

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

Volume 39, No. 1
February 2025

"The Voice of the
Community"

Coming Soon: A New Fire Station for Dayton's Bluff

Greg Cosimini

Fire Station No. 7, located at 1038 E. Ross Ave. near Earl Street, was built in 1930. It was long overdue for replacement, and the time has finally arrived. Ground was broken for the new station on September 29, 2023 across the street from the current station on land once occupied by the old Viaduct Inn bar and restaurant. Completion had originally been planned for late 2024 but has now slipped to later this year.

The new Fire Station No. 7 is approximately 18,500-square-feet in size, featuring three double-deep drive-through apparatus bays and one single back-in garage space. The facility includes 15

sleeping rooms (three officer suites and 12 regular), a full size commercial kitchen, exercise room, lounge area and dining area with an adjacent outdoor patio.

The new station prioritizes the well-being of its firefighters, incorporating best practices for firefighter health and wellness like separated gear storage areas, decontamination showers and gear washing and maintenance spaces.

The station will have room for five vehicles, including the Saint Paul Fire Department's, not to mention Minnesota's, first electric fire truck. It was built at the Rosenbauer headquarters in Austria with final assembly at their North American headquarters in Wyoming, Minnesota. It cost \$1.8 million, roughly \$1 million more than a standard fire truck. The electric fire truck is temporarily in use at Fire Station No. 1 at West Seventh Street and Randolph Ave. until Fire Station No. 7 is completed.



Greg Cosimini

Top: The current Fire Station No. 7, located at 1038 E. Ross Avenue, will soon be replaced. Above: Construction of the new Fire Station No. 7 is underway across the street and will open later this year.

Winter Warming Spaces

Ramsey County

Four Winter Warming Spaces in St. Paul are open to anyone in need of a place to warm up overnight. The spaces offer seating, blankets, light snacks and warm beverages. They also provide winter warming supplies such as mittens and hats when available.

The Winter Warming Spaces are open from **9 p.m. to 7 a.m. every night through March 31.**

Locations:

The Holy Christian Church
125 Stevens St. W., Saint Paul
Women only

Saint Paul Reformation Lutheran
100 N. Oxford St., Saint Paul

Families and youth ages 1-24 only

Phalen Activity Center
1530 Phalen Dr., Saint Paul
Single adult males only

Newell Park Building
900 Fairview Ave. N., Saint Paul
Single adult males only

Additional Services:

When temperatures reach zero degrees or below, and/or when windchill reaches -15 degrees or below, additional local shelter beds or warming spaces may become available. Contact Ramsey County staff at 651-266-1035 or email ColdWeatherReferrals@ramseycounty.us to receive a referral.

Reach family shelter staff at chs.fas.shelterteam@ramseycounty.us from 7 a.m.-5:15 p.m.

Shuttle service is available.

WINTER WARMING SPACES

Overnight winter warming spaces are now open.
For more information, call 651-266-1035.

- The Holy Christian Church
125 Stevens St. W, St. Paul
For women
- St. Paul-Reformation Lutheran Church
100 Oxford St. N, St. Paul
For families and youth ages 18-24
- Phalen Activity Center
1530 Phalen Dr, St. Paul
For single adult males
- Newell Park Building
900 Fairview Ave. N, St. Paul
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Open nightly: 9 p.m. to 7 a.m.

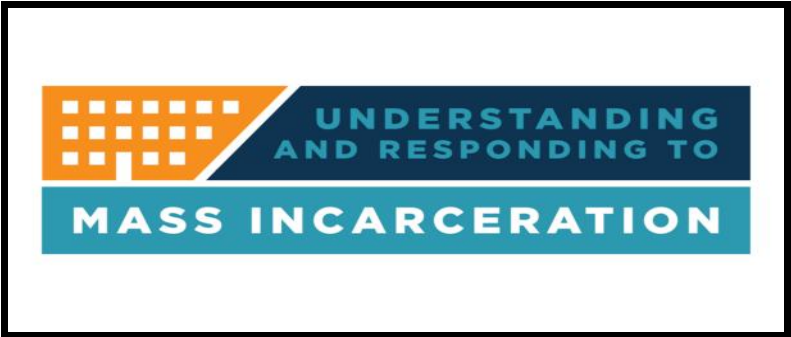
Understanding and Responding to Mass Incarceration (URMI) Conference Being Held April 11

