

# DISTRICT FORUM

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### Census shows big changes for Dayton's Bluff

by Carla Riehle  
Forum staff

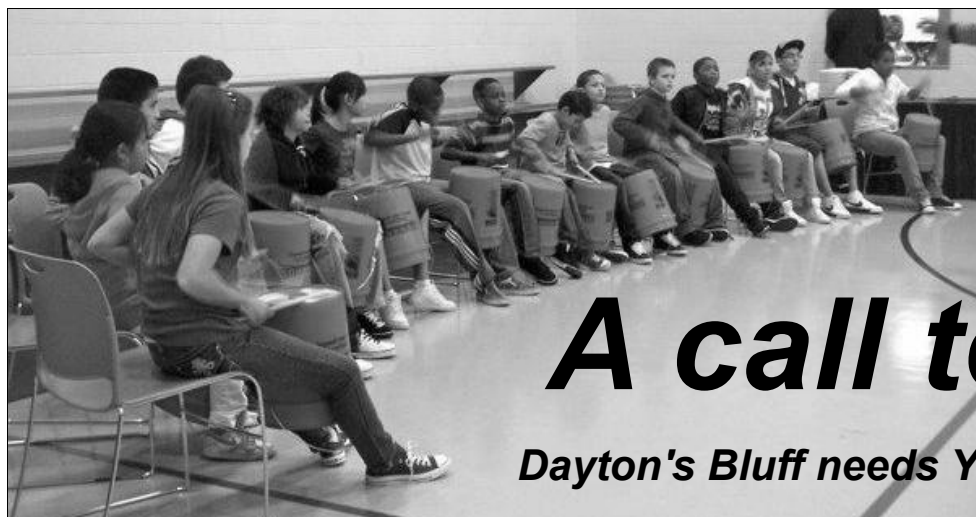
According to newly-released data, Dayton's Bluff is becoming a far more diverse place to live, a trend that has continued over the last 20 years.

Here's what the statistical analyses show for the major ethnic groupings:

Ethnicity	1990	2000	2010
White	83%	52%	40%
Asian	7%	18%	24%
Black	5%	12%	16%
Latino/Hispanic	4%	11%	15%

Dayton's Bluff residents have also become a little poorer in the last ten years. In 2009 dollars, median household income went from \$44,374 in 1999 to \$41,864 in the 2005-2009 period. The number of homeowners also dropped, after a slight increase in 2000, it went from 3,165 in 1990 to 2,691 in 2010.

The numbers were taken from the Community Data Works and Compass analyses of the last three United States censuses. The reports are linked to under the "Demographics" link at www.daytonsbuff.org.



Right: Wellstone youth drummers, led by Jamal Abdur Salaam, perform at the Oct. 17 Community Dinner at Dayton's Bluff Rec Center. For a recap of the dinner and meeting, see page 3.

Photo courtesy of Brad Griffith.

## A call to action

Dayton's Bluff needs YOU to "Make it Happen"

by Deanna Foster  
Executive Director,

Dayton's Bluff Community Council

Why do you live in Dayton's Bluff? Did you come here because you wanted to live in an historical home, or to live near downtown, or perhaps your family has been in the neighborhood for decades? Maybe you moved here because you have family or others with whom you feel comfortable living nearby and the community feels like home. Or was it an opportunistic accident when you found a place you could afford? Maybe you work nearby or own a business or go to school at Metro State.

With so many motivations bringing together the many people who call Dayton's Bluff "my neighborhood," can we find the bonds that unite us? Many believe the future economic and social vitality of any community depends on the ability of its people to work together in cooperative spirit and with common purpose.

As Executive Director of the Dayton's Bluff Community Council, I've spent a number of months listen-

ing and observing the many positive features of this community. First and foremost is the friendliness and upbeat attitude of the residents and business owners. There is an extraordinary willingness to participate in and support community improvement efforts. We have access to remarkable public green spaces in Swede Hollow Park, Bruce Vento Trail and Indian Mounds Park. The Community Design Center brings fresh food grown by young leaders from the community, Metropolitan State University brings resources through community partnerships, and the Community Council actively promotes community betterment through volunteer leadership. A large group of residents are working to bring a food co-op to Dayton's Bluff and others worked with the city to create a detailed plan for community revitalization as well as the many more things we each could name when asked about Dayton's Bluff.

I am making a call to cooperative action. Let's harness the energy of this extraordinary community and attract the resources we need to move forward

on our vision for Dayton's Bluff.

When we join all the ideas, energy and opportunities into one common purpose, the results will be far greater than the sum of the individual efforts. Let's pull together and focus the energy. For example, what if this community newspaper became the communication center for all the coordinated work happening in Dayton's Bluff? Or what if the tremendous academic resources of MSU were harnessed to help apply for funding of an array of united projects? Businesses and organizations that want to maintain or create a presence here will help drive new building and renovation efforts. We can focus strategically on bringing as many resources to our community as possible, building momentum and a true sense of possibility realized.

I want to hear from any of you who are working toward a goal that will benefit the whole community. Call me at 651-331-0914 or email deanna@daytonsbuff.org if you want to be part of the movement to *Make it Happen*.

## WANTED: DIVERSITY

### Council vacancy offers challenge, opportunity

By Avi Viswanathan  
Community Council Member

There is a currently a vacancy on the Dayton's Bluff Community Council in sub-district A (check out the map of sub-districts at www.daytonsbuff.org to see which sub-district you live in). The current members of the board have the power to appoint a resident of that sub-district to fill out the remainder of that term, which lasts until November of 2013.

