

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

Volume 39, No. 10

November 2025

"The Voice of the Community"

The Forum is Printing Its December Issue!

We are printing our December issue, so be sure to grab a copy once they're available at East Side businesses!

If you want to continue seeing printed issues of the *Forum*, be sure to donate

now.

Each printed issue costs \$1,050 each month. Help us reach our goal to continue printing!

You can donate by:

—Sending a check to Hopewell Communications at 1368 Minnehaha Ave East, St. Paul, MN 55106

—Donating to our PayPal: daytonsbluffdistrictforum.com

—Our GiveMN page: givemn.org/organization/Hopewell-Communications-Incorporated



www.daytonsbluffdistrictforum.com | 612-334-3337

Native Holiday Boutique

Tanagidan Tó Wín

Come celebrate an Indigenous Holiday Market with us!

Sunday, November 23 from noon-4 p.m. at 788 East 7th Street.

We are excited to have everyone join in the festivities of our Indigenous holiday party! Shop for all your holiday gifts and enjoy food, music, and art!

We will have over 20 different Indigenous vendors sharing Native American art, beadwork, syrups, jams, canned goods, artisan tea blends, candles, herbal remedies, soaps, and beautiful handmade crafts.

"A variety of Indigenous food vendors will share their delicious food creations as well!"

Bring your family and friends to shop, feast, enjoy music, and culture! Happy Holidays

PLUS CONTEST & GIVEAWAYS.



Burlington Coming to Sun Ray Shopping Center

Greg Cosimini

Burlington (formerly Burlington Coat Factory) is coming to Sun Ray Shopping Center, for real this time. Burlington was listed as one of the stores in Sun Ray when the new Sun Ray sign was installed a year ago. But then Burlington was removed from the sign and no store appeared

It is official this time. Burlington announced that the grand opening of its newest Twin Cities store in Sun Ray will be on Saturday, November 1. It will be

located in the space formerly occupied by TJ Maxx on the west end of Sun Ray.

Burlington started as Burlington Coat Factory over 50 years ago selling off-price coats out of a factory building. Today, Burlington Stores is a nationally recognized off-price retailer with more than 1,000 stores nationwide. They sell a wide assortment of low priced brand name ladies, men's, kids/baby apparel and accessories, home decor items, and much more.

Burlington joins other discount stores at Sun Ray including Ross Dress for Less (discount department store), Five Below (discount specialty store), Citi Trends (discount street wear) and DTLR (discount sports footwear, apparel and accessories).

Photo below taken by Greg Cosimini.



Perfect Timing for a Dog Walk Down 4th Street to Help Someone with Their Bucket List Adventure!

Kari Soeffker

I had just gotten home from work and was walking with my little dog, Wink, down 4th Street. Two gentlemen were on the street looking at a home that I know as the historic "Carbone" family home. They saw me and asked if I lived in the neighborhood and went on to tell me they were here from Oregon and California on a bucket list adventure to see their Grandma Carbone's home at 692 4th Street and how happy they were to be standing in front of the home!

I told them that I happened to have done some research on the Carbones and have a photo from years ago of Carbone family members in the back of the house on my phone that I showed them.

You should have seen the look of amazement on their faces, and saying, "you have got to be kidding." They were delighted to see a photo of their grandma, who they recognized, along with some of their uncles.

I went on to tell them I have a dear friend who was a Carbone and we proceeded to call her. They had a splendid phone conversation telling a couple stories.

We all had a great morning of laughs and excitement from the spark of the perfect timing on 4th Street we found ourselves in.



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684 Kelly Sarah Mrs	PR4-8543	Hope
685 Reddy Thos H	PR4-2846	831
Ehret Edith G Mrs	PR6-9515	832
687 Meister Jeanette G Mrs	PR6-8847	836
Burge Roy E	776-3956	
688 Metry Thos P	PR4-6645	837
689 Lang Walter E	PR1-7442	839
Merkley Christine Mrs	PR6-3209	
692 Carbone Clara Mrs	PR6-9643	
Carbone Angelo contr	PR1-5396	
693 Schneider John W	PR6-4426	840
694 Vacant		842
695 Vacant		843
696 East End Sewing Mach Serv repr		847
PR1-3830		852
Ward Kenneth E	PR1-3830	853
697 Gardner Ella Mrs	PR1-0018	854
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698 Carbone Antonette Mrs	PR6-2826	855
699 Schmalz Fred L	PR6-4466	
700 Kenny Hannah S Mrs	drsmkr	858
PR6-7179		859
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701 Doffing Mathias J	PR6-0635	
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Berres Gordon S	PR1-7411	5 Ma
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Kari Soeffker

Happy
THANKSGIVING

50th Anniversary of Southeast Asian Resettlement in Saint Paul Commemoration Library Card

In honor of the 50th Anniversary of Southeast Asian resettlement in Saint Paul, we’ve launched a special-edition library card designed by local Hmong American artist Kao Lee Thao!

