

## The Hazards of Light Pollution Affects Us Daily, Without Us Even Knowing

Raven Okonek

My name is Raven Okonek, and I am a highschooler who started all of this as a civics class project — turning into a genuine want for change.

It started a few months ago, when a neighbor of mine pulled us out of our home, telling us to "look up". I don't know what I expected, but it definitely wasn't the northern lights. They seemed to dance in the air with different colors of green, purple, and even red.

I looked back at my street to see the rest of our neighborhood outside as well, talking to each other as we all took in the beauty of the sky. Even a delivery driver stepped out of his van to take it all in. I saw a community that I haven't quite seen before, and I think that's what really put me into action.

I've noticed people normally don't pay attention to the lights outside. Maybe once in a while they're brighter than normal, or they're a different color than the common amber or white, but we need to break that habit, and start paying more attention to outdoor lights.

You may find yourself asking "why?" or "How does this affect me?" And in response I will answer both those questions. All of our bodies have a circadian rhythm, or an internal clock. Circadian rhythms regulate sleep schedules, hormones, temperature and metabolism. Light pollution disrupts circadian rhythms — and specifically alters our natural melatonin. This causes sleep disorders, mood and metabolic problems — and even increases risks of cancer.

Light pollution doesn't just affect humans though, but animals too. Animals

also have circadian rhythms, which are also interrupted, however, that's not all. Light pollution disorients them and can cause confusion, exhaustion and can lower populations of some animals due to their mating cycles being affected from light pollution as well.

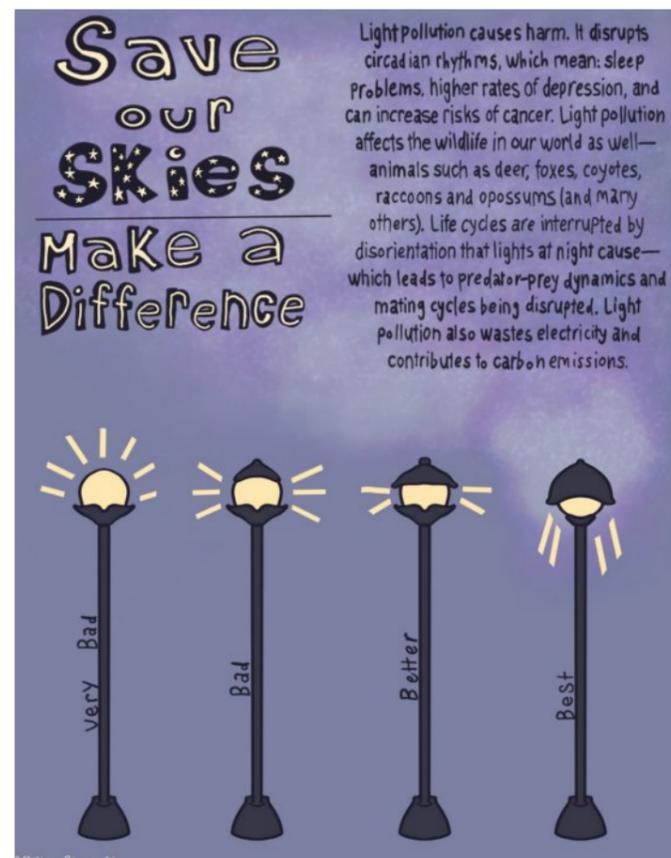
Well, how on earth can we fix this? is the same question I asked myself, and a few others, and here's what I got:

I sent an email to city council member Cheniqua Johnson from Ward 7 regarding the problem, and her team connected me to the Director of Public Works, Sean Kershaw. We went back and forth in a few emails and then spoke over a call. He told me that this is a topic he has also been interested in and gave me very helpful information.

The city currently spends around \$2 million on street lights, and part of that cost is because of how many types of street lights we have — as well as replacing all of the copper wire that is stolen from lights. We discussed how many of these lights need to be replaced anyway, and I brought the idea up: if we need to replace the majority of them, how about we replace them with lights that are safer and won't cause as much pollution. To do so — it would be around \$2 to \$4 million — which sounds like a lot, (and it is) but considering in the past 2 years we've already spent \$3.3 million I believe it would be worth it.

"What can I do to help?" Believe it or not — I too, had an almost immediate reaction when I heard the cost for the light change; asking if it would be best to start a fundraiser. I quickly learned that was not the case. What we need is support, public support — your support. The easiest thing you can do to make a change is be aware of the lights around you. If they're broken then report them, and whenever there's a chance of voting for light ordinances or similar changes, be sure to take that chance, because your voice matters.

