

# DISTRICT FORUM

Volume 23, No. 9

www.daytonsbluff.org

November 2010

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L to R, newly elected board member Cheryl Kenney, city council president Kathy Lantry, newly elected board member Richard Bold

## Dayton's Bluff District 4 Community Council Annual meeting, potluck and board of directors election

Members of the community met on the evening of October 18 for the Dayton's Bluff council's annual meeting and potluck. St. Paul City Council President Kathy Lantry gave a "State of Dayton's Bluff" address, highlighting *City Pages'* designation of Dayton's Bluff as the "best undiscovered neighborhood—2010." She pointed out how, in addition to its other unique features, "Dayton's Bluff transforms people who get here."

Election results for the council board, (half of the seats are up for reelection each year) were announced at the meeting. New members are Giovanna Salerno, Daniel Stahley, Cheryl Kenney, Richard Bold, and Tabitha Benci DeRango. Returning members are Jean Comstock, Jacob Dorer, Chris Newton and Avinash Viswanathan. They will be joining current board members Roy Carlson, Sage Holben, Sharon McCrea, Nell Powers-Graham, Colin Wilkinson, Carla Riehle, Paul Sawyer and Alan Swearingen.

## Dayton's Bluff Community Banquet

by Ed Lambert

District council executive director

The Dayton's Bluff District 4 Community Council is inviting all residents and businesses to the second Annual Community Recognition Banquet. The event will be held on Friday, November 12, at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church at 674 Johnson Parkway. This family-friendly gathering is a fun and easy way to connect with neighbors and catch up on what's happening in Dayton's Bluff.

Last year's gathering, in May, was attended by nearly 150 adults and young people and presented awards

to two individuals and a long time community service organization for their valued contributions to our community's health and well being.

This year's banquet will have a catered meal from the popular Yarusso's Italian restaurant located on Payne Avenue. The buffet style meal will be served at 6:30 pm, and will include remarkable, varied, and delicious "community desserts" prepared by some 10-15 volunteers.



Last year's banquet at St. John's Catholic Church

Plan on coming at 5:30pm or so to greet and meet people, and to select your seat at the table. Recognition awards and a short program will start at 7:30 pm.

A donation of \$5 per person is requested to help cover expenses. RSVPs would be appreciated, but if you're late in deciding, please come anyway, as all are welcome.

For more information call 651-772-2075 or send an email to Karin @daytonsbluff.org.

## November 2 is Election Day

With five polling places open on Election Day, Dayton's Bluff residents should find it easy to vote on Tuesday, November 2.

Polls are open from 7:00 am to 8:00 pm and generally you can vote if you will be at least 18 years old, are a citizen of the United States and are a Minnesota resident for 20 days immediately preceding Election Day.

If you aren't already registered, you can do so on November 2. If you haven't already gathered from the political advertising, there are many state and federal offices up for election this year, including U.S. representative, governor, state senators and representatives, and a number of others.

To find the specific polling place for your address, and to check on other information, go to [www.sos.state.mn.us](http://www.sos.state.mn.us) or call 651-215-1440 (Minnesota Secretary of State) or 651-266-2171 (Ramsey County). Information is available in Hmong at <http://www.co.ramsey.mn.us/election/s/languages.htm> or in Spanish and other languages at <http://www.sos.state.mn.us/index.aspx?page=638> or by calling 651-215-1440.

## El 2 de noviembre es el Dia de las Elecciones

Con cinco centros de votación abiertos el día electoral, los residentes de Dayton's Bluff no deberían tener problemas en votar el martes, 2 de noviembre.

Los centros estarán abiertos de las 7:00 de la mañana hasta las 8:00 de la noche. En general, usted puede votar si tiene al menos 18 años de edad, es ciudadano de los Estados Unidos, y ha sido residente de Minnesota al menos 20 días antes del día de las elecciones.

Si no se está inscrito para votar, puede hacerlo el mismo 2 de noviembre. Si aún no lo ha adivinado por la publicidad política, hay muchos puestos políticos a nivel estatal y federal a elegir este año, incluyendo representantes y un senador del congreso estadounidense, el gobernador y senadores y representantes en Minnesota, y varios otros.

Para encontrar el lugar de votación específica para su dirección, y para obtener más información, visite o llame al 651-215-1440 o [www.sos.state.mn.us](http://www.sos.state.mn.us) (Minnesota Secretario de Estado) o 651-266-2171 (Condado de Ramsey). La información está disponible en Hmong en <http://www.co.ramsey.mn.us/elections/languages.htm> o en Español, igual que en otros idiomas en <http://www.sos.state.mn.us/index.aspx?page=638> o llamando al 651-215-1440.