Brian Higbee

On April 11, 2025, the annual Understanding and Responding to Mass Incarceration (URMI) conference returns to Metro State University. The URMI 2025 theme Wrongful Conviction, Wrongful Incarceration will amplify the voices of those whose lives have been disrupted by wrongful conviction and incarceration — those unjustly incarcerated, their loved ones,

and their communities. Wrongful conviction may occur due to prosecutorial and police misconduct, ineffective legal counsel, dubious or flawed forensic evidence, false confessions, and mistaken eyewitness identification.

Wrongful conviction and incarceration disproportionately affect communities of color, thus bolstering the system of mass incarceration and disenfranchisement. These realities damage the marginalized and the public good, demanding urgent response. Join us for a powerful gathering where we will hear from those with lived experience, alongside experts, panelists, and in breakout sessions. We will explore these critical issues and offer specific action steps toward systemic change. URMI is free and open to the public. Registration details coming soon.



Save the Date!

Compiled from information provided by
Metro Transit
metrotransit.org/gold-line-construction

The METRO Gold Line will open for service on March 22, 2025! Watch for more details as the day approaches.

Until then, Metro Transit will be testing the new route. Expect to see buses running on the guideway. Metro Transit will

also turn on and test station amenities.

We want to thank you for your patience throughout Gold Line construction and look forward to offering this new bus service to your community in spring 2025.

REMEMBER: For your own safety, please do not walk, bike, or drive on the new Gold Line bus guideway.

For updated information on the Gold Line project, questions, comments, or concerns visit metrotransit.org/gold-line-construction, email goldline@metrotransit.org or call 651-602-1919.



Dayton's Bluff and the St. Paul Winter Carnival

Greg Cosimini

Dayton's Bluff and the St. Paul Winter Carnival have a long history together, starting at the very beginning in 1886. William Hamm Sr., founder of Hamm's Brewery, was involved in its creation and may, or may not, have been the first King Boreas. There is still a controversy over that.

In 1887, there was an Ice Tower and toboggan run built in Dayton's Bluff, followed over the years by toboggan runs built in various locations in the neighborhood. There were also skiing competitions held at ski jumps built in Indian Mounds Park. These were located south of where Johnson Parkway intersects Burns Ave. and shouldn't be confused with the giant ski jump that once stood in Battle Creek Park and also hosted Winter

Carnival ski jump competitions. Dayton's Bluff was home to the 1938 Winter Carnival Ice Palace, also known as the Ice Court. It had an art deco design, was brightly lit at night with multi-colored electric lights, and featured two huge semicircular ice discs acting as a backdrop to a large ice throne at the top of a grand ice staircase. A 300 x 100 foot skating rink spread out in front of the throne. It was built near Plum St. and Mounds Boulevard in what is now the west end of Indian Mounds Park.

Besides Hamm's Brewery, Dayton's Bluff eventually became home to other large businesses including Whirlpool and Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing (now 3M). These companies, along with the Dayton's Bluff Commercial Club, sponsored floats and marching units in the Winter Carnival parades and Queen of the Snow princess candidates.

Dayton's Bluff has also been a participant in another popular Winter Carnival activity — the Treasure Hunt. The medallion was hidden, and found, in both Indian Mounds Park and Swede Hollow several times.



From the Postcard Collection of Greg Cosimini

The 1938 Ice Palace in Mounds Park.



MN Historical Society

The 1930s Dayton's Bluff Carnival Club float.

DONATE TODAY

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

For more updates email taylor672@comcast.net or call Michel at 651-442-3366.

Dayton's Bluff District Forum Board Meeting

The *Forum* is seeking writers and help with online content, idea generation, and ad sales — join us at our next meeting on **Friday, February 7 at 11 a.m.**

If you'd like to attend, call 651-776-0550 or email daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com for more information.

