

# Dayton's Bluff District Forum

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July 2025

"The Voice of the Community"

## East Side Farmers Market Brings New Energy to Sculpture Park

Mandy Okonek

What happens when you combine a sculpture park, a farmers market, and a host of local vendors, artists, and community organizers? You get the debut of the East Side Farmer's Market + Native Night Market, a bold new community-powered collaboration that celebrates food, art, culture, and the people who make the East Side the place to be.

The East Side Farmer's Market is happening at the East Side Sculpture Park at 705 East 7th Street, twice a month from June through September. Remaining dates are **on second Fridays— July 11, August 8, and September 12—from 4 to 7 p.m.** And, **on second Sundays— July 13, August 10, and September 14—from 1 to 4 p.m.** On any day, you can enjoy vendors, music, cultural presentations, and more. Vendor Urban Roots, an amazing nonprofit (thanks for planting all the trees!), will be selling produce from their gardens on Friday dates only.

The season kicked off in June with an afternoon full of community spirit. At one booth, a vendor selling leafy green vegetables ready to plant explained their pricing model "priced as marked or pay what you can." If you all needed another reminder of why the East Side is the best side, here it is. The people. But we already knew that.

In addition to the plants, a quick stroll through the market revealed an array of vendors offering everything from herbal medicines to culturally seasoned wellness products, aromatic spices, and, of course, fresh garden greens. I was not there very long before the drums hit, and suddenly, everything stopped.

Giant, colorful puppets—two lions and a dragon—moved through the market like living folklore, guided by dancers in vibrant matching gear. With poles in hand and drums at their backs, the performers wove skillfully between vendor tents, captivating the crowd. In Chinese culture, the lion is a fierce protector, symbolizing strength, courage, and good luck. The dragon, long and flowing, brought its own kind of vibe, representing wisdom, power, and prosperity. This dance felt like the perfect way to welcome an abundant summer.

The East Side Farmer's Market will provide a great opportunity to gather. Vendors and co-hosts include Blue Hummingbird Woman, Storehouse Grocers, Urban Roots, Philadelphia Community Farm, Roots Café, Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Housing Services, and Indigenous Roots, each bringing deep knowledge, local offerings, and a shared belief in the power of community collaboration. Stop by and get to know your neighbors.

The event emcee, Marianne Quiroz, co-founder of Indigenous Roots, took the time to share a welcome. She told attendees that many of the vendors were part of the Indigenous Night Market community. She welcomed community gardeners and small-scale growers to claim their places at the table. Vendor tables are completely free and open to anyone looking to share their bounty. So, if you've got too many tomatoes or your zucchini plant is staging a hostile garden takeover, you now have the perfect place to share the wealth.

Vendor space is limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis. Those interested in participating can register online at: [bit.ly/41OvQGh](https://bit.ly/41OvQGh).

Seed funding for the East Side Farmers Market is provided by Rooted Philanthropic and the East Side Health and Well-Being Collaborative, supporting the vision of a healthier, more connected East Side.

*Photos in upper right corner taken by Mandy Okonek*



## St. Paul Downtown Airport Runway to Close for Reconstruction

Metropolitan Airports Commission

St. Paul Downtown Airport (STP), one of Minnesota's busiest airports for business aviation, closed its primary runway on Monday, June 2, for pavement reconstruction and other airfield safety improvements.

Just across the Mississippi River from downtown St. Paul, St. Paul STP is a popular home base for corporate aircraft due to its location and for having the longest runway – 6,941 feet – in the MAC reliever airport system. Two fixed-base operators provide services such as fueling, maintenance, aircraft storage and line services. Aircraft charter services are also available on the field.

St. Paul Downtown Airport has an FAA tower that is open from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturday & Sunday. STP first opened in 1926 and is the only MAC reliever airport with a restaurant, Holman's Table.