With a vacancy on the Dayton's Bluff District Council, this is the perfect opportunity to start highlighting and lifting up the diversity of our community. As of the 2010 census, Dayton's Bluff is only 40% white. With a community so diverse, we need our community council to reflect that diversity. We

currently have only three board members who are people of color and we have no representation from the African American or Hmong communities, two of the largest ethnic groups in Dayton's Bluff.

But diversity does not just mean race. Dayton's Bluff also has a great deal of rental property. We have only two board members who are not homeowners. With a community of renters, it is vitally important that those interests are brought to our attention. Who can better speak to the issues of renters than renters themselves?

We also need the voices of business owners in our community. While this vacancy can only be filled by residents of Dayton's Bluff, the voice of our businesses is necessary to address many of our economic development concerns. One of the main focuses of the district council is to create a thriving East Seventh Street as the economic engine of Dayton's Bluff. Without the voice of business owners we may not have the adequate information to know what businesses need to thrive in our community.

Dayton's Bluff Community Council encourages everyone from any background who resides in sub-district A to apply for the vacancy in the board. We are inviting the interested individuals to our board meeting on **Monday, December 5** to discuss with us why they are want to serve on the board. We will then decide whether to fill the vacancy. If you or anyone you know is interested, please contact Karin DuPaul at 651-772-2075.

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Community Council  
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## St. Paul Garden Club makes a difference

by Karin DuPaul

The Saint Paul Garden Club has been working on Dayton's Bluff projects for decades. They were key to the development of Swede Hollow Park and have continued to support Swede Hollow projects. They won the Garden Club of America's Founders Award in 1977 for their work on Swede Hollow.

Over the years the club has accomplished many things for Swede Hollow Park, including raising funds for park development; designing and creating the sign at the Drewry tunnel entrance; and providing funding for plantings. Garden Club members working with Friends of Swede Hollow have donated their unneeded plants and their time to plant in the Hamm Wildflower gardens in the upper part of Swede Hollow Park. A 2011 grant provided support for new plants and flowers around the Drewry Tunnel,



Photo by Amy Middleton.

Members of the St. Paul Garden Club work on the large rain garden between Swede Hollow and the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary.

making this park entrance more inviting for visitors, and creating better habitat for birds and wildlife.

The Saint Paul Garden Club has supported/worked with the Community Design Center of Minnesota, which has offices at 731 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street and works with young people working on gardening and park improvement projects. There are seven Children's Gardens on the east side that young people work on. They have also done a lot of work at the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary and Swede Hollow Park in Dayton's Bluff.

The Garden Club has done extensive work with the Lower Phalen Creek Project on the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary projects. This includes providing funds for plant materials, planting trees, holding Sanctuary open houses, and so on. As you can see from the photo here, they also help with our large rain garden between the Swede Hollow and the Sanctuary.

The Saint Paul Garden Club has played an important role with the Flowering Business Pots Program sponsored by the Dayton's Bluff Area Business Association and the Dayton's Bluff Community Council. The Garden Club has donated funds to purchase more plants and flower pots. This is both a beautification and traffic-calming project that improves the look of the business streets.

We do deeply appreciate all of help that the Saint Paul Garden Club has given to Dayton's Bluff over the years.

## East side food co-op in the works

submitted by the Co-op Steering Committee

Tuesday, September 20 marked an exciting day as the east side community as took a small but significant step toward improving access to local, healthy, fresh food. About 80 people turned out for the first meeting of community members interested in starting a natural foods co-op here on the east side. Local resident Beth Butterfield, facilitated the meeting, while neighbor Sarah Geving took the minutes.

During the first half of the meeting, Beth discussed what a co-op is, how we get one started here, and what she and Sarah have learned in their research over the past couple of months. During the second half, there was an open Q & A time, and several attendees voiced their opinions, concerns, enthusiasm and passion for this idea. By the end of the meeting, almost 20 people had volunteered to be on the essential "steering committee" for the co-op.

The steering committee has split into sub-committees: finance, membership, and planning, and is currently looking into feasibility studies.

This is an exciting time for the east side, as positive change coming to our community, including the Payne-Maryland project, 7<sup>th</sup> Street revitalization, the retention of the French Immersion school, and now a new way for east siders to enhance their health, to keep money in the community and to gather for education, social justice and camaraderie.

Email eastcoop@gmail.com to be added to the email list. Also check www.eastsidepride.com for updates. There, you can submit your own articles or features about what's wonderful about living on the east side.

## Upcoming opportunities at... Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center

- **Weekly Senior Cards** – Seniors get together on Fridays from 12:00 - 4:00 pm to play 500. All are welcome.
- **Parent and Tot Gym Play time:** Wednesday and Friday from 10:00 am - 12:00 noon.
- **Dayton's Bluff Theater is offering a FREE family entertainment events** on Friday, December 16.
- **Open gym for teens** is on Mondays and Thursdays from 6:00-8:00 pm and for 8<sup>th</sup> grade and younger on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 6:00-8:00 pm.
- **Free Zumba class** on Tuesday evenings from 6:00-7:00 pm at Dayton's Bluff Rec Center dance room. Call 651-793-3885 for more information.
- Free Arts holds a **Teen Art Class** on Wednesdays from 6:00-7:00 pm. Come one, come all and join us in doing fun projects.
- **Eastside Kidventure** is a free program for youth K-6<sup>th</sup> grade who live or attend school on the East Side of St. Paul. Register by calling 651-487-7383. This program runs 10:00 am - 4:00 pm, December 27-30 at Dayton's Bluff Recreation center.
- **Dayton's Bluff fitness center** is now open Monday through Thursday from 3:00-8:00 pm and Friday from 10:00 am-6:00 pm. Fitness memberships are \$30 per year or \$3 per day; use them at rec centers throughout St. Paul.