## Community Calendar

Monday, November 1  
6:00 pm Mktg /Comm Committee\*  
7:00 pm, board meeting\*

Tuesday, November 2  
Election Day

Thursday, November 4, 6:30 pm  
Community meeting\*

Saturday, November 6, 10:30 am  
Take-a-Hike (p. 5)

Sunday, November 7  
Daylight Savings Time ends

Monday, November 15  
6:00 pm Greenspace Committee\*  
6:15 pm Arts/Culture Committee\*  
7:00 pm, board meeting\*

Wed, November 17, 6:30 pm  
Friday, November 19, 9:30 am  
Police-community meetings (p. 5)

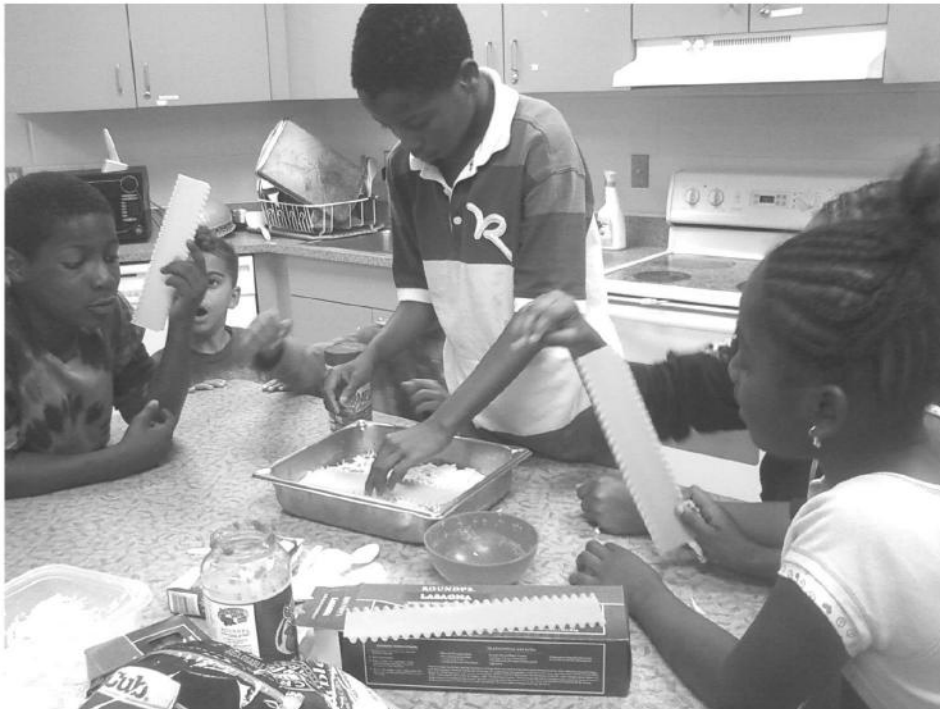
\*Council office, 798 E. 7<sup>th</sup> Street

Dayton's Bluff  
Community Council  
798 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
St. Paul, MN 55106

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## Teen Volunteers at Dayton's Bluff Rec Teaches Kids Healthy Cooking



**Sara Buckner, a teen from the neighborhood and a Johnson High School student, preparing to cook with the kids.**

**Add your voice. Come to check out Dayton's Bluff recreation center. We have open gym on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 5:30-7:30 pm. Our computer lab is open on Tues/Thurs from 4-6 pm. Teen room is open M-Th 5-8 pm. Dance Room is open M-Th from 5-8 pm.**

For more information, contact the location below.

Dayton's Bluff Rec Center • 651-793-3885 |

Sara Buckner is a senior at Johnson High school, and is doing volunteer work at Dayton's Bluff Recreation with our Rec Check after school program. She is teaching the kids about healthy choices when it comes to cooking and eating.

"I really enjoy this experience". "I am going to college next year to and majoring in Childhood Education". "This is a great way to help me decide if it is really what I want to do."

Sara cooks with the kids twice a week, and they really enjoy being able to work hands-on in the kitchen with her. They have learned how to make healthy meals and have shared the recipes with their families at home.

### Distracted parenting takes its toll on families, community

By Meg Gronau

It's Tuesday. 8:36 pm and the kids are, blessedly, already sleeping. As I write this article on a computer in our kitchen, my husband is in the living room indulging in his medium of choice: the TV. It's the first time this week that hubby and I have been (essentially) alone together in the house at the same time, but are we engaging in conversation? Playing cards with each other? Solving the world's problems? No. The only sounds are the tippy-tap of my fingers on the keyboard, and the drone of whatever show he's watching. We're both engrossed in our respective blue lights.

It's how we wind down, we say. And I have a deadline I'm working on. An-n-n-n-d the kids required a particularly large amount of energy this evening. We're tired, sure, but it's also true that our relationship is a bit . . . distracted.

This happens while the kids are awake, too. "I just have to check one quick email," I say . . . and proceed to while away 30 more minutes on the computer. Or my sister calls, and we talk for 20 minutes while the kids whine and hang from my elbows.

Much has been made, lately, of "distracted parenting": multitasking on electronic gadgets (smart phones, BlackBerries, iPhones) while we're supposed to be minding our children. StarTribune.com has a few recent articles and blogs on the subject. Sherry Turkle from MIT has written several books and articles on the subject of

humans' interactions with technology, emphasizing the point that mobile devices degrade our sense of community.

The consensus seems to be: everything in moderation. Make time to be together with no distractions.

But this is not a new thing. The phrase "quality time" been around for at least 30 years. My parents used to mock the idea that you could schedule or somehow plan for those simple moments that make family memories. The best way to have quality time is just to do it. Put down the phone; walk away from the computer. Not plugged in? Put the Sudoku away; recycle those magazines.

But it's not always so easy. We tell ourselves we're "expert multitaskers" because we have so much practice—haha! And yet there is recent research on the human brain, revealing there is no such thing as "multitasking;" we're simply not doing ANYTHING well.