The temporary closure of STP's primary Runway 14-32 will run through Aug. 9 in order to reconstruct a mile-long section and make other modifications including improved lighting and surface drainage. Runway 9-27 and several taxiways,

which are connected to the primary runway, will be closed intermittently during the project. A third runway, 13-31, will remain operational for the duration of the project.

"This is the longest general aviation runway in our reliever system of airports and supports a high volume of business jet activity, including international flights," said Brian Ryks, CEO of the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC), which owns and operates STP. "We're replacing end-of-life pavement that was originally installed in the 1980s to continue to maintain a high level of safety, operations and efficiency."

St. Paul Downtown Airport is one of six general aviation airports operated by the MAC in the Twin Cities to support recreational and corporate flying while relieving congestion from the MAC's flagship commercial airport, Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport (MSP). STP had the highest operational growth among MAC general aviation airports in 2024 with 42,476 takeoffs and landings, an 11% increase over 2023. Nearly 100 aircraft are based at STP in various hangar facilities.

The MAC is also set to begin construction later this year on a new standalone U.S. Customs and Border Protection facility at STP that will improve processing of international passengers and cargo. Overall, the MAC has outlined more than \$114 million in projects for all six general aviation airports in its 2025-2027 capital improvement program.

*Photos to the left provided by Metropolitan Airports Commission*







Brad Griffith

The Friends of Swede Hollow had a table at the annual Art in the Hollow on June 7. From left to right: Karin DuPaul, Sage Holben, Angela DuPaul, Daryl Johnson and Michel Taylor.

### The Forum is Hiring an Ad Manager!

The *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* is hiring! We are looking to add an integral member to our team as we expand and grow our community news source through advertising sales.

This is the perfect opportunity for students with a graphic design, business, or marketing background or degree.

Hours are flexible and training will be provided. Compensation is a generous 25% commission per ad, per month.

Experience creating ads is a bonus, but not necessary. Ad manager will be paid once the ad is paid.

If you are looking for gaining experience in advertising or community engagement, please send a short email with your qualifications to [daytons-bluffdistrictforum@gmail.com](mailto:daytons-bluffdistrictforum@gmail.com), for consideration in this exciting opportunity.

Dayton's Bluff

Greater East Side

## I ♥ Saint Paul's East Side!

If you are considering a move, call or text Brad Griffith, Realtor®

Payne Phalen

Southeast (Battle Creek - Highwood)

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

## Borrow a Bike Events

Ramsey County

Looking for an opportunity to get on a bike? Visit us at one of our upcoming bike events. Borrow a bike to cruise around or explore the trails while at the park. A variety of styles and sizes for youth and adults will be available to borrow on a first-come, first-served basis. Adults will need a driver's license or photo I.D. to check out a bike. Youth need to present a student I.D. or be with an adult.



**Upcoming events:**  
**July 5, 12, 19, 26: 11 a.m.-5 p.m.**  
**July 6, 13, 20, 27: noon-4 p.m.**

Find a participating park by following the link:  
[ramseycounty.us/residents/parks-recreation/programs-activities/guided-programs](https://ramseycounty.us/residents/parks-recreation/programs-activities/guided-programs).

Borrow a Bike is part of Ramey County's Guided Program activities.

Contact Parks and Recreation at 651-266-0300 if you have any questions.

### 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 **July 15** 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.

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](https://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.

**August 6 p.m. meeting is canceled.**

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, July 21 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.**



Visit [moundstheatre.org](https://moundstheatre.org) for information on upcoming events and to purchase tickets.