# Dinner With Mr. and Mrs. Claus



Thursday, December 15, 2011  
6-8 PM  
Cost: Free

Parents – you may bring a camera to take a picture of your child with Santa!

(Participants must pre-register online or by phone at 651-793-3885)

Bring the family over to Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center to enjoy Dinner (Mostaccioli) with Mr. and Mrs. Claus. There will be activities for the whole family: Jump Castle, Arts and Crafts, Letters to Santa.



The Dayton's Bluff Rec Center is located at 800 Conway Street.

Stop by and check us out!



Photo courtesy of Stefan Pomrenke.

Eileen Tetu accepts an award from the St. Paul Fire Department on behalf of her late husband, Roger Tetu, who often picked up trash from streets and parks.

## Successful Community Dinner Oct. 17

by Karin DuPaul

The evening started off with great concert from the Wellstone Children drumming group playing the pail drums. Dinner was catered by the Dari-ette, and more delicious food was donated by the New French Bread Bakery, Bars Bakery and El Guanaco Bakery.

Following the dinner, Dayton's Bluff Community Council President Chris Newton led the annual meeting by welcoming everyone and describing the first annual Roger Tetu award, given to Tetu's family by the Dayton's Bluff Community Council. Tetu's family also received the The Citizen Citation award, given by Station 7 of the Saint Paul firefighters for Tetu's kindness to victims of other accidents in the area. Tetu died this summer after being hit by a car as he was picking up trash in the street near his home. Tetu was known for his good deeds in the neighborhood. The Roger Tetu Award will be given each year to residents who work hard at making Dayton's Bluff a better place to live.

Next, very nice spoken-word performances were given by community activists Tou SaiKo Lee and Chilli Lor. Then Dayton's Bluff resident Sherry Johnson introduced the Dayton's Bluff Community Asset Network (CAN)—connecting people with similar gifts and mobilizing that power of connection.

Following that, the annual State of Dayton's Bluff address was given by Kathy Lantry.

Deanna Foster, the Dayton's Bluff Executive Director, described the new "Make It Happen on East 7<sup>th</sup> Street" project. Then, election results were announced. Sage Holben won an at-large seat; District A: Stefan Pomrenke, District B: Angela DuPaul and Kelly Lundeen, District C: Alan Swearingen and Colin Wilkinson; District D: Alex Bajwa and Deborah Martin.

## Eastside Church News

### Two Eastside institutions join; one is created; one welcomed

by Cassandra Moe

During the November 6 worship service, members of Mount Carmel Lutheran Church passed its Paschal Candle to Saint Ourael's Ethiopian Orthodox Church, and First Lutheran passed its candle to Shobi's Table. The Paschal Candle, or "Easter Candle," is a symbol of faith and community that is usually placed in a prominent spot on the altar during worship throughout the liturgical seasons. The passing of the Paschal Candles was symbolic of several significant events in the Eastside community: the dissolution of Mount Carmel and the transfer of its ministry to First Lutheran; the relationship between Mount Carmel and Saint Ourael's; and the beginning of the new ministry of Shobi's Table.

**Mount Carmel** began in 1924 as a mission congregation of Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran, St. Paul. It was located at Earl Street and Geranium Avenue. In 2008, Mount Carmel sold its building to **St. Ourael's**. St. Ourael's dedicated its ministry at the Earl Street location in May 2009 after worshipping in a number of locations while searching for a permanent location for four years. The Ethiopian Orthodox Tewahido Church is one of the

oldest Christian Churches in the world. "It was hard to see [the building on Earl Street] sold," said long-time Mount Carmel member Marie Lorensen. "But if it had to be, it is great to see it go to St. Ourael's. They have visibility in the neighborhood. They care for the community." Mount Carmel will officially dissolve on December 31.

The November 6 service also marked the beginning of another ministry. Mark Kopka was ordained and installed as the pastor of a new mission called **Shobi's Table**. Shobi's Table developed from the *Love Grows Here Wellness Center* ministry at First Lutheran. The Wellness Center Ministry provides a variety of services to the Eastside community, including the Community Meal, Second Harvest Heartland, Metropolitan State University Nursing Practicum health care services (such as foot care and blood pressure checks), human services (such as walk-in counseling and resume building), holistic health care (chiropractic, acupuncture, Spring Forest Qigong, and Reiki healing), Ministering Angels (clothing and household goods), and transportation services.

## New Main joins Saint Paul's night skyline

by Harvey Meyer

For years now, Metropolitan State's New Main administration building has not only been the university's most visible symbol but one of Saint Paul's prominent landmarks—in the daytime. But at night? Not so much; it has largely been anonymous, in the shadows.

No longer.

Now you can literally see New Main in a new light. For some observers, the new LED (light-emitting diode) white lights illuminating the structure's two west-facing towers is like the difference between, well, night and day.

"Lighting for New Main is significantly improved," says Dan Hambrock, associate vice president for capital planning and campus services. "We've now joined Saint Paul's night skyline."

The hundreds of LED lights—compact bulbs that produce exceptionally bright illumination—enable a nighttime view of New Main from downtown St. Paul. And tens of thousands of daily motorists on I-94, U.S. 52 and I-35E can now more readily pick out Metropolitan State's signature building in the evening.