This card celebrates the vibrant Cambodian, Hmong, Lao, and Vietnamese communities who have built new roots in Saint Paul and across Minnesota. The artwork draws inspiration from traditional textiles, patterns, and landscapes woven together as a symbol of resilience and connection. Flowing water ties the design together, representing the journey from the Mekong to the Mississippi — symbolizing survival, transformation, and imagination.

This card is a celebration of representation, connection, and belonging. It’s an invitation to see yourself, your community, and the stories of Southeast Asia reflected in your local libraries. Read more about the special-edition card at sppl.org/special-edition. Sign up for your card today at any Saint Paul Public Library location while supplies last and join us for a 50th Anniversary storytelling event on December 13 from 2-4 p.m. at Sun Ray Library!

Come into Dayton’s Bluff Library to see a beautiful large Paj ntaub (Hmong embroidery) hanging inside our entrance. We are unsure of its provenance, so if you know who made it or donated it, we would appreciate your help! To learn more about the artform of Hmong embroidery visit the Hmong Cultural Center’s website at hmongembroidery.org and check out these books sppl.bibliocommons.com/v2/list/display/1151911977/2869738597.

All Saint Paul Public Libraries will be closed Tuesday, November 11 for Veterans’ Day and Thursday, November 27 for Thanksgiving. Dayton’s Bluff Library, as part of the Metro State University campus will also be closed November 28-30.



St. Paul Pioneer Press Collection

Greg Cosimini

Researching, or just browsing, the history of Saint Paul, not to mention the state of Minnesota and the world in general, has just gotten a great deal easier. The Minnesota Historical Society recently posted this announcement on its website:

The Minnesota Historical Society is proud to present the St. Paul Pioneer Press 1861-1961 digital newspaper collection.

This free, searchable archive contains digitized newspaper issues from the following newspaper titles:

- Saint Paul Daily Press 1861-1875
- Saint Paul Daily Pioneer-Press 1875-1876
- Pioneer-Press and Tribune 1876
- The Pioneer Press 1876-1879
- Daily Pioneer Press 1879-1909

- St. Paul Pioneer Press 1909-1961

Digitization of the St. Paul Pioneer Press 1861-1961 was made possible by the Legacy Amendment's Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through the vote of Minnesotans on Nov. 4, 2008.

This collection contains 35,804 issues comprising 752,127 pages. It can be found at: newspaper-hub.mnhs.org.

Over 7 million other digital newspaper pages from over 1,000 newspaper titles [including the Dayton's Bluff District Forum] published across the state of Minnesota between 1849 and today are available online through the Minnesota Historical Society's original Minnesota Digital Newspaper Hub. They can be found at: mnhs.org/newspapers/hub.

Only a small portion of the Minnesota Historical Society newspaper collection has been digitized and made available online so far. The complete collection is accessible on microfilm through the MNHS Gale Family Library.

Photo below from the Minnesota Historical Society, mnhs.org/newspapers



Dayton’s Bluff District Forum

Subscribe to the *Forum*. Interested in keeping up with hot news? Send your email address to daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com and request to subscribe to the Forum every month.



Greg Cosimini

A bumblebee and a grasshopper share a marigold flower.

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: **December. Deadline for content November 3.**

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 December issue of the *Forum* November 3

View From My Porch

Sage Holben

Lost souls is the name given by a friend of mine for the many young people who populate the strip mall parking lot between Prosperity and Clarence Streets, facing Maryland Avenue, across from the infamous Cub grocery store. When I hear lost souls I see images of zombie-like figures in black, hooded clothing aimlessly wandering, populating endless space, yet never in contact with fellow zombies. In a sense I can agree with the connection — I think many might feel lost; some not so much. It’s obvious there is a person in charge; a director of operations. He signals where his individuals should move and make contact; he signals where buys are; when particular vehicles enter the lot expectations are carried out. It’s an almost clockwork procedure on any given day. At particular hours, vehicles enter, “kids” jump out and take their given locations.