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

Need Groceries?

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

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

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

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

partner sites.

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

Visit Metroaging.org/volunteer.

Police Community Meetings

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

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

Call Jacque Englund at 651-266-5548 or email Jacque.Englund@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

The Dayton's Bluff Community Council is inviting everyone to attend the meeting on **Monday, February 10 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.** at the East Side Enterprise Center at 804 Margaret Street.

Come meet your neighbors, share your ideas, hear from others, and elect board members. Your voice matters!

Welcome address from the Board President, remarks from other local officials, and open discussion with your neighbors and board members are on the schedule. Looking forward to seeing you and serving your neighborhood needs. All are welcome.

Free Legal Services for Low-Income People

Call Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services at 1-888-575-2954 or go to

smrls.org to see if you qualify for free legal assistance with: family law, government benefits, housing, education, seniors, and more. You can also call if 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.**

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

The Historic Mounds Theatre is located at 1029 Hudson Road, St. Paul, MN 55106; 651-772-2253; historicismoundstheatre@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.**

Our New National Bird Lives in Dayton's Bluff

Greg Cosimini

The bald eagle has been a symbol of the United States for over 200 years and yet was never officially designated as our national bird. Recently, Preston Clark of the National Eagle Center in Wabasha, MN discovered this omission. It came to the attention of Minnesota Senator Amy Klobuchar who introduced a bill in June 2024 to officially designate the bald eagle as our national bird. In an uncommon show of bipartisanship, it was quickly passed by both houses of Congress and then signed by President Joe Biden on December 23, 2024.

The bald eagle is found in all states except Hawaii. Minnesota has more bald eagles than every other state but Alaska. Not only do bald eagles live all over

Minnesota, but they also build nests in Saint Paul along the river and specifically right here in Dayton's Bluff. Bald eagles are a common sight in Indian Mounds Park and can often be seen in other parts of the neighborhood.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' (MN DNR) EagleCam was famous worldwide for streaming the activities in an eagle nest located in a supposedly secret location in Mounds Park. Unfortunately, during a blizzard on April 2, 2023 the tree limb the nest was built on broke, putting an end to that nest and the baby eagle that was in it.

A new camera was activated last year that now monitors the activities of a different pair of eagles. Their nest is located on private property in an even less secret location across the river at the St. Paul Yacht Club.

To watch the EagleCam and learn more about the DNR's activities, visit: dnr.state.mn.us/features/webcams/eaglecam

Photo credit for photo to the right: Bob Roth, Dayton's Bluff resident



View From My Porch: USPS Mail Carrier, Joe Franco, We Will Miss You in Dayton's Bluff! We Wish You the Best with Your New Route

Sage Holben

Joe Franco started delivering Dayton's Bluff mail on July 29, 2000. He recently began his new route in the Saint Paul downtown skyway, delivering to apartments and businesses. The route is well deserved and much appreciated by Joe for the benefit of his knees. We chatted over coffee and with his usual contagious good spirits he shared a few of the many positive and uplifting memories he will carry with him. Working in Dayton's Bluff and connecting with its residents has obviously been a joy for him; many area residents share the feeling.

Joe recalled one of my neighbors on Bates — Patrick Ruberto, who died in October 2023. Mr.

Ruberto was known for faithfully enjoying the Bates area activity almost every day. Joe regularly looked for Patrick as Pat sat in his chair on his front stoop, and responded when Pat would wave and call him over. Neighborhood dogs, the storied bane of mail carriers, looked forward to the treats he would hand out to them. Joe also cautioned



"I'll miss Carbone's" Joe shared, a customer of over 20 years. And the neighborhood? "Dayton's Bluff, this area, is a needle in a haystack; incredible in all the best ways."

walkers and dog walkers where to be aware of unleashed dogs, made a mental note for us where an abandoned vehicle would be found, or a situation that could use some attention. Joe has been Saint Paul's 'eyes on the street.' That was a phrase I had heard in so many community studies — one of the factors that keeps a neighborhood safe and connected.