"Our primary mission was to light up New Main's exterior so the university's most visible symbol could be seen better at night. We believe that mission has been accomplished," says Robert Larson, a university development director.

The lights, tucked within four 11' X 3' sconces, enhance New Main's aesthetic appeal by casting accent lighting up and down the 63-foot towers' tan-brick façade.

Xcel Energy funded the equipment, design and installation of the \$120,000 LED light project as part of an effort to demonstrate the viability of exterior LED illumination. Ongoing electrical and maintenance expenses will actually be far cheaper than using fluorescent or incandescent lights. The LED lights are more reliable, consume far less electricity (the entire connected wattage matches four 100-watt incandescent bulbs and one 30-watt one) and last perhaps 20 times as long as incandescents.

"The real savings are in the maintenance," says Nancy Bagshaw-Reasoner, facilities director. "Much less staff time is required, because the LED lights don't have to be changed out for a long time."

Meanwhile, other energy-efficient improvements are regularly occurring across the university. For instance, metal halide lights in New Main's Great Hall were recently replaced with more efficient induction lighting. In the past year, LED lights have been installed in elevators and lower-wattage fluorescents were also installed in all St. Paul Campus classrooms and in the library.

"We're trying to be more cost-effective and energy-efficient across the board, which will reduce the university's carbon footprint," says Bagshaw-Reasoner. "We hope to raise the consciousness for what can be done and also model best practices for our East Side neighbors."

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

## ZONE in at the Dayton's Bluff Public Library

by Jodi Wittman  
Branch Manager

This December article features some new services we offer at the Dayton's Bluff Public Library.

- Do you like to watch movies, but hate long waiting lists? Use your library card to check out titles from our Rental DVD collection. Selections change daily, and we receive titles throughout the month. Fall releases in our Rental DVD collection include Captain America, Cars 2, Water For Elephants, Super 8, Crazy Stupid Love and The Help.

### RENTAL DVDS RETURN POLICY:

Charge is \$.50 from the time you check it out *until* we open the next day.

If you return it *after* we open, you will be charged \$.50 for that day also.

Dayton's Bluff Rental DVDS **MUST** be returned to our location.

- Did you know that your local library provides Notary services? Notary services will be offered until one half hour before the library closes, and depends on the availability of Notary Public staff. The \$1.00 fee applies to each notarial act per Minnesota Statue 357.17.

- Fax services are also available at Dayton's Bluff Public Library, and are accepted until one half hour before the library closes. Faxes can only be sent out. The \$1.00 fee per transmission applies to the first 5 pages. Each additional page is \$1.00.

See the Saint Paul Public Library website for additional Notary and Faxing policy information at <http://www.sppl.org/services/notary-fax-services>.

- The Saint Paul Public Library connects students in 1<sup>st</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades with reading tutors throughout the school year. Participants in the free reading programs, Read With Me and Reading to Achieve, meet one-on-one with tutors for one hour per week.

See the Saint Paul Public Library website for additional information on both of these reading programs at <http://www.sppl.org/services/tutoring>.

Be sure to stop by your neighborhood Library to use the resources, to take a quick tour, or to just say hello. We are located at 645 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street, within the University Library building. Our open hours: Monday and Wednesday: 12:00-8:00 pm, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday: 10:00 am-5:30 pm, Saturday: 11:00 am-5:30 pm and Sunday: 1:00-5:00 pm.

The St. Paul Public Libraries are in your neighborhood and online at [www.sppl.org](http://www.sppl.org).

**St. John's observes 125th anniversary**

by Greg Cosimini  
Forum staff

St. John's Catholic Church began its 125th anniversary observance on October 22 with a Mass celebrated by the Most Reverend John C. Nienstedt, Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis.

A nearly full church watched as the Knights of Columbus Honor Guard led Archbishop Nienstedt, Pastor George Welzbacher, and Deacon Ron Smisek up to the altar. St. John's choir, directed by Stephen Schmall, provided music for the High Mass. Charlotte Lawson accompanied the choir on organ. The music had a definite classical flair. Major portions of the liturgy were from Franz Schubert's *German Mass*, with additional music by Ludwig von Beethoven, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Joseph Haydn.

Archbishop Nienstedt's homily focused on the 125-year history of St. John's in the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood. He congratulated the parish for the many priests, nuns, brothers and deacons it had produced over the years and wished the congregation well as it moves forward with its merger with St. Pascal's.

The Mass was followed by a potluck supper in the church hall. Tables of food and desserts guaranteed that everyone was well fed. A history display showing all of St. John's pastors since 1886 and the original and current church and school buildings gave people plenty to talk about. Obviously no one was around from the earliest days of the parish but there were those who remembered as far back as the

1930s. Stories concerning one of St. John's most colorful pastors, Father Edward deCourcy, were particularly popular.

A booklet detailing the history of the parish and a pen with a color photo of the church sanctuary as it appeared in 1960 were produced to commemorate St. John's 125th anniversary and sold as a fundraiser. There are still a limited number of each available. To purchase either item call Carol at 651-771-3690. The history booklets are \$8 each and the pens are \$3 each or two for \$5. They would make great Christmas gifts for former members of St. John's or for history buffs in general.

Besides the anniversary celebration St. John's held a few other events in October. There were multiple fundraisers/gatherings on the weekend of October 15 and 16 that included a bake sale, a boutique and a pancake breakfast sponsored by VFW Post 1171. Then on Sunday, October 30, a going away party was thrown for Mary Smisek who had shared her musical time and talent with St. John's for many years as co-music director with her husband Deacon Ron Smisek.