**Illustration to the upper right made by Raven Okonek**



## Leo's Chow Mein is Back

Fortune Kitchen Facebook

Leo's Chow Mein at Earl and Hudson Road closed in December after the restaurant's lease was not renewed. At the time, the owners stated that they hoped to find a new location. It took less than two months before that was accomplished on February 14.

Fortune Kitchen is a new Chinese restaurant in Saint Paul operated by the former owners of Leo's Chow Mein, who have reopened at a new location with a focus on fresh, takeout-oriented Chinese cuisine. It is located at 277 McKnight Road S.

Craving something delicious? Whether you're looking for a cozy night out or a cozy night in, Fortune Kitchen has you covered

Check out all the ways you can get your favorites:

- How to Order
  - Dine-In: Stop by and enjoy a relaxed, self-service experience in our dining room.
  - Pickup: Quick and easy! Order online at [www.fortune-kitchen.com](http://www.fortune-kitchen.com)
  - Delivery: Stay on the couch and let us come to you. Order via [www.fortunekitchenmn.com](http://www.fortunekitchenmn.com)
  - Call Us: Prefer the personal touch? Give us a ring at 651-771-0305.
  - Visit us: Find us at 277 McKnight Road S, Saint Paul, MN 55119
- We can't wait to serve you!



## East Side Lenten Fish Frys

Compiled by Greg Cosimini

### Obb's Sports Bar & Grill

Friday's special all-you-can-eat fish fry begins at 4 p.m. for \$20.95. Delicious fried fish with choice of potato. 1347 Burns Av., St. Paul, 651-776-7010, obbs-bar.com

### The Little Oven

Beer Batter Cod Dinner. Our renowned hand dipped beer battered cod fillet served with your choice of soup, coleslaw, or salad, choice of potatoes or pasta, chef's vegetable, and your choice of bread or breadsticks. 3-Piece Dinner \$18.99. All You Can Eat \$22.99. Cod or Shrimp Basket \$12.98. Big Dan's Fish Sandwich \$16.99. Served after 11:00 a.m. 1786 Minnehaha Ave. St. Paul, 651-735-4944, [thelittleoven.com](http://thelittleoven.com)

### St. Paul Brewing

"Fish Frydays" gives diners two options. A panfish dinner basket has crusteed sunfish and perch with a choice of steak fries, baked potato or salad (\$21). Or the sunfish sandwich on a toasted bun with tartar sauce, American cheese, choice of potato and coleslaw (\$17). Both dishes are served from 11:30 a.m. until gone. 688 Minnehaha Av. E., St. Paul, 651-698-1945, [stpaulbrewing.com](http://stpaulbrewing.com)

### St. Pascal's Men's Club Fish Fry

The "All-You-Care-To-Eat" buffet will offer fried and baked cod, coleslaw, mixed steamed vegetables, au gratin and seasoned fried potatoes, mac-n-cheese, dinner roll, pudding and coffee/water. Milk, bottled water, and pop are available for purchase. Adults (12 and up): \$16.00; Children (6-11): \$8.00; 5 and under: Free. Cash, check, or card accepted. Takeout is available. All proceeds benefit St. Pascal Regional Catholic School & St Pascals Baylon Church needs. February 20 – March 27 from 4:30 - 7:00 PM in Brioschi Hall. 1757 Conway St., Saint Paul (Please use the Flandrau St. entrance.)



**SAVE THE DATE**

**DAYTON'S BLUFF DISTRICT FORUM FUNDRAISING EVENT**

- JOIN THE FORUM'S STAFF FOR A FUNDRAISING EVENT FRIDAY, MARCH 20 FROM 3-5PM AT ST. PAUL BREWING!
- OUR GOAL IS TO PRINT QUARTERLY IN 2026, BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP!
- BRING SOME FRIENDS, SOME DRINKS AND GREAT FOOD, AND ENJOY OUR SILENT AUCTION.

St. Paul Brewing, 688 Minnehaha Ave E, St Paul

## Conference at Metro State University to Address Forced Labor in Minnesota Prisons

Ramsey County

Registration is open for the 12th annual *Understanding and Responding to Mass Incarceration (URMI) Conference*, which will take place Friday, April 10, at Metro State University's St. Paul campus.

This year's conference, titled "End Slavery in Minnesota Prisons," will focus on the legal and human rights implications of prison labor in the state. Organizers point to Article I, Section 2 of the Minnesota Constitution, which permits involuntary servitude as punishment for crime, a provision that continues to affect incarcerated individuals today.