*To be continued in the next issue of the Forum.*

*Meg Gronau is a member of the Dayton's Bluff ECFE Advisory Council.*

### Letter to the Editor

#### East Side Takes Another Low Blow

Will the battering of our community never end?

The St. Paul Parks Department recently announced its plan to reorganize the system. As usual, the East Side was given a big slap in the face. Remember, there have already been several recreation centers closed around here—Highwood Hills, Margaret, Prosperity, Frost Lake, East View, to name a few. Now they are trying to get rid of Duluth & Case and Hayden Heights. In addition, Conway Recreation Center will be "offered up to an outside agency for programming," as the newspaper put it.

Meanwhile, in the affluent areas of the city the money saved will be used for a new trail and at least one new park in the western part of St. Paul. I realize that times are tough, but can't city government be fair for a change? Can you imagine the outcry if there were closing in, say, Highland Park or St. Anthony Park? Will East Siders finally say "enough!" and get together to oppose this savaging of our part of the city?

There will be several public meetings where you can speak out. The nearest one will be at the Phalen Recreation Center, 1000 E. Wheelock Parkway on November 8. It might help to call the Parks Department and the Mayor's office and tell our local city council members to "Save our Centers." Let's get angry and not take it any more!


G. B. LeRoy

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### Metropolitan State students live and work in Dayton's Bluff area

by Harvey Meyer

You may not notice them, but they are everywhere: Metropolitan State University students who live and/or work in the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood.

More than 200 students—211 to be exact—counted the area as their home last year. Some are long-time residents, while others are newcomers.

Take Roshell Heckendorf. She and her husband have lived in their own home on the East Side the past two years.

"It's close to the university, which is convenient," says Heckendorf, a human services major who intends to graduate from Metropolitan State next year. "We're on the bus line, there are lots of trees and a beautiful playground and park at the end of the street."

University-wide, an estimated 29 percent are students of color. But in the Dayton's Bluff area, that percentage is almost double—56 percent. It's that kind of diversity that appeals to Heckendorf.

"It's a very diverse neighborhood and I find that quite enjoyable," she says. "There are people here with lots of perspectives and they all add to the beauty of the area."

As a senior, Heckendorf is not representative of most Metropolitan State students living in the Dayton's Bluff area. A disproportionate share are freshmen and sophomores. But she is representative of the students in another respect: she is enrolled full-time at the university.

In a relatively short time, Heckendorf has become active in the neighborhood. She is doing an internship at Merrick Community Services. And she has volunteered at Merrick for a summer school lunch program for children under 18 and participated in a holiday toy drive benefiting East Side kids.

Another student, June Bennett, is charmed by Dayton's Bluff's history and diverse population.

"I really like the fact it has so many historic points of interest," said Bennett, a human resources management major who hopes to graduate in 2012. "I also like the diversity of the people and the variety of activities going on in the neighborhood."

Bennett—who hopes to launch a private day care center in Dayton's Bluff—is perhaps more well-acquainted with those activities than most. She has worked the past two years as an administration assistant for the Dayton's Bluff District 4 Council. She also regularly volunteers in the neighborhood.

The Vadnais Heights resident cherishes the neighborhood so much she plans to relocate to Dayton's Bluff.

"It's got such atmosphere," said Bennett. "You have to come to the neighborhood, walk around and experience it. I just love it."

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



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Photo by Karin DuPaul

Author Alison McGhee, October 5 book reading at Twin Cities Academy

### Business Profile Alex Bajwa, LLC

Attorney and small business advocate Alex Bajwa is changing the way Minnesotans buy legal services.

Catering primarily to young families and small businesses owners, Bajwa specializes in will and estate planning and small business planning, including incorporation and government relations. Rather than costly hourly billing, Bajwa offers his clients fixed prices for legal services.

"As a newlywed and small businessman myself, I understand the need for affordable legal services," says Bajwa. "The best part of my practice is that everyday I get to help good people plan and protect their future".

Alex Bajwa was accepted to the Minnesota and Federal Bars in 2008. In addition to being active in the community and local politics, he is the

Vice-President of the Dayton's Bluff Area Business Association ([www.Daytonsbuffareabusinessassociation.com](http://www.Daytonsbuffareabusinessassociation.com)).

Contact Alex Bajwa at 612-251-3435, or at [AlexBajwa.com](http://AlexBajwa.com).

*This is the first in a series of profiles of members of the Dayton's Bluff Business Association.*

### Rosie Johnsen – Obb's Sports Bar

Rosie Johnsen of Obb's Sports Bar and Grill at 1347 Burns Avenue was recently inducted into the Hopsy Hall of Fame at the annual Expo of the Minnesota Licensed Beverage Association (MLBA). She is one of the first women to receive this honor, which is given annually to people who have a "lifetime of achievement" in Minnesota's hospitality industry. Rosie was married to Bob Johnsen, one of the sons of Albert "Obb" Johnsen,

who started the local landmark many years ago.

Bob and his brother took over for their father after he retired and that's where Rosie's story takes off. It all started out over five decades ago when Rosie received a frantic call from her sister-in-law who was working a huge crowd at the restaurant and needed help. Although reluctant, Rosie, who was living two houses away, complied and is still working there after more than 50 years.