But along with all the celebrations in October came some sad news. An appeal, made by several parishioners to the Vatican in Rome to keep St. John's open, was denied. As things now stand, St. John's will cease to exist no later than July 1, 2013 when it merges with St. Pascal's.

Meanwhile St. John's is continuing to look for photos, memorabilia, stories, facts or anecdotes concerning St. John's Church and School in order to put together a definitive history of the parish before it closes. Information concerning the period of 1940 through 1970 is especially needed. If you have anything you would like to share, please contact St. John's at 651-771-3690 or stjohns@stjstp.org. All photos will be carefully handled, copied and returned to the owners.

Please visit [www.stjstp.org](http://www.stjstp.org) to learn more about St. John's and its history.



Photo by Greg Cosimini.

Father George Welzbacher (left), pastor of St. John's Catholic Church, and Archbishop John Nienstedt enjoy the potluck supper that followed Mass on Saturday October 22nd. The Mass and potluck commemorated the 125th anniversary of the founding of St. John's in Dayton's Bluff in 1886.



Photos courtesy of Cassandra Moe.

**Neighborhood Business Profile**

**MIDWEST KARATE – E/B PRODUCTIONS – ACTIVE BY ANITA**

**Eastside Entrepreneurs: Joel Ertl and Anita Bendickson**

Dayton's Bluff is home to Midwest Karate, one of the most successful karate schools in the United States. The school is a traditional Shotokan Karate dojo recognized by the Japan Karate Association and was started as a branch of the Midwest Karate Association of Minneapolis in 1975. Since 1979, husband and wife Joel Ertl and Anita Bendickson have been teaching on East 7th Street. Sensei Ertl is a 6th degree black belt, and Sensei Bendickson is a 5th degree black belt, some of the highest-ranking black belts in this style.

Anita and Joel have other businesses that complement the karate school. Their video production company, E/B Productions, creates karate instructional DVD that are sold all over the world. Anita teaches self defense at the University of Minnesota and Macalester College, and well as many area community groups and corporations.

For the past several years, Anita has also been teaching yoga classes at Midwest Karate. On top of that, Anita does custom sewing with her business, Active by Anita. She makes karate gi (uniforms), yoga apparel, eye pillows, and bags of all sorts.

Midwest Karate is expanding their yoga classes this holiday season. There will be a special yoga schedule throughout the holidays, including donation classes on December 23 (cash and food donations going to Second Harvest Heartland) and December 30 (cash and cat-supply donations going to Feline Rescue).

**Gateway Corridor transit study adjusts station locations based on community input**

submitted by the Gateway Corridor Commission

Over the past few months, the Gateway Corridor study team has been busy meeting with community groups and business leaders in the Dayton's Bluff area, including the East Side Business Association and District Community Councils, to obtain input on the eight transit options currently being studied.

In response to community input, two changes have been made to proposed station locations in the Dayton's Bluff area for the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and Light Rail Transit (LRT) transit options running along the north side of I-94.

An additional station has been added along Mounds Boulevard to better meet the needs of the students and staff at nearby Metro State, along with residents and businesses in Dayton's Bluff.

The Johnson Parkway Station has been shifted west to Earl Street. The Earl Street Station provides better connections to the existing bus system and access to many residents and businesses both north and south of I-94.

Now that the routes and station locations for the eight transit options have been refined based on community feedback, the study team will begin to analyze ridership, cost and environmental impacts of all the alternatives.

The analysis will be completed in early 2012 and will be used to compare the eight alternatives in order to determine the preferred transit option for the corridor.

The results of the analysis will be presented at open houses and to community groups in the spring of 2012.

For more information, please visit [www.thegatewaycorridor.com](http://www.thegatewaycorridor.com).

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**DESEOS EN ESTA ÉPOCA.**

Que estas fiestas estén llenas de alegría y felicidad al lado de tus seres queridos. Gracias por tu patrocinio y confianza.

**Juan Cervantes, Agent**  
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### Small business classes

The Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Microentrepreneur Program is taking applications for the **spring 2012** class, which will start in **April**.

The program helps start-up and young businesses; all East Side entrepreneurs are welcome. The Dayton's Bluff Community Council and the Neighborhood Development Center have been hosting microentrepreneur classes each year since 1993.

Classroom training lasts eight weeks and includes topics such as operations management, marketing, financial management, how to create a successful business and how to prepare a business plan. In addition, each student will have eight hours of one-on-one time with the instructor to work on individual business concepts. Those who successfully complete the course and locate their businesses in target neighborhoods are eligible for ongoing business support services.

The registration fee is based on a sliding scale; class size is limited. For an application, see the contact information at far right.

### Community meeting

The next Dayton's Bluff community meeting is **Thursday, December 1, from 6:30 - 8:00 pm** at the Dayton's Bluff Community Council office, 798 E. 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 good things going on in the Bluff.

The Dayton's Bluff Community Meetings started in December of 2005. Each month, neighbors and block club members come and meet with Code Inspectors and police to help deal with neighborhood issues. When there are no issues, there are good discussions about how Code and the Police Departments work, and discussion about how to make Dayton's Bluff a better place to live. Generally, we have a code inspector on hand from 6:30 to 7:00 pm and police officers arrive about 7:00.

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. Contact [Karin@DaytonsBluff.org](mailto:Karin@DaytonsBluff.org) or call 651-772-2075.

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.

### Take-a-Hike December 3

Take-a-Hike occurs on the first Saturday of most months. The next hike will be **Saturday, December 3**. Hikers meet at **10:30 am** in Indian Mounds Park at Earl Street and Mounds Boulevard, and walk to East Side Heritage Park. The hike is about two hours (four miles) with some moderately rough terrain. Transportation to Indian Mounds Park is available, if required. All are welcome.

