

# Dayton's Bluff District Forum

Volume 40, No. 1  
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*"The Voice of the Community"*

## World's Largest Hockey Puck Built in Dayton's Bluff

### A New Record From the Old Hamm's Complex

Jessy Rehmann

If you wandered through Rice Park in downtown St. Paul during the turn of the year, you probably came face-to-face with the World's Largest Hockey Puck.

The sculpture was wider than a pickup truck and longer than a giraffe, with a height that surpassed every Timberwolves player. It was also made right here in Dayton's Bluff.

Tucked away in Stockhouse #3 of the former Hamm's Brewery is Wonder Studio, a locally-owned design and fabrication workshop. A small but mighty team, these experts do everything from 3D design, welding, screen printing, rigging, laser cutting and much more.

The giant hockey puck was Wonder Studio's first public project. It was on display from December 26th to January 5th for the 2026 World Junior Ice Hockey Championship.

The tournament brought in over 200,000 fans from across the globe, according to Twin Cities Business. Chris Groth, one of Wonder Studio's fabricators, said he never imagined they would produce something for an international stage.

"On some level, hockey fans from around the world got to enjoy it," Groth said.

#### Built on a time crunch

Wonder Studio took on the project on Dec. 1, giving them less than a month to build a record-breaking structure.

The tight deadline meant more time needed to be devoted to planning, said Wonder Studio fabricator Gio Marquez.

"There was a lot of what we call research and development," Marquez said. "How it can be done, how long will that take? Can we get that material in time? Will it work, 'cause it's gonna be outside in the elements? Lots of variables."

Another huge hurdle was transporting the puck. The team wouldn't be able to drive something so comically large across town. The solution: make the puck easy to take apart and reconstruct it in the snowy grass of Rice Park.

There were just a few weeks to surpass the previous largest hockey puck, which was 20 feet in length. The team had to get creative.

#### Bones of steel... or actually, aluminum

Realistically, the commemorative puck could not be made of solid rubber. It

would've weighed over 10,000 tons if it were.

Instead, the puck's skeleton was made from aluminum trussing — the silver material you might see holding up lights on an outdoor stage. Wonder Studio sourced the parts from Allied Productions in Oakdale.

For the puck's curved edges, the team used plywood. A hockey puck's signature diamond crosshatch texture was mimicked using a CNC router, a computer-controlled machine that carves designs.

The proud face of the puck was a banner commemorating the 50th anniversary of the hockey tournament. Wonder Studio partnered with fellow Dayton's Bluff business The Vomela Companies to print the text.

In a race against time, Wonder Studio pulled it off. The day after Christmas, the team pieced together the sculpture in the heart of downtown Saint Paul.

The new World's Largest Hockey puck measured at 22 feet in length, 7.5 feet in depth and weighed over 5,000 pounds. Fabricator Andrew Nutter said there was a lot of trial and error, but in the end, the team found a way to complete their project.

"We got a shot in the dark," Nutter said. "We just kind of got it together and it worked out."

#### A symbol for Saint Paul

As Saint Paul welcomed hockey fans from around the globe, the World's Largest Hockey Puck stood as a testament to the city's love for the game.

The Wonder Studio team said a Guinness World Records designation was more expensive than you'd imagine, so technically, their feat was unofficial. Still, the sculpture became a temporary landmark for locals and international guests alike.

"It was kind of fun seeing people take pictures with it," said James Whitaker, a Wonder Studio fabricator.

The gigantic hockey puck was a true community art piece. The project was a partnership with Visit Saint Paul and made possible through donations from local businesses.

From a historic warehouse on the Hamm's campus, Wonder Studio created a monument that stretched beyond Dayton's Bluff.

"It feels great to know that we're doing something with a larger part of the community," Groth said. "Seeing community come together in a time when it's needed."

To see videos of the World's Largest Hockey Puck being built, visit: WonderStudioMN.com.

