

# Dayton's Bluff District Forum

Volume 38, No. 10

November 2024

"The Voice of the Community"

## Windy's Collision Center

Mark Gallagher

A gentleman named Mr. Wendell Philmalee, who moved to Minnesota from Nebraska in the fall of 1953 after serving in the Korean War, started working for Auto Reconditioning in Minneapolis. After learning the trade and gaining experience in the auto-body repair world, Mr. Philmalee opened his own body shop. Windy's Collision Center, located at 767 Bush Ave., St. Paul, MN 55106, and open from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, started its long and evolving life as an auto collision repair business in 1971.

Jon Philmalee, Mr. Philmalee's son, spent much time as a small boy and then as a teenager working and mostly observing in his dad's business and learning the intricacies of auto-body repair. "I learned the basics of auto-body repair on the job here at Windy's from my father and the other auto-body technicians," Jon said. "After spending two years at Dunwoody Technical Institute, I graduated from the auto-body repair program in 1985 and started working for my father."

Windy's Collision Center repairs about 30 or 40 cars per week. The average collision repair usually takes three to five days, and they have eight employees in their shop. The employees do not work in teams, and the technicians are trained at technical schools. Some training institutions will come to Windy's and train the technicians, but since COVID, all the training is online.

"People who want to do auto-body work for us do not have to be trained by a technical program," Jon said, "but we would make sure that person works with one of our more experienced technicians and have that technician look over the new person's work. We put the employee on an apprenticeship program to get them to be a journeyman. We are not a union shop, but I use those words to explain experience levels.

"New hires will start as an apprentice

and work their way through our shop, and of course they will get more pay as they get more experience. As they get more experience, an employee can take classes through I-CAR in whatever area of the auto-body realm they choose — management or production."

There is a business called I-CAR, which is an organization that is run by the body shop industry for the nationwide auto-body repair commercial enterprises. The Inter-Industry Conference on Auto Collision Repair is an international not-for-profit association dedicated to providing the information, knowledge, and skills required to perform complete, safe, and quality repairs. I-CAR will come in and teach a class such as a welding class, a paint class, or a plastics repair class, and most of their classes are online.

"I had a guy from I-CAR come in two years ago and teach a welding class," Jon said. "Three of us went out into the shop for a couple of hours and then we each got a graduation certificate that indicates that we can do the actual welds. Welding is a very important part of our industry because the welds enhance the structure of the vehicle. There are different kinds of welds on the car: there are plug welds and pinch welds, and they are the only two that we use. When we employ the plug welds, we use a handle with a wire feed, and the other one is called a pinch weld, which uses a big clamp that comes around and pushes and holds the two parts together with pressure and heat, then welds them."

Windy's Collision Center is technically advanced in its auto-body shop because it has to be able to compete with the other shops. When a shop works on the new cars, that shop has to have the latest and greatest technology. A backyard mechanic used to be able to do auto-body repair when the fenders were bolted together. Now in modern cars, most of the items that used to be bolted together are welded together in today's auto-technical world.

*See Windy's, page 4*



Jon Philmalee

Here are before and after photos that reflect the auto-body work of Windy's Collision Center, located at 767 Bush Ave.



## Sun Ray Shopping Center Gets New Sign and New Stores

Greg Cosimini

Sun Ray Shopping Center is getting ready to welcome the Gold Line Bus Rapid Transit line that will open on March 25, 2025. It will be the site of a Gold Line station and a Park and Ride lot which will hopefully bring new life and customers to Sun Ray.

Most noticeable is the new Sun Ray sign. It says "Welcome to Saint Paul Minnesota" on both sides and includes the city's logo. That makes sense for west-going bus travelers but is a bit misleading for east-going riders who will be exiting St. Paul and entering Maplewood in a few blocks after crossing over McKnight Road.

The new sign includes the names and logos of some of the businesses in Sun Ray. A few have been there for a while such as Cub Foods, Cub Liquor, Planet Fitness,

Dollar Tree, Sally Beauty, Rainbow (discount women's clothing, not groceries) and BioLife Plasma Services. There are also two recently opened stores — Ross Dress for Less (discount department store) and Five Below (discount specialty store). An intriguing name is Burlington (formerly Burlington Coat Factory) because there is no Burlington in Sun Ray yet although the empty TJ Maxx store is a likely location.