### Meet the police

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, December 16, at 9:30 am, and Wednesday, December 21, at 6:30 pm**. The meetings are intended to listen to and address concerns about crime and other issues on the east side.

### Friends of Swede Hollow

Meetings are on the second Wednesday of the month, generally at Water & Oil gallery, 506 Kenny Road, or at members' homes; call for location. The next monthly meeting is on **Wednesday, December 14, starting at 6:30 pm**. For more information, email [SwedeHollow@gmail.com](mailto:SwedeHollow@gmail.com) or call 651-776-0550.

### Dayton's Bluff beat phone

The Dayton's Bluff Police beat phone, 651-341-7637, is available for residents' calls.

Four officers in two police cars carry the phone from 4:00 pm - 2:00 am. Another police car will have the Dayton's Bluff beat phone during daytime hours, from 7:00 am - 5:00 pm many days.

What kind of calls should go to the beat phone? You may call about ongoing problems in the neighborhood; concerns about people in vacant buildings after 10:00 pm; police-related questions, and so on. **If you need police right away or see a crime in progress, call 911 or 651-291-1111.**

### Donate your junk car

Budget Towing of Minnesota will remove your junker and dispose of it at no charge to you. The vehicle owner receives a tax deduction, and the Dayton's Bluff Community Council will receive a donation. Call 651-772-2075 or email [june@daytonsbluff.org](mailto:june@daytonsbluff.org).

### Advertise in the Forum

The Dayton's Bluff District Forum is always in need of paid advertisers in order to keep our publication running.

Please visit [www.daytonsbluff.org](http://www.daytonsbluff.org), scroll down to the bottom of the page, and click on "Advertise," or call 651-772-2075 or email [editor@daytonsbluff.org](mailto:editor@daytonsbluff.org) for more information.

### Share your good news!

New baby? Birthday? Anniversary? Just want to tell someone you love them? The *Forum* is delighted to publish your family's and/or neighbors' good news. Submit photos and details of the happy event to [editor@daytonsbluff.org](mailto:editor@daytonsbluff.org), or mail to 798 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street, St. Paul, MN 55106.

### Tell us about your church

What is your place of worship up to? Hoping to grow? Excited about an upcoming event? Share with the *Forum* at [editor@daytonsbluff.org](mailto:editor@daytonsbluff.org).

### For more information...

...about anything on this page, contact Karin: [karin@daytonsbluff.org](mailto:karin@daytonsbluff.org) or 651-772-2075.

### "Welcome New Neighbors" Meeting

If you have a new neighbor – or if you are a newer Dayton's Bluff resident – you are invited to come to the Dayton's Bluff Community Council meeting room at 798 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street on **Tuesday, January 10 at 6:30 pm**. Come and meet other Dayton's Bluff residents and learn more about Dayton's Bluff and the opportunities here. This is one of the ways we welcome new neighbors to Dayton's Bluff. Long-time and short-time residents are welcome to come and help welcome our new residents.

When people are new in a community, they wonder where things like the nearest YMCA, recreation centers, schools, restaurants, or parks and trails can be found. The New Neighbor Welcome is also an opportunity to learn a little Dayton's Bluff history. Light refreshments will be served.

For more information or to sign up, email [Karin@DaytonsBluff.org](mailto:Karin@DaytonsBluff.org) or call Karin at 651-772-2075.

### Looking for homes for Home Tour

The Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Home Tour and the Minneapolis/St. Paul Home Tour will take place on **Saturday, April 28 and Sunday, April 29, 2012**. This home tour is of occupied homes to show visitors what it is like to live in Dayton's Bluff.

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

2012 is the 16th year that the Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Home Tour has been part of the Minneapolis/St. Paul Home Tour. A number of the Dayton's Bluff homes will be also be on the Minneapolis/St. Paul Home Tour, giving Dayton's Bluff increased exposure, and the brochure for the larger tour will include all Dayton's Bluff homes on the tour.

Visitors from all over the metro come each year to see the different homes in Dayton's Bluff. It's also an opportunity for us to show off our neighborhoods and 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. For more information, please email [Karin@DaytonsBluff.org](mailto:Karin@DaytonsBluff.org) or call Karin at 651-772-2075.

### Looking for candidates for 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 community 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 community, church and school volunteers, block club leaders and leaders of projects like buckthorn removal or community events.

Last year the Dayton's Bluff Community Council added Ali Artoli, John Barbie, and Mike Voss 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, email [Karin@DaytonsBluff.org](mailto:Karin@DaytonsBluff.org) or call Karin at 651-772-2075.

### Whoops!

Last month in our November issue, several readers noticed the typo in Steve's page 6 story about St. John's hospital. "1975" should have read "1985." Thank you for reading!

Also, Sage Holben's page 3 article about the shooting at 4<sup>th</sup> and Bates contained an incorrect date. The shooting occurred on October 26.

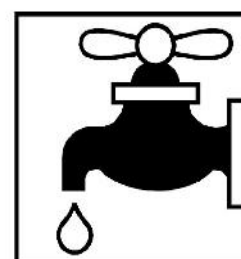
The *Forum* regrets the errors.

### WANTED: Forum Board Members/Treasurer

The *Forum* is looking for fresh faces for our board. Attend one meeting per month; contribute content or solicit ads; put in as little or as much time as you wish! Please email [editor@daytonsbluff.org](mailto:editor@daytonsbluff.org) or call 651-772-2075 if you are interested or need more information.

