighborhood. The remains of Hamm's Brewery still exist in the area of of Minnehaha and Payne Avenues. A small brewery and other businesses now inhabit some of the remaining buildings and there is once again talk of a major development in the works.

But what of Hamm's beer itself? At one time it was the beer of the East Side. After the Hamm's brewery closed, Hamm's beer

never totally disappeared but it got harder to find in local bars and liquor stores. Various other breweries produced it but it was no longer a local favorite because it was not a local beer. It is now brewed by Molson Coors and according to those who know about such things, and it still tastes the same. Whether that is a good thing or a bad thing depends on one's taste in beers.

Hamm's beer can once again be found in many local bars and liquor stores but few places have embraced it as much as Obb's Sports Bar & Grill located at 1347 Burns Ave. Of course it sells Hamm's beer, but it also displays all sorts of Hamm's memorabilia. Much of it features the famous Hamm's bear who was a staple of Hamm's advertising for many years. He can be seen on signs, clocks, and figurines. There are also more generic Hamm's advertising signs. Stop in and check them out while having a cold Hamm's beer and toasting its history with Dayton's Bluff.

Photos below provided by Greg Cosimini



Friends of Swede Hollow

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

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

The meeting is **August 19** and starts at **6:30 p.m.** and is an excellent resource for park updates and events. For more updates email taylor672@comcast.net or call Michel at 651-442-3366.

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. **August 6 p.m. meeting is canceled.**

callers to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. Text or Dial. 988 was recently launched as an alternative to calling 911.

Xcel Phone Numbers

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

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

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

Dayton's Bluff Community Council Board of Directors Meeting

The Dayton's Bluff Community Council is inviting everyone to attend the meeting on **Monday, August 18 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.** at the East Side Enterprise Center at 804 Margaret Street.

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

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

Free Legal Services for-Low-Income People

Call Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services at 1-888-575-2954 or go to smrls.org to see if you qualify for free 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.**



Saturday August 30: James Ruth Game Event. Time: 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

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

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

Chess Club

Come join us at Karibu Grocery and Deli, located at 719 Payne Ave. in St. Paul for a weekly game of chess. All levels are welcome. We play every **Wednesday from 6-9 p.m.**

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, July 25 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