The Historic Mounds Theatre is located at 1029 Hudson Road, St. Paul, MN 55106; 651-772-2253; [historicismoundstheatre@gmail.com](mailto: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.**

### 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, June 27 at 11 a.m.**

If you'd like to attend, email [daytons-bluffdistrictforum@gmail.com](mailto:daytons-bluffdistrictforum@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

### New National Suicide Prevention Hotline Number

988 has been designated as the new three-digit dialing code that will route



# Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary and Indian Mounds Regional Park Renamed

City of St. Paul

In May 2025, the City of Saint Paul adopted the recommendations of state Tribal Historic Preservation Officers to rename two culturally significant and sacred Dakota sites. The cultural landscape encompassing Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary and Indian Mounds Regional Park is now designated as Imnizaska (white cliffs, pronounced e-me-NE-zha-ska). Within this landscape, the two individual sites will now be designated as Wakan Tipi (Dwelling Place of the Sacred, pronounced wah-KAHN TEE-pee) and Wicahapi (Dakota cemetery, pronounced we-CHA-ha-pee), respectively. This action reflects the city’s commitment to preserving Indigenous heritage and strengthening its long-standing partnership with Dakota leaders and communities.

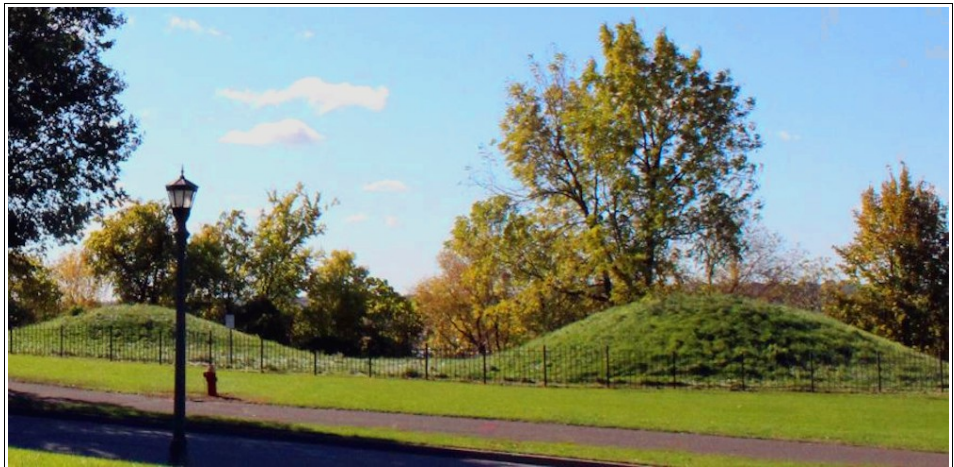
"I am excited to support the renaming of Bruce Vento Sanctuary and the Indian Mounds," said Saint Paul City [Ward 7] Council member Cheniqua Johnson. "Renaming is an intentional step to not only acknowledge that Dakota people have been here but also an action that reshapes and preserves history and stories of this land. These relationships are important to the fabric of our city and our state, and I look forward to the continued

work. Community has leaned in for years asking us to move beyond land acknowledgement, and this is a step towards that intent."

The landscape of Wicahapi is a sacred place of burial. It is a cemetery built by ancestors of living people. The place has deep significance to the Upper Sioux Community, Lower Sioux Community, Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, Prairie Island Indian Community, Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin, Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska, Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate, and other descendants of those who are buried here. It is home to the only known remaining burial mounds within the Minneapolis-Saint Paul urban core.

The Indigenous burial ground of Wicahapi has been a sacred site and place of burial for over a thousand years. It is significant to living Indigenous Peoples as a cemetery where their ancestors are buried. It is a place of reverence, remembrance, respect, and prayer. When the City of Saint Paul established a park in this location in 1892 with the purpose of protecting the historical setting and spectacular views, connections of contemporaneous Indigenous Peoples to the sacred site were not understood, considered, or valued. Over the last century the condition, name, and use of the landscape as a park have become beloved to the surrounding community. Yet many non-Indigenous people have wondered about this powerful landscape without knowing how to learn more about it. Through public gatherings with generous sharing by Indigenous Peoples and members of the public, strong support for protection of this sacred site has been revealed.

Photo of Indian Mounds Park below provided by the City of St. Paul



## 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 August issue of the Forum is July 10, 2025.

# St. Paul Public Schools Will Provide Meals to all Children This Sumer

St. Paul Public Schools

Saint Paul Public Schools will provide meals at no cost to all children 18 and under, and those with a disability currently enrolled in a school program, this summer.

