

# DAYTON'S BLUFF

## District Forum

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www.daytonsbuff.org

June 2012

### Dayton's Bluff Community Council

invites all residents to participate in the first of a series of conversations about issues of importance in the neighborhood:

## Housing Forum

Tuesday, June 5, 6:00 – 8:00 pm

Dinner Served 6:00 pm

Dayton's Bluff Rec Center, 800 Conway Street

Call 651-772-2075 and leave a message telling us how many adults and children you plan to bring to supper so we know how much food to order.

We want to hear your thoughts on

## QUALITY HOUSING FOR ALL.

Help form our community vision and shape housing strategies in Dayton's Bluff.



*Make it Happen on East 7<sup>th</sup> Street* is a strategic initiative designed to jump-start revitalization and economic growth in the Dayton's Bluff "main street" business district and create a vibrant neighborhood center and a regional destination on St. Paul's East side. Through this project, we will:

- Encourage the location of new businesses that serve critical market needs
- Promote investment in the rehabilitation of existing buildings and businesses
- Advocate for pedestrian-friendly streetscape improvements, transportation enhancements and the integration of green space in all developments.

"Establishing and sustaining a healthy commercial corridor that serves the needs of residents and the surrounding region is an important goal of the Dayton's Bluff Community Council."

– Deanna Foster, Executive Director, Dayton's Bluff Community Council

Dayton's Bluff Community Council  
**Make it HAPPEN**  
 on East 7th Street Initiative

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

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Photo by Karin DuPaul

Returning this year will be the Mariachi Band, playing music near Payne and Minnehaha, enticing passersby to visit Art in the Hollow.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Art in the Hollow

Art in the Hollow is **June 2** in Swede Hollow Park, **10:00 am to 5:00 pm**. The attractions include:

- **LIVE ACTION ART:** 50 artists (including—and produced by—parrots) demonstrating & selling original work. Featuring Felice Amato, Jerome Foundation Grant recipient, who is currently working on a Swede Hollow project.
- **LEARN ABOUT** the history of Swede Hollow. City Academy students bring six characters to life in a half-hour video, running continuously.
- **EXPERIENCE** performers: 10:00 am: Mariachi Band; 11:00 am: Kids' Sing-Along; 11:30 am: Hawaiian Hula; 12:00 noon: Aztec Dancers; 12:30 pm: Mounds Indian Magnet Dances; 1:30 pm: Cambodian Orchestra; 2:00 pm: Chasing Clarence (folk/jazz); 3:00 pm: Korean Drum Troupe; **4:00 pm: "Swede Hollow," the Opera World Premiere**, created by acclaimed local composer Ann Millikan and directed by Scotty Reynolds, head of Mixed Precipitation, the group that has featured the picnic operettas.

The best way to enter Swede Hollow is through the Drewry Tunnel, which is one block south of Payne and Minnehaha Avenue at Beaumont and Drewry Lane.

Other entrances are the long stairway from Bates Avenue and Maury Street, or walk or ride your bike along the Bruce Vento Regional trail to Swede Hollow.

Everyone is welcome to this community arts festival. For more information check out Facebook: ArtintheHollow, or call 651-776-0550.

### Community Council applies for \$500,000 to upgrade East 7<sup>th</sup> Business District

by Deanna Foster, Executive Director of Dayton's Bluff Community Council

The Dayton's Bluff Community Council has applied to the City of St. Paul's Neighborhood Sales Tax Revitalization (STAR) large loan/grant program to provide monetary incentives for business owners to invest in buildings and capital improvements. A \$500,000 STAR investment on East 7<sup>th</sup> Street will demonstrate the city's commitment to the area business owners and increase their interest, expectation and engagement. All city funding requires a 1:1 match of private investment dollars, making this a \$1,000,000 investment in this important Dayton's Bluff business district. The availability of such a significant investment in a targeted area will create a flurry of simultaneous and strategically coordinated investments that will decisively impact the economic future of the district.

A March 2012 marketing study shows that Dayton's Bluff annually has \$15 million in unmet demand for food/drink and \$11 million in unmet demand for general merchandise. Market research supports our premise that significant de-

mand exists for local business growth, which is currently stifled by severe lack of capital investment. One important tool in successful local economic development strategies is significant and targeted public investment paired with motivated private investors. The result can be transformative – bringing new businesses, with local and regional customers, to strengthen the sense of pride and opportunity on the Eastside.