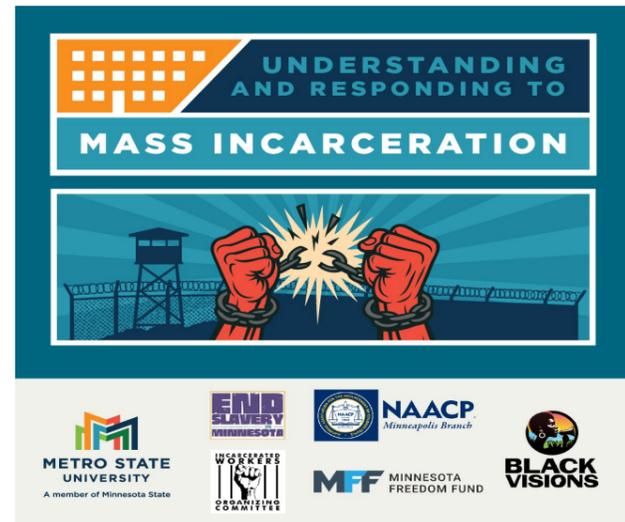
The day-long event will bring together formerly and currently incarcerated people, advocates, legal experts, corrections

officers, social workers, and community organizers to examine how constitutional language, labor practices, and public policy intersect within Minnesota's prison system. The program will feature personal testimony from incarcerated workers and their families, panel discussions led by subject-matter experts, and breakout sessions aimed at education and civic engagement. Topics will include public awareness, legislative advocacy, and voter participation as tools for reform.

Keynote speakers will include Elizer Darris, executive director of Minnesota Freedom Fund, and Chauntyll Allen, executive director of the End Slavery in Minnesota Coalition. Both organizations have been prominent in statewide efforts addressing incarceration and prison labor conditions.

The annual URMI Conference is free and open to the public, though space is limited and advance registration is required. Interested attendees can register online at <https://forms.office.com/r/2C3234a9up>

This event is co-sponsored by Minnesota Freedom Fund, the Minneapolis NAACP, Black Visions, and the End Slavery in Minnesota Coalition in partnership with the Minnesota Incarcerated Workers Organizing Committee (IWOC).



REGISTER HERE

## 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.

For the most accurate information on the next meeting, email Michel or follow us on Facebook.

Meetings are an excellent resource for park updates and events. For more updates email [taylor672@comcast.net](mailto:taylor672@comcast.net) or call Michel at 651-442-3366.

## Dayton's Bluff District Forum Board Meeting

The *Forum* is seeking writers and help with online content, idea generation, and ad sales — join us at our next meeting on **Friday, March 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 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](mailto: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: 800-895-2999. 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, March 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

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



## Kellogg-Third Street Bridge Project Winter Update

City of St. Paul

The installation of beams for the new Kellogg-Third Street Bridge over I-94 had originally been scheduled for January but had to be canceled twice due to extremely cold temperatures. It was then rescheduled for the weekend of February 7 and 8 requiring the complete closure of I-94.

Early Saturday morning, February 7, city contractors began the multi-phase operation to install the first bridge beam located over I-94. Crews experienced issues with transferring the beam between trailers and cranes, which are constrained by freeway geometry and site topography. Concerns for safety and beam stability led the contractor to cancel the weekend operation due to these unforeseen technical challenges and the interstate was reopened to traffic on Saturday.

The installation of the beams was then rescheduled for the following weekend, February 13-15. I-94 through the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood closed at 10 p.m. on Friday February 13. Beam installation proceeded without incident for the next two days and I-94 was reopened to traffic on Sunday afternoon.

The twelve bridge beams installed over I-94 are the second-longest prestressed concrete beams to be installed in Minnesota. They are nearly 200 feet long, 8 feet tall, 3 feet wide, and weigh approximately 250,000 pounds each. The contractor has acquired specialized trailering equipment to assist with moving the beams into place where they can be safely picked and installed on bridge supports.

Upper Commercial Street has been closed for most of the winter due to bridge construction work. It reopened on February 21 after the beams over Commercial Street were delivered and installed during the previous week. All bridge beams have now been installed.

Bridge deck, railings, and lighting are scheduled for installation starting in spring and will continue into 2027. The new Kellogg-Third Street Bridge should open by fall 2027.

*Photos to the right taken by Bill Whelan*



## Help the Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library Buy More Books for All

Saint Paul Public Library

The Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library, a nonprofit organization that raises money for our libraries, has launched Books for All Saint Paul, a campaign to raise funds for Saint Paul Public Library to help offset rising costs and meet increasing demand for books, eBooks, movies, music, and more.