Kids and teens can enjoy a meal at more than 50 schools, recreation centers,

libraries and community sites. Our food truck will serve up burgers, sambusas, nachos, and other favorites at parks and community centers around Saint Paul.

Information about all community meal sites will be posted on the "Free Meals for Kids" app.

Capstone believes in the power of reading! To keep kids reading over the summer, they are donating more than 1,000 books to the SPPS food truck visitors.

Pick out a book at our "Lunch 'n Literacy" events on:

- July 17
- August 14

Visit [spps.org/about/departments/nutrition-services/summermeals](https://spps.org/about/departments/nutrition-services/summermeals) to find the menus.

## SUMMER MEALS AT NO COST

FOR ALL YOUTH 18 AND UNDER, AND THOSE WITH A DISABILITY ENROLLED IN A SCHOOL PROGRAM

Partner with SPPS to provide free meals to youth in your program.

APPLY HERE!

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

# Pedestrians

Sage Holben

“Rules of the Road” was the title of a booklet about how to drive and what rules to abide by; but that was when I was decades younger. And I am not going into the idiocy I see on public roadways. Pedestrians hold a certain amount of responsibility for traffic safety, and I’m not seeing it! What I’m seeing is:

Pedestrians walking while their eyes are firmly fastened to their phones. Perhaps, I have thought, they are giving the side eye to the traffic, really seeing vehicles but not letting on; perhaps playing “chicken”. **DON’T DO THIS!**

Pedestrians who stand at a corner with or without a crosswalk, and they dance around, perhaps looking at their phone, perhaps moving their head around as if waiting for someone, but making the driver guess as to whether or not they mean to cross. **DON’T DO THIS!**

Pedestrians who stand not ON the curb, but three to four feet back from the curb. They watch the curb or traffic as if determining when to run or just keep drivers

guessing their thoughts. **DON’T DO THIS!**

Pedestrians who cross 40 feet from the marked or unmarked crosswalk. Especially on a four-lane busy state road. And, then they walk right up to my car as if they can pass invisibly through my vehicle. **DON’T DO THIS!**

Please understand that the sun often glares on a driver’s windshield. That means the driver, even wearing sunglasses or with tinted windows may have difficulty seeing some objects i.e. pedestrians who cross the street without considering the driver’s sight line.

**PLEASE DON’T DO THIS!**

Please understand that in shadows and lower light, when a pedestrian is wearing dull-colored clothing AND stands next to a pole, said pedestrian looks very much like another pole.

**PLEASE DON’T DO THIS!**

Please, pedestrians (and drivers) be aware of your sight and sounds as you make your way through public spaces. When you turn your head to LOOK for oncoming vehicles or pedestrians, take the time to truly SEE what you are looking toward. And bicyclists, scooter riders, anyone who uses the sidewalk, roadside or street....this means ALL of us! Whew! Thank you!





# Spend Your Summer Day at the Library!

*Dayton's Bluff Library*

Looking for a cool escape from the summer heat, or seeds for a garden you're starting? Saint Paul Public Library has you covered! With free programs, engaging events, and cozy spaces for all ages, it's the perfect place to read, relax, or dive into a new hobby.

Summer Spark, the Library's summer reading and learning program, is packed with activities to keep kids and teens inspired all summer long. It's not too late to jump in! Young readers can visit any library location to pick up their own Summer Spark Reading and Activity Log — plus a free book to keep. Learn more at [sppl.org/summer-break](http://sppl.org/summer-break).

Drop in to hang out and make cool stuff at FunLab! Featuring crafts, science experiments, engineering projects, video games, and more. This STEAM drop-in program is designed for ages 7-11. **Fun-Lab! is every Saturday at Dayton's Bluff Library from 2:30-4 p.m.**

We have some extra special FunLabs planned this summer. **Let's make a game on Saturday, July 19!** Using cardboard, found objects, and art materials, invent your very own game and invite the community to play! You can make a board game, arcade game, role playing game, or even storyboard a new video game — it's up to you. This program is made possible by the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.