"I came down and never got out of here," she said. "How I ever found time to have five more children, I don't know." She was thinking about retiring when she was in her 70s, but "little did I know my son was going to get the business back, so here I am."

Rosie, now 89 years old, still works almost every day at Obbs, usually



Photo by Steve Trimble  
MLBA president Bob Marget handing the plaque to a surprised Rosie

around lunch time. In fact, the night she received the award, Rosie had worked several hours at the restaurant's annual booya and currently has no plans to retire.



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Community Leaders: Tom Dimond, Nathaniel Khaliq, Joyce Maddox, Gladys Morton, Al Oertwig, Sue Vento, Former Supreme Court Justice Esther Tomljanovich

"I am voting for Gloria Bogen because when voting for judge experience matters"  
George Latimer  
former Saint Paul Mayor

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You are invited to the  
**DAYTON'S BLUFF  
COMMUNITY DINNER**

*Everyone is welcome!*

**Friday, November 12: 6 pm to 9 pm**

*Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 674 Johnson Parkway*

**\$ 5.00 per person**



Photos by Lou "The Photo Guy"

For more information email [June@DaytonsBluff.org](mailto:June@DaytonsBluff.org) or call 651-772-2075.

We will also recognize some unsung Dayton's Bluff activists whose efforts make this a unique and attractive community. Come and Celebrating the Bluff and its people.

Prepared and paid for by Volunteers for Johnson (Sheldon) Committee; 2031 Howard St. S., St Paul, MN 55119



A Message from  
State Representative  
**SHELDON  
JOHNSON**

549 State Office Building  
Saint Paul, MN 55155

(651) 296-4201  
[rep.sheldon.johnson@house.mn](mailto:rep.sheldon.johnson@house.mn)  
[www.house.mn/67B](http://www.house.mn/67B)  
[www.sheldonjohnson.com](http://www.sheldonjohnson.com)

**Tales of Hoffman  
and Watch the Glow**

by Karin DuPaul

Dayton's Bluff Community Organizer

Friends of Swede Hollow (FOSH) hosted the "Tales of Hoffman" operetta in Swede Hollow Park on September 18. The weather was great and the operetta was delightful. Around 75 people attended the performance. The audience sat on lawn chairs and some sat on blankets near Swede Hollow Henge, as they watched the performance with a hawk soaring overhead.

During the performance, actors passed out finger foods to the audience. Performances are generally done in community gardens and parks.

The production was put on by Mixed Precipitation, a performance

initiative exploring text, space and new dramatic forms. They present entertaining, high-quality events that highlight social engagement and provide opportunities for artists to work across disciplines. Earlier this summer Romi Slowiak, Karin DuPaul and Scotty Reynolds, the executive director, toured Swede Hollow Park and Scotty decided that it would be a great place for a performance.

FOSH is looking forward to having the group back next year when Wagner's "Ring Cycle" is presented in melodramatic installments.

After "Tales of Hoffman" many people including former Swede Hollow residents and Hamm's Brewery employees attended the annual "Watch the Glow of the Setting Sun on the Red Brick Brewery" event that followed. Meeting at Swede

Hollow Henge in the park near the Drewry Lane and Beaumont entrance, visitors chatted and exchanged stories as they waited for the sun to set and the bright glow of the brewery building. And once again the sun brightly glowed on the side of the red brick brewery. After the sun set, the evening cookout and socializing began. More memories were shared of the good old days living in the Hollow and working in the brewery. Once again Joe Sanchelli and his daughter Nancy entertained everyone with Italian songs. Folks sat around the camp fires and chatted about everything from buying a house to FOSH's next projects.

FOSH is a nonprofit organization that works on Swede Hollow issues, plantings, cleanups, education, history tours, and events. Their monthly meetings are on the last Wednesday of each month generally at Water and Oil Gallery. New members are welcome. For more information email [SwedeHollow@gmail.com](mailto:SwedeHollow@gmail.com) or call 651-776-0550.

**Writers wanted  
Necesitamos escritores**



Interested in being a community journalist? Why not contribute to the *Forum* newspaper?

If you have an idea for a story or a great photo, please contact us at [edit@daytonsbluff.org](mailto:edit@daytonsbluff.org) or call 651-772-2075.

¿Interesado en ser un periodista de la comunidad? ¿Por qué no contribuye al Foro? Si usted tiene una idea para un cuento o un foto, puede contactarnos al 651-772-2075 o [edit@daytonsbluff.org](mailto:edit@daytonsbluff.org).



Photo by Karin DuPaul  
**Participants in Watch the Glow**



Photo by Karin DuPaul  
**A scene from "Tales of Hoffman"**

**What's happening at district council board meetings?**

*By Jean Comstock, board secretary*

**Highlights of the September 18 board meeting**

The following informational items were heard:

- Ralph Jacobson from Minnesota Renewable Energy reported on a new system for bulk purchasing of solar water heaters;
- Mike Rogers, Ramsey County Regional Rail Authority, summarized a study on improvements needed in rail capacity for future high-speed and passenger rail;
- Updates were given on the Arts and Culture Committee, the Beacon Bluff Community Advisory Committee, the September neighborhood cleanup and the upcoming recognition banquet;
- Paul Godfread submitted a financial report.

The board voted to accept the executive committee's recommendation for 2011 staff configuration.