### Seeking donations

The *Forum* runs on a shoestring budget, but we'd be delighted if you included us in your year-end monetary contributions. If you value this community resource, consider donating a few dollars. Call 651-772-2075 for more information. And thank you!



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# Two old neighborhood schools remembered

by Steve Trimble  
Forum staff

For this month's article, I decided to try to combine three of my passions (well, maybe "interests" is a better and less dramatic word): local history, eBay, and Google. I recently made two online purchases: photographs of Mound Park and Sibley School, both located in the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood.

What I bought are called "real photo postcards" (RPPC). As opposed to printed postcards, these were made in small numbers, by a house's owners, or in this case for people who might have been involved with certain schools.

One of the reasons I wanted to do some history of these two schools is that very little has been written about them. Van Buren School, also in Dayton's Bluff, has been featured in several articles. It turned out to be fairly difficult to find information. So what you will read here is just a beginning.

## Sibley School

Sibley School, which no longer exists, was the older of the two. It was built in 1884 at 583 Frank Street and was originally a two-story structure with eight rooms. It was later added to, to hold 600 students. Most of the information found was in the searchable files of the St. Paul *Globe* and tended to be short snippets describing social and educational events of the schools.

Although limited in scope, they did provide some sense of what the schools were like between 1880 and 1920. In 1902, for instance, the newspaper wrote that "memorial services appropriate for Decoration Day were held in the Sibley School." A musical and literary program was given by the children and "addresses were made by the members of the G.A.R. and a recitation by Miss Margaret Lennon."

One of the special events, according to an 1899 article, was "Arbor and Bird Day." Sibley School celebrated inside: "each room carried out a programme of music, concluded by a talk by the teacher upon birds and trees." The kindergarteners and primary chil-

dren planted two elms. Inserting a little patriotism to the day, Miss Martin gave "an interesting talk on the sentiments of the day, told the children the story of Dewey and his wonderful victory at Manila." The United States had recently been involved in the Spanish American War and George Dewey was the naval commander who won an impressive victory over the

enemy fleet in the Philippines. Another 1899 issue of the *Globe* had the headline "Magnificent Memorial Day exercises at the Sibley School." It read: "The charming little ones did their parts well and the school and patrons present were honored by the presence of four orators." The speakers included the state chemist, an attorney, a veteran and a pastor from the East Presbyterian Church.

Sometimes the school went outside academics to teach civic duty. In 1899, Sibley students were the first in the city to have a benefit for cyclone sufferers in New Richmond. Besides songs by the sixth through eighth grades, a "Mother Goose" play was given. "The church was well filled," the *Globe* reported, "and a neat little sum was netted for the cyclone sufferers."

Sibley students still had occasional duties even after the summer vacation began. The June 18, 1889 edition of the *Globe* mentioned the formation of a "Tidy League" that had been established. One person from each room was selected and might be called during the vacation "at any time within

the summer when Mrs. Bergmeier may think she needs the help they will be able to give."

The paper also revealed that there was an active Sibley Mother's Club and gave brief notices that give an idea of their interests. At its 1899 annual meeting, about 70 women attended a talk by a member of the Dayton's Bluff Women's Civic League. There was a musical and literary program and refreshments were served.

Naturally, many of the club discussions dealt with children and family issues. At one of the meetings, two women read papers on "child discipline" and another time "demonstrations in soups" were given by several members. Other issues were broader, such as the one on "temperance and social purity."

One of the unexpected finds in a 1902 issue of the *Globe* had to do with the St. Paul Kindergarten history. It had been considered "a fad" but was now accepted and there were 27 classes, when 11 years before there had only been one. The surprise is that it all started in a small room in the Sibley School.

At the time, the paper said, "many people sniffed whenever it was mentioned." After a year's trial, however,

the approach proved its worth and by 1892 kindergarten training was part of regular teacher training. The article concluded by saying "kindergartens are good for children. They are veritable blessings for those little ones whose home surroundings are poverty stricken or vicious."

Mound Park School – yes, "Mound" (not the plural) was used. You can check it out on the front of the structure that still stands at the corner of Cypress and Pacific. It was designed by the well-known architectural firm of Buechner and Jacobson and built in 1902 out of Twin City red brick with trimmings of Kettle River stone. Its initial eight rooms had low-pressure steam heating on the gravity plan.

Unfortunately, there is not as much information as there seems to be for Sibley. Mound Park was built quite a bit later, and the files of the *Globe* only go into the early 1900s. There was some cursory information that gives some idea of the early days of the school.

The building was designed with a capacity of 450 students. According to a September 1902 article in the *Globe*, 348 students showed up the day the doors opened, and many more were admitted in the following days.

Within a few years the school was using parts of the basement for school purposes and two rooms were on half-day sessions. A school board committee was "of the opinion that additional sittings are required for this school and we recommend the purchase of four additional lots adjoining the present school." In 1910 there was finally an addition built on Mound Park School.

There were no reports in the newspaper of what happened in the classroom or parents' clubs. The only mention I could find on curriculum was an article on the increasing efforts to include "industrial work" in St. Paul schools. A September 1902 *Globe* reported that six of the eight rooms in the new Mound Park School would have some new offerings, including wood work, sewing and cooking.

While the Sibley School building has disappeared, the Mound Park Elementary School building still stands, now comprised of housing units. Sibley was merged with Deane School – another story – and they became Parkway Elementary. Mound Park and Van Buren were paired together and became Dayton's Bluff Elementary. I'm sure there are readers who have additional information, photos, or memories of the two subjects of this article. Please contact the Forum if you can add to our local historical knowledge.