**Ready to Code, Create, and Connect?** Code Explorers is a free program from Code Savvy designed to introduce youth (ages 8 and up) to the exciting world of computer science in a welcoming, supportive environment. Whether students are brand new to coding or ready to take their skills to the next level, our experienced industry mentors are here to guide them every step of the way. **Code Savvy will be at FunLab on Saturday, July 12, July 26, and August 16.**

Space is limited: register here: [code-savvy.org/for-students/code-explorers/](http://code-savvy.org/for-students/code-explorers/)

We are also hosting some **teen exclusive events** in July and August. On **Tues-**

**day, July 22 during Teen Writers' Guild we are hosting Color Block Printing.** Join local printmaking artist, Diana Eicher, as she teaches you how to make color block prints. This TWG will be longer than usual, from 6 p.m.–8 p.m.

For our **fifth Tuesday this month, July 29, we are also having a longer program from 6 p.m.–8 p.m. where we will be Mask Making with In the Heart of the Beast Theater Company.** Start with water, flour, newspaper, paint. Add a large measure of IMAGINATION and a dollop of ARTISTRY to make STORIES about our world come ALIVE through PUPPETS. This is in the Heart of the Beast's over 50-year-old puppet recipe. Create your own puppet using this recipe, get expert advice from In the Heart of the Beast teaching artists, and bring the story inside of you to life. All materials are provided.

Teens should also be on the lookout for our **day camp Altered Books with Art-Lab RX August 4-8 from 2-4 p.m.** Learn coping strategies using altered books as a means of release, relief, and reveal. Participants will use small, discarded books to alter with collage, black-out poetry, and more. Space is limited, so come early to get a spot, grab a book, and start creating!

Summer is for adults too! Try a new art project each month at our Art Class for adults at Dayton's Bluff Library! This month, learn how to transfer a photo onto paper, then sketch around it for added flair! Come with a photo and ideas, all supplies provided! No photo? No problem! We will have a few photos ready to use for those who need them! **Art Class: Photo Transfer Enhanced Sketch is Monday, July 14 from 6-7:30p.m.**

If you like to try out a different art medium, how about some seeds? Turn your seed into art. East Side Seed Library is having an adult art class using seeds to make crop art. Learn how to make your own masterpiece just in time for the State Fair. **Intro to Crop Art is happening Wednesday, July 23 from 6-7p.m.**

No library card or registration required for most events—just drop in and join the fun! Visit [sppl.org/events](http://sppl.org/events) for things to do at the library all summer long.



Greg Cosimini

## 2025 Fireworks Schedule

- Family Fun Events*
- Thursday, July 3:**
- BLOOMINGTON:** Fireworks at dusk. *Normandale Lake Park, 5901 West 84th Street, Bloomington,*
  - ST LOUIS PARK:** Fireworks at 10 p.m. *Aquila Park, 3110 Xylon Ave S, St Louis Park*
- Friday, July 4:**
- MINNEAPOLIS:** Red, White & Boom Returns to the Riverfront! Fireworks begin at 10 p.m. and festivities will be held at Water Works and the Stone Arch Bridge parking lot.
  - ST PAUL:** Rock the 4th with Hairball Concert & Fireworks (no Saints game this year). Tickets: \$15-\$102. *CHS Field, 360 Broadway St. Saint Paul.*
  - APPLE VALLEY:** Fireworks at 9:30 p.m. to cap off the Freedom



- Days festival. *Johnny Cake Ridge Park East, Apple Valley*
- EAGAN:** Fireworks at 10 p.m. *1501 Central Pkwy, Eagan 55121. Weather-related cancellations will be posted to the Funfest Facebook page.*
  - STILLWATER:** Fireworks at dusk. *Lowell Park, 201 Water St N, Stillwater*
  - WACONIA:** Play all day with fireworks at dusk. *Lake Waconia Regional Park, 8170 Paradise Ln, Waconia*
  - WHITE BEAR LAKE:** Fireworks set to music at 10 p.m. over the beach. *Memorial Beach, 4980 Lake Ave, White Bear Lake, MN. Rain date July 5th. Weather-info posted to Facebook.*
  - WOODBURY:** Fireworks at 10pm. *M Health Fairview Sports Center, 4125 Radio Dr., Woodbury,. Weather updates posted to Facebook..*