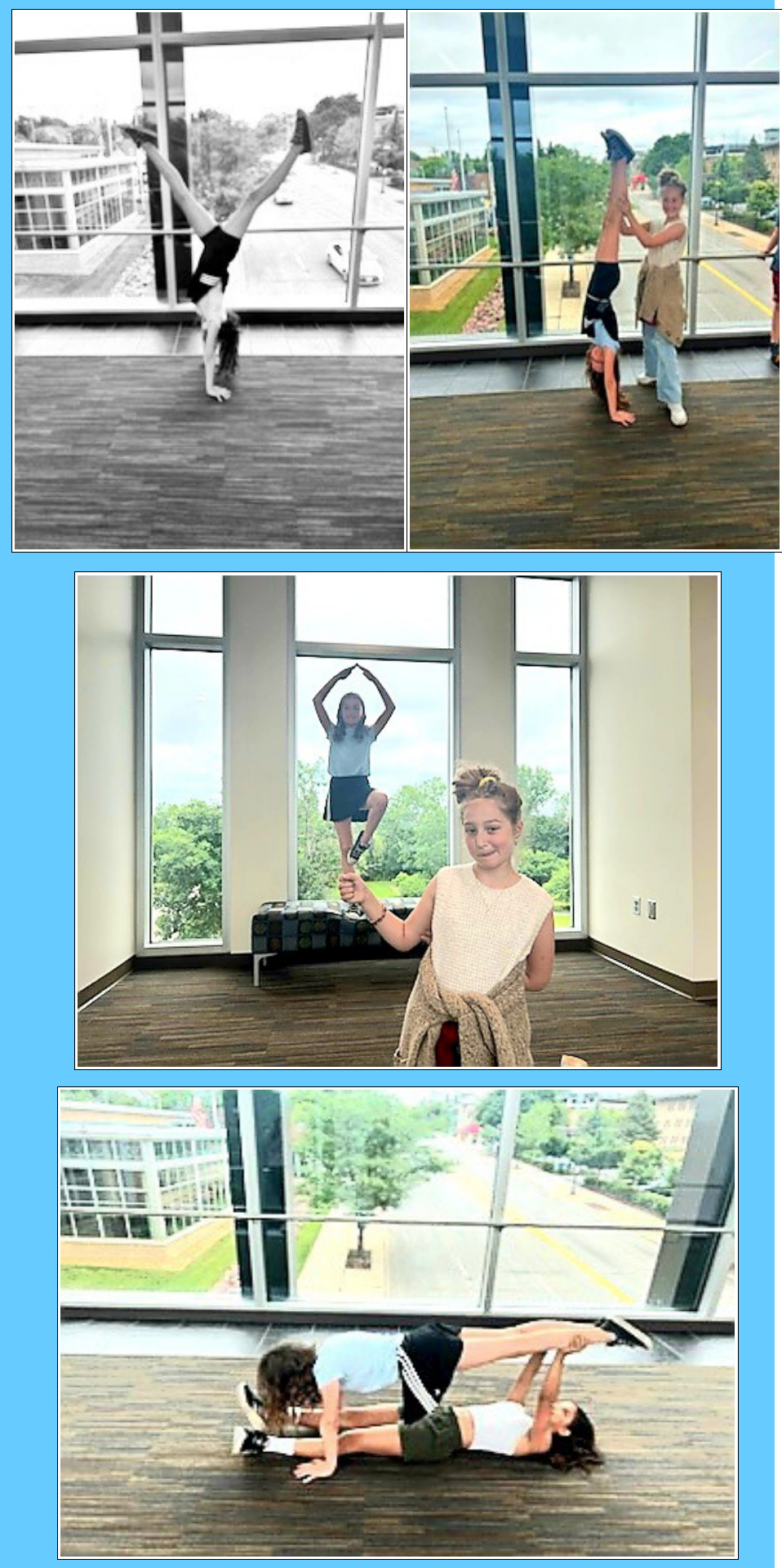
New National Suicide Prevention Hotline Number

988 has been designated as the new three-digit dialing code that will route

Spontaneous Creative Movement in the Skyway

Kari's Camp

With all the rain kids were creative and made artistic use of almost empty skyway.



St. Paul Public Schools Will Provide Meals to all Children This Summer

St. Paul Public Schools

Saint Paul Public Schools will provide meals at no cost to all children 18 and under, and those with a disability currently enrolled in a school program, this summer. Kids and teens can enjoy a meal at more than 50 schools, recreation centers,

libraries and community sites. Our food truck will serve up burgers, sambusas, nachos, and other favorites at parks and community centers around Saint Paul. Information about all community meal sites will be posted on the "Free Meals for Kids" app. Capstone believes in the power of reading! To keep kids reading over the summer, they are donating more than 1,000 books to the SPPS food truck visitors. Pick out a book at our "Lunch 'n Literacy" event on:

- August 14

Visit spps.org/about/departments/nutrition-services/summermeals to find the menus.

SUMMER MEALS AT NO COST

FOR ALL YOUTH 18 AND UNDER, AND THOSE WITH A DISABILITY ENROLLED IN A SCHOOL PROGRAM

Partner with SPPS to provide free meals to youth in your program.

APPLY HERE!

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Celebrate the Last of Summer at Your Library

Dayton's Bluff Library

Dayton's Bluff Library has a great line-up of events this month:

FunLab! — Saturdays @ 2:30-4 p.m. Drop in to hang out and make cool stuff at FunLab! Featuring crafts, science experiments, engineering projects, video games, and more. This STEAM drop-in program is designed for ages 7-11. FunLab! is every Saturday at Dayton's Bluff Library.

Altered Books with ArtLab RX – August 4-August 8 @ 2–4 p.m. Learn coping strategies using altered books as a means of release, relief, and reveal. Participants will use small, discarded books to alter with collage, black-out poetry, and more. Space is limited, so come early to get a spot, grab a book, and start creating! This is a week-long workshop for teens 12-18.

Teen Tuesdays @ Dayton's Bluff library. We have something for teens age 12-18 every Tuesday all year round. Teen Dungeons and Dragons is every 1st & 3rd Tuesday, Teens Know Best (a teen

book club) is every 2nd Tuesday, and Teen Writers' Guild (a teen writing group) is every 4th Tuesday. Teen Tuesdays are the 5th Tuesday (if there is one) and are a teen maker/hang out space with music, projects, computers, and snacks. All Tuesday programs are at the same time from 6:30-8.

Artmobile! at Dayton's Bluff — Wednesdays, August 6 and 13 @ 1–3 p.m. Free, drop-in art classes, taught by professional artists! Artists: Rachel Avenido, Tamina Muhammad (Lead Artist), Lorelei Bogue (Artmobile Intern). Artmobile takes art supplies, musical instruments, and acclaimed artists right into East Side neighborhood parks and rec centers and libraries.

Summer Reader Celebration Saturday, August 16 at 2–4 p.m. Sun Ray Library, 2105 Wilson Ave. Savor the final stretch of summer with fun, flavor, and festivity at Saint Paul Public Library's Summer Celebration! We're celebrating the reading and learning Saint Paul kids and teens have done all summer long — and everyone's invited.

Drop in anytime for an afternoon of arts and crafts, face painting, and a story stroll while enjoying delicious ice cream. Stick around for a performance from the Roe Family Singers at 2:30! Don't forget to pick up your free Summer Spark book to take home while you're here!

Find more events at sppl.org/events.

DONATE TODAY

You got somethin' to say? Say it here!

The *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* welcomes all opinions and neighborhood anecdotes — send yours to:

daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com

Want to write about something that interests you? We want to hear it! Submit your stories and articles to the email above.

Opinions expressed in contributed articles may not represent the views of the *Forum*.

Deadline for the September issue of the *Forum* is August 10, 2025.

Art Through the Ages: Twin Cities Reflections

Tamina Muhammad and
Abderrahmane Belfatmi

Tamina Muhammad was motivated to participate as an instructor in this community art project and showcase funded by a grant with The Minnesota State Arts Board and Legacy Fund. The goal was to connect Minnesota residents of all ages and backgrounds on a common thread — their love of the state of Minnesota. As an artist and community leader, Tamina understood how powerful and universal art can be. Art gives any individual the freedom to express their view of the world. Art sparks thoughtful conversations and considerations regardless of your socioeconomic background, race, or gender. It enriches lives and strengthens communities. The goal of the guided art classes was to produce exceptional pieces to display in the final showcase. With Tamina’s support, that’s exactly what they delivered. Walking through the showcase, guests will truly experience all the wonderful things the state of Minnesota offers.

Reviews

For this inspiring project, Tamina conducted classes in recreational centers, troubled teens’ facilities, churches, and senior citizens’ buildings. The responses and feedback from students young and old were very positive overall. Younger students found the class “fun and interesting.” Other students commented, “Seeing my work hanging in a gallery next to my neighbor is an honor that I thank you for.” Another student said, “Being a part of these classes makes me want to continue experimenting with

painting with confidence.” This project has broadened the perspective of the students in attendance. Many students had shied away from painting stating, “I’m not artistic,” or “I can’t even draw a stick figure.” These classes were designed to simplify art, breaking down barriers and inviting individuals to discover the artist within themselves. With Tamina and assistant artist Abderrahmane’s encouragement, the art classes showed students they were capable of blending colors to create beautiful skies for example, and so much more. While visiting the Minnesota Deaf Muslim Community, attendees enjoyed getting together to encourage each other’s work with a smile. The class was made accessible with the help of Abderrahmane, who was able to deliver instructions and encouragement in sign language. The class was an opportunity to unplug, de-stress, and engage in an activity that fosters mindfulness and self-discovery in a community setting. It was an experience that enriched many lives.

Art Showcase

Proud of what the students accomplished, Tamina collected their canvases to display in a final showcase. Through the outstanding artwork, guests at the showcase will experience the joy and peace the state of Minnesota provides. They will be able to walk through and view different collections including canvases depicting: Minnesota landmarks, seasons, landscapes, the Minnesota State Fair, and expressions of “What Minnesota Means to Me.” Select students will provide a brief explanation about their pieces. The exhibit is designed to be interactive and inclusive — encouraging dialogue, empathy, and reflection. We hope guests leave feeling more connected to their community and inspired to contribute their own voice and experiences through art.

show us around their facility and nerd-out with us about compost.

When: Noon on Tuesday, Aug. 5
Where: 5900 Sherwood Rd, White Bear Township

Learn how organic waste is transformed into nutrient-rich compost through industrial processes that emphasize reuse and regeneration.
This event is open to everyone!
Please share this event with your network. A very special thanks to CamerAn Bailey for helping to organize this event.

Community Art Showcase

ART THROUGH THE AGES
Twin Cities Reflections

Thursday Aug 14 4-9
Friday Aug 15 4-9
Saturday Aug 16 10-4
Sunday Aug 17 10-4

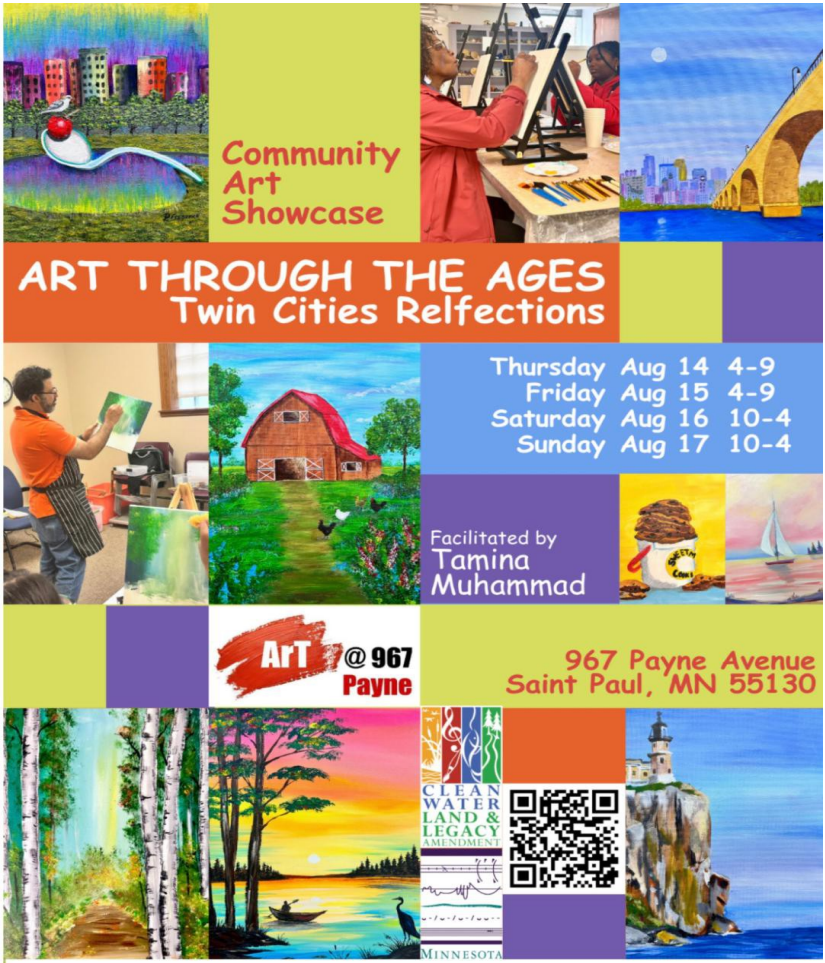
Facilitated by
Tamina Muhammad

ArT @ 967
Payne

967 Payne Avenue
Saint Paul, MN 55130

CLEAN WATER
LAND & LEGACY
MINNESOTA

MINNESOTA



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.

What are District Councils?

City of Saint Paul Website

Saint Paul has had a formal structure of neighborhood organizations to engage residents and collaborate with city government since 1975 — one of the first in the nation. These organizations are known as district councils because they are resident groups that engage and represent the people living in one of the city's 17 planning districts. Each district council is a 501(c)(3) non-profit with a voluntary board of directors composed of members elected by their neighbors. The district council structure was formed as part of the development of the city's Citizen Participation Program, now known as the Community Engagement Program. The purpose of this program is to create opportunities for residents to learn about what is happening in their neighborhoods and collaborate with one another and city government to maintain and improve the quality of life in neighborhoods.

The program includes funding allocated to each district council on a formula basis, technical assistance from city planners, and other city staff regarding issues that are important to the neighborhood and non-profit management assistance from the city's Community Engagement Coordinator. District councils each are involved in work to improve the physical, social, and economic structures in their neighborhood. The activity common to all district councils is the development of a district plan (sometimes referred to as a neighborhood plan) that is reviewed by the Planning Commission, City Council, and the Metropolitan Council — the region's metropolitan planning organization — before being adopted as part of the city's Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan is a key tool

used by the city to guide law-making and budgeting. District plans are an opportunity for residents to influence how those laws and budgets impact their neighborhoods. Along with this critical planning work, district councils may also be involved in:

- * Reviewing community development proposals.
- * Advocating for park and recreation center improvements.
- * Coordinating community gardens and neighborhood beautification projects.
- * Promoting environmental action through volunteering and advocacy.
- * Organizing block clubs and working with the police department and other city agencies to improve public safety.

District councils rely on community-building activities and events as the basis for convening residents to become involved in their neighborhood. These include neighborhood forums, festivals, parades, and block parties. A commitment to equity is foundational to successful community engagement. In 2017, the district councils

proposed a change to the Community Engagement Program's Innovation Fund that was adopted in 2018. The fund is now divided equally among the 17 district councils to promote equitable practices and neighborhood outcomes. The goals of this program are:

- * District council staff and volunteers more accurately reflect the communities they serve.
- * District councils review and adopt policies and practices that intentionally create space for residents who are currently under-represented.
- * District councils pursue systemic work that reflects the needs and priorities of residents who have been historically under-represented.

Additionally, district council staff are required to participate in a peer support/best practices network composed of district councils or similar grassroots, place-based organizations in the region.

Tour Ramsey County's Composting Site!

St. Paul and Ramsey County's Gardeners Group

Curious about how compost is made on a large scale? Join us for a behind-the-scenes tour of the Ramsey County composting facility. Our generous friends at Ramsey County have agreed to

Tour Ramsey County
Composting Site

Don't miss this fun, educational event!



LIKE US ON

facebook



View From My Porch

El Cafe Es Vida

Sage Holben

However one applies the phrase “coffee is life” — whether coffee pulls together the pieces of life or that one’s day begins only after the first cup of coffee, Saint Paul’s newest coffee shop Cafeto Shop at 806 7th Street East emits an atmosphere of a warm, neighborhood embrace as one enters.

Sergio Cuellar arrived in Saint Paul in 1999 and in 2004 opened Patron barber shop on East Seventh. A tattoo parlor next to Patron transitioned to Cafeto a month ago. A captivating interior mural promoting a tattoo design was modified by a local artist/friend into a vibrant woman tempting customers with a cup of Colombian pressed coffee or any of the cafe’s delightful lattes frappes, or teas — and then there are the hot chocolate and cocoa, or the cold brews and smoothies.

Sergio shared his memory of becoming familiar with Dayton’s Bluff, specifically the East Seventh area, as he walked from the area where Patron and Cafeto now ‘live’ to lower town and all the life in between East Seventh and Minneapolis. He noticed where people were going and what opportunities existed for personal services — such as a barber and nourishment. Sergio and Claudia, his wife fulfilled a need of their community and a dream of their own.