One particular group heads almost directly for the Tobacco/Vape shop. A couple boys enter while the other four to six remain outside. Others, three to eight, take their places with all display of ownership not near the doors, but directly in front of the doors of two local restaurants, the Sushi Shop and Dao Thai Pho. The women owners of each appear to be respected by the loitering groups as the owners direct the mostly men/boys to move. But, the scenario is repeated several times each day, every day. I’ve observed quite a few drug deals in front of and near my home, picked up a few tips here and there; this was definitely free range. I left my friend at our inside table and went outside to stretch my neuropathic-painted legs. Leaning against the building was a young, idle male with a kind, pensive facial expression. On a whim, spurred by the acute leg pain, I asked, as I sat on the window’s ledge, if he knew where I might get pain-killing drugs as what my doctor was prescribing wasn’t easing the pain. As I rubbed my leg he murmured that his grandmother had such pain. “What did I want?” He

asked. I told him about six years ago a dentist gave me oxycodone for tooth-related pain. All I had needed was one and I disposed of the rest — now I wish I had them. “How many do you want? Twenty? Forty?” “One or two?” I asked. No, I didn’t buy any; though with my growing disgust and distrust with the medical system, from insurance to clinic administration to doctors, whether a drug is clean or not compared with the questionable and (unquestioning) “physicians” I wonder the difference. I also no longer can hold to the moral, ethics, and righteousness of the use and sale of illegal drug use as I once did. That all needs more discussion. My point right now is that the young man I approached was NOT a zombie. Nor am I naive. What I saw in his face was pain, hurt, heart and soul. I want to hear his story. He does NOT want to be where he is. I think that most “kids” in that Payne-Phalen strip mall do not fully, thoughtfully, deeply want to be in the situation they find themselves. They are facing destiny. The lives they face may not be easy but they deserve better.

Friends of the *Forum* 2025

Make a donation today!

Greg Cosimini

Mark Gallagher

Ron Bardell

109 Years Ago in Dayton's Bluff

First Trees Planted in Matrons Grove

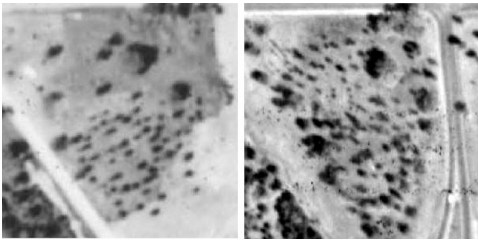
Greg Cosimini

November 2, 1916: On this date the first ten trees were planted in the Eastern Star section of the new Municipal Forest in Dayton's Bluff.

That sentence probably needs a little bit of explanation. Saint Paul's Municipal Forest was created in 1915 when the state of Minnesota transferred back to Saint Paul 20-plus acres of land that had been given to the state decades earlier to build a fish hatchery. This land is located south of Burns Ave. and is bounded on the east by what is now Highway 61 and to the west by Mounds Park, somewhere

west of the current location of Johnson Parkway. Or, it could be described as the place where all those tall trees can be seen across Burns Ave. from Obb's Sports Bar and Grill.

The city began planting trees in the area in 1916. A section of the forest on the eastern edge was reserved for the Order of the Eastern Star (O.E.S), a woman's group affiliated with the Freemasons. There they



Ramsey County Aerial Surveys

Aerial views of the Matrons Grove area taken in 1940 (left) and 1957. Burns Ave. would be on the top with today's Highway 61 on the right.

would establish the Past Matrons Grove, honoring former members of the O.E.S. This would be accomplished by planting

trees dedicated to the members and also by using the grove as a gathering place for various events.

The planting in 1916 consisted of ten hackberry trees in the shape of a star eventually connected by a concrete path. In later years, more trees were planted in the form of concentric circles around the star and in circular arcs in the area. There were annual events in the area for decades to plant trees and/or honor past matrons. At least 40-50 trees were planted. Aerial photos taken over the years show the patterns in which they were planted.

More research is still needed to determine when the O.E.S abandoned Matrons Grove and let nature take its course. Observant bikers and hikers periodically “discover” the strange configuration of trees in the area and the star path between some of them. Four of the original hackberry trees survive to this day as do many of the other trees. The crowns of the trees are much larger and have grown into each other now but a careful viewing of the area on Google Maps will reveal a pattern.

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?

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

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

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

Thank you for your support!