## Events Happening at Area Rec Centers

### 4<sup>th</sup> of July Cupcakes

July 2  
*@Battle Creek*  
Participants will make, bake and decorate their own cupcakes to take home.  
\$5 for residents; \$8 for non-residents  
6-7:30 p.m.

### Basketball Camp

July 3 through 24  
*@Duluth and Case*  
Youth will learn the fundamentals of basketball. They will work on passing, dribbling, shooting and lay-ups. Come start your journey to the NBA at Duluth and Case!  
Free  
6-7 p.m.

### Jewelry Making

July 8 through 29  
*@Duluth and Case*  
Youth will learn how to do beads, fuse beads and a use variety of materials to make necklaces, bracelets, and more!  
Free  
5-6 p.m.

### Basketball Camp, Co-Ed Ages 7-9

July 9 through 11  
*@Dayton's Bluff*  
Youth will learn the basics of basketball, passing, dribbling, shooting, and more!  
Free  
11 a.m.-1 p.m.

### Positive Affirmation Day!

July 10  
*@Dayton's Bluff*  
A gathering designed to empower families by actively practicing positive self-talk and building stronger bonds through

shared affirmations, encouraging open communication, and creating a supportive environment where everyone can celebrate their strengths and potential, fostering a positive mindset within the household.

Free  
2-4 p.m.

### Bracelet Making

July 23 through August 13  
*@Dayton's Bluff*  
Participants will create unique bracelets each week using a variety of materials.  
Free  
4:30-5:30 p.m.

### Pizza, Pizza, Pizza!

July 28  
*@Battle Creek*  
Participants will learn to make home-made pizzas to take home.  
\$5 for residents; \$8 for non-residents  
6-7 p.m.

### Just Snacks!

July 29  
*@Dayton's Bluff*  
Kids will make different kinds of snacks!  
Free  
4-5:30 p.m.

### Cooking Culture

July 29 through August 19  
*@Battle Creek*  
Teens will travel the world by creating foods from different countries. Please indicate if you have any food allergies. (Let staff know)  
\$10 for residents; \$15 for non-residents  
5:30-7 p.m.

*Visit [stpaul.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/recreation-centers](http://stpaul.gov/departments/parks-and-recreation/recreation-centers) for more information and more locations for summer activities.*



View From My Porch

Sage Holben

After years of harping and pleading to our city public works department, I do not kid myself that I can persuade Sean to take seriously the chances of when the biker, the scooter rider with a three-year old standing on the front of the green scooter, or the neighbor who allows pre-teen children to ride his yellow unlicensed, lightless lightweight atv up, down and around 4th and Bates collide with several tons of metal going 45 miles an hour or even 30 through a stop sign. Nope. Residents who live here see the slowing of traffic and at least a little more attention from drivers to our ‘silly’ intersection art pieces and intersection paintings at 4th and Bates. Public Works would rather spend the money covering what residents dare to do for the better good rather than install speed bumps or a traffic/calming circle, or flashing lights on larger stop signs. Nope. After someone

gets hit by a tonnage of metal, we can cry and mourn and put up a makeshift memorial at Fourth and Bates; we have done well with that given the number of drive-by shootings in the area, the continuing lessening of our quality of life based on broken sidewalks, body-shaking fireworks and vehicles with bad/no mufflers or catalytic converters. Who on our city council, or in our mayor’s office honestly sees the Dayton’s Bluff area as a place worthy of learning what is here, who the people are, what needs exist except by plans developed by mid-morning drive-thrus or watching traffic during slow times of day. Oh, I know! Facts and numbers come only from electronic monitoring. Habits of humans, gathered observations, actual interactions and behaviors of humans in a communal setting hold little information to work from. Thank you elected city representatives and especially those who live outside our city lines. Drive-through observations glean little more than narrow, personal opinions with no relation to life as it really is. We want more from our city.