Every gift helps towards meeting their \$62,000 goal — \$30 buys a print book, \$70 buys an eBook, and \$150 helps fill a crate of books. Donors have the opportunity to create a digital dedication that will be displayed on a community dedication wall. Dedicate your gift to your favorite book, favorite genre, or favorite person!

Donations will go directly to Saint Paul Public Library to help purchase books of all kinds, for all people.

Learn more and donate at [thefriends.org/books](http://thefriends.org/books)

Did you know that Dayton's Bluff Library has a **free seed library**? The East Side Seed Library is located inside the Dayton's Bluff branch of the Saint Paul Public Library and is operated in partnership with the Metro State University Library and Learning Center as well as Ur-

ban Roots. Join Urban Roots, Metro State Library, and Dayton's Bluff Library on March 18 and April 15 from 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. to sort, process, and tidy up the East Side Seed Library.

There will also be a **Spring Seed Sowing** event on Wednesday, March 25 from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. at the Metro State GROW-IT Center at 445 Maria Avenue, Saint Paul. Registration is required at [libguides.metrostate.edu/EastSideSeedLibrary](http://libguides.metrostate.edu/EastSideSeedLibrary).

As we are getting excited with Spring coming, March's adult **Art Class** is **painting terra cotta** flower pots with any design you like. You are welcome to then browse our Seed Library for plants to grow in it, or adopt one of our available spider plant babies! Pots are 3.5 inches tall by 3.5 inches across the top opening. All materials provided, just bring ideas! Art Class is Monday, March 16 from 6:00PM - 7:30PM.

We have Game Night again! Game Night is for gamers of all ages and interests. Metro State Library has a vast collection of games to choose from or bring your own to play. Wednesday, March 25 from 6-7:30pm.

**ALL NEW!** Adult Dungeons and Dragons! Come and play Dungeons and Dragons! First time adventurers and seasoned dungeoneers welcome. Learn the game, go on epic adventures, make friends, and be the Dungeon Master. The next session is Wednesday, March 18th from 6 - 8:00 p.m.

Find more events at [sppl.org/events](http://sppl.org/events).

## Volunteer for The Youth Voter Project

Kyla Campbell

In August of 2023, high school sophomore Markus Wessman was shocked to learn that only 35.5% of youth aged 18-29 voted in the 2022 Minnesota midterm election. After doing some research, he discovered that legislation was passed the same year, allowing teens aged 16-17 to pre-register to vote. Eager to make a difference, Markus founded The Youth Voter Project (TYVP) with the goal of increasing youth voter engagement in Minnesota. Now, TYVP has made it our mission to pre-register all 150,000 eligible teens to vote. To accomplish this, we have taken action steps, such as implementing school voter registration drives, providing public resources, and promot-

ing student advocacy. TYVP hopes to preserve and strengthen Minnesota's strong civic culture to ensure that all voices, especially youth voices, are heard. You can check out our website and Instagram/TikTok @youthvoterproject to learn more.

My name is Kyla Campbell, I am a Junior at Lakeville South High School, and the PR Director for The Youth Voter Project. I am reaching out to the community to request volunteers and donations to continue our vital work. Our organization recognizes that community support is the lifeblood of our sustainability, and we have been blessed to be previously fiscally sponsored by the YMCA of the North and are now partners with New Voters. If you are interested in contributing to this important cause, please email [tyvproject@gmail.com](mailto:tyvproject@gmail.com) to learn about the next steps.

"Because democracy must be learned by each generation"- Earle T. Hawkins



## Saint Paul Brewing to Host First-Ever Hamm's Fest

Jessy Rehmann

A huge celebration is *hopping* into the neighborhood... and it's all about Hamm's.

The inaugural Hamm's Fest will make history at Saint Paul Brewing on March 28. The original Hamm's Brewery complex will come alive with a memorabilia showcase, a collectors market, a light lager competition, history tours, art installations, official Hamm's merch, food and drink specials, and much more!

"Celebrating Hamm's is basically all we're gonna do," said Bob Roepke, head brewer and co-owner of Saint Paul Brewing.

Hamm's Fest will be an ode to over 160 years of sky-blue history. To honor the brewery's East Side legacy, the event will be about more than just beer. The day will be about community — our community.

### A Hamm's Reunion

How has the Hamm's Brewery touched your life? Did you or a relative work at the complex? Did you ever get water from the brewery's spring taps? Did you grow up nearby, with the scent of fresh hops in the air?