*Jessy Rehmann is a Hammstown correspondent from Eclectic Creative Collective, the company behind Wonder Studio, Saint Paul Brewing, Dark Horse Bar & Eatery, Can Can Wonderland and Martha's Gardens.*



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



(L) Jessy Rehmann, (R), Courtesy by Wonder Studio

(Left) The World's Largest Hockey Puck debuts in Rice Park the day after Christmas. The sculpture was on display for the 2026 World Junior Ice Hockey Championship. (Right) A crane lowers the giant puck onto its stand in Rice Park on Friday, December 26, 2025. The massive structure weighs over 5,000lbs. Courtesy of Wonder Studio.



Jessy Rehmann

Fabricators from Wonder Studio. From left: Chris Groth, Andrew Nutter, James Whitaker and Gio Marquez.

## Immigration-Related Resources

Ramsey County

Ramsey County acknowledges that the surge in immigration enforcement is having deep impacts for our community. The county is committed to serving all residents with integrity and professionalism. It is our vision to have a vibrant community where all are valued and thrive. This page provides information and resources that may be helpful to individuals and organizations during this unprecedented and challenging time.

#### Services

County services are available wherever you are. Connect with us by phone, online or virtually, whatever works best for you.

#### Ramsey County Service Centers

Ramsey County Service Centers Navigators help residents request assistance with financial assistance services, social services, employment assistance and property tax. To request help from a Navigator, call 651-266-0600.

#### Resources

Ramsey County offers programs and services to meet our residents' needs.

Assistance & Support, 651-266-8500

#### Resources from partners

The Minnesota Department of Human Services Refugee and Immigrant Helpline is a connection to helpful information, resources, and services in your community.

Refugee and Immigrant Helpline / Resettlement - Department of Human Services: 1-800-814-4806

The City of Saint Paul Attorney's Office compiled a list of community partners and other resources that may help during the immigration process.

#### Immigration Resources — Saint Paul Minnesota

The State Attorney General's Office provides guidance and information about immigration related issues to individuals and organizations: Know Your Rights with ICE and Guidance on ICE Enforcement in Sensitive Locations.

#### Legal aid

Ramsey County does not provide legal services for immigration-related issues, but residents may be eligible for free legal aid from other organizations. Here are legal aid organizations that may be able to provide assistance: Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota, 1-800-223-1368; Advocates for Human Rights, 612-341-9845; Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid, 1-877-696-6529.

For links and more information, visit [ramseycountymn.gov/news/federal-response-information-resources](http://ramseycountymn.gov/news/federal-response-information-resources)

## Winter Fest Being Held February 7

Ramsey County

Explore the natural beauty of Ramsey County's parks with our diverse range of free guided programs. Led or coordinated by our committed Parks & Recreation staff and specialists, these experiences provide an opportunity to immerse oneself in the scenic wonders and recreational possibilities our coun-

ty affords. Whether one seeks adventure, relaxation, or a chance to commune with nature, our programs accommodate all interests and age groups.

Come join us for frozen fun, and winter warmth! Skiing, sledding, snowboarding, kick-sledding, food, sauna, arts and crafts, a costumed ski race, and more!

**Winter Recreation Area**  
75 Winthrop Street S.  
St. Paul  
11 a.m.-4 p.m.

### A Rare Opportunity in the Dayton's Bluff Historic District



702 4th Street East

4 Bedroom

2 Bath

\$275,000

Need more information?  
Call or text

Edina  
Realty

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



## 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 February 17 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.

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. 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.

## 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, February 6 at 11 a.m.**

If you'd like to attend, 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 Counselor. Help people understand their

## 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: 800-895-2999. 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 dig-



Bob Roth  Bob Roth

ging area. Usually, someone checks within a day, marking the 'no-dig' area with painted lines, and everyone is safe!

at 1029 Hudson Road, St. Paul, MN 55106; 651-772-2253; [historicmoundstheatre@gmail.com](mailto:historicmoundstheatre@gmail.com).

## Chess Club

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

The Dayton's Bluff Community Council is inviting everyone to attend the meeting on **Monday, February 9 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](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) for more information and to purchase tickets.

The Historic Mounds Theatre is located



## Apply for Homestead Classification Online

Ramsey County's new online homestead application portal is now open. Property owners can easily apply for homestead classification through the county's Smart-File system at [RamseyCountyMN.gov/homestead](http://RamseyCountyMN.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](mailto:askhomesteads@ramseycounty.us).