Joe's connections to area residents go beyond his working hours. One man on Joe's route lived alone, had few visitors and had disabilities that complicated his speech; he, like all of us, had the need to

converse with another human being. Joe spent time listening — being that other human being. On North Street some years ago, a group of young children regularly followed him on a couple blocks of his route — his generational fan club? One of the most touching efforts Joe related was when he returned to wash the soiled bedding of an elderly person who embarrassingly had told him and that they had no one to help.

I asked Joe for his philosophical outlook — how his empathy and concern for people was attached to his daily work — a part of his daily life: "Many people have no one to help them; you do what you can. Many are older or lonely people. Know your boundaries; do what you can."

Joe's wife, Penny Rosenfield-Franco joined us for our chat. She echoed Joe's compassion and willingness to act on what his eyes see, adding faith to the mix. Penny works for AERC, where as a float nurse, she works with dogs, cats, and exotic animals. Penny's 17 years' experience includes emergency and lab work. Penny's and Joe's three children have likely inherited the observant care and social responsibility of their parents.

Around the same time I learned of Joe's transfer (a well-deserved transfer as many of our hills and steps — long, sometimes very high risers with no handrails, many cement steps that are sinking, crumbling, and then when covered with snow or glaze of ice, become unwelcomed slides resulting in bruises, broken bones and dread, I came across a quote by Mother Teresa. It opens chapter one of the book *Fragile Neighborhoods* by Seth

Sage Holben

D. Kaplan:

"We think sometimes that poverty is only being hungry, naked and homeless. The poverty of being unwanted, unloved and uncared for is the greatest poverty. We must start in our own homes to remedy this kind of poverty."

I suggest that "home" is relative. It is not necessarily only within our physical walls, but our greater surroundings. Our Dayton's Bluff neighborhood offers so many opportunities to be eyes on the street to truly see what is around us; then respond. Thank you, Joe."

Dayton's Bluff

Greater East Side

I Saint Paul's East Side!

Payne Phalen

Southeast (Battle Creek - Highwood)

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Stay Safe This Winter: Protect Yourself and Community from Contagious Illnesses

Ramsey County

Contagious illnesses are back and spreading quickly as people of all ages spend time indoors this winter. These illnesses include: Seasonal influenza (flu), Norovirus (sometimes called "stomach flu"), Pertussis (whooping cough), COVID-19, and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV).

Local and national data sources show that all five of these contagious illnesses are reaching a new high in our community. Protect yourself and others with these prevention strategies.

Wash your hands frequently with soap and water: Some viruses, like norovirus, can't be stopped by only using hand sanitizer. Washing your hands with soap for at least 30 seconds is the most reliable method of preventing the spread of these illnesses.

Stay home when you have symptoms: Symptoms may include cough, sore throat, congestion, runny nose, upset stomach, diarrhea or a fever. Protect yourself and community by staying home

when you don't feel well.

Cover your cough with your arms or a mask: Nobody wants to get coughed on! Make sure to wear a well-fitting mask or at least cover your coughs and sneezes and remind your kids to do the same. Consider wearing a mask when visiting indoor public spaces and traveling.

Take tests when exposed to or experiencing symptoms: If you have any of the symptoms listed above, you should take a COVID test. Keep in mind that rapid tests are convenient but can result in false negatives. You should take multiple rapid tests over a series of several days if you get a negative result, and take additional precautions, such as masking and staying at home, in the meantime. You can also get a molecular test through your primary care provider.

Get vaccinated if you haven't yet: The Tdap vaccine, (tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis), flu vaccine, and COVID-19 vaccine, are still available, and you can safely receive more than one at the same visit. There's also an RSV vaccine available for infants, pregnant people, older adults, and other groups. Vaccines are available by appointment through Ramsey County and generally available throughout our community. It's not too late to take this step to protect yourself and your community!

You got somethin' to say? Say it here!

The Dayton's Bluff District Forum welcomes all opinions and neighborhood anecdotes — send yours to:

daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com

Want to write about something that interests you? We want to hear it! Submit your stories and articles to the email above.

Opinions expressed in contributed articles may not represent the views of the *Forum*.