Xcel Energy’s upcoming St. Paul Service Center hits major construction milestone

The Heights location replaces current century-old building to ensure reliable service for customers

Kevin Coss

Xcel Energy announced today a major milestone in the construction of a new service center that will position it to continue to provide safe and reliable energy service across St. Paul.

The company has completed the structure of the main building at the site, marking the halfway point in the 320,000-square-foot project. The new service center, which is part of The Heights multi-use development on St. Paul’s East Side, will be about twice the size of the company’s existing service center on Rice Street.

“We have outgrown our current service center on Rice Street, which has served our customers reliably for the past century,” said Amanda Rome, executive vice president and group president — Utilities, and chief customer officer. “By investing in this larger, more modern facility, we are demonstrating our commitment to the St. Paul community. This facility has been designed from the ground up to support the level of service residents and businesses expect of us.”

Service centers provide a home base for the Xcel Energy teams that perform essential maintenance on energy infrastructure and quickly respond to any issues that might arise, such as outages from

storms. The new facility will house field crews, dispatchers, and design teams working on the company’s electrical and natural gas systems, along with the expanded office spaces, equipment storage, and maintenance shops. The site will also include room for 50% more fleet vehicles.

“The 375 workers currently based at our Rice Street location do crucial work around the clock to keep the city’s lights on and appliances running. The new facility will not only bring them the expanded space and capabilities they need going forward, but also a modernized work environment that improves the employee experience,” said Ryan Long, president of Xcel Energy–Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota.

Xcel Energy collaborated with the Saint Paul Port Authority throughout the process of locating and designing the service center, with the goal of having significant sustainability features and ensuring the facility blends well into the surrounding development and neighborhood.

“This service center is truly the anchor of The Heights, and I look forward to it being a thriving workplace for more than 400 employees and an asset to the Greater East Side,” said Todd Hurley, president of the Saint Paul Port Authority.

The service center is designed to be energy-efficient and will operate primarily on renewable energy provided by 1 megawatt of solar panels on its roof. It will also have 23 vehicle charging stations to support the company’s growing number of electric-powered fleet vehicles.

All employees currently based at the Rice Street service center will move to the new facility once the site becomes operational in late 2026 or early 2027. The transition will not cause any interruptions to electric or gas service for customers.



Dayton's Bluff District Forum

1368 Minnehaha Ave. E., St. Paul, MN 55106  
E-mail: [daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com](mailto:daytonsbluffdistrictforum@gmail.com)

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: August 2025. **Deadline for material: July 10, 2025.**



Xcel Energy

Construction equipment staged outside the main building at the upcoming Xcel Energy St. Paul Service Center.

Dayton’s Bluff  
DistrictForum

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83 Years Ago on the Bluff

Steve Trimble

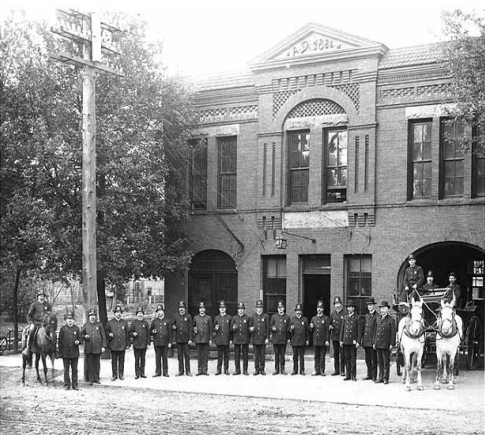
Here are some news items from the July 1942 *Dayton's Bluff Booster* newspaper. Nineteen-year-old John Wilson, 1027 McLean, was home visiting his parents for a few days. He was in the Navy and took part in several big battles, including the famous Battle of Midway. His ship was being repaired, and he would not have to return until early August. One of his brothers was already in the Army and another was preparing to join the military.