 RAMSEY COUNTY

## Read Brave with *Lobizona* and Saint Paul Public Library

It's the annual citywide book club, which will invite teens, families, and community members to read the same adult book and have bold conversations about issues that matter to St. Paul.

This year's Read Brave book — available in English and Spanish — is *Lobizona* by Romina Garber. Through *Lobizona*, we explore the human experience within immigration — the journey to find belonging and sanctuary in worlds both real and imagined.

Pick up your free copy of *Lobizona* at any SPPL location during open hours while supplies last!

### Mark your calendars for Read Brave Talk Brave!

Thursday, March 5, 5:30 – 8 p.m. — Arlington Hills Community Center Join a panel discussion featuring author Romina Garber and young voices from the community. Enjoy a meal with your neighbors with Immigrant Kitchen. Join the conversation at [readbrave.org](http://readbrave.org)

#### Events at Dayton's Bluff Library

We have a full slate of things going on for all ages from making art to game nights to book clubs, there is something

for every age. A few of the events are listed below.

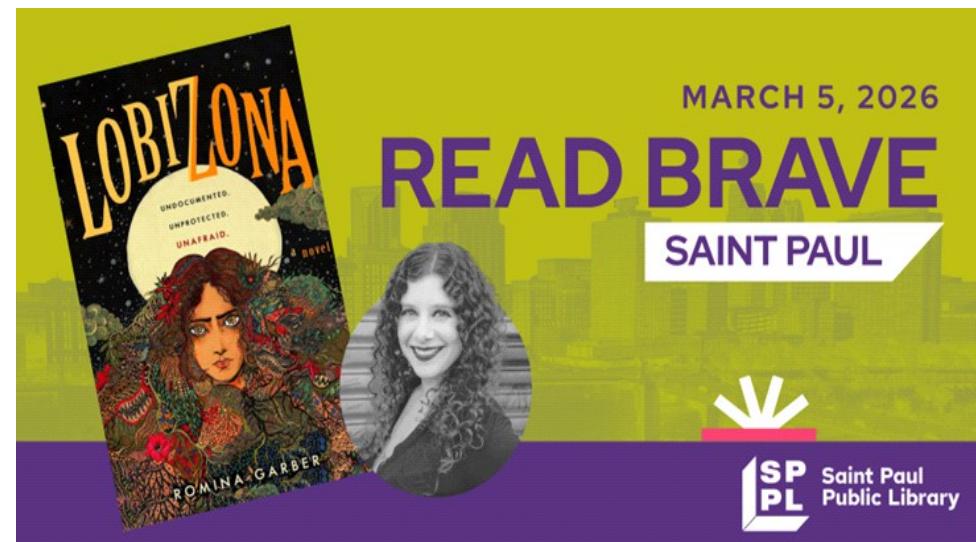
Go to [spl.org/locations/DB/](http://spl.org/locations/DB/) to find out about everything happening at Dayton's Bluff Library:

**Little Learners** is for preschoolers and will be from 10:30-11:30 a.m. on Saturdays, February 21 and 28. These programs include process art & play stations designed specifically for ages 6 and under that focus on expanding sensory skills, building gross & fine motor skills, and creating connections between families.

**FunLab!** is on Saturdays @ 2:30 - 4 p.m. for tweens 7-11. We will be making Bead Animals and celebrate Valentine's Day, International Spy Day, and Floral Design Day.

**Art Class: Romance Novel Gift Bags** — Monday, February 9 @ 6 - 7:30 p.m. Try a new art project each month at our Art Class for adults at Dayton's Bluff Library! This month, use retired romance novels from the library to decorate a gift bag! Use various papercraft techniques, paint, stamps, collage, and more to turn pages from romance books into gift bag decorations. Not feeling romantic this month? Don't worry, we also have retired mystery novels available to use as well! Materials, instruction, and templates provided, just bring ideas!

Find more events at all of the Saint Paul Public libraries go to [spl.org/events](http://spl.org/events).