**Highlights of the October 4 board meeting**

The following motions were adopted:

- to support a nonconforming use at 930 Duluth Street for an auto repair shop;
- to support a liquor on-sale license for the Mounds Theatre;
- to support a lot split at 1138/1154 Burns.

Reports were given on a grant-writing workshop and the *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* newspaper.

These summaries are not an official record of board actions. These are reflected in the board minutes.

**Upcoming regular meetings at the Dayton's Bluff District 4 Community Council office**

**Community meeting**

The next Dayton's Bluff Community Meeting is Thursday, November 4, 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 to work on community issues and let neighbors know about upcoming events.

Police and/or code enforcement officers are usually present at the meetings. Bring addresses where problems are occurring and they will check them out. If the addresses are sent to the council offices ahead of time, they can research the issue before the meeting. All Dayton's Bluff residents are welcome to attend.

Complaints can also be made by

calling 651-266-8989 or online at <http://www.stpaul.gov/index.aspx?nid=1649>. Complainants' names are kept confidential.

**Council board of directors meetings**

The Dayton's Bluff District 4 Community Council usually meets on the first and third Mondays of the month.

This month's meetings will be held on Monday, November 1 and 15, with the board meetings at 7:00 pm, preceded on the 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm by the Greenspace Committee and at 6:15 pm by the the Arts and Culture Committee.

All meetings are open to the public.

members of community council boards of directors, block club leaders and leaders of projects like buckthorn removal or community events.

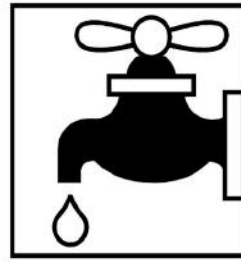
Last year the Dayton's Bluff District 4 Community Council added Stephanie Harr, Mary Ann Cogelow, and Maryann Chowen for their years of service in the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood.

The council is looking for three people in Dayton's Bluff to add to the honor roll this year. If you know of someone who has done an outstanding job of volunteer work in our neighborhood, contact information is below.

**Have a candidate for the Neighborhood Honor Roll?**

The St. Paul Neighborhood Honor Roll, started in the 1980s, consists of St. Paul residents who have done outstanding service in their neighborhoods over a long period of time. Every year, each of the 17 district councils may add three names to the honor roll. The St. Paul Neighborhood Honor Roll is located in the hallway on the third floor of City Hall.

Past honor roll inductees have contributed a variety of services and include church and school volunteers,



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[www.dbnhs.org](http://www.dbnhs.org)



**Block club meetings**

**Wilson Avenue Block Club** meets online. Contact [karin@daytonsbluff.org](mailto:karin@daytonsbluff.org) to join the group.

**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 streets. This block club encompasses Minnehaha to the north, 5<sup>th</sup> to the south, Cypress to the west and Atlantic to the east; however, all are welcome.

**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.

**Lower Dayton's Bluff Block Club** meets monthly. 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.



**Take-a-Hike November 6**

Take-a-Hike occurs on the first Saturday of most months. The next hike will be Saturday, November 6. 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.

**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 Wednesday, November 17, at 6:30 pm and Friday, November 19, at 9:30 am. The meetings are intended to listen to and address concerns about crime and other issues on the East Side.

**Home tour planning has begun**

The Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Home Tour and the Minneapolis-St. Paul Home Tour will take place on Saturday, April 30, and Sunday, May 1, 2011.

Six to eight Dayton's Bluff homes are needed and can be large or small, Victorians or ramblers or any thing in between. Homes may be works in progress or finished products.

2011 is the 15<sup>th</sup> year that the Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Home Tour has been part of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Home Tour. A few of the neighborhood homes will be also be on the larger tour, giving Dayton's Bluff increased exposure, and the brochure for the larger tour will include all local homes.

Visitors from all over the metro come each year to see the different homes in Dayton's Bluff. It's also an opportunity for local residents to get ideas on remodeling and updating.

You can nominate your own home or talk to your neighbors about getting their homes on the tour. To find out how to participate, see the contact information below.

**For more information**

For more information about any of the items on this page, contact Karin DuPaul at [karin@daytonsbluff.org](mailto:karin@daytonsbluff.org) or 651-772-2075.

**MOUNDS PARK BARBER STYLISTS**



APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE  
TUESDAY THRU SATURDAY

1043 HUDSON ROAD  
SAINT PAUL, MN 55106

651-771-6980

*Judy Lee*

**Low cost office space available**

The Dayton's Bluff District 4 Community Council is seeking a tenant or tenants to sublease a portion of its office space at 798 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street. The space includes desks, chairs, and a phone as well as access to a fax machine, copier, and a meeting room.

Two areas, separated by partitions, are available now (each about 100 sq.ft.) for about \$100.00 each per month. For more information, contact Ed Lambert at [ed@daytonsbluff.org](mailto:ed@daytonsbluff.org) or call 651-772-2075.