Existing businesses that are not on the sign include Citi Trends (discount clothing), Jimmy John's, Chicago Nails, DTLR (discount sports footwear, apparel and accessories), Shawarmin Mediterranean & American Food, Tobacco Vapor Zone, T-Mobile, First Care and Tiffany's Barber Shop. Located in the parking lot building are Leeann Chin, Domino's Pizza and Bruegger's Bagels.

Currently Sun Ray Shopping Center can only be entered from the west until Gold Line construction wraps up later in the year.

*Photo to the right provided by Greg Cosimini*







## Absentee Voting Open for November 5 General Election

Ramsey County

Anyone eligible to vote in Ramsey County may cast their absentee ballot – either by mail or in person — for the 2024 general election.

**Vote in person:** In-person absentee voting is available at the Ramsey County Elections Office.

In alignment with Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act, Hmong interpreter election judges will be available at certain in-person voting locations in 2024. Sample ballots will also be available in Hmong at [mnvotes.org](https://mnvotes.org).

Beginning Friday, Oct. 18, four additional locations will offer in-person absentee voting. Locations include: Arlington Hill Community Center, Frogtown Community Center, Ramsey County Library — Roseville, and Ramsey County Library — Shoreview.

**Vote by mail:** Voters can also cast their absentee ballot by mail. Visit [mnvotes.org](https://mnvotes.org) to apply for a mail ballot.

You can submit an absentee ballot application by email, mail, fax or in person. Once your request is received, a ballot will be mailed to you along with a pre-paid, pre-addressed envelope for returning your completed ballot materials. Voters can track the status of their absentee ballot through the Minnesota Secretary of State’s online ballot tracker.

For more information, addresses, and times, visit: [ramseycounty.us/content/absentee-voting-open-sept-20-general-election](https://ramseycounty.us/content/absentee-voting-open-sept-20-general-election).

### 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 19** and starts at **6:30 p.m.** and is an excellent resource for park updates and events.

For more updates email [taylor672@comcast.net](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, November 1 at 11 a.m.**

If you'd like to attend, call 651-776-0550 or email [daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com](mailto:daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com) for more information.

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

### 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 or email Robyn at 651-266-5580 or [robyn.brewin@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:robyn.brewin@ci.stpaul.mn.us) 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

Information in the next column.

The Dayton's Bluff Community Council is inviting everyone to attend the Annual Meeting on **Monday, November 11 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](https://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.**

we celebrate two exciting launches: the “Body Be Gone Game” and the “Body Be Gone Origins Unearthed” anthology book release! Set against the stunning backdrop of the Historic Mounds Theatre, our 1920s-themed event will transport you back to the Jazz Age with flair, fun, and mystery. 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Tickets \$20, \$30, \$50, \$60. Space is limited. Get your tickets now.

**December 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 14, 15, 20, 21 & 22. It's An Honorable Life.** In this annual Mounds Theatre holiday play, a Klingon fears he is too great a warrior to die in battle and will instead die of old age. Q leads him on a journey through his life in this mixture of Star Trek and holiday classics. The show is presented primarily in Klingon with projected English titles. Performance times and tickets info will be available soon.

Visit [moundstheatre.org](https://moundstheatre.org) to purchase tickets and get more information on upcoming events or visit their Facebook site at [facebook.com/pages/Mounds-Theatre](https://facebook.com/pages/Mounds-Theatre).

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.**

### Mah Jongg Club

We are starting a mah jongg club at Karibu Market and Deli. We will meet on Thursdays from 2 to 5 p.m.

Karibu is at the intersection of Payne and Minnehaha Avenues.

We will be playing National Mah Jongg League rules. Lessons can be arranged. Please call Preston at 651-955-5746 if interested or have questions.



THE HISTORIC  
MOUNDS  
THEATRE

**October 18, 19, 25, 26 & 27: Real Haunted Tours.** These are walking tours where we tell you about the history of the theatre and the spirits that call it home. Come meet our resident spirits and any guests that may come for the season. One hour tours on October 18, 19, 25 & 26 at 7, 8:30, 10 pm. Tickets \$25. Three hour tours on October 18, 19, 25 & 26 at 11:59 pm. Tickets \$50. Kid friendly sunset tours on Sunday October 27 at 5:30 and 6:30 pm. Tickets \$25 (adult), \$15 (kids).