Saint Paul Public Library

Tuesday nights are Teens Tuesdays at Dayton's Bluff Library. Every Tuesday from 6:30-8pm we have either D&D, Teens Know Best (book club), or Teens Writers Guild (writing club). Sign up to get reminder emails. There are always snacks!

## Our Commitment to Community

Rafael Ortega  
Ramsey County

We are monitoring activities that impact the health and well-being of our residents, ensuring that our response is timely, informed, and centered on community.

While immigration policy is determined at the federal level, our focus as a county is — and will continue to be — supporting the wellbeing of everyone who calls this community home.

We are dedicated to ensuring that county staff have the information and support they need to continue serving community during times of change and that residents have access to accurate information, essential services, and community resources.

We remain united in our commitment to inclusivity, mutual respect, and the belief that strong communities are built when all individuals feel seen, supported, and empowered.



Ramsey County is committed to fostering a vibrant community where all people are valued and have the opportunity to thrive. We recognize that recent immigration enforcement actions and changes in federal policy have created uncertainty and concern for many of our residents, including members of immigrant and refugee communities who contribute deeply to the cultural, economic and social fabric of our county.



exhibition as an exploration of joy as a revolutionary act. Through chromatic intensity, layered mark-making, and abstract sculpture, Bokamba's newest works create a contemplative space where viewers are invited to sense, feel, and recognize themselves as sovereign and whole. The exhibition underscores how color can nurture connection, awaken emotional memory, and serve as a site of collective imagining.

Eyenga Bokamba is a visual artist and designer who is most drawn to abstraction as a means of expressing the complexity of identity, politics, and her understanding of the world. Her work investigates the emotive potential of color, texture, and spatial experience. Her paintings and installations have been exhibited nationally and internationally. Bokamba's practice is deeply rooted in creating work that advances understanding and expands the possibilities of empathy, belonging, and shared humanity.

*Favorable Conditions* will be presented from Saturday, January 31 through Thursday, March 19 at the Metro State Library and Learning Center, Gordon Parks Gallery, first floor, 645 East Seventh Street, Saint Paul.

*Photo to the right provided by Metro State University*

## The Gordon Parks Gallery Presents:

### Favorable Conditions: New Work by Eyenga Bokamba

Metro State University

Metro State University's Gordon Parks Gallery is proud to present *Favorable Conditions: New Work by Eyenga Bokamba*, a vibrant and emotionally resonant exhibition curated by Minneapolis-based independent curator and arts leader Esther Callahan.

*Favorable Conditions* features a new body of work by multidisciplinary artist Eyenga Bokamba, whose practice merges Abstract Expressionism with the immersive, conceptual strategies of installation art. Working through a visual language centered on color, gesture, and emotional resonance, Bokamba explores the relationship between joy, embodiment, and the conditions — internal and external — that allow individuals and communities to flourish.

Curator Esther Callahan positions this

## 75 Years Ago in Dayton's Bluff — Part 2

### The History of the Earl-Hudson Business District

Greg Cosimini

See the December 2025 Dayton's Bluff District Forum for Part 1 of this article.

In the Nov 24, 1949 Thanksgiving issue of the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, there was a photo of a ribbon-cutting ceremony celebrating the partial opening of the new Hudson Road after the construction of Highway 12 through Dayton's Bluff.

There was also an ad from the businesses in the Earl-Hudson area. It read "THANK YOU! Today, of all days, we wish to say 'Thank you' for all your loyalty and patience during the construction period of the new Hudson Road. The additional parking space and accessibility provided by the opening of this new road, enables us to better serve you — our neighbors!"

Many of the businesses and their addresses were listed. It's interesting to see how they have fared over the past 75 years.

999 Hudson Road (corner of Cypress and Hudson) — Brozek's Food Market. It eventually became a laundromat and remains one today.

1029 Hudson Road — Mounds Theater. It was built in 1922 and closed for months for remodeling during road construction. It reopened on November 15, 1950 with a completely new exterior and interior and a slightly new name, Mounds

Theatre. It survived until the late 1960s when it closed and became a warehouse. Then in the late 1990s, Raeann Ruth and her Portage for Youth obtained the Mounds, renovated it, and it opened again in 2003. It is still operating today as a venue for mostly live plays and concerts.