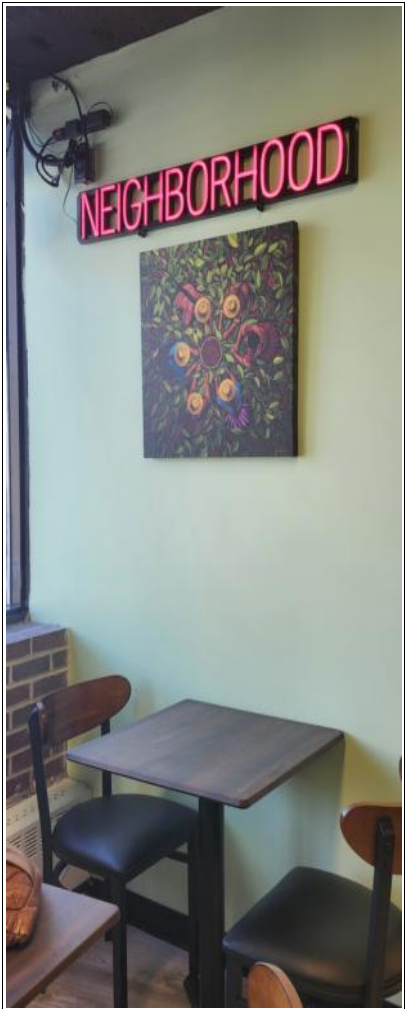
When I enter Cafeto I look forward to the warm welcome Claudia shares — I feel as if my organic Colombian coffee has been waiting for me — along with, perhaps, a blueberry croissant, concha,

or any of their pastries via a very local bakery.

We each can describe what we look for in a cafe; do we want a place to meet with people, conversations, a place to write? Do we want chatter or low volume background, dim lighting that reminds me of my favorite coffee shop of the Chicago ‘60s in a basement setting? These days as my eyes dim, I prefer bright lighting; Cafeto offers great lighting with a full street-front window. The vibrant wall colors and ‘cafe art’ catch my eye each time I visit. The earlier mentioned ‘woman offering coffee’ gives me a powerful, even if unintentional, reminder that in most countries it is largely the women who are the bean pickers of our coffee beans. Arduous physical work...and I appreciate my coffee even more.

A painting hangs near the window and a neon light “Neighborhood” hangs above the artwork picturing a circled group of straw-hatted field workers bending over their work. The message given me by the sign and the workers instantly tell me what Sergio and Claudia want to create with Cafeto; and they have. I find a growing gathering place. Whether it’s our mailcarrier, Tony, rapping on the window as he walks by, acquaintances who have also discovered Cafeto, or someone I’ve never before met in my coffee shop travels. I find a description I use again and again, is that to walk into Cafeto and be greeted by Claudia and her daughters is to be greeted by warm smiles and eyes that see the individual. As one opens the door and steps inside, the cafe’s atmosphere embraces a person. I feel a tingle as I write this, because I’m thinking there is a bit of magic within Cafeto.

All photos to the right taken by Sage Holben.



Sage Holben

Owner, Claudia Cueller, poses with her daughters.



Dayton’s Bluff DistrictForum

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 every month.

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

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

Board of Directors: Greg Cosimini, Karin DuPaul, Sage Holben, Steve Trimble
Editor/layout: Allison Lund-Zalewski; Editorial Associate: Mark Gallagher
Staff: Mandy Okonek

Next issue: September 2025. **Deadline for material: August 10, 2025.**

Dayton's Bluff

Greater East Side

I♥Saint Paul’s East Side!

If you are considering a move, call or text Brad Griffith, Realtor®

Payne Phalen

Southeast (Battle Creek - Highwood)

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

Past St. Paul August Events

Steve Trimble

August 7, 1938: A Saint Paul V. F. W. post held a booya at the Highland Park picnic grounds on this day. The name is thought to have derived from the Belgian Walloon word “bouyu.” The Walloons came to Wisconsin and apparently Czech neighbors adopted the tradition and brought it to Minnesota, which welcomed it into their own food menu.

Booya is the food and the event, sponsored by churches, schools or other local organizations. People usually gather the day before to cut up meat and vegetables that will be put into in one or more of the six kettles that accommodate 600 gallons in the Highland Park booya shack or at other places.

Shifts cook and stir throughout the night. At a critical point, a secret recipe of

studied theology at Amherst and after ordination moved to St. Paul in 1849 where he founded two churches. He also worked as Superintendent of Public Instruction for the Territory in 1851–53, and as chancellor of the State University in 1858–61.