# CONGRATULATIONS

to the Dayton's Bluff Area Business Association for  
Their Successful "Keys to Your Community Event"  
September 14th at the Mounds Theatre



Tyler Hambin and Mayor Coleman



Business owners talk with visitors



Event organizers and business owners Tabitha DeRango, Susan Tietjen, and Colleen Mikesch with Mayor Chris Coleman and City Council President Lantry

Photos by Karin DuPaul

For more information about the Dayton's Bluff Area Business Association or to join, check out: [www.DaytonsBluffAreaBusinessAssociation.com](http://www.DaytonsBluffAreaBusinessAssociation.com)

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A Message from  
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Saint Paul, MN 55155

(651) 296-4201

[rep.sheldon.johnson@house.mn](mailto:rep.sheldon.johnson@house.mn)

[www.house.mn/67B](http://www.house.mn/67B)

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

## Metropolitan State University holds immigration forum: "SB1070, Race and the National Conversation on Immigration"

by Carla Riehle, Forum editor

Much in the news today, this topic drew some 125 people to a noontime forum at Metropolitan State University on October 6.

The meeting focused on the controversial Arizona law, SB1070, which gives local law enforcement new authority with respect to immigration law. The panel discussion addressed the historical, political, racial, and policy ramifications of the law, which has triggered a national conversation on immigrants (especially from Mexico), and the role of the state and law enforcement in immigration control.

The panelists, an attorney from Arizona, two University of Minnesota professors and the director of Waite House in Minneapolis, were all critic-

al of the effects and intentions of SB1070.

Although some of the most far-reaching parts of the law have been prevented by an appeals court from going into effect, some parts are still being enforced, such as the provisions criminalizing

transporting and harboring immigrants and those that particularly focus on day laborers.

Bustamante pointed out that 11 Latin American nations had filed friend of the court papers asking that the law be thrown out because of their view that the law discriminates against their citizens.

Erika Lee, from the University of Minnesota, herself a descendent of Chinese immigrants, drew parallels between the Asian exclusion laws of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and the current reaction against Latino immigrants. Chinese immigrants were stereotyped and arguments similar to today were made about issues of citizenship by birthright.

Katherine Fennelly, from the Humphrey Institute at the University of Minnesota, pointed out the ways in which U.S. policy has actually influ-

enced and encouraged Mexican immigration to the U.S. While trade policy has encouraged U.S. ownership in Mexico – with Walmart being the largest employer, and U.S. Bank, the largest bank, leading to small farmers and business owners thrown out of

work – there has been no change in U.S. immigration law to accommodate the new unemployed. She said that while it's suggested that such immigrants should get in

line, there is, in reality, no line for them to join. Of the immigrant visas offered to Mexican workers, only one percent is for blue collar workers.

Francisco Segovia, from Waite House in Minneapolis, said that he came to the U.S., from El Salvador fleeing its civil war, but is still unable

to obtain papers making him a legal immigrant.

He also pointed out that while then-candidate Obama never used the word "illegal" to apply to immigrants, and President Jimmy Carter actually removed the word from federal documents, the term is now back in full force – for example, the new health care bill is replete with its use.

The incongruity, he said, is that undocumented immigrants are not "illegal" because federal law does not criminalize this behavior. What states like Arizona are doing is attempting to change that, and in Minnesota, there is a bill modeled on the Arizona legislation, HF 3830, that does the same thing.

He urged that the "I-word" be dropped, and that the discussion on immigration needs be taken into the churches and other community organizations, and that we need to begin to see it as a civil and human rights issue.

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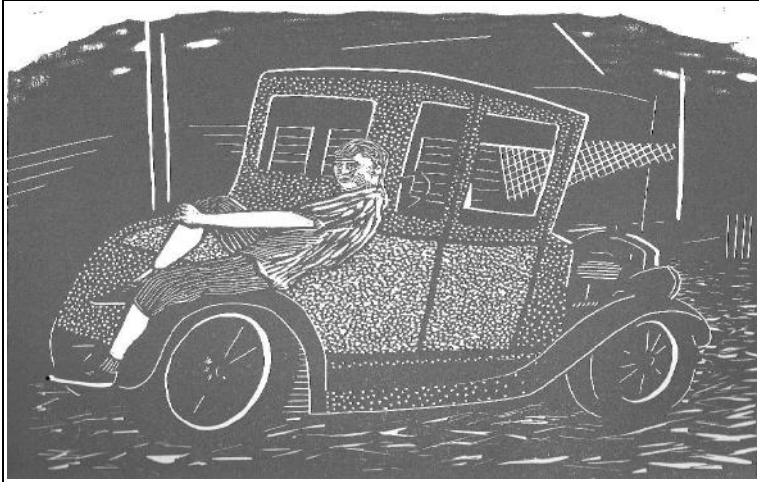


Photo by LeeAnn Machosky Pomrenke  
Skidmore Park Community Garden harvest banquet October 3

## More on Dayton's Bluff in the post World War II Era

by Steve Trimble

This will be the third look at our neighborhood in the post WW II era. It is also a preview of the major article that I will have in *Ramsey County History* magazine that will be available in November. There will be items that have not been included in the *Forum*. It will have information on the Payne Avenue and Arcade Street com-



"Red Hot Rod," a block print, based on a 1950s photo of Carol Horihan sitting on her brother's car behind their Euclid Street home. Created by artist Gary Egger.

munities as well during the 1940s and 50s. You can buy a copy of it or read it in any St. Paul or Ramsey County library. Of course, if you have personal and family stories about Dayton's Bluff in the late 1940s or 1950s, please contact us.