Hamm's Fest is the place to tell those stories. The event will be a space to connect over a shared history with Hamm's. Bring your family photos, inherited memorabilia and cherished memories of "the beer refreshing"!

The East Side's collective sentimentality of Hamm's is heartwarming to witness, said Liza Sterletske, chief operating officer of Saint Paul Brewing's parent company, Eclective Co. Sterletske noticed this local affinity for Hamm's when she first began working in the building.

"The coolest part of interacting with our guests was the fact that everybody had a story about Hamm's," Sterletske said. "There was a nostalgia and a reverence around that building and that complex that was really amazing."

While Saint Paul Brewing has brought aspects of the building into the future, much of the red-bricked structure still reflects its iconic past life. Sterletske hopes Hamm's Fest will be an opportunity for locals and visitors alike to explore the Hamm's legacy right where it all started.

"Being at the site where so many memories existed — I think is meaningful," Sterletske said.

### Collectors Market

The Hamm's legacy has left more than just beer. It's produced neon signs, lamps, decorative clocks, figurines, calendars, tap handles, bottles, glasses — basically anything you could slap a cartoon bear on.

At Hamm's Fest, you'll be able to see loads of exciting vintage items at the Hamm's collectors market! Collectors will have booths filled with antique pieces for the general public to buy, trade and admire.

There's no shortage of Hamm's artifacts, said the president of The North Star Chapter of the Brewery Collectibles Club of America, Paul Schmidt (who has no relation to the other iconic St. Paul Brewery). Even before Prohibition, Hamm's was one of the most active breweries in making memorabilia.

"I personally have seen Hamm's wall-

mounted advertising pieces that were so old, they were lit up from the backside with kerosene lanterns," Schmidt said.

"It's just stunning how old and how crazy-rare that type of thing is."

The Hamm's Fest collectors market will showcase every era of the brand. Even though all the objects were created to advertise a humble beer, the craftsmanship that went into them is beyond imagination.

"You'll be stunned by how artistic some of these Hamm's advertising pieces are," he said. "Some of them are 5-, 6-, 8-foot-tall and they have motors inside them, so the Hamm's bear is riding in a helicopter and the helicopter blade spins."

### Light Lager Competition

It wouldn't be a celebration of Hamm's without some crisp, clean beer. While Hamm's Fest will have the iconic brew by the can, there will also be beer flights for a Hamm's clone contest!

A handful of beloved Minnesota breweries are tapping their light lagers in honor of Hamm's. Roepke, Saint Paul Brewing's co-owner and head brewer, said making a solid lager is no easy feat.

"Lagers are simple recipes that are hard to produce good quality," Roepke said. "There's a lot of flaws you can notice."

Roepke said while other brews like IPAs can disguise flaws with hoppiness, there's nowhere to hide with lagers. Making a Hamm's clone is something Roepke has done himself — "Shamm's" is one of Saint Paul Brewing's flagship beers.

Since there's no public recipe for Hamm's, Roepke and his team created nine different iterations of Shamm's before they nailed it. It took them over a year of work.

"We were always comparing with real Hamm's, like the whole time we were brewing," Roepke said. "Sometimes we'd get the flavor right, but the color wasn't right. So it was playing back and forth."

Now, customers can drink Shamm's and Hamm's side-by-side and find little difference. You can try it yourself at Hamm's Fest. Shamm's, however, will not take part in the Hamm's clone contest.

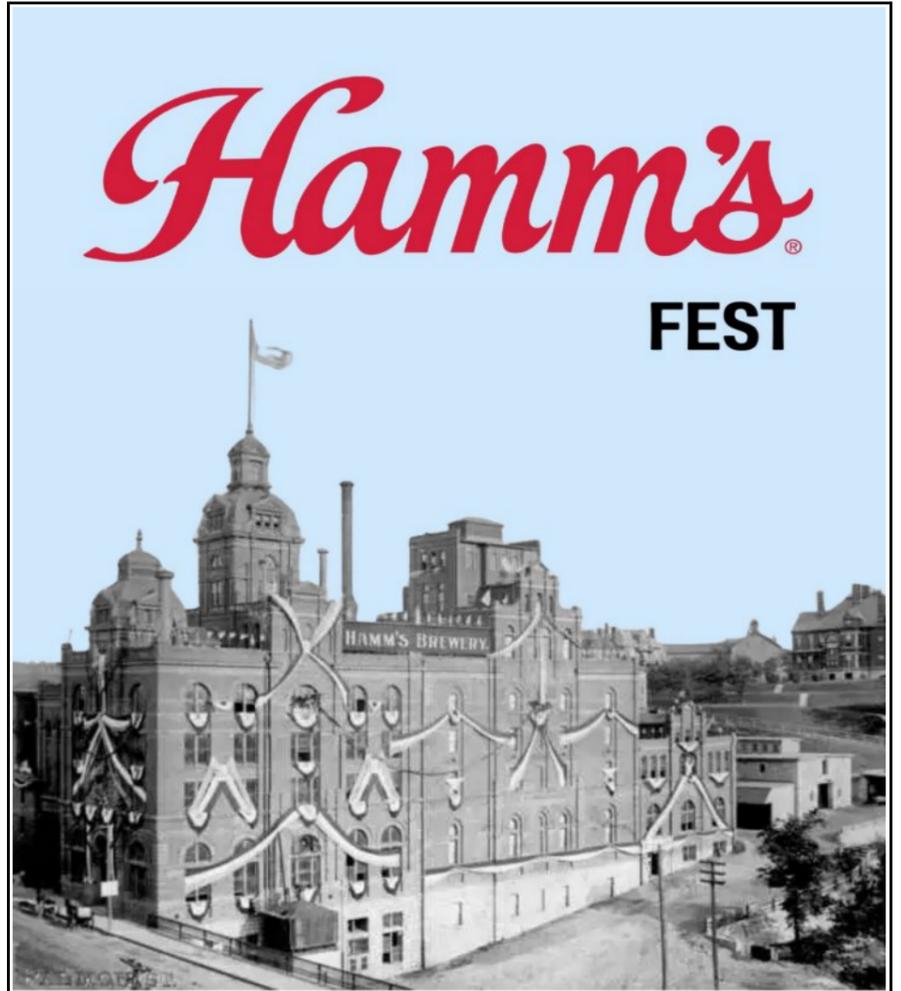
This contest is meant to spotlight the work of other breweries, Roepke said. The winner will receive a Hamm's crown forged by the fabrication team at Wonder Studio, Saint Paul Brewing's sister business. The champion will also have their light lager on tap at Saint Paul Brewing throughout April and May.

Rallying the local brewing community around Hamm's will be unlike other beer conventions, Roepke said. For Hamm's Fest, it's all about what makes the light lager iconic: nostalgic, easy drinking.

"You go to beer fests and you have all these things to choose from," Roepke said. "It's kind of cool to center around one style and keep it there. It's kind of fun. It'll be a unique experience."

To stay up-to-date on the latest Hamm's Fest news, follow @StPaulBrewing on Facebook and Instagram.

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



# Hamm's

## FEST

*A celebration of the brand that has transcended time, since 1865*

**Saturday, March 28**  
**11 AM - 10 PM**

**688 Minnehaha Ave East**

**Calling all photos, stories, and Hamm's memorabilia**

**History Tours**

**Photo opps**

**Tribute beers**

**Merch & more**



**more info @ [stpaulbrewing.com](http://stpaulbrewing.com)**

## Coyotes in Our Midst

Michel Taylor

We seem to have an invasion of coyotes roaming about our city. I have heard from folks who live on all sides of the city about their sightings. They usually are most active in the early morning and at dusk and are attracted to food sources such as garbage or bird feeders where small mammals congregate. Their main food sources are rabbits, mice, and an occasional small domesticated pet. They are skittish animals and will generally disregard humans but are not as frightened of us as you would think. I was to learn this very soon in my own front yard.

I live in a home directly across the street from Upper Swede Hollow Park. I have a dog, a 15 pound Mini Golden Doodle. He is 12 years old and on his last bathroom break of the night he just wants to finish his business and get out of the cold in a hurry which means he lifts his leg directly outside of the door. I immediately spotted what I thought was a stray dog about 10 feet from us. That was a strange sight in itself, but then I realized it was a coyote who was boldly standing his ground and staring at my dog. My dog saw him too and ran to him barking wildly.

Within seconds the rest of the pack came from the woods and a vicious fight ensued. No screaming or arm waving deterred them. As I approached them, the largest wrapped his jaw around my dog's neck, and dragged him off into a densely wooded area with his friends yelping and running alongside. I tried running after them but it was useless. I later found they

can run up to 43 mph. I called for my husband who came with a flashlight and we desperately searched for our dog who I was convinced was dead. They had dropped him in a clearing and he was laying in a pool of blood in shock. We wrapped him in a blanket and rushed him to Como Park Emergency Clinic. He very fortunately lived despite fifteen puncture wounds around his neck and throat, and emergency surgery. The veterinarian said they receive many patients who are victims of coyote attacks.