Neill served as a hospital chaplain during the Civil War. He founded Baldwin Academy that later became Macalester College, where he became its president and a professor until his death in 1893. He wrote numerous historical books including several that described his view of early Minnesota history.

In spite of his positives, he had at least two beliefs that would make him be problematic today. He once wrote “The white race, some two hundred years ago.... had come in contact with a race of savages with many of the traits peculiar to a common humanity, yet, with these, exhibiting all, or nearly all, the vices of the most barbarous savage races.”

Neill also took another unpopular stand by strongly opposing women at Baldwin and in 1885, when the school became co-ed, he allegedly refused to teach in any classes with women in them.

August 18, 1927: Walter Deubener filed a patent for a new type of paper shopping bag on this day. He and his wife Lydia ran a S. S. Kresge grocery in downtown St. Paul. The store was a “cash-and-carry,” so there was no grocery delivery. Customers were only buying what they could heft home. The merchants figured if they could find a way for shoppers to carry more, they might buy more.

Deubener kept working to perfect his invention. He tried various methods, including wrapping customers' purchases together with heavy string attached to a wooden handle, but nothing worked. He finally focused on the idea of improving on the paper bag by reinforcing the bottom with

string and placing a cord around the bag that also served as a handle. Customers would be able to carry up to seventy-five pounds and still have one free hand.

The patent was approved on May 27, 1929. Customers first bought the “Deubener Shopping Bag,” for a nickel each. The couple later sold their store and focused on the shopping bag business. Soon millions of shopping bags were being sold a year. After selling their shopping bag business a few years later, Walter and Lydia became real estate developers and philanthropists.

August 24, 1879: The St. Paul Medical School started on this day in rented rooms over a saloon on Third Street near the Metropolitan Hotel. Notification of the opening was published in the Northwestern Medical & Surgical Journal, the first medical journal north and west of Milwaukee. Before that, students had to read with physicians or go elsewhere. There had been other “medical schools” in Minnesota. Formed in 1860 as the Saint Paul Academy of Medicine and Surgery was started in 1860 but failed during the Civil War. The St. Paul Medical School (preparatory) was formed in 1871 with eight teachers. The purpose of the four-month course was to prepare students to succeed when they enrolled in established medical schools in Chicago or other cities.

Then in 1879 the St. Paul Medical College, no longer a preparatory school, was organized and the next year became the medical department of Hamline University. It required two years to graduate, shortly after changed to three, then four years of 26 weeks plus a one-year preceptorship. The school disbanded in 1881 with the opening of the Minnesota College Hospital in Minneapolis with a faculty of physicians from Minneapolis who were joined by faculty of the dissolved St. Paul Medical College.



Minnesota Historical Society
Meridel LeSueur, right.

spices in a cloth bag is lowered into the pot on a string. The next day, usually around noon, people show up to buy booya and socialize.

Writer Meridel LeSueur included references in her novel *The Girl*, set in St. Paul, including “Belle was stirring the Booya. The whisky made me feel better with the smell... Sisters, don’t let the Booya burn.”

August 9, 1823: Edward Duffield Neill, a prominent minister, author and educator, was born in Philadelphia on this day. He



Minnesota Historical Society
Walter Deubener.

medical department of Hamline University. It required two years to graduate, shortly after changed to three, then four years of 26 weeks plus a one-year preceptorship. The school disbanded in 1881 with the opening of the Minnesota College Hospital in Minneapolis with a faculty of physicians from Minneapolis who were joined by faculty of the dissolved St. Paul Medical College.

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Friends of the *Forum*

Dear Reader,

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

For the past three years we have been soliciting donations through our Friends of the *Forum* program. Thanks to the donations from readers like you, we have been able to keep the paper up and running. If you value this community source of information, please consider filling out the form below. Any amount is appreciated; you may also make memorial donations, or include the *Forum* in your legacy planning. If you have been our Friend in the past, please consider making a tax-deductible donation in 2025. Our goal for 2025 is \$2,500; will you help us reach our goal?

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Thank you for your support!