**October 24: Body Be Gone Launch Party.** Step Back into the Roaring '20s at the Historic Mounds Theatre!

Join us for an unforgettable evening as





Schultz Family

The multi-yard Schultz Family Halloween Lights Show at York Ave. and Hazelwood St. runs through Halloween night, October 31st, dusk–10 p.m. each night. They are accepting non-perishable food items and cash donations for a local food shelf. It will be followed by a an 11-yard Christmas Lights Show which will run from the Friday after Thanksgiving through December 31st, from 5-10 p.m. For more information visit: [schultzfamilylights.com](http://schultzfamilylights.com).

## Visitors from the Ice Age World

Greg Brick, PhD

“The fish lye closely in their watry bed / And find an icy ceiling o’re their head.”—*A Winter Wonder* (1684)

The earliest published account of a cave in the Upper Midwest was by British colonial explorer Jonathan Carver (1710-1780). Carver visited what he called the “Great Cave” in 1766 and again in 1767. It achieved fame after his best-selling *Travels Through the Interior Parts of North America* appeared in 1778. Others, a generation later, renamed it Carver’s Cave. Native Americans have always referred to it as *Wakan Tipi*, the Dwelling of the Great Spirit.

On November 14, 1766, Carver reported his initial exploration of the cave:

About thirty miles below the Falls of St. Anthony, at which I arrived the tenth day after I left Lake Pepin, is a remarkable cave of an amazing depth. The Indians term it *Wakon-teebe*, that is, the Dwelling of the Great Spirit. The entrance into it is about ten feet wide, the height of it five feet. The arch within is near fifteen feet high and about thirty feet broad. The bottom of it consists of fine clear sand. About twenty feet from the entrance begins a lake, the water of which is transparent, and extends to an unsearchable distance; for the darkness of the cave prevents all attempts to acquire a knowledge of it. I threw a small pebble towards the interior parts of it with my utmost strength: I could hear that it fell into the water, and notwithstanding it was of so

small a size, it caused an astonishing and horrible noise that reverberated through all those gloomy regions.

By 1913, however, the cave had vanished from sight. Local businessmen undertook to relocate and dig it open again for commercial purposes. They soon succeeded. On November 13 of that year, it was reported in the newspaper that blind crayfish had been seen in the subterranean lake that fills the cave. Blind crayfish are well-documented from caves in the southeastern United States, as at Mammoth Cave in Kentucky, south of the glacial border. To find them in a northern state like Minnesota, hundreds of miles from their usual haunts, is unheard of. No further encounters have taken place.

But the story needn’t end with a newspaper clipping, as there’s a far more intriguing possibility. Suppose the 1913 sighting was valid—what then? It’s likely that blind crayfish did live in Minnesota during the last warm interglacial phase, and it’s just assumed that they were wiped out by the oncoming glaciers. But other crustaceans have survived in cold groundwater under the glaciers of Castle-guard Mountain in Alberta, Canada, to the present day. Could it be that Minnesota’s blind crayfish lived a similar forlorn existence, with a whole watery world to themselves, under the vast continental ice sheet — a crystalline refugium — only just now to peep out at us? Something to ponder!

This speculative article originally appeared in the October 2024 issue of *Flying Snake: A Journal of Cryptozoology*, published in the United Kingdom.

Graphics to the right provided by Greg Brick.

## Enjoy Safe Backyard Fires This Fall

Ramsey County

Help protect your health and your neighbors’ health by enjoying safe backyard fires this season. Outdoor recreational fires contribute to fine-particle air pollution, which can get into the lungs and bloodstream and aggravate existing health issues. These particles can be especially harmful to vulnerable groups, including children and teenagers, older adults, and people with heart or lung conditions (including asthma and COPD).

It’s important to practice safe burning. You might have already experienced the effects of poor air quality, which can include headaches, sore throat, irritated eyes, fatigue, and many more symptoms. Burning responsibly can help keep the air in your neighborhood cleaner.

The following tips can help you burn responsibly.

- **Only burn seasoned, dry wood.** The recommended drying time for wood is at least six months, but wood can take longer to fully dry. Check to make sure it’s fully dry before burning. This type of wood

burns hotter and cleaner. Don’t burn plastic, garbage, or yard waste. These materials create more smoke and can make the air toxic.