I notified Animal Control the following day, and they gently scolded me for not having my dog on a leash in the yard. I was surprised to learn that they can climb and hurdle fences up to 6 feet tall. They also advised me to call the DNR. Evidently, January and February is mating season and that is when their behavior is more erratic and aggressive. That explains the horrific musk smell my dog had on him when we found him. I voiced concern about having these wild, aggressive animals roaming our city neighborhoods and they informed me they are protected and as a result are more and more comfortable around humans. They also advised against providing food sources for them such as overflowing garbage. You will know when they are near because they are very vocal and make various howling, barking, and hooting sounds.

My dog and I have often taken walks through Swede Hollow Park and I consider it a blessing to have a natural sanctuary just a few yards from my front door. Though my dog was somewhat reluctant to revisit the park at first, we are now back reclaiming all of our favorite spots. One thing we never leave home without is our leash.

## The Forum is Online at the Minnesota Historical Society

Greg Cosimini

The Minnesota Digital Newspaper Hub is a free searchable website from the Minnesota Historical Society that makes millions of pages of Minnesota newspapers available online. The Hub contains geographically and culturally diverse newspapers published between 1849 and

today, with new content added regularly. Due to potential copyright restrictions, most issues published after 1977 can only be accessed from the Gale Family Library at the Minnesota History Center.

However, this is not a problem for the *Dayton's Bluff District Forum*. In its latest update, the Hub now contains all issues of the newest incarnation of the *Forum* from August 2000 through December 2025.

The Minnesota Historical Society's free online Minnesota Digital Newspaper Hub can be found at: [newspapers.mnhs.org/jsp/browse.jsp](http://newspapers.mnhs.org/jsp/browse.jsp)

## Choose Your Adventure as a Recycling Ambassador

Ramsey County

Looking to make a positive impact in your community? Interested in learning more about recycling and solid waste? Consider becoming a Ramsey County Recycling Ambassador.

Recycling Ambassadors take a six-week training program to learn about environmental health, waste systems and recycling. Registration for the spring training session is open until March 12. Register now.

After completing the training, you can volunteer for a variety of programs, projects and events. Recycling Ambassadors have a goal of volunteering 20 hours per year to encourage others to reduce, reuse and recycle.

Recycling Ambassador volunteer examples:

Recycling Ambassadors can sign up for volunteer opportunities that match their interests, skills and goals. Some examples include:

**For the community advocate:** Recy-

cling Ambassadors table at community events throughout the year to share Ramsey County Environmental Health resources and encourage change with neighbors and community members.

**For the public speaker:** Present to local groups and residents about waste issues and solutions.

**For the team player:** Support a variety of Ramsey County events by greeting and registering participants, setting up events and helping events run smoothly. Past events include Fix-It Clinics, School Supply Swap, compost bin and rain barrel sale and Environmental Center open houses.

**For the sharp eye:** Help residents at large events sort their waste correctly and keep recyclables and compostable items out of the trash.

**For the busy community volunteer:** Volunteer opportunities not sponsored by Ramsey County that focus on waste reduction may also count towards volunteer hours. For example, volunteering at your local food shelf or participating in a community clean-up.

There are many ways to get involved with Recycling Ambassadors and help your community reduce waste. Register for the spring training program now. Registration closes March 12.

# Dayton's Bluff District Forum

## Subscribe to the Forum.

Interested in keeping up with hot news? Send your email address to [daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com](mailto:daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com) and request to subscribe to the *Forum* every month.