### Teenagers thought to be troublesome

In those years, movies like "Blackboard Jungle" fed into the belief that teenagers, often left unattended during the war years, were increasingly troublesome. The city unveiled a new plan "to combat juvenile delinquency" and to prevent the formation of groups "which spend their leisure time in rowdying and activities that are potentially dangerous." There was going to be a new youth worker at the Bluff playground. There would be dramatics and crafts for the girls. The Bluff playground, among others, tried to keep youngsters occupied with positive pursuits. Besides an area for games, it had a workshop where many a boy made a bowling pin lamp for his home.

The girls were kept busy with a basketball team, and a chorus as well as tap dance and baton twirling groups. There were also dances. According to a woman who attended them, "for the guys it was a place to stand against the wall and eventually work up the courage to ask a girl to dance," she recalled. "For the girls, it was fun to show off those special new blouses, skirts and saddle shoes, dance to the 'fast ones,' and whisper amongst themselves about which boys they hoped would ask them to dance the 'slow ones.'"

### New local institutions

There were some new responses to changing times that brought about the creation of some new local institutions. Sixty concerned East Side parents who wanted more youth activities turned out at a 1955 meeting and decided to start Parkway Little League, a baseball organization. On June 6 that year the first ball was pitched to a young batter and the group, located in Dayton's Bluff, was launched. About 200 boys took part during the season,

using temporary fields. The next year, the group conducted a door-to-door fundraising effort and bought three lots on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and two fields were graded with the support of local businesses.

### Churches continue their work

Churches continued to be important neighborhood institutions, serving the spiritual and many of the social needs of families. They needed to adapt to an aging community or chose to move away. In Dayton's Bluff, Sacred Heart remained and even dedicated a new edifice in 1951. Like other congregations, its numbers were dwindling and some members drove in to services from the newer areas of the city. One of its 1956 publications affirmed the predominately working class nature of the neighborhood.

"For the most part," it said:

"Our parishioners belong to the wage earning class of people—factory workers, laborers, tradesmen, office clerks, food purveyors, bankers, small businessmen, and a sprinkling of professional; namely, nurses, teachers, doctors—each and all earning their bread by the sweat of their brow as the Lord ordained."

Peace United Church made a commitment to remain in Dayton's Bluff, even though many felt the surrounding area was becoming undesirable. Although the church membership was beginning to taper off, they added a new Christian education wing in 1955. They also maintained their church softball team as well as volleyball and bowling teams. The determination to stay in spite of concerns may well have expressed the attitudes of many area residents. "We are surrounded by a declining neighborhood, industrial factories, taverns, a high degree of vandalism and theft and a 'no parking' situation," a church publication commented. Some people wondered why they didn't move to a "better" location. The church's response "included a number of reasons involving mission and commitment to the community . . . and the interrelatedness of our people, with pride of heritage."

### Demographics change

The demographics of Dayton's Bluff were shifting. The population started dropping significantly in the 1940s and began aging as children moved away. Many of the younger residents went into new starter homes built on undeveloped land inside the city or in the nearby expanding suburbs and often financed by the G. I. Bill. As automobile ownership increased, the local business community was affected. Increasingly, people would jump into their cars to go to one of the outlying shopping areas rather than make purchases in the local community.

The 1940s and 1950s had been a good time for the residents. Prosperity would continue for a time, even as the

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Postcard showing Hamm's Brewery as it looked in the post-war era

### Where in Dayton's Bluff?



The mystery object in last month's *Forum* was not identified by any of our readers!

If you know the location of this month's mystery object, 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* and will receive a pack of color postcards of Dayton's Bluff.

neighborhoods had to use their well-known resilience to struggle with a deteriorating housing stock, and the growth of absentee landlords and the flight to the suburbs. The community would soon be impacted by "de-industrialization" as major employers shut down or moved away and the jobs that had allowed the blue collar families to prosper would slowly disappear.

Steve Trimble researches and writes about local history.

### Free Junk Car Removal

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**Gobble. Gobble. Gobble.**

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**Now Filming: Vento Sanctuary Audio-Video Tour**

*Sarah Clark, Lower Phalen Creek Project*

Take note local history buffs, bird watchers and amateur geologists: you will soon have a new resource for exploring the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary!

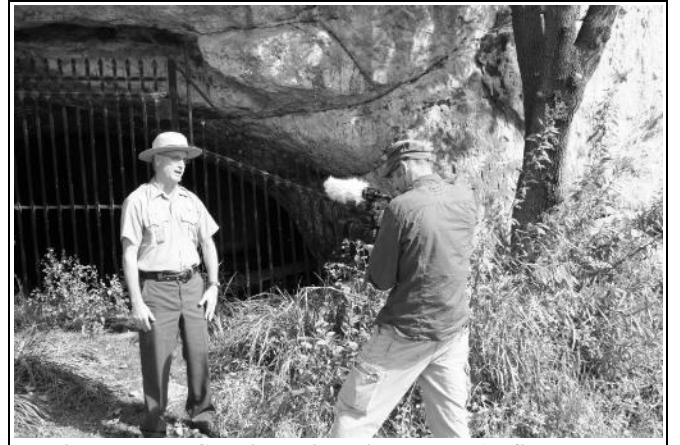
The Lower Phalen Creek Project, sponsored by the East Side Neighborhood Development Company, is currently filming an audio-video tour of the sanctuary.