- **Don’t burn on bad air quality days.** The US Environmental Protection Agency recommends not burning on days with air quality alerts, when air pollution is already high.
- **Let your neighbors know when you will have a backyard fire.** They may choose to close their windows to avoid smoke exposure.

You can help protect yourself from fine-particle air pollution by:

- Checking current and forecasted air quality and plan outdoor activities accordingly.
- Paying attention to your

body and contact your healthcare provider if you have serious symptoms, including trouble breathing.

- Using air cleaners and air filters in your home to improve indoor air quality.
- Keeping all windows closed when in a vehicle and setting the ventilation system to recirculate the air instead of pulling in air from outside.



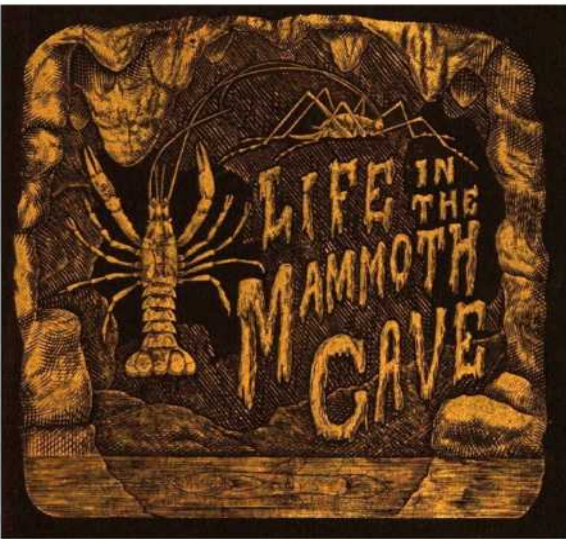
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# Windy's

## Continued From Page 1

The backyard mechanic can bolt on a fender or replace a headlight, but they cannot bolt on a quarter panel. The front quarter panels and where the trunk is are all welded together, but the trunk is bolted together.

"You don't get a choice," Jon said. "The car comes into the shop through the insurance companies or through a customer, and you repair the car, and sometimes you win and sometimes you don't. It depends on the insurance company. Some insurance companies are easy to deal with and others are not. Years ago, the insurance companies used to come to the repair facility, but now we take pictures, write the estimate, send the estimate to the computer, and the insurance company does a desk review. You are always negotiating."

"The most common repair we do is bumpers," Jon said. "It seems like that is the first thing that gets hit. Most of the bumpers are made of plastic, so they get torn, and the body shop either has to repair them or replace the bumpers. When bumpers were metal, the technician could not pound the dent out because they were chromed, and the existing chrome coating would crack in the process. But if you could pound the bumpers out, and most bumpers were one-quarter to three-eighths of an inch thick, they would have to be chromed again. Back in the 1970s and 1980s and before, all the bumpers were metal, but now they are all plastic."

When a bumper is damaged, the shop would have to send the bumper out to be chromed because it is a detailed process. To chrome a bumper usually takes six weeks, Jon said as he described the bumper chroming process. The bumper gets dipped into about five or six different acid baths during the chroming process and then has two or three coats of chrome applied when it is dry. A shop can buy a bumper that is already chromed and ready to be installed on the car, and most of the time the shop will replace the damaged chrome bumper because of the lengthy time it takes to chrome a bumper. There were no shock absorbers in the chrome bumpers, but they had gas-filled dampers that were like shock absorbers, and they absorbed some of the impact, and that was when cars were full-framed where the body is bolted onto the frame.

Jon said that today's plastic bumpers have a piece of foam that absorbs the impact. The frame of the car is unitized

(unibody) that is integrated into itself, but before that, the manufacturer would bolt the body to the frame, and now, the body and frame are integrated. Windy's Collision Center usually doesn't get many calls to pull frames anymore because if the frame is bent or the car is twisted up, the car is usually totaled. Sometimes when the frame gets bent it is called "dog walking."

"We guarantee the work we do for the life of the car," Jon said. "If the car gets into another accident, that is not our responsibility. If the workmanship fails in any way or if the paint peels, that's what we guarantee for the life of the car. The number of coats of paint on a car depends on the color because we are using more pigment than paint, so we put pigment down that gives the color to the car, and that can take anywhere from two to five coats of paint. Then we put two coats of clearcoat on top of that — the clearcoat gives the paint its protection."