The editor reported the emergence of a new tradition at Joe Ondrey's Bar. Some of the boys leaving for the service are taking a dime, wrapping it in cellophane tape, putting their name on it, and sticking it up on the mirror in the back bar. The dimes will remain there until they get back.

July 23: Two brothers who were separated by one war were reunited during another. George Dossey, 694 E Fourth, and his brother were living in Illinois in 1898 when they both enlisted in the Spanish American War. They somehow lost track of each other. It took 44 years to get back together, "although one brother tried everything from advertising to fortune tellers to find the other."

Moscoe Dossey finally found his sibling in St. Paul when George, seeking a birth certificate, wrote to the Kentucky town where they were born. Moscoe had just returned to his Indiana home after a visit with his long-lost brother.

Not everything was war related. Day-to-day life continued on the home front as did the *Helpful Hannah* column. "Sloppy



Minnesota Historical Society

The old Margaret Street Police Station and Police Officers in about 1903. Today the Margaret Street Police Station is an apartment building at 747-9 Margaret Street.

Liz" asked how to remove catsup stains form the kitchen wall. "We have rough plaster and can't figure out anything other than repainting." "Though trade names are not allowed in this column, I can tell you there is a white coating at paint stores for this purpose," Hannah wrote. "Washing will only remove the plaster. This preparation can be put on in spots without notice, providing your walls are not too badly soiled."

Lindabeth wanted to know if there is something that could be put on her boy's fingers to keep him from "chewing them down to the quick. I have heard there's a perfectly harmless bitter mixture which can be made at home, that is a cure." I could not find any answer in later issues. How about it readers? Any suggestions on how to deal with young nail biters?

Last month in this column we printed the call for help from a mother with an artistic son. She needed advice on how to get rid of crayon marks on the wall. She got an answer from Mrs. K. A. Elsner: "Put a blotter over the marks, then a hot iron over the blotter. This will remove the wax from the crayon and an eraser will take off the coloring."

Ever wonder what used to be at the corner now occupied by Roy's Service Station? A large advertisement in the *Booster* provides the answer, at least in July 1942. It announced that "Spook Carle's Fuel and Ice House" was now open for business at the N. W. corner of Third and Maria. They made a point of saying "We Sell Hamm's Ice." Maybe current owner Mike Voss could bring back an old tradition and sell ice for Bluff summer outings.

Friends of the *Forum*  
2025

Make a donation today!

Greg Cosimini

Mark Gallagher

Ron Bardell

Free Lead Testing for Soil on July 15

Ramsey County

Residents living in zip codes 55106 and 55130 are invited to bring a soil sample from their yard to the Eastside YMCA, July 15, and have it tested for lead free of charge.

**Why should you check your soil for lead?**

Some homes have high amounts of lead in the soil. Lead poisoning is a concern for both children and adults. It can cause: permanent problems with health, learning and behavior in young children and high blood pressure, kidney damage and fertility problems in adults.

**At this event, you'll learn about:** The results of your soil test (free), the effects of lead on your health, resources and tools to lower your exposure to lead, and upcoming workshops on raised bed gardens and resources for urban gardening.

**When and Where**

East Side YMCA  
875 Arcade Street | Saint Paul, MN  
|3–7 p.m.

For more information contact the Minnesota Department of Health Site Assessment and Consultation Unit at 651-201-4897 or 1-800-657-3908 or [health.hazard@state.mn.us](mailto:health.hazard@state.mn.us). You can also call Ramsey County's Healthy Homes Program at 651-266-1139 or [healthyhomes@ramseycounty.us](mailto:healthyhomes@ramseycounty.us).



DONATE 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 a tax-deductible donation in 2025. 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](https://givemn.org/organization/Hopewell-Communications-Incorporated)

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Thank you for your support!