The tour captures expert guides talking about the sanctuary's many ecological and cultural resources. John Anfinson of the National Park Service will share information on the site's rail, brewing and geologic history. Former Audubon Mississippi River Program Director Dan McGuinness offers an expert analysis of the land's value as a key stop on the Mississippi River flyway. Sue Vento provides an introduction, and St. Paul Parks staff describe ecological restoration. In all there will be nine stops in this half-hour tour.

The tour will be available free for downloading and viewing on your computer at home, or on your iPhone or other hand-held device while out in the sanctuary. An audio-only version will also be available.

In addition to featuring our own nationally-acclaimed city park, the tour utilizes home grown talent. Videographer Tony Andrea of East End Productions brings technical skill to the project as well as a passion for our community. A native of St. Paul's East Side, Tony's roots in Dayton's Bluff date back to the mid-1800s when his Greek and Italian ancestors settled here.

Visit the Lower Phalen Creek Project website ([www.phalencreek.org](http://www.phalencreek.org)) to find project updates — and the final product, which should be available for free downloading in early 2011. Funding for this project is provided through a grant from the Arts and Culture Heritage Fund established through the vote of Minnesotans on November 4, 2008, and administered by the Minnesota Historical Society.



**National Park Service Historian John Anfinson at the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary brewery cave**

**SOA Watch annual trip to Fort Benning, Georgia**

*by Wayne Wittman*

On November 16, 1989, at the University of Central America in San Salvador, six Jesuit priests, their cook and her daughter were brutally killed by elements of the El Salvador army. Subsequent investigations linked many of the officers involved in this atrocity, as well as many others that occurred in Latin America, to the School of the Americas (SOA) then located at Fort Benning in Columbus, Georgia.

Efforts were initiated by Latin American human rights activists to call attention to the school and call for it to be closed. Since 1995, rallies have been held around the November 16<sup>th</sup> date as people from all parts of the world have gathered in Columbus for the commemoration.

Several years ago, the SOA was closed but reopened soon after under the name Western Hemisphere Institute of Security Cooperation, now called WHINSEC. Human rights advocates maintain that the name change meant nothing, as the function of the school in training repressive forces in Latin America remains the same, and they call for it to be permanently closed.

The Peace and Justice Committee of Sacred Heart Church has been active in the support of the vigil. Francie Carr, Joan Bergman, Art Marty (now deceased) and Wayne Wittman have taken many Veterans For Peace bus trips to the rally over the years.

The bus trip leaves on Friday morning, travels all night and gets to Columbus, Georgia Saturday morning. Arrangements are made for hotel accommodations in Columbus. Participants attend many spiritual, educational and social events on Saturday afternoon and evening. On Sunday there is a funeral procession honoring some of the known victims of the military atrocities committed by the soldiers trained at the SOA.

The program usually ends late Sunday afternoon and bus riders return to their bus, spend the night on the bus and get home Monday evening.

This year the Veterans For Peace bus leaves from Saint Stephen's parking lot in Minneapolis at 8:00 am Friday, November 19, and returns on Monday, November 22.

The cost is \$200.00 for the bus and the hotel room is \$100.00, but efforts are made to arrange room sharing for up to four to a room.

Persons who wish to know more about the program can contact Joan Bergman at 651-774-0595 or Francie Carr at 651-772-4513 for information. For trip information, contact Wayne Wittman at 651-774-4008.

*Wayne Wittman is a long-time member of Sacred Heart Church.*

**Dayton's Bluff featured on TV**

Twin Cities Public Television, with funding from the Bigelow Foundation, completed two half-hour documentaries about the East Side of St. Paul last month.

Dayton's Bluff residents, organizations, businesses and others who work there are among the East Siders describing their community's history and assets.

Working with a wide range of organizations coordinated by the East-side Social Leaders Action Network (ESLAN), the documentaries focus on East Side pride and community building.

The photos accompanying this article were taken at the premiere of the documentaries held at Metropolitan State University on September 24. Some 95 people came to the event to view both documentaries, and hear from the producers and others involved in creating them. Last month, on Sunday, October 17, both were broadcast on TPT-Minnesota (channel 243 on Comcast cable). They are now in the rotation schedule for TPT and will be aired separately multiple times over the next two to three years, with statewide airings as well.

ESLAN is setting up a website later this year, with links to a wide variety of East Side organizations as part of its effort to promote positive informa-



**Photo by Lou "the Photo Guy" L to R, Betsy Leach, District 1; Ed Lambert, District 4; Lucy Swift and Steve Spenser, TPT**

tion and images of St. Paul's East Side. The site will enable visitors to view the videos, as well as assist East Side organizations get access to that portion of the TPT footage not used in the documentaries.



**Photo by Lou "the Photo Guy" District council president Chris Newton**

The launching of [www.eastsidestp.org](http://www.eastsidestp.org) is expected before the end of 2010.

For more information on ESLAN and the documentary project, contact Ed Lambert, [ed@daytonsbluff.org](mailto:ed@daytonsbluff.org), or Betsy Leach, [district1council@aol.com](mailto:district1council@aol.com).

**Dayton's Bluff District Forum**

798 East 7th Street  
 St. Paul, MN 55106  
 Phone: 651-772-2075  
 Fax: 651-774-3510  
 E-mail: [editor@daytonsbluff.org](mailto:editor@daytonsbluff.org)

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Board of Directors: Greg Cosimini, Karin DuPaul and Steve Trimble

Editor and Layout: Carla Riehle

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