The *Million will Make it Happen on East 7<sup>th</sup> Street* Program, funded through Neighborhood STAR, will promote change in a strategic and meaningful way that improves the bottom line of local businesses and creates a very visible positive change for the entire community. The goals of the loan/grant program are to:

- 1) Support local business ownership of properties
- 2) Enhance visual appeal of building façades
- 3) Upgrade interiors to ensure retention of current businesses and attraction of new businesses
- 4) Improve business signage for visibility and esthetics

(See *MILLION* on page 3)

## Upcoming Events and Opportunities

Get connected; participate in community activities. [editor@daytonsbluff.org](mailto:editor@daytonsbluff.org)

### Monthly community meeting

The next Dayton's Bluff community meeting is **Thursday, June 1, from 6:30-8:00 pm** at the Dayton's Bluff Community Council office, 798 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street. The council holds a community meeting on the first Thursday of most months. The object is to work on community-building, as well as problem properties, criminal and nuisance behavior, code enforcement issues and any other issues, concerns or good things going on in the Bluff.

**When you attend the June and July meetings, you can register for a 4 CH DVR Camera Surveillance System drawing that will occur in July.**

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); 651-772-2075.

### 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).

### Take-a-Hike June 2

Take-a-Hike occurs on the first Saturday of most months. The next hike will be **Saturday, June 2**. Hikers meet at **10:30 am** in 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's next meeting will be **Friday, June 15, at 9:30 am** at 722 Payne Avenue at the corner of Minnehaha Avenue.

The second June meeting will be a potluck, on **Wednesday, June 20, at 6:30 pm**, held at East Side Heritage Park at Phalen Corridor and Neid Road. The meetings are intended to listen to and address concerns about crime and other issues on the Eastside.

### Friends of Swede Hollow

Meetings are on the second Wednesday of the month. Please call to confirm the location. The next monthly meeting is on **Wednesday, June 13 at 6:30 pm at 622 Beaumont**. For more information, email [swedehollow@gmail.com](mailto:swedehollow@gmail.com) or call 651-776-0550.

### Compass Church offers FREE summer kick-off event

Are you tired after a long school year? Are you ready for some summer fun? Come kick off your summer with community! We have the perfect event for you. The Compass Church wants to invite you to a Summer Kick-Off Celebration with free food, free games, and DJ music.

When: **June 16**

Where: Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center, 800 Conway Street

Time: **2:00-5:00 pm**

Bring your entire family. Tell your friends. Did we mention this event is free? ALL you have to do is show up and have fun. We look forward to seeing you there.

[pastort@thecompasschurch.com](mailto:pastort@thecompasschurch.com) 651-649-4466

### National Night Out Kick-off Picnic

The citywide National Night Out Kick-off Picnic will be held on Wednesday, June 6, 2012 at Phalen Park Picnic Pavilion from 6:00-7:30 pm. St. Paul residents are welcome to get information on the National Night Out planning process in your neighborhood. National Night Out is on Tuesday, August 7 this year. Some neighbors celebrate with a cookout in their yard; others have a large party in the street with a band.

For some people, National Night Out is the only time neighbors see each other. The National Night Out Kick Off Picnic features hot dogs, chips, cookies, and beverages—all free while supplies last! You are welcome to bring a picnic dinner for yourself if you prefer. Register for door prizes at the picnic. The door prize drawing will take place during the picnic, and all winners must be present at time of drawing. For more information email [karin@daytonsbluff.org](mailto:karin@daytonsbluff.org) or call Karin at 651-772-2075.

### Dayton's Bluff Arts and Cultures Committee Explores Neighborhood Restaurants

The Dayton's Bluff Arts and Cultures Committee holds its monthly meetings at local restaurants to get out of the office and into the neighborhood. Last month we met at Obb's Bar and Grill and discussed the successful Immigrants Rights March on May 1, which was endorsed by Dayton's Bluff Community Council. Join us for our upcoming meeting when we will continue discussion of Art in the Hollow and future events. Meet us on **Monday, June 11 at 6:00 pm** at La Cabaña Restaurant at 863 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street.

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

#### ● Parent and Tot Gym Play Time

This unstructured drop-in time is for parents or daycare providers and their children to play in the gym. It is only on Wednesdays and Fridays from 10:00 am-12:00 noon.

#### ● Teen and Youth Open Gym

Open gym space for teens and youth to participate in basketball, volleyball, dodge ball, etc. Teens age 13-18 must show a school ID to participate. Call 651-793-3885 for information.

#### ● Free Zumba class on Thursday nights from 6:00-7:00 pm in the Dayton's Bluff Rec Center dance room.

#### