

# DISTRICT FORUM

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### Community Calendar

Thursday, July 1, 6:30 pm  
\*Community Meeting

Saturday, July 3, 10:30 am  
Dayton's Bluff Take-a-Hike

Monday, July 12  
\*Greenspace Committee 6:00 pm  
\*Council Meeting 7:00 pm

Monday, July 19  
\*Arts & Culture Comm. 6:15 pm  
\*Council Meeting 7:00 pm

Friday, July 16, 9:30 am  
Wednesday, July 21, 6:30 pm  
Eastern District Police Meeting  
722 Payne Avenue

\*Meetings at Council office  
798 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street

### How many candidates?

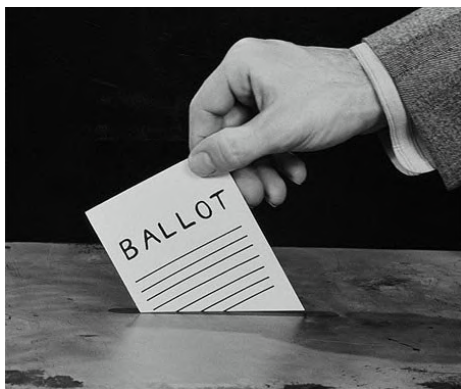
By Forum staff

At last count, there were 11 candidates who have filed to run for the state senate seat vacated by Senator Mee Moua. The area, Senate District 67, encompasses most of Dayton's Bluff, the Greater East Side, Payne-Phalen and Sunray-Battle Creek-Highwood neighborhoods.

Nine of the candidates will be running in the DFL primary to be held on August 10. The others, Dino Guerin and Krysia Weidell, are running as the only Independence and Republican party candidates, and will not be candidates in the primary election. Of the nine DFL candidates, Trayshana P. Thomas and Avi Viswanathan live in Dayton's Bluff.

If you've voted in previous primaries, you may have noticed that this year's election date has been moved to August 10 from the traditional September polling date. That's because federal law recently moved up the deadline for mailing absentee ballots to U.S. citizens living outside the country. This made an earlier primary date necessary and in 2010, the Minnesota legislature changed the date. That set off a scramble of candidate filings when Senator Moua unexpectedly announced that she would not be running for another term.

To vote in the primary, you must either pre-register by July 20, but if you miss that deadline, you can still register at your polling place on election day. Minnesota has what is known as an "open primary" system, in which voters need not be affiliated with a particular political party to vote. For more information on voting requirements, visit the Secretary of State's website at [www.sos.state.mn.us](http://www.sos.state.mn.us) or call 651-215-1440.



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### One day—one bike trail—two events

#### Art in the Hollow: Swede Hollow Plein Air Arts Fest

By Karin DuPaul, District Council Community Organizer

We watched the weather reports all during the week before the Art in the Hollow: Swede Hollow Plein Air Arts Fest. The night before and the morning of the event the weather forecast called for clouds in the morning and then sunny and warm.



Photo by Karin duPaul

Artist at work at Plein Air fest

The fest, held on May 22, was the senior project for the graduating class at Twin Cities Academy (TCA). For months before the event, students raised funds, developed a budget, rented tents, tables and a port-a-potty, obtained supplies for kids' activities and recruited artists. Their efforts included putting up an Art in the Hollow page on Facebook.

Volunteers arrived early and put up signs and helped carry gear down the hill. "Josette's Café" (an impromptu neighborhood bistro) provided breakfasts for the artists.

As visitors started descending into the hollow, it was a beautiful sight—artists with their canvasses, visitors looking at and buying art, and kids engaged in making art.

When the rains came, a few artists packed up and left, but everyone else went for cover, many into the Drewry Tunnel where the architecture became an amplifier. "Rain Rain Go Away" and other songs echoed through the space as Murph Dawkins sang and Joe Sanchelli played his accordion. "Josette's Café" staff came to the rescue with a wagon full of lunches for everyone. Swede Hollow elders told stories.

Around 2:00 pm the sun came out and the fest resumed. Visitors said they loved the event and the beautiful park. The artists said they are looking forward to coming back next year. Friends of Swede Hollow members are planning to have the second annual Art in the Hollow next spring.

Key organizers for the event were the TCA senior class, Romi Slowiak ("Josette"), manager of the fest; Andy Twedt; Murph Dawkins; Mike Grealish and Karin DuPaul. Angie Berthelot of Berthelot Public Relations donated design and public relations work.

To register for the second annual Art in the Hollow contact [SwedeHollow@gmail.com](mailto:SwedeHollow@gmail.com) or 651-776-0550; website is [www.swedehollow.org](http://www.swedehollow.org).



Drewry Tunnel amplified the music

### Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary Open House

By Forum staff



The National Park Service provided a bird viewing telescope



Costa Rican Honorary Consul Catherine Nicholson

More than 70 people braved cold and rain to take part in the May 22 Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary Open House. A team of volunteer interpreters, including students from River's Edge Academy, were guides to the sanctuary's ecology and history. Catherine Nicholson, Honorary Consul from Costa Rica, provided free shade-grown coffee and insights on bird migration and habitat.

Special features of the sanctuary include the Mississippi River bird flyway with a Costa Rican connection, the North Star Brewery and cave site, the sandstone bluff, railroad history and Wakan Tipi, the sacred Native American cave.

A free trail guide is available at the District Council office. Visit [www.Phalencreek.org](http://www.Phalencreek.org) for more information about trails, tours and volunteering.

## Senior community employment

By June Bennett,  
District Council  
Administrative Assistant

Is it for you?

First let me tell you something about the Senior Community Service Employment Program, operated by Quality Career Services. Over a year ago, they placed me at the District Council where I work as Administrative Assistant.

The program is funded by the U.S. Department of Labor and its mission

is to provide job training and placement for people with limited resources who are age 55 or older.

After receiving orientation, participants are first placed in part-time job training with nonprofit agencies such as libraries, community centers and social service organizations. The salary of the participant is paid for by the program. This gives the agency a dedicated worker and provides the participant with on-the-job experience and an opportunity to re-enter the workforce. After a period of time, participants may be hired by another nonprofit agency.

There are a host of familiar organiz-

ation that participate in the program, including Neighborhood House, Dorothy Day, food shelves and child care facilities. Some seniors work at schools where they can act as role models, and in assisted living quarters where the model is more like seniors helping seniors.

The population of cultures has grown with Quality Career Services. They service Somali, Hmong, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Latino, Ethiopian workers and many more.

So if you are at that age and bored, but need some extra income, give Quality Career Services a call at 651-647-9322. They are located at 2515 Wabasha Avenue, Suite LL1, St. Paul, MN 55114; their website is [www.qualitycareerservices.org](http://www.qualitycareerservices.org).

## Writers wanted ¿Habla usted español?

by Forum staff

Interested in being a community journalist? Why not contribute to the *Forum*? *Artículos en español sería particularmente bienvenido.*

As part of our outreach efforts, we've recently partnered with the online *Twin Cities Daily Planet* ([www.tcdailyplanet.net](http://www.tcdailyplanet.net)). As a media partner, the *Forum's* readership will grow, and your contribution will provide this new audience with your own unique perspective as well as introduce new people to our diverse and vibrant community.

So if you have an idea for a story or a great photo please contact the editor at [carlariehle@fastmail.us](mailto:carlariehle@fastmail.us) or call 651-772-2075.

## Avi Viswanathan for Minnesota State Senate

Avi will make a great senator. He fought for the neighborhood as district council president and I know he will continue that as our senator.

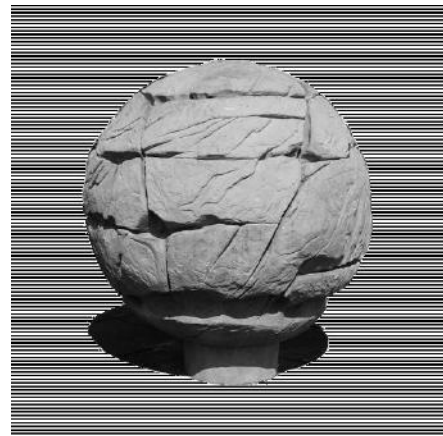
-Kathy Lantry, City Council President



Vote for Avi  
in the  
DFL Primary  
August 10th!

[www.eastsidersforavi.com](http://www.eastsidersforavi.com)

## Where in Dayton's Bluff?



Where does this mysterious object reside? To make it more challenging, we've removed the background and put in some dizzying stripes. If you know the answer, email [karin@daytonsbuff.org](mailto:karin@daytonsbuff.org) or call 651-772-2075. The name of the first person with the correct answer will be printed in next month's *Forum*. If you have a hard-to-identify picture in a Dayton's Bluff location, send it to us and we may use it in our next mystery photo.

## Mounds Park neighbors join forces through the Worldwide Web

by Jane Prince

In May, the St. Paul City Council granted a zoning appeal filed by Mounds Park neighbors. What made this case unusual was the role of the internet in bringing neighbors together.

For the past few years, Mounds Park neighbors have been connecting to each other through a shared email "list-serve," which allows everyone who signs up to share news: activities in Mounds Park, recommendations of plumbers and realtors, lost dogs and cats, garage break-ins, sightings of the neighborhood's bald eagle family, etc.

When neighbors of 1116 Pacific found out that the St. Paul Planning Commission had issued the permits to open a rooming house in a run-down vacant property on their block, they posted the news on the Mounds Park email list to get advice on their options.

Several neighbors from around the neighborhood, who knew the city zoning process, replied online that neighbors of 1116 Pacific had the right to appeal the planning commission's grant of the permit and parking variance. These neighbors offered to help them file the appeal, and dozens of online neighbors from across Mounds Park chipped in the funds to cover the \$450 appeal fee.

Frank and Pacific neighbors' concerns were based on the fact that when 1116 Pacific was vacant it hadn't been maintained. When it turned out that the property owner wanted to open a for-profit rooming house for vulnerable chemically dependent and homeless men, neighbors were skeptical that the management of the property would improve.

Over two dozen neighbors from across Mounds Park attended the City Council hearing on May 5. Neighbors testified that they were not opposed to housing vulnerable adults in Mounds Park, which is home to other facilities for mentally ill and chemically dependent neighbors. However, they pointed out that the property did not meet city code for issuance of the permit and the parking variance.

Ultimately, the City Council agreed. After a two-week layover to allow the city attorney time to research the matter, the City Council determined that the rooming house, as proposed, was not allowed in a residential district. Further, the City Council determined that the parking variance had been granted in error.

What did Mound Park neighbors learn from the experience?

First of all, neighbors learned that they have allies beyond their immediate block. Through the Mounds Park email list, when neighbors shared their concerns, other neighbors they'd never met had ideas about how to help.

Second, neighbors learned not to assume that you can't fight City Hall. It's worth researching and arguing the issue. And our elected officials proved that they're willing to listen to all sides.

And finally, one neighbor summed it up this way: "Through this whole experience I thought, 'Even if we don't accomplish our goal, I have met so many wonderful neighbors, it was worth it.'" She concluded, "We really do live in a wonderful neighborhood that will continue to improve and attract excellent neighbors!"

*Jane Prince is an attorney and Mounds Park resident.*



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[www.realifeinc.com/phalen.html](http://www.realifeinc.com/phalen.html)  
[realifephalencoop@gmail.com](mailto:realifephalencoop@gmail.com)



## Metropolitan State expands onto a fourth campus

by Harvey Meyer

Metropolitan State University, headquartered in Dayton's Bluff and with two other campuses in downtown Minneapolis and in the Midway area of St. Paul, will soon be expanding. Construction on the university's new Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Education Center is scheduled for completion scheduled June 19.

The 65,000-square-foot center in Brooklyn Park, featuring a partnership between Metropolitan State and Hennepin Technical College (HTC), is slated for a month of outfitting before move-in starts July 20. Classes will begin fall semester for students seeking associate and baccalaureate education in law enforcement, criminal justice, fire protection and emergency management. A graduate program in criminal justice will begin in the fall of 2011, pending approval from the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system. The center will also conduct applied research on criminal justice issues and offer continuing education for law enforcement and criminal justice professionals.

"Construction is coming along very well. We're pleased with the progress," said Ginny Lane, dean of Metropolitan State's School of Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice.

Several events, including an open house, are expected to occur this fall to celebrate the center's launch. A grand opening is set for spring 2011.

The center is located on HTC's Brooklyn Park campus. The state-of-the-art facility offers classrooms, administrative and faculty offices, computer and forensics labs and skills development space, including firing ranges, a simulation lab and tactical training areas. The skills development area will be operated by HTC.

Among the featured resources at the facility: 12 "smart," or digital, classrooms; two indoor target ranges that are the first in Minnesota to incorporate "green" elements; and scenario-based training and simulation spaces, enabling students to practice their skills in settings replicating residences and commercial establishments.

"I would venture to say there will be few, if any, other higher education institutions nationally that will have the kind of advanced law enforcement training resources we will offer at the center," said Lane.

Construction at the center started May 2009 in response to the growing demand for education and training in law enforcement, criminal justice and public safety. About 500 Metropolitan State students currently major in law enforcement and criminal justice, and Lane said the center is expected to attract more students to these degree programs.

"The center will be a wonderful new facility and represents an important expansion for Metropolitan State in the northwestern part of the Twin Cities," said Lane. "At the same time, it will present a unique opportunity for us to partner with another Minnesota State Colleges and Universities institution."

Harvey Meyer is an Academic Writer/Editor at Metropolitan State.

## 13<sup>th</sup> annual progressive dinner a success

by Forum staff



Photo by Karin duPaul

This year nearly 50 people signed up for the annual Dayton's Bluff progressive dinner. Seven homes hosted part of the event. The evening started with appetizers in three homes. Then people were divided up into three different groups and went to one of three dessert homes. The evening ended with all participants gathering in another home. Some of the people have participated in every progressive dinner event over the past 13 years. Others are new to the neighborhood or new to the event. Everyone reports having a great time. Participants met new neighbors and reconnected with people they rarely see.

For the last 13 years Margie Smith has organized this progressive dinner in Dayton's Bluff. In 2008 the Dayton's Bluff Community Council added her name to St. Paul's Neighborhood Honor Roll for all the work she has done each year.

## Twin Cities Academy Environmental Rain Gardens

By Ella R. Pearson

The Disney Planet Challenge is a competition created by Disney. Kids who are in grades four to six do something good for the environment, like making a rain garden. They then make a portfolio, including maps of the garden, pictures, information and art. We, the Twin Cities Academy (TCA) STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) class, made a rain garden behind our school.

To help make our rain garden, first we had Lauren Anderson and three interns come with a model of their building and its rain gardens. Lauren works at the Community Design Center here in Dayton's Bluff. Their model demonstrated how roots of the rain garden filter the water and make it cleaner when it goes to the Mississippi River. The model included gravel in the streets, showing how water that wasn't cleaned by the rain garden flowed through the streets, caught the gravel, and ended up very dirty—and especially bad for our river. At the end, we compared the dirty water with the filtered water, and there was a LARGE difference.

Amy Middleton from the Lower Phalen Creek Project helped as well. She showed us other rain gardens in our neighborhood, and we noticed that the rain gardens were oval-shaped or circular, and that they were always planted in dips in the ground. Amy helped us get over 500 plants to put in

our rain garden! All of the plants were donated by the Rush Creek Nursery in Wisconsin ([www.rushcreekgrowers.com](http://www.rushcreekgrowers.com)). We were amazed to find out how many plants they donated to help us, and hope they know how much we appreciated it! We were all blown away when Amy came with the plants. There were so many in the back of her car!

Rain gardens are planted to "purify" water. Like the model Lauren brought, the roots of the specific plants that are planted in a rain garden filter the water over and over. What plants you use depends on what state or climate you are in. In our wonderful winters here in Minnesota, the plants have to be able to survive that cold and the wet spring that follows. A native garden is filled with plants that evolved here in Minnesota, and are basically built to stay alive in those winters, springs, summers, and falls.

On Saturday, May 8, some of the STEM class, teacher Mrs. Amundson, a few parents, and other volunteers worked for two hours to prep our rain garden dirt by breaking up all the clumps. Between a little bit of talking, goofing off, and joking around, we managed to get the earth ready—and plant two trees which a TCA parent donated. Mrs. Wynne, our principal, came for a little bit and took pictures.

On Tuesday, May 11, it was cold, rainy, wet, and muddy. This was the day that we planted the rain gardens. We spent almost all day out there in the rain—but Amy and her daughter stayed with us. A little while after lunch, we were done. We were all wet, muddy, and a little bit crabby, but we had planted it.

A few days later, in class, we saw a HUGE truck come in with sod to put around the rain garden! Then, Paul, the person who looks after the grounds at the church, watered it when it needed it! I thanked him the next time I saw him. Thanks to the church for letting us use their property.

Our rain garden is very important, and so are all of the rain gardens. We hope that our rain garden will help get some cleaner water to the Mississippi. We hope to see wildlife! We hope that the squirrels, birds, and rabbits flock there, but don't become a problem to our school. Also, we hope that the church, and the whole neighborhood, benefit!

Ella R. Pearson has just completed the sixth grade at Twin Cities Academy.

## Heads up on National Night Out

by Forum staff

Celebrate community in Dayton's Bluff on National Night Out, Tuesday, August 3, 2010. Neighborhood groups and block clubs are planning a variety of events, including a neighborhood barbecue, a potluck, an ice cream social, a live band, and a volleyball game. Join 30 million other people in more than 9,000 communities nationwide in a variety of events and activities.

Free permits to block off your street are available, but you must apply by July 27. If you would like a visit from the K-9 unit or horse-mounted police patrol, be sure to sign up for that as well. Information, application forms and other materials are available at [www.stpaul.gov/index.aspx?NID=3062](http://www.stpaul.gov/index.aspx?NID=3062) or at the District Council.



Here is a list of some of the Dayton's Bluff celebrations:

- Mounds Park near Mounds Boulevard and Earl
- Reaney Avenue between Forest and Cypress
- 5<sup>th</sup> Street East between Mounds Blvd and Maria
- Lower Dayton's Bluff Block Club, at Maria and Euclid
- Beech-Margaret 654 Block Club/Bethlehem Lutheran Church at Margaret and Forest
- Wilson Avenue Block Club/-Mounds Park United Methodist Church at Earl and Euclid
- Margaret Rereation Center Block Club/Margaret Recreation Center at 1109 Margaret
- Swede Hollow Park at Greenbrier and Margaret
- Saint Paul Federal Credit Union, 1330 Conway
- Parkway Gardens at Hudson Road and Johnson Parkway
- Our Saviour's Lutheran Church at Margaret and Johnson Parkway
- Bates and 4<sup>th</sup> Street Block Club at Bates and 4<sup>th</sup> Street

If your event isn't listed, please email [Karin@DaytonsBluff.org](mailto:Karin@DaytonsBluff.org) or call 651-772-2075. A complete list will be printed in the July issue of the *Forum*.



Annual powwow at the American Indian Magnet School May 28

## Surprising Dayton's Bluff History

by Steve Trimble

Most of the time, those researching history have a pretty good idea what they hope to find. But sometimes there are unexpected finds that are more or less made by accident. In this month's column I'm going to share some of the surprising discoveries made while surfing the pages of the online *Saint Paul Globe*.

### McGee, the principal

One of the surprises that came up when looking for information for last month's article on Laura Hand was a lot of information about her predecessor as principal of Van Buren School. He was named Charles McGee and I originally knew nothing about him. While more research is needed for a fuller picture of his impact on the local school, here's some of the information. Most of it had to do with his sudden death in early December of 1893.

McGee had been at the school one Monday and that evening he complained of a slight cold. At home the next day the cold was no better so he stayed at home "and took some simple remedies." As the condition worsened a doctor was called. He diagnosed the malady as acute pneumonia. Early the next morning "alarming symptoms were noticeable" and the doctor was called to return. There was a delay and he didn't arrive for three hours "and at that time the patient's condition was hopeless."

Although funeral speeches tend to exaggerate somewhat, it appears that he was highly regarded. "Charles McGee was one of the best-known educators in the Northwest," according to the December 9, 1893, issue of the *Globe*. He had arrived from Wisconsin in the early 1880s and took the principal's examination. He started as the head of the German School and was promoted to be principal of the new Van Buren School when it opened in 1882.



Charles McGee

He was said to be "a man of great force of character, cultured and refined." At the same time he was described as "quiet and unassuming," a friend of all who knew him and

"stood pre-eminent in the St. Paul public schools." He was a member of the nearby St. John's Catholic Church and was happily married to Hanna McGee, who had been a teacher at the school. They had two children.

In the following day's paper, there was a letter to the editor from Dayton's Bluff resident W. F. von Deyn. In it, he proclaimed that the parents and children at Van Buren were "shocked beyond ordinary description by the sudden decease of their beloved and respected principal." He then went on to say that while the children "weep for their loss," the solicitude of parents and community members "is awakened lest danger may be lurking around this school."

Finally, the writer showed his preference for McGee's replacement. "The citizens trust that a male teacher, as nearly possible, an equal to the eminent male principal in all that constitutes a perfect teacher, will be selected to fill the vacancy so suddenly occurring and so distressingly felt. Politics should have no consideration in the appointment; solely ability and worth. We watch!"

He may have been surprised and even disappointed when the school was turned over to Miss Laura Hand. But in the end, she was embraced by the community and became a legendary leader of the local educational institution for many years.

When I was trying to find out more about a well-known pioneer resident named P. H. Kelly, a wholesale grocer. I ran across the fact that he once ended up in bankruptcy.

### Maria Dayton

But that's not the surprise. It was the fact that in an article on the same December 27, 1896, page of the *Globe* was something I had been seeking for many years—information on the death of Maria Bates Dayton, the wife of Lyman Dayton.

The joint headlines read: "Death of Mrs. Nell. Lyman Dayton's wife, the Pioneer Resident, Dies Poor." It was reported that she was found dead in her bedroom in her home at Itasca, Minnesota. Itasca at that time was a small town on the Mississippi River near present-day Elk River. "Mrs. Dayton, while once very wealthy, died in straitened circumstances," the writer said, "a large part of her fortune having been taken by the depreciation in real estate values in the Twin Cities a few years ago, coupled with a great deal of expensive litigation with her son."

The son, Lyman C. Dayton, "shared his father's physical peculiarities" and was well known in St. Paul, even though he had been spending most of his later years in South Dakota. He died a year earlier. "For many years he was at litigation continuously with his mother over the property left by the father and husband." Much of the trouble was linked to the second marriage of Maria, "which created considerable excitement at the time."

Information about this man was then clarified. It was known that he worked for the Dayton family, and one later source suggested he was their gardener. But the *Globe* made it

clear that Nell was "was formerly the family coachman," who left St. Paul for the Civil War and married the widow upon his return. They moved to a farm across the river from Dayton, Minnesota. One other thing that may have created the "excitement" about the marriage was the fact—not mentioned in this article—that Maria was at least 20 years his elder.

The newspaper ended with the following observation: "Mrs. Nell was a peculiar woman who seemed to have the faculty for getting into unfortunate quarrels with people. She lost most of her property through litigation, and was a constant figure in the courts. She lived to a ripe old age, being in the neighborhood of ninety."



Photo courtesy of MN Historical Society  
Maria Dayton

### Home for Aged Women

But that's not all. The keyword search for P. H. Kelly also brought up unexpected information about a long-gone neighborhood institution—the Episcopal Church Home for Aged Women. I had seen the name in city directories, but knew almost nothing about it. Now, by accident, information has become available.

In November 1901, the group moved into the old P. H. Kelly home at 230 Mounds Boulevard. "The building has been fully renovated," the paper stated, "and the reception rooms, living rooms and bedrooms present a very cozy appearance."

They have a fair sized library because they have an annual "book party" and people bring volumes to add to the home's collection. The Church Home for Aged Women—the name would be considered unfortunate today—had started four years earlier when Sister Annette Relfe, a

deaconess, gave up a couple of rooms in her home to two elderly "women pensioners." Mrs. Wright had urged the founding of a place "that would shelter friendless gentlewomen" and reach out to Episcopalians throughout the state. A house on Lafayette was secured and a matron placed in charge.



EPISCOPAL HOME FOR AGED WOMEN.  
—Photo by Globe Photographer.

That summer the group decided that the Lafayette Street building was not sufficient. There were 16 "inmates," perhaps another troublesome name. Some were the widows of prominent Episcopalians and were able to pay their own way. "It is a curious fact that there are no foreigners among the inmates. Nearly all of them being New England women. They are women of gentle breeding and their surroundings have been made as pleasant and attractive as possible. There are twenty bedrooms fitted up in the home, besides a reception room, library, living rooms and matron's apartment."

So there you have it. A trio of what I hope are interesting bits of Dayton's Bluff history: an introduction to an early principal of Van Buren School; discovering when and where Maria Bates Dayton died and a little more about her son and her second husband; a peek at an almost-forgotten institution that provided a place for 20 women to spend their final years.

And all three found mostly by accident while looking for something else. Who says researching history can't be an interesting and surprising endeavor!

First and last photos are from the *Saint Paul Globe*.

Steve Trimble researches and writes about local history.

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## What's happening at District Council board meetings?

### Highlights of the May 17, 2010, Nonprofit Board meeting

The board approved the following actions:

- To enter into a partnership with Twin Cities Daily Planet ([www.tcdailyplanet.net](http://www.tcdailyplanet.net)), a non-profit organization whose focus is online participatory journalism. This partnership would allow them to redistribute *District Forum* articles and the *Forum* to reprint their articles.
- To approve our 990 tax report and file it with the Minnesota Secretary of State.
- To post the council's bylaws on the Dayton's Bluff Community Council web site ([www.daytonsbluff.org](http://www.daytonsbluff.org)), along with the 990 report when it is officially filed.
- To accept the resignation of Avi Viswanathan as President and board member.
- To discuss at the next nonprofit meeting (6/21/10) the board bylaws concerning attendance of members at monthly board meetings.

### Highlights of the June 14, 2010, Housing, Environment, and Economic Development Meeting

The Board approved the following action:

To direct the Executive Committee to make recommendations on both the standard content and scheduling of the two monthly board meetings (currently the second and third Mondays of the month).

This is not an official record of Board actions. Those are reflected in the Board minutes. For more information, contact Karin DuPaul at [karin@daytonsbluff.org](mailto:karin@daytonsbluff.org) or 651-772-2075.

## Monthly community meeting

The next Dayton's Bluff Community Meeting is Thursday, July 1, from 6:30 to 8:00 pm at the Dayton's Bluff Community Council, 798 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street. The council holds a community meeting on the first Thursday of most months. The object is to work with block clubs and neighborhood residents on problem properties, criminal and nuisance behavior, code enforcement issues and any other issues, concerns or new ideas for improving Dayton's Bluff.

If addresses of problem properties are submitted before the meeting, they will be sent to police and code enforcement officers who will research the properties and bring relevant information to the meeting. All Dayton's Bluff residents are welcome to attend.

## Police community meetings

The Eastern District Police hosts its monthly meetings for community members at 722 Payne Avenue at the corner of Minnehaha Avenue. The next meetings are on Friday, July 16, at 9:30 am and Wednesday, July 21, at 6:30 pm. The meetings are intended to listen to and address concerns about crime and other issues on the East Side.

## Block club meetings

**Wilson Avenue Block Club** meets at 6:30 pm on the second Wednesday of each month at Mounds Park United Methodist Church, at Earl and Euclid.

**Margaret Rec Center Block Club** meets at 6:30 pm on the second Thursday of each month at the Margaret Recreation Center, at Margaret and Frank Street. This block club encompasses 7<sup>th</sup>, Ross, Bush, and Reaney streets and Minnehaha Avenue.

**Beech/Margaret 654 Block Club** meets at 6:30 pm on the last Thursday of each month at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church at Margaret and Forest. This block club covers Minnehaha, Beech, Margaret, 6<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> between Cypress and Arcade.

**Frank Street Block Club** meets at 6:30 pm on the third Wednesday of each month at Immanuel City of Refuge Healing Temple, at 815 Frank Street. This block club encompasses 7<sup>th</sup>, Ross, Bush, and Reaney streets and Minnehaha Avenue between Earl and Johnson Parkway.

**Lower Dayton's Bluff Block Club** meets monthly in the summer. This block club is bounded by 3<sup>rd</sup> and Maple streets and I-94. Contact Sherry Johnson at [sherryjohnson@gmail.com](mailto:sherryjohnson@gmail.com) for the time and place of the next meeting.

## Gardens: tours and boulevards

The annual Dayton's Bluff garden tours continue with three more scheduled in July.

Upper Swede Hollow Neighborhood Garden Tour: meet at 11:30 am, Wednesday, July 14, in the lower garden next to Swede Hollow Cafe, 725 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street.

Beech/Margaret Block Club: meet at 6:30 pm, Wednesday, July 21, at 983 East 5<sup>th</sup> Street.

Margaret Rec Center Block Club: meet at 6:30 pm, Monday, July 26, at Skidmore Park, 1085 East 4<sup>th</sup> Street.

Check the *Forum* or [www.daytonsbluff.org](http://www.daytonsbluff.org) for locations later in the summer.



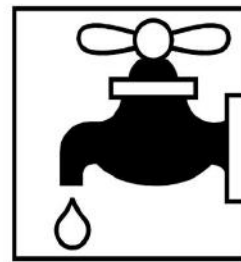
Interested in a boulevard garden? It's been reported that "up-front" gardens help to build community and even reduce crime.

Contact the council office if you would like to schedule a tour in your neighborhood or would like more information about boulevard gardening.

## Rain Barrel Workshop

Build your own rain barrel at a workshop scheduled for Tuesday, July 27, at 6:30 pm at the District Council office.

A rain barrel is an old idea given new life as more people are realizing that water is not a limitless commodity. Placed under a downspout to collect water from the roof, a rain barrel can help save water for use in the yard, eliminate potential flooding in



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basements, and reduce storm water management costs.

The \$20 registration fee will help cover the cost of a \$50 rain barrel that participants can take home and put to use. To register send a \$20 check made out to the Dayton's Bluff Community Council and mail it to the Dayton's Bluff Community Council, 798 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street, St. Paul, MN 55106.

## Take-a-Hike on July 3

Take-a-Hike occurs on the first Saturday of most months. The next hike will be Saturday, July 3. Hikers meet at 10:30 am in Indian Mounds Park at Earl Street and Mounds Boulevard. The route winds through local parks and trails to end up at the new East Side Heritage Park. Along the way hikers will share stories and learn some of the local history. The hike is about four miles long with some moderately rough terrain. Transportation will be available to return to Indian Mounds Park, if needed.

## Be Your Own Boss

The next Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Microentrepreneur Class is starting in September. This program helps start-up and young businesses on the East Side of St. Paul get off to a good start. Eleven East Side entrepreneurs

are welcome.

Classroom training lasts eight weeks and includes topics such as operations management, marketing, financial management, creating a successful business, and preparing a business plan. Included are eight hours of one-on-one time with the instructor to work on your business concept. Those who successfully complete the course, and locate their businesses in target neighborhoods, are eligible for ongoing support services.

Examples of businesses started by people who have taken this course include graphic arts, landscaping, photography, food service, restoration of wood furniture and works of art, custom floral design for weddings and events, pet sitting and exterior and interior painting. The course is sponsored by the Dayton's Bluff Community Council and the Neighborhood Development Center. A registration fee will be charged based on a sliding fee scale. Class size is limited, so do not wait to apply. Applications are available at the District Council office.

## For more information

Information in the preceding articles was compiled by District Council community organizer, Karin DuPaul. She can be contacted at [karin@daytonsbluff.org](mailto:karin@daytonsbluff.org) or 651-772-2075.

## Support your local newspaper: Our fund still seeking donations

By Forum staff

As the *Forum* reported last month, times are tough, but we hope you think of the paper as a good cause and could make a contribution to help keep the presses rolling. Several readers have already made contributions and taken out subscriptions for distant family and friends.

We are still seeking checks—money orders or cash are also good; all donations are tax-deductible. Subscriptions make great birthday or July 4<sup>th</sup> gifts for people who used to live here and might enjoy reading about the old home area. You could also talk to an area business owner and suggest that they begin advertising with the paper.

Any amount will be appreciated and, unless you want to remain anonymous, your name will be included in a future issue of the paper. If this were a public radio or television appeal, we might say the phone lines are open. However, we don't have the volunteer base to answer calls.

Instead, please make any checks (or money orders) out to the *District Forum* and mail or bring them to the Dayton's Bluff Community Council at 798 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street, St. Paul, MN 55106.

As a special premium, anyone who makes a donation of at least \$25.00 will receive a valuable set of 12 collectable Dayton's Bluff postcards—a ten dollar value—as long as the supply lasts. For information about gift subscriptions or advertising rates, call Karin DuPaul at 651-772-2075. Your contributions will help keep our publication going. Thanks.



# Our Youth. Our Community.

*Highlighting the Youth of Dayton's Bluff*

## Minnesota Lynx visits Dayton's Bluff.....

Summer is here and school is out! The WNBA season begins. We get a visit from one of the stars of Minnesota Lynx, Rashanda McCants # 8, a second year guard. All the children were full of excitement and anticipation to meet a professional athlete. The children asked an array of questions: "What is your point average per game?" "Where you went to college?" "How much money do you make?" "How did basketball become your dream?" "Have you met LeBron James?" "Do you like playing for the Lynx?"

Rashanda also signed autographs for the children and the adults who attended. Karnesia Brown and Derek Siedschlag were so excited that she signed their basketball shoes. "Wow, this is so cool!" She also gave them a few basketball shooting tips.

The children thoroughly enjoyed Ms. McCants visit here. We hope that other pro athletes would visit us more often. The glow on the children's faces is amazing.



▲ Rashanda McCants from the Minnesota Lynx

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Dayton's Bluff  
Rec Center



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## TEEN CLUB

Ages: 13-17  
Meets: Thursday, 5:30-7p

## Lynx vs. Dream

Date: July 14, 2010  
Time: 12pm  
Place: Target Center

## Where Are We Going with the Human Race?

By Mary Ann Cogelow

*(continued from the June issue of the District Forum)*

Leaving you to ponder the big picture questions, I return to the important, smaller issue of promoting the skills of cooperation and collaboration in children.

Perhaps the first step in this process is to become aware of how deeply we all buy into the notion that competition is a good thing and how much we depend upon competition to motivate and manage children. When I began teaching nursery school in 1969, I was amazed and dismayed to discover how few tools I had for working with kids that didn't involve motivating them by asking them to be first or best at something.

I had to consciously stop myself from setting up one mini-competition after another: "Who can get their outside clothes on first?" "Who can be the quietest?" (The fact that this made me deeply uneasy is an indication that competition wasn't the whole cloth in my own story, as in fact, it isn't in anyone's). Fortunately, Southeast Cooperative (aha!) Nursery School turned out to be, in the words of Katherine Read, "a human relations laboratory" for me. In the company of the first great staff I ever worked with, I spent a lot of time thinking about and learning from children. I discovered that when I wasn't comparing them as compet-

ors, I saw them much more clearly as people, appreciated them more, and was a more effective teacher. I begin thinking about what losing means to little children and about helping them build a better, more supportive understanding of winning, losing and their own immense value.

As long as I have been teaching, there have been multiple resources for helping children become better cooperators and more are developed all the time. If I were teaching young children at the present time, I would share with them Jamie Lee Curtis' book *Is There Really a Human Race?* which says, "If we don't help each other, we're all going to crash" and asks, "Shouldn't it be looking back at the end/that you judge your own race by the help that you lend?"

There are curricula for teaching social skills and acceptance of differences. Children can be offered many opportunities for working together to accomplish meaningful goals or to help someone else. One of the deeply meaningful experiences of my

daughter Maren's elementary school experience was being a regular "helper" for a kindergartner when she was a third and fourth grader.

In addition to giving kids many experiences of working together and understanding each other, we need to strive to be unconditional in our insistence on the incalculable human value of every child.

Given the way most of us have been raised and the societies in which we live, this is likely to be really hard work. Many of us were raised with the conviction that we had to earn love and esteem as human beings. But this is really getting it backward. It is out of the conviction that we are loved unconditionally that we grow, learn, and achieve, learn to take other perspectives, become responsible.

This does not mean approving everything anyone else, child or adult, may do. It does mean that you distinguish between your unconditional regard for the person and your disapproval, however great or small, of the behavior. If you are a parent,

your job (and the chances that anyone else can do it as effectively as you can are minuscule) is to convey as well and as consistently as possible your unconditional love for your child.

If you are a teacher, you must unconditionally affirm the human value of every child. All of us must value children because they are, not because they do.

With our deep regard we build their ability to learn, to be responsible, and to profoundly love themselves and others. On this foundation they can become the world class collaborators, problem solvers, and contributors that we so urgently need.

So Mr. President, rather than racing each other, let's figure out how to work together to achieve the best and truest education for all children.

*Mary Ann Cogelow was a parent educator in the St. Paul Public Schools Early Childhood Family Education Program at Dayton's Bluff from 1975 to 2008. She continues to write on parenting issues.*

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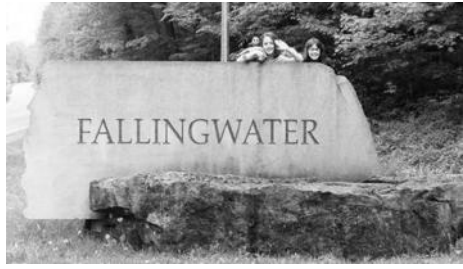


Photo by Tabitha Benci DeRango

## Where did you go on your summer vacation?

By Tabitha Benci DeRango

Aah (sigh), summer vacation. It's that time of year when we start to think about what relaxing adventures we will embark on during the warm months here in our Minnesota climate. Some will involve great travel destinations, others a trip to the wilderness and others crowds of children at potential fun spots.

