# Dayton's Bluff DistrictForum

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



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#### **Native Holiday Boutique**

Tanáğidan Tó Wín

Come celebrate an Indigenous Holiday Market with us!

Sunday, November 23 from noon-4 p.m. at 788 East 7<sup>th</sup> 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!

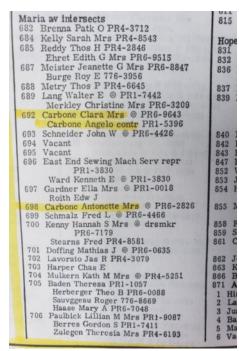
I told them that I happened to have done some research on the Carbones and have a photo from years ago of Carbone family members in the back of the house on my phone that I showed them.

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.

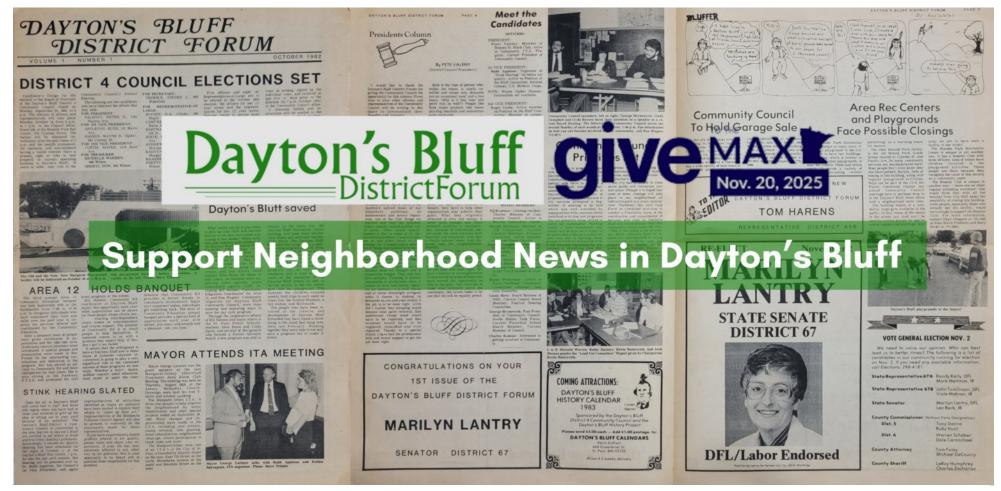




Kari Soeffker







# Donate at: givemn.org/organization/Hopewell-Communications-Incorporated

#### 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 **November 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 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, November 7 at 11 a.m.

If you'd like to attend, email daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com for more information.

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

#### **Need Groceries?**

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

This box is part of a program called NAPS, and we can help you apply!

Give us a call at 651-683-2326, and someone will assist you with your application.

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

Make a difference in your community by becoming a State Health Insurance Assistance Program certified Medicare Counselor. Help people understand their Medicare options.

Visit Metroaging.org/volunteer.

#### **Police Community** Meetings

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

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

Call Robyn Brewin at 651-266-5580 or email RobynBrewin@StPaul.gov. to ensure the meetings have not been canceled.

#### **New National Suicide Prevention Hotline** Number

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

#### **Xcel Phone Numbers**



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

Call 811 before you dig: Before starting that ro-

to-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, November 17 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 application portal is now open. Property you're behind on your bills, having prob- owners can easily apply for homestead lems with credit or creditors, or have oth- classification through the county's Smarter civil legal issues, etc. If an interpreter is File needed, SMRLS will provide one.

Hours: Monday through Friday, 9 to 11:45 a.m.; 1 to 3 p.m.



November 6-8: Open Door Cabaret

**December 5-7, 12-14, 18-21:** *It's An* Honorable Life. This is the Mounds Theatre's annual Klingon holiday play. Presented primarily in Klingon with projected English supertitles. A general knowledge of Star Trek lore and classic holiday movies is useful but not required to enjoy this unique play.

Visit moundstheatre.org for more information and to purchase tickets.

The Historic Mounds Theatre is located at 1029 Hudson Road, St. Paul, MN 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.



#### **Apply for Homestead Classification Online**

Ramsey County's new online homestead system Ramsey County MN. gov/homestead.

Homestead classification may provide a property tax reduction for residents who own and occupy their home as their primary residence. Applicants can create an account to complete the online application, upload required documents and receive updates about their submission.

Residents should be prepared to provide proof of ownership and occupancy as part of the process. Processing times may vary based on application volume.

For questions or assistance, contact the Assessor's Office at 651-266-2040 or askhomesteads@ramseycounty.us.



#### 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Southeast Asian Resettlement in Saint Paul Commemoration Library Card

In honor of the 50<sup>th</sup> 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!

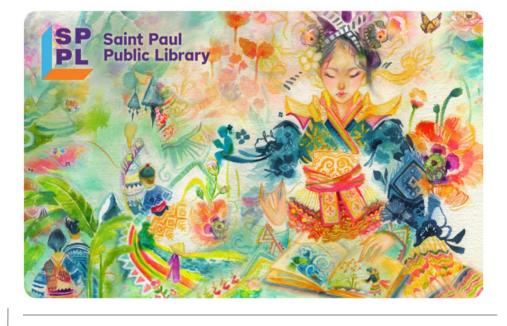
This card celebrates the vibrant Cambodian, Hmong, Lao, and Vietnamese communities who have built new roots in Saint Paul and across Minnesota. The artwork draws inspiration from traditional textiles, patterns, and landscapes woven together as a symbol of resilience and connection. Flowing water ties 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 50<sup>th</sup> 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/115191197 7/2869738597.

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 Distinct 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
DistrictForum

Subscribe to the Forum. Interested in keeping up

with hot news? Send your email address to daytonsbluffdistrictfo-

rum@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

1368 Minnehaha Ave. E., St. Paul, MN 55106 **E-mail: daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com** 

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 dayton's Bluff District Forum (agmail.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:

#### dayton sbluff district for um@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 en owners of each appear to be respected gust and distrust with the medical system, populate the strip mall parking lot between Prosperity and Clarence Streets, rect the mostly men/boys to move. But, doctors, whether a drug is clean or not facing Maryland Avenue, across from the the scenario is repeated several times each compared with the questionable and (uninfamous Cub grocery store. When I hear day, every day. lost souls I see images of zombie-like figures in black, hooded clothing aimlessly front of and near my home, picked up a the moral, ethics, and righteousness of the wandering, populating endless space, yet few tips here and there; this was definitely use and sale of illegal drug use as I once never in contact with fellow zombies.

In a sense I can agree with the connection — I think many might feel lost; some ropathic-painted legs. Leaning against the approached was NOT a zombie. Nor am I not so much. It's obvious there is a person in charge; a director of operations. He sig- kind, pensive facial expression. On a hurt, heart and soul. I want to hear his nals where his individuals should move whim, spurred by the acute leg pain, I story. He does NOT want to be where he and make contact; he signals where buys asked, as I sat on the window's ledge, if is. I think that most "kids" in that Payneare; when particular vehicles enter the lot he knew where I might get pain-killing Phalen strip mall do not fully, thoughtfulexpectations are carried out. It's an almost drugs as what my doctor was prescribing ly, deeply want to be in the situation they clockwork procedure on any given day. At wasn't easing the pain. As I rubbed my find themselves. They are facing destiny. particular hours, vehicles enter, "kids"

One particular group heads almost direct- asked. I told him about six years ago a ly for the Tobacco/Vape shop. A couple dentist gave me oxycodone for tooth-reboys enter while the other four to six re- lated pain. All I had needed was one and I main outside. Others, three to eight, take disposed of the rest — now I wish I had their places with all display of ownership them. not near the doors, but directly in front of Sushi Shop and Dao Thai Pho. The wom- n't buy any; though with my growing disby the loitering groups as the owners di- from insurance to clinic administration to

free range. I left my friend at our inside did. That all needs more discussion. My table and went outside to stretch my neu- point right now is that the young man I building was a young, idle male with a naive. What I saw in his face was pain, leg he murmured that his grandmother The lives they face may not be easy but jump out and take their given locations. had such pain. "What did I want?" He they deserve better.

"How many do you want? Twenty? the doors of two local restaurants, the Forty?" "One or two?" I asked. No, I didquestioning) "physicians" I wonder the I've observed quite a few drug deals in difference. I also no longer can hold to

# Friends of the Forum 2025

Make a donation today!

**Greg Cosimini** 

Mark Gallagher

Ron Bardell

## 109 Years Ago in **Dayton's Bluff**

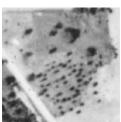
#### **First Trees Planted in Matrons Grove**

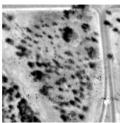
Greg Cosimini

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 place where all those tall trees can be seen various events. across Burns Ave. from Obb's Sports Bar and Grill.

The city began planting trees in the area eventually connected by a concrete path. in 1916. A section of the forest on the In later years, more trees were planted in eastern edge was reserved for the Order of the form of concentric circles around the the Eastern Star (O.E.S), a woman's group star and in circular arcs in the area. There 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

west of the current location of Johnson trees dedicated to the members and also Parkway. Or, it could be described as the by using the grove as a gathering place for

> The planting in 1916 consisted of ten hackberry trees in the shape of a star 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 \$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:   |   |
|---|---|
|   | 0 \$50 \$25 Another amount<br>n.org/organization/Hopewell-Communications-Incorporated |
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| Make checks payable to: Dayton's Bluff District Forum and mail to 1368 Minnehaha Ave. E., St. Paul, MN 55106. For more information, daytons-bluffdistrictforum@gmail.com. |   |

Thank you for your support!