1039 Hudson Road — Basta's Bakery. It began life as the Mounds Park Sanitary Bakery in the early 1900s and was eventually purchased by Ted Heroff and became Heroff's Bakery. It finally closed in the 1970s and has been a warehouse ever since.

1045 Hudson Road — Memmer's Food Market. It closed in the late 1950s or early 1960s and was transformed into a bar operating under many names such as The Little Dipper, Narducci's, and Paul's Lounge. It is still open as the Saint Paul Saloon.

1047 Hudson Rand — Olson's Department Store. It closed about the same time as Memmer's and became home to a series of Italian restaurants, including Angie's Pizza, Monda's, Tuscany Grill, and the East Side Pizza Grill. In the early 2000s it became a liquor store, Liquor Liquidators, then Mounds Liquors and then Liquor Liquidators again, which it still is today.

1053 Hudson Road — John Waech's Shoe Store. It also closed in the same time period and has been home to many different businesses, including Young's TV Repair. It is currently an empty store front. However, traces of Waech's still can be found. High on the west side of the building is a "ghost sign" painted on the bricks advertising Waech's and down in the doorway next to the main sidewalk is "J.WAECH" in green tiles.

(Corner Hudson Road and Earl Street.) 361 Earl Street — Eddy's Rexall Drug. It was originally Otis Drugs, became a Rexall Drug under a variety of names including Kolb's, and eventually turned

into a convenience store. It is now MNA Grocery Convenience Store.

1059 Hudson Road — Standard Service Station. It wasn't mentioned in the ad but was a Standard Station under a variety of names such as Hasselman's and Len's until the 1970s. In 1976 it was converted into a restaurant and became Leo's Chow Mein. It has kept the same name all these years although there have been a number of different owners. Leo's lost its lease and closed on December 25, 2025. The building is now for sale.

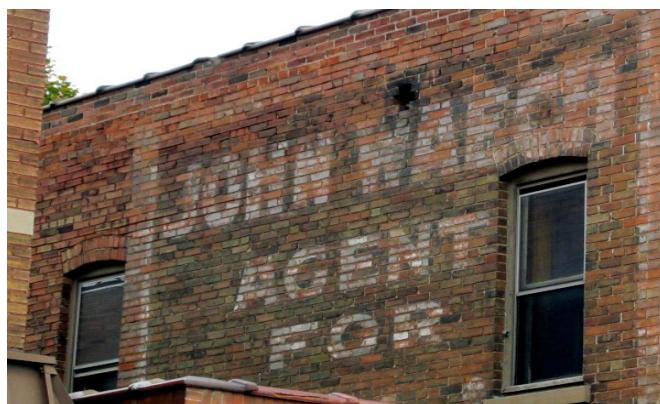
1067 Hudson Road — Heffron's Tavern. It eventually became the Mounds Park Tavern, Mounds Park Lounge and is now Cheers Pub.

1165 Hudson Road — Johnson Bros. Super Market. It eventually became a combined supermarket and liquor store and then just a very large liquor store. It was torn down in the early 21st century. Parkway Gardens Senior Apartment Community was built with an address of 1145 Hudson Road. Its parking lot occupies the former Johnson Bros. site.

363 Earl Street — Jack Price's Barber Shop. This address appears to have become part of 361 Earl Street at some point and no longer exists today.

367 Earl Street — "The Refreshop." Unknown what this business was. Over the years, it has been home to many small businesses. In 2016 it became Debbie's Doghouse, a pet groomer. It is now Everybody's Barber.

371 Earl Street — Kemper's Bar. By 1961 it was the Little Dipper which eventually moved around the corner to 1045 Hudson Road. 371 Earl is now the entrance to the apartments upstairs. It seems that the original storefront address is now 369 Earl Street. Many businesses have occupied this address in the past 75 years including a photo studio, a pet store, and a comic book store. It appears to be empty now.



Greg Cosimini

Remnants remain of John Waech's Shoe Store at 1053 Hudson Road.

## Friends of the Forum 2026

Make a donation today!

John Vaughn

Sofia Santana

## 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 2026. Our goal for 2026 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)

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, [daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com](mailto:daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com).

Thank you for your support!