This year for our family the adventure came unexpectedly. In the middle of May our grandmother who had been residing with us for over two years passed away at almost 90. We are glad she had a long, loved life. Her wishes were to be buried back in Pennsylvania where we once moved her from. So our journey began quickly; throw what you can think of into the truck and hit the road. With exercise in patience. But we set out to make a balance of enjoyment mixed in with the serious and somber. That meant first and foremost hotels with pools!

Hurray for strenuous physical activity to work out the stiff legs from the hours in the car. Two days later we arrive in Waynesburg Pennsylvania to meet up with family and friends and pay our respects to our grandmother. It was beautiful to have this happen in the spring with flowers blooming and the earth awake and ready for new beginnings.

What to do for adding in an element of fun? Frank Lloyd Wright designed a wonderful house called Falling Water not far from my grandmother's house. As a child my parents had taken me to see it and it had made a huge impression on me. When my husband and I were engaged and we traveled for him to meet grandma, I took him there to show him this serene spot that I so enjoy. And so in keeping with a sort of tradition we took our children to the house built over the waterfall on the acres of wooded land around Bear Run Creek. The Pennsylvania Conservancy has done a fabulous job with restoring and maintaining the property and has kept all the original elements. It was built by the Kaufman Family who ran a big department store in Pittsburgh. The original budget was set at \$30,000. My how times have changed! The cost ended at a whopping \$150,000 upon completion. This would be approximately \$2.5 million at today's standards.

It is absolutely a site to see if you ever find yourself in the southwestern

corner of Pennsylvania. As we made our way on our journey back to Minnesota we got the chance to go to an intense indoor water park in Sandusky, Ohio. It is amazing the deals you can find if you find yourself in this type of spontaneous situation.

Of course the children never wanted to leave but we eventually made it home. Did you know that Wisconsin is known for its many zany statues around the state (my daughter pointed this out--the things they learn in school) Have you ever seen the huge pink elephant with glasses?

So our family has already had our summer adventure and summer is not even quite here. We are grateful for the time together; the journey was fast but allowed time for reflection, grief, and some fun.

We at the *Forum* would like to hear and see all about your vacations this season. Please consider writing a short synopsis of your own adventure with a photo and we will feature them throughout the summer. Happy trails to you!

*Tabitha Benci DeRango is a student at Metro State University and an intern at the Dayton's Bluff Community Council.*

*To submit an article and pictures of your vacation, send them to carlariehle@fastmail.us. The deadline for the next issue is July 10.*

## 4<sup>th</sup> Street demolition will be part of preservation project

by Forum staff

An unusual request came before the Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) last month. As neighborhood resident Carol Carey, head of Historic St. Paul admitted, she had "never come forward to ask for permission to demolish a structure."

The request from Historic St. Paul and the city was to raze 689 East 4<sup>th</sup> Street, a two-story frame structure probably constructed in the 1870s or early 1880s. In December 2007, the rear area sustained heavy fire damage and other parts of the house sustained



698 East 4th Street

smoke and water damage. Since then, it has been vacant.

Carey says the decision to demolish the structure came only after a lot of soul-searching and trying to figure out if saving it was realistic. Ultimately, the city and Historic St. Paul concluded that it was not. One factor was that removal would create additional green space for the adjacent properties and allow for off-street parking and construction of garages.

Sherry Pemberton of the Housing and Redevelopment Authority also spoke in favor of the plan. She is the project manager for the Fourth Street Preservation Project. She admitted that the earlier attempts to sell vacant homes on the street have not been successful and hopes that this may be the kick start the program needs to leverage additional investment.

The HPC staff report pointed out that the property is classified as non-contributing to the character of the Dayton's Bluff Historic District. It also suggested that while "the rhythm of the streetscape would be altered," the "impact would be minimal and may increase the viability of the adjacent structures."

The HPC board voted support for the planned removal, and ended a later hearing with the approval of a landscaping and off-street parking scenario at the location. Only time will tell if a small demolition can successfully spur a larger preservation effort in the Dayton's Bluff Historic District.

The Fourth Street Preservation Project is a multi-year, targeted effort, intended to improve the housing and streetscape on both sides of East 4<sup>th</sup> Street from Mounds Boulevard to Maple Street as well as adjacent areas. The project has five aspects whose execution is intended to demonstrate the value and impact of renovating and developing a specific area within the Dayton's Bluff Historic District. They are: 1. Capitalize on unique geographic and architectural features, 2. Encourage a more mixed-use, pedestrian friendly environment, 3. Transform "turn of the century" buildings to accommodate 21<sup>st</sup> century lifestyles, 4. Create a safer pedestrian experience via traffic-calming methods and other design techniques, and 5. Address the shortage of garages and green space in the area.

This project is one of many "Invest Saint Paul" initiatives currently underway in Dayton's Bluff. Phase one of the Fourth Street Preservation Project starts this summer when four properties will be renovated (326 Maria, 685-87 East 4<sup>th</sup>, 693 East 4<sup>th</sup>, and 695 East 4<sup>th</sup>). The demolition mentioned above is part of the overall effort in that area. Phase two, which involves more renovations and streetscape work, will start next summer.

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### 3M site discussions continue

by Forum staff

The construction chain link fences stretch along Arcade, Minnehaha and Forest streets, and the sound of bulldozers can be heard along East 7th Street. What's going on? The advisory committee for Beacon Bluff, the name being used to market the former 3M site, held a community meeting on June 10 in answer to that question. Here's a summary of what happened.

#### Marketing Update

Cassidy/Turley, the group that the Port Authority has engaged to market the property gave an upbeat report, noting that the national and international markets were slowly improving and many corporations were cautiously thinking about expansion. "It bodes well" the speaker said.

There have been frequent contacts with developers and possible users as well quite a few local meetings. There are said to be some "viable prospects," although their names could not be revealed. There have been showings of #21, the art deco administration building, and #24, the lengthy brick structure that goes all the way through the campus to Arcade Street.

The interest has been mostly from domestic groups, but there have been some contacts from international concerns. Outreach has included "email blasts" and "touches to investment circles of influence." Future plans include contacting historic preservationists, architects and real estate attorneys.

#### Design Workshop Update

A subgroup called the Design Work Group has been meeting for many months and has developed a new approach for reuse and/or new construction on the site based on guidelines from the City of St. Paul, the St. Paul Port Authority, the East 7th Street design plan of the Dayton's Bluff District Council and rules of the Secretary of the Interior that kick in when federal money is involved.

Among the items decided on were streetscape, overall design, public areas, mitigation measures needed because at least some buildings are going down and historical interpretation. Building materials, building massing and articulation, site considerations, streets, sidewalks and the public realm, as well as landscaping and storm water management were also considered.

The work group's proposal was approved by the advisory committee with two amendments. One directed the Port Authority to pay attention to the view along Phalen Corridor; a second suggested that a variety of hardy trees be planted along the streets so they might have a chance to survive.

#### Historic Preservation Update

The final presentation at the June 10 meeting was from another subgroup that has been developing a historical interpretation program that would consider the history of 3M and its impact on the surrounding community. The work of this subgroup and the company the Port Authority hired to develop an interpretive plan will continue, so the report was a preliminary one. The hope is to develop a program that will draw people into the site to learn. It has been decided that there will be a central "hub" as a focal point that would include data and graphics and would direct people to other locations where they could find additional graphics and historical information.

Some suggested panels that would be scattered around the old 3M site include "Innovation and Products," "Men and Machines," "Adhesives," "3M and the Community," "Employees" and "Defining Events."

It was announced that the Minnesota Historic Preservation Office has decided that some of the area was eligible to become a historic district. That is important because it would allow purchasers to access tax credits. The old administrative building was also determined to be eligible for its own designation and a National Register nomination form is being written.

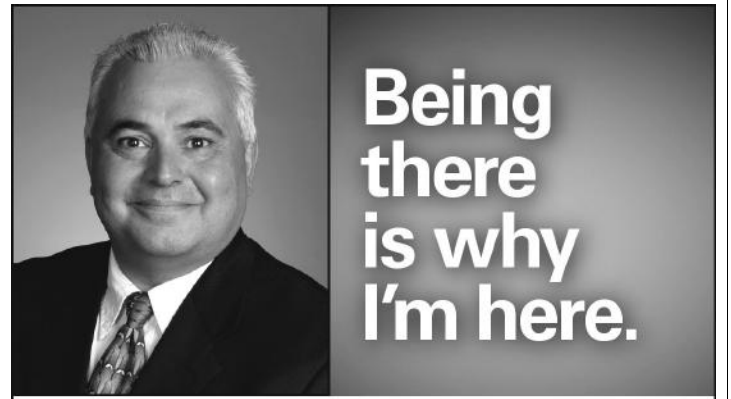
To be able to tell a more complete story of the community and its relationship to 3M, the advisory committee is hoping to find people who have stories about working at the company or how the neighborhood interacted with it. If you know of any stories, photos or other items of interest, please call Karin DuPaul at the District Council at 651-772-2075.



Photo by Doug Wallick

#### Final Matters and Updates

The Port Authority summarized other activities, including a certification from the national Environmental Protection Agency, a cooperative effort with the city to deal with storm water issues and the beginning of work on road projects. Two structures have already been torn down and stone salvage work is occurring on the eight-story administrative building. More details can be found at the website [www.sppa.com](http://www.sppa.com).



#### Juan Cervantes, Agent

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### Enjoying life at Realife Cooperative: the Mossongs

by June Bennett

District Council Administrative Assistant

Betty and Dick Mossong have lived at Realife Cooperative of Phalen Village for 2 1/2 years. Formerly of Maplewood, the Mossongs moved to the cooperative and came back to the Dayton's Bluff area after the upkeep of their house in Maplewood became too difficult.

Married for 56 years, the couple has seven children, 16 grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Dick was born and raised here on the Bluff and graduated from Harding High School in 1941 where he helped the football team win all of their games in his senior year.

He worked at Mounds Theatre handing out advertisement and also at the old Johnson Brothers Grocery on Hudson and Earl. Betty worked for Northwestern Bell telephone, then located on Beech and 7th streets. Later, they both worked at Dorothy Day center for 20 years.

Dick remembers many of the old businesses in Dayton's Bluff—Otto's Drugstore, now M&A Market; Wagner Meat Market, now Leo's Chow Mein and Mounds Park Hospital, now Marian of Saint Paul.

Sixty percent East Siders, Realife Cooperative is located at the intersection of Johnson Parkway and Phalen Boulevard. With 59 units, it's owned by the residents who live there. Members are 55 or over and participate in governance of the coop to the extent of their interests and abilities. The coop's website is [www.realifeinc.com/phalen.html](http://www.realifeinc.com/phalen.html); telephone is 651-779-6639.

### Dayton's Bluff Business Association

The 19 businesses listed below are now members of the Dayton's Bluff Area Business Association (DBBA). The recently formed organization is seeking new members with businesses that are home or community based.

DBBA offers a low annual membership fee of \$50 along with an opportunity to network with other entrepreneurs and let the community know what you're offering. A business fair is planned for September 14. Contact Susan Teitjen at 651-214-8088 or [susanteitjen@msn.com](mailto:susanteitjen@msn.com) for an application or more information.

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- Alex Bajwa LLC Law firm
- Assisted Healing Center
- Bluffside Daycare
- Colleen's Flower Cellar
- Dayton's Bluff Community Council
- Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Housing Services

- Dietz-Kane Insurance Agency Inc.
- Hmong Village
- LatinRaza Services
- LePainter Body Shop
- Manhattan Projects Software Development
- Midwest Karate
- Mounds Theatre
- NorthLake Contracting, Inc.
- Obbs Bar
- Office of Councilmember Kathy Lantry
- Sans Adieu Bed and Breakfast
- Spangler and de Stefano, PLLP

### Free Junk Car Removal

Budget Towing of Minnesota will remove any junk car or truck and dispose of it at no charge to the owner. The vehicle owner can receive a tax donation, and the District Council will receive a donation for each car towed. Contact [Karin@DaytonsBluff.org](mailto:Karin@DaytonsBluff.org) or 651-772-2075 to get the eyesore removed.

### Dayton's Bluff District Forum

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St. Paul, MN 55106  
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Board of Directors: Greg Cosimini, Karin DuPaul and Steve Trimble

Editor and Layout: Carla Riehle

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