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## Mound Park School

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Judy Lee

### Upcoming events at Mounds Theatre

by Raeann Ruth



#### “God bless us, everyone!”

“A Christmas Carol,” performed as a radio broadcast, will be performed live on stage at the historic Mounds Theatre this December 2nd through the 18th.

Back before television, a holiday season tradition in America was listening to “A Christmas Carol” by Charles Dickens as performed on the radio by Lionel Barrymore and narrated by Orson Welles.

Originally aired live on Christmas Eve, December 24, 1939, this radio broadcast has lived in the memories of those that heard it for a lifetime. If you want to recapture those magical days of your childhood Christmas, or have never heard it, but want to experience the magic of live radio theatre and create new memories for you and your family, “A Christmas Carol” radio broadcast will become a treasured part of your holiday enjoyment for years to come.

#### DATES AND TIMES:

Evening shows Fridays and Saturdays at 7:00 pm

December 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17

Matinee shows Sundays – 2:00 pm (December 4, 11, 18)

#### TICKETS:

\$15.00 – Adults

\$10.00 – Seniors (55 and over)/Students

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Discount rates for groups of 20 or more.

Visit our website at [www.moundstheatre.org](http://www.moundstheatre.org) to purchase tickets.



#### Ye Olde Holiday Music Concert

Come join the Elizabethan Syngers at the Mounds Theatre on Tuesday December 13 for a night of holiday music featuring well-known carols, wassail songs, and instrumental performances. The concert begins at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5 dollars, children 5 and under are free.

The Elizabethan Syngers are celebrating their 40th season of “Preserving, Promoting, and Performing Music of and Inspired by the Renaissance.”

For more information visit [www.moundstheatre.org](http://www.moundstheatre.org) or [www.elizabethansyngers.com](http://www.elizabethansyngers.com).

### Merrick food shelf moves down the block



Photo by Greg Cosimini.

Deu Lor (left), Merrick food shelf employee, and Courtney Roessler, Merrick emergency services director, take a break from preparations for the food shelf’s grand opening on November 3rd. They are standing in the wood-paneled reception area of the food shelf’s new home in the Holden Building at 1075 Hudson Road.

In October, Merrick Community Services moved its food shelf from 1053 Hudson Road to the Holden Building at 1075 Hudson. The new location has

much more room and will allow Merrick to offer more services and greater food options. The art deco style Holden Building, owned by Roger Holden since 1975, is now also home to Arlene’s Hair Fashions in the basement and has two offices available for rent. Interested parties may call 651-247-9724 for more information.



Photo by Greg Cosimini.



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**Learn about your neighbors; attend the Bridging Cultural Understanding series at Metro State**

This school year, Metropolitan State University is presenting a series of introductions to various cultural communities. Each session will cover a brief history of that month's selected culture, as well as information about traditions, names, identity, communication, family structures, belief systems, and health.

The Hmong, Latino, and American Indian cultures have already been featured. On February 8, learn about the Somali culture. Upcoming events in the series include:

- March 28: Karen Community
- April 11: LGBTQ Community

These events are free and open to the public; light refreshments or dessert will be provided. No RSVP required; Contact 651-793-1542 for questions or details. This event is sponsored by the Asian and Asian American Student Services, Diversity Learning Task Force and, in part, by student activity fees.

**Crime prevention tips**  
*by Karin DuPaul*

Over the last few months, there has been an increase in "shots fired" calls to the police in the Eastern District. When the police come to investigate, sometimes they find bullet casings and other times there is no evidence found. The callers can help by providing the police with as much information as possible. The more information you can give the police, the better. If you see people, let the police know how many, their descriptions, which way they went, the address of the house that may be the problem, and so on. In talking with neighbors, police often find that some of these booming noises are fireworks. Remember that all fireworks that boom are illegal in Minnesota.

Burglaries are another crime that had been on an increase until a couple of people were arrested. Here are some helpful hints that may help keep burglars away:

1. Keep your doors locked when you are inside or outside of your home – even if you are just in your yard.
2. Keep your valuables out of sight from doors and windows. In the evening, leave a light on when you are out. Report strangers hanging around your area. Keep your car locked at all times and do not leave valuables in plain sight. For more information about crime and crime prevention, email Karin@Daytons-Bluff.org or call Karin 651-772-2075.

**Dayton's Bluff District Forum**

798 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
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Editor and Layout: Meg Gronau  
 Next issue: February 2011. Deadline for material: January 10, 2011.

**Open House – January 14-15, 1:00-4:00 pm**



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Photo by Greg Cosimini.

It's hard to miss 1047 Hudson Road, home to Liquor Liquidator and East River Eats, with its new, bright-orange exterior. The recently-remodeled liquor store, under new ownership, offers a greatly-expanded selection of affordable quality wine, beer and spirits. East River Eats supplies food for take-out at the Saint Paul Saloon next door at 1045 Hudson Road.

**Where in Dayton's Bluff?**

The stained-glass window featured in our October and November issues was correctly identified as Bethlehem Lutheran Church (at Forest and Margaret) by Doug Nelson (former organist at the church); Robin Weinkauff-Bultmann; Della Noll of Frank Street; Sandra Lee Miller; and Brad Griffith.

The winner of the pack of postcards is Della Noll. Congratulations!

Can you identify the location of this month's mystery photo? Email editor@daytonsbluff.org. All correct responses received by midnight on January 10, 2012 will be entered into a drawing for a pack of Dayton's Bluff postcards. Happy hunting!