Deadline for the March issue of the *Forum* is February 10, 2025.

Some Interesting Foods

Found by Steve Trimble

Since February includes Black History Month, I thought it might be good to have a theme with the food for you to read about. Perhaps you could even cook some of them.

These are from the Young Women's Guild cookbook titled "Cooking With Soul." It was published in 1975 by Pilgrim Baptist Church in St. Paul. It is the oldest such congregation in Minnesota.


You might be interested in the creation of the celebration in February. It began in 1926 and was the idea of Carter G. Woodson, an important writer at the time. He hoped to show the positive history through stories in what was called Negro History Week. In 1976 it was expanded and became Black History Month.

Ham Barbecue

Patricia Pack
Pg. 59-60

- ¾ cup catsup
- 2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
- 3 tablespoons brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1-2 tablespoons Dijon-style mustard
- 2 teaspoons chili powder
- 2 ½ inch slices fully cooked ham (about 1 ½ pounds)

Combine first six ingredients for sauce. Slash fat edge of ham at two-inch intervals. Brush meat liberally with sauce and let stand. Brushing one hour. Broil over coals five to six minutes per side, turning once and brushing with sauce. Makes four to six servings.




Shrimp Creole

A Friend
Pg.42-43

- 1 cup sliced celery
- 3 tablespoons cornstarch
- 1 cup chopped green pepper
- 1 pound (2 cups) cooked shrimp shelled and deveined
- 1 can (15 ounces) tomato sauce
- hot cooked rice with tomato tidbits
- 1 package (10 ounces frozen cut okra)
- 1 cup onion, chopped
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 2 ¼ cups water
- 1 teaspoons salt
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- ¼ teaspoon peper
- ¼ teaspoon thyme
- 1 bay leaf
- ¼ cup chopped parsley

Shrimp Creole owes its sweet, spicy thickness to tomato sauce with tomato tidbits. Sautè celery, onion, green pepper, and garlic in hot oil until tender. Add two cups water, tomato sauce, okra, and seasonings. Bring to boil; reduce. Heat and simmer, covered, 30 minutes. Dissolve cornstarch in ¼ cup water; stir into tomato mixture. Cook, stirring constantly, until thickened. Add shrimp and parsley; heat. Serve over rice. Makes six servings.






Cornbread Dressing

Mary Blakely
Pg. 83

- 1 pan corn bread
- 1 cup green pepper, chipped
- 4 pieces toast
- 1 cup chicken gizzards, cooked and chopped
- 6 eggs
- 1 cup onion, chopped
- salt to taste
- 1 cup celery, chopped
- pepper to taste

Cook onions, celery, and green pepper in the liquid of the gizzards. Save the liquid. Mix all the ingredients together. Add liquid until desired consistency is reached.



Oxtail Stew

Valeria Crushshon
Pg. 74

- 2 pounds oxtails
- 1 teaspoon garlic salt
- 1 pint tomato sauce
- 4 whole allspice
- 1 teaspoon red pepper or as much as you like
- 1 bay leaf
- 2 ½ onions, chopped
- ½ cup water
- 2 ½ green pepper, chopped

Put in crockpot and simmer six hours. Add potatoes, carrots, cabbage (sliced), if desired, and one can tomato paste and one cup water. Simmer two more hours. Can be simmered on stove or in oven at 250 degrees. Very Good!



Be the first Friend of the Forum in 2025 —Make a donation today!

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 an end of year tax-deductible donation in 2024 Our goal for 2025 is \$2,500; will you help us reach our goal?

Yes, I will become a Friend of the *Forum*. My tax-deductible check is enclosed, for:

\$100 \$50 \$25 Another amount _____

Or give online: givemn.org/organization/Hopewell-Communications-Incorporated

Name _____ Email _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City, State, ZIP _____

Make checks payable to: *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* and mail to 1368 Minnehaha Ave. E., St. Paul, MN 55106. For more information, contact 651-776-0550 or daytonsbuffdistrictforum@gmail.com.

Thank you for your support!

Read the paper online at daytonsbuffdistrictforum.org