Windy's Collision Center uses water-based paint. After the basecoat dries for 10 to 15 minutes, the paint technician puts down a clearcoat on top of the basecoat, so water cannot permeate the paint. The whole car gets baked for 20 minutes at 160 degrees, so the heat cures the paint and the clearcoat. The key to a good paint job is the preparation (cleaning and taping, etc.), and the time to finish the preparation varies with the complexity of the repair.

"Back in the 1970s and 1980s," Jon said, "there used to be more union body shops and most dealers used to have them, but the majority of dealers got rid of their body shops. I stay away from contracting with dealers since there is just no money in that because the dealers mostly just want you to repair their used cars. I work with insurance companies, and I have some insurance companies that feed me work. Mostly, our customers are just people coming to our shop because of our reputation."

"We are a family-owned business," said Jon, "and now my wife works here with me by doing the books and some accounting work. My dad started the shop with my mom, and now it's me and my wife who own the business. I have two daughters, and neither one wanted anything to do with the business. Most of my employees are from this area. We have one employee that is not from this area, but I knew him and his family from before. That makes it special when most of your employees are from the local area."

—Mark Gallagher  
Mark Gallagher is the associate editor of the Dayton's Bluff Forum and a graduate of Metropolitan State University. Mark can be reached at [refineEditorial@gmail.com](mailto:refineEditorial@gmail.com)



# Gold Line BRT Construction Update

Compiled from Information provided by Metro Transit  
[metrotransit.org/gold-line-project](http://metrotransit.org/gold-line-project)

The METRO Gold Line will open on March 22, 2025. The Gold Line is one of three new BRT lines that will open next year, expanding the region's network of METRO lines that provide reliable, all-day service and stations with amenities like heated and lit shelters.

When open, the Gold Line will provide all-day, daily service between downtown St. Paul and Woodbury. Buses will travel in dedicated lanes for about 70% of the 10-mile route, serv-

ing stops in St. Paul, Maplewood, Landfall, Oakdale, and Woodbury. The route through the East Side of Saint Paul including Dayton's Bluff runs parallel to and north of I-94.

All major work on East Side of Saint Paul should be complete in fall 2024, which technically doesn't end until December 21. This includes the work near Sun Ray Shopping Center, White Bear Ave. over I-94 from Old Hudson Road to the eastbound I-94 ramps, the storm water pond near the intersection of Griffith Street and Johnson Parkway, and the Maple Street Pedestrian Bridge.

For updated information on the Gold Line project, questions, comments or concerns visit [metrotransit.org/gold-line-project](http://metrotransit.org/gold-line-project), email [goldline@metrotransit.org](mailto:goldline@metrotransit.org) or call 651-602-1919



Greg Cosimini

The Maple Street pedestrian bridge over I-94 is nearing completion.



Steve Trimble

Crowds came to the Solidarity Street Gallery at 967 Payne Avenue in early October to meet the artists of the "Migration & Memories" exhibit. The attendees saw dozens of amazing works and learned about other cultures and their histories.

## 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 December issue of the Forum is November 10, 2024.**



# Kellogg — Third Street Bridge Update

Compiled from information provided by he City of Saint Paul [stpaul.gov/kellogg-3](http://stpaul.gov/kellogg-3)

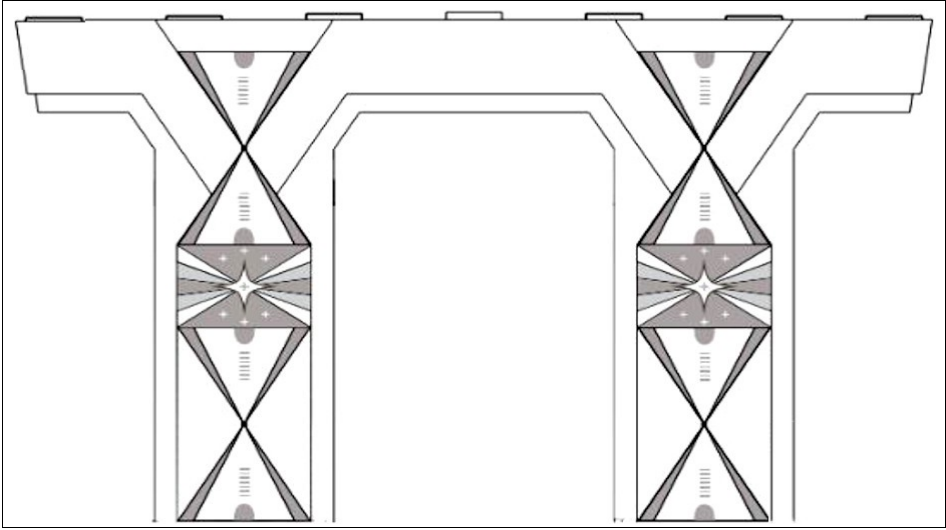
The City of Saint Paul closed the Kellogg-Street Bridge from Broadway Street to Mounds Boulevard in July 2024 to begin a three-year project that will remove and replace the entire bridge that connects the East Side to Downtown Saint Paul. The reconstruction project budget of approximately \$91 million is funded by state bonding, federal regional solicitation grants, and local funding.

Bridge demolition over I94 will occur over a single weekend and is tentatively

scheduled to start at 10:00 p.m. on Friday, October 25, and end no later than 5:00 a.m. Monday, October 28. The proposed dates are subject to MnDOT approval. If MnDOT does not grant permission to close the freeway on October 25, demolition will take place on the next weekend allowed by MnDOT.

To complete the demolition work in a single weekend, crews must work continuously until the structure is removed, roads are cleaned of debris, and the freeway is re-opened. This work will have significant construction noise, including jack hammering, and trucks hauling throughout the night and day. Thank you for your patience and understanding during this critical work activity.

For more information, including detour maps, visit the project webpage at [stpaul.gov/kellogg-3](http://stpaul.gov/kellogg-3).



City of St. Paul

Subtle patterns, cast into the concrete bridge supports under the the new Kellogg-Third Street bridge will evoke the Lakota theme of “Kapemni,” a mirroring symbol reflecting intertwining and balance in the universe. These will be in the area of the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary and planned Wakan Tipi Center.

## Some Recipes From an East Side Hospital

Found by Steve Trimble

The following are East Side recipes from “Creative Cooks Who Share” — a book published by St. John’s Hospital. The institution was at the corner where Metro State University now sets.

Since the holidays are rapidly approaching, I thought you would like to see recipes for three foods with holiday themes. At least I usually see Green Bean casserole. Send the paper some photos of these or your favorite holiday eating.

### Green Bean Casserole

Marge Thoele

- 1 can French style green beans
- ¼ teaspoon basil
- 1 can French fried onions
- ½ cup cheddar cheese, grated
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 3 slices bacon, partially cooked
- 1 can milk



Put together layers of drained beans and onions in a casserole. Mix soup, milk and basil. Pour over beans and onions. Sprinkle cheese on top, and crumble bacon over cheese.

Bake at 375 °F for 30 minutes.

### Italian Bucilato

Joan Anello

- 8 teaspoons butter
- 3 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon whiskey or brandy
- 1 cup milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 eggs
- ¼ cup anise seed
- 1 ½ cups sugar
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- ½ cup chopped nuts

Cream butter, add sugar, and beat until fluffy. Add eggs and beat. Add flour and baking powder alternately with milk. Add vanilla, whiskey, anise seed., nuts and beat. Pour into greased and floured tube pan and bake in slow oven 300-325 °F for 1 hour. Slice thin when ready to serve.

### Holiday Punch

Mickey Paderson  
St. John's Hospital, St. Paul

- 2 ½ cups water
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 pint cranberry juice
- 1 cup frozen orange juice
- 16 ounces bottled ginger ale
- 2 cups vodka (optional)

Cook water and sugar together, boil 5 min. Combine the 3 juices and the sugar water. Mix well. Just before serving add last 2 ingredients and pour over ice ring or 3 trays of ice cubes in a punch bowl.



(Recipe doubles easily).

## View from My Porch

Sage Holben

I live in a salad bar of a neighborhood. We are mixed and assorted in all ways possible: income, country of origin, education, family structure, indoor/outdoor interests, neighborly relationships or keeping a distance, personal mobility, age, or politics. Over the years I have found these differences to be pleasant and stimulating.

More challenging is the decision to call or not to call the city’s 651-266-8989 number about a property problem in Saint Paul. When it is a ‘people’ situation i.e. excessive noise, kids rampaging around the street at night, two or three people arguing or a group challenging each other to a fight, it’s usually a matter of: does my voice sound tight and stressed and is my voice tone light? Depending on the situation I may grab my favorite “weapon”— a package of cookies to lightheartedly give to the group if they take my admonishment well. Unless someone is screaming at me and tossing firecrackers toward me, or if I see guns, there is usually no reason to call law enforcement.

The above situations actually are easier to deal with than those involving property issues: overflowing garbage week after week from the same property; grass that has become high weeds with no promise of pollination or nesting — except for rats; broken glass, or the kiddie pool of stagnant water and a dead, very bloated squirrel.

For property situations residents are instructed to call the 8989 number to speak with a person during weekday business hours or leave a voice message; or fill out the available form to ‘Report a Concern’ on problem properties. These are all very convenient and will be sent to the appropriate department, investigated, the property owner notified, and a report made. This “Complaint-based” system works fairly well, placing the onus on the resident. In so-doing, an assumption is made that one will remain anonymous and avoid any retaliation for the subject of the report (anonymity cannot be guaranteed). One would also trust that the complaint-based system does not weaponize the reporting caller.

Also troubling is that the system becomes an immediate “go-to” instead of a ‘fall-back’. Because we do have such a mix of personalities and backgrounds in our residency, we also hold a wide knowledge base and ignorance base. There is absolutely nothing wrong with ignorance. Ignorance is simply what we have not yet learned (As opposed to stupidity which is when we perhaps don’t want to learn). The system is a go-to for the person who will call 8989 or 1111 or 911 for almost anything — a speeding car (after the fact and with no ID of car or driver); kids playing hoops in the street; or someone perhaps disturbing city property. These are all meaningful and at some point perhaps even dangerous.

## Dayton's Bluff District Forum

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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.

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## NOTICE

The *Forum* would like all our readers to know that we do not endorse anyone in politics. Just because we are not paid for a politician's ad, does not mean we support that person.

We have had two politicians within the last year decide not to pay their outstanding ad invoices. The money that is owed to the *Forum* could pay for a month's worth of printing. This is why ads and donations mean so much to us!

Moving forward, we will require all businesses and anyone wanting to take out an ad in the paper to pay for it in full before going to print.

Ads will also run as they are submitted — whether they have typos, the coloring is off, photos are stretched, etc.

# Some Pieces About St. Paul in November

Steve Trimble

I have tried to collect diverse events in our city, some old and others are more recent. I have put together these offerings and all have around 200 words. Most of them could have been much longer stories. Maybe you might want to have a party with friends to talk about the events over a cup of coffee or a beer.

November 1, 1954: For 32 years Gareth Hiebert, a World War II veteran, wrote lively newspaper columns and the first was printed on this day. Using the pen name of Oliver Towne, he covered St. Paul's past and present, celebrating people, places, and neighborhoods.

In his first Oliver Towne column, he pledged: “We will write about these things, examining the byways, the cran- nies, touching here on history, there on the future, but more often on the present. We will try to put together little by little the pieces of the puzzle called ‘any town’.” Forty-six years later, he declared: “The city I knew then exists only in frag- ments. Old neighborhoods are gone—the West Side Flats, the old 13th Street Neighborhood, the Italian Upper Levee, Swede Hollow, the Central Park place be- low the Capitol. I roamed and wrote about them all.”

He covered St. Paul's past and present, celebrating people and neighborhoods. He wrote “Day or night, the city is my beat. To roam at will, scour and prowl, examine and study, note and report, from the van- tage points.” Some of his books include *St. Paul is My Beat* (1958), *Once Upon a Towne* (1959), *City on Seven Hills* (1999) and *Oliver’s Towns*.

November 2, 1851: Four Sisters of St. Joseph traveled up the Mississippi River and arrived in St. Paul on this day, plan- ning to start a school. That night Sister Francis Joseph wrote: “We arrived at St. Paul during the night...when we woke up to look at our new home. It looked very dreary the hills were covered with snow.” They taught immigrants and Native American children.

Then, in the early 1850s there was a cholera epidemic and many citizens be- came ill and died and the sisters adopted a new project.

Realizing the immediate need, they lob-

bied to build a hospital. Their hopes were answered and construction began on a fa- cility on Exchange Street. They continued using the school as a makeshift hospital until the formal building, on land donated to the diocese, would be completed in 1854.

As the needs of the growing population multiplied, additional sisters arrived. The Sisters focused on helping local people in need regardless of their prestige, national- ity, or faith. They served as educators, nurses, administrators, artists, musicians, poets, cooks, gardeners, spiritual direc- tors, and social activists — all against a background of contemplative prayer.

November 8, 1985: *That Was Then, This is Now*, a movie, opened on this day at the Cooper Theater in Minneapolis, but it had already premiered at the Grandview The- ater in St Paul a day earlier. It was filmed in the Twin Cities during the months of August and September, and a great deal of it was set in St. Paul. Emilio Estevez, who wrote the screenplay, played Mark, a trou- bled youngster. He looks up to an older Bryon. When Bryon starts a romance, Mark is jealous, acts badly and starts deal- ing drugs. Mark and Bryon’s friendship is put to the test.

The two friends live together in an actu- al house at 654 E. Fourth Street. At the start of the movie Mark and Bryon walk down 6th St. to Maria Ave to catch the city bus. On East Seventh Street under the Earl Street Bridge, Charlie, played by Morgan Freeman, owned a local pool hall where Mark and Bryon hang out and hus- tled pool games.

Why the St. Paul setting? "It was my choice," said director Christopher Cain. "It has the kind of mix of the old and the new that we were looking for. Some reno- vations next to high-tech buildings. You know, poor but not seedy."

November 10, 1898: St. Paul African Americans held a “Cuban Pageant” in the Opera House on this day to raise money for a newly formed American Law Enforcement League. There were over 300 per- formers, a huge number considering the size of the African American popu- lation in the city. It was advertised in the newspa- pers as “Cuba” — A Dra- ma of Freedom, which benefits the American League of Minnesota,

with Music, Art, Drama, and Comedy.”

The program included four acts. The first was a pageant in which “Liberty,” with women in armor sailed to Spain to plead for Cuba’s oppressed subjects. Pho- tographs, singing, and dancing showed Cuban life and the formation of a revolu- tionary army in the hills led by Antonio Maceo Grajales, known as “the Bronze Titan.” The response to the pageant was so well done and positive that several en- core performances were held.

Mattie McGhee said that the production of “Cuba had done more to elevate the colored people in the estimation of the whites in the Northwest than all the com- bined efforts of the race-loving people of the Twin Cities for their combined efforts gave a performance that has excelled by far any of its kind ever given by those who acknowledge themselves our superi- or race.

November 16, 1885: The St. Paul Curl- ing Club was incorporated on this day. Curling had been around for years, and it is probable that the first match ever played in St. Paul was on Christmas Day, 1885. It was held on Mississippi River ice near Raspberry Island. Curlers were around during the 1886 Winter Carnival and dressed in colorful club outfits and played on eight sheets of ice in Central Park near the noted Ice Palace.

The club built facilities on Raspberry Is- land in 1891, and later their permanent fa- cilities were located at a two-story club- house with six sheets at 470 Selby Av- enue. Artificial ice sheets were added in gradual stages from 1939 to 1962.

Membership dropped in the 1960s and 1970s. The neighborhood declined and there were discussions on disbandment. However, the club remained, and contin- ued to renovate and expand its facilities. They become the first group in the coun- try to host every national curling championship event.

At the time of an anniver- sary celebration in 2012, the St. Paul Curling Club was the largest group of its kind in the United States, with over 1200 members. includ- ing many women. Its mem- bers have competed in na- tional and international competitions, includ- ing the Olympics.



Ramsey County Historical Society

General Antonio Maceo, the Afro- American revolutionary known as the “Bronze Titan”. He is still reveled as a Cuban hero.

## Many thanks to our Friends of the Forum 2024 donors:

- Stephanie Harr
- Sarah Ryan
- Steve Trimble

## Donations made in 2022 through Give MN that deserve recognition:

- Jean Comstock
- Jeanelle Foster
- Andrew Barbeau
- Carol Carey

## 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 donation in 2024. Our goal for 2024 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](https://givemn.org/organization/Hopewell-Communications-Incorporated)

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Thank you for your support!