## Dayton's Bluff District Forum

1368 Minnehaha Ave. E., St. Paul, MN 55106

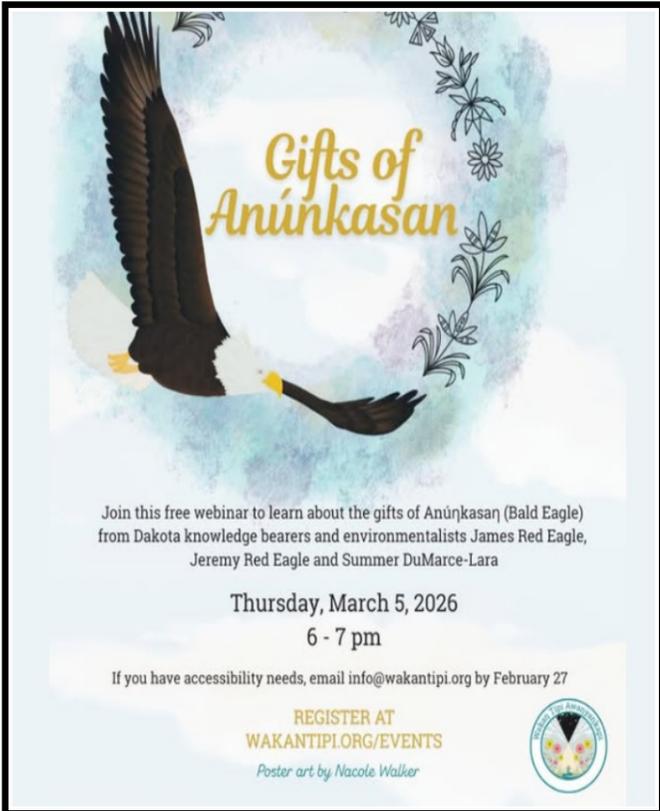
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While we are not currently printing, the paper is always available online at [daytonsbluffdistrictforum.org](http://daytonsbluffdistrictforum.org). This publication of Hopewell Communications, Inc., is intended to provide a forum for the ideas and 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](mailto: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: **April. Deadline for content March 10.**





**Gifts of Anúŋkasan**

Join this free webinar to learn about the gifts of Anúŋkasan (Bald Eagle) from Dakota knowledge bearers and environmentalists James Red Eagle, Jeremy Red Eagle and Summer DuMarce-Lara

Thursday, March 5, 2026  
6 - 7 pm

If you have accessibility needs, email [info@wakantipi.org](mailto:info@wakantipi.org) by February 27

REGISTER AT  
[WAKANTIPI.ORG/EVENTS](http://WAKANTIPI.ORG/EVENTS)

Poster art by Nacole Walker

### Eight from SPPS are Candidates for Minnesota Teacher of the Year

St. Paul Public Schools

Congratulations to the eight SPPS educators who are candidates for 2026 Minnesota Teacher of the Year! This annual program celebrates Minnesota's tradition of excellence in teaching. Finalists will be selected in March, and the 2026 Teacher of the Year will be named at a ceremony in May.

The 2026 Minnesota Teacher of the Year will be chosen from a field of 128 candidates, including eight from Saint Paul Public Schools.

Congratulations to the following eight candidates: Nick Altringer, Murray Middle School; Daniel Bettino, Highland Park Middle School; Eric Erickson, Como Park Senior High School; Allison Hartzell, Como Park Senior High School; John Horton, Barack and Michelle Obama Montessori Elementary; Alli Kildahl, Battle Creek Middle School; Beth Tierney, Randolph

Heights Elementary School; Boon Yang, Harding High School.

On Feb. 13, the field was narrowed to 30 semifinalists. Como Park's Eric Erickson and Battle Creek's Alli Kildahl have moved onto the next round.

This year's program will name the 62nd Minnesota Teacher of the Year. The program celebrates the tradition of excellence in teaching in Minnesota. Eligible candidates include pre-kindergarten through 12th-grade, Early Childhood Family Education and Adult Basic Education teachers, from public or private schools.

An independent selection panel of leaders in the fields of education, business, government, nonprofit and philanthropy will read candidates' portfolios over the next few weeks and narrow the list to a group of semifinalists. In March, the panel will convene again and review additional materials from the semifinalists to choose a group of finalists.

The Minnesota Teacher of the Year banquet is set for May 3 at the Saint Paul RiverCentre.

Education Minnesota, the 84,000-member statewide educators union, organizes and underwrites the Teacher of the Year program.

### Friends of the Forum 2026

Make a donation today!

John Vaughn

Sofia Santana

Richard and Georgette Kleinbaum



**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](mailto: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 April issue of the Forum March 10**

### Limited Time: Free Mattress, Box Spring and Metal Bed Frame Recycling

Ramsey County

Say goodbye to that old bed for free. Between March 3 and April 30, 2026 only, Ramsey County residents can bring a maximum of four mattresses and box springs and a maximum of four metal bed frames

to the Environmental Center at no cost. Second Chance Recycling in Minneapolis will recycle the mattresses and box springs and either reuse or recycle the metal bed frames.

**RSVP**

Please register for a drop-off date and time in advance so staff can plan accordingly.

**Details**

Open to Ramsey County residents only. No business waste. A maximum of four mattresses and box springs total per drop-off. A maximum of four metal bed frames per drop-off. Residents must transport items to the Environmental Center.

Learn more at [RamseyCountyMN.gov/Mattres](http://RamseyCountyMN.gov/Mattres)

### 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)

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**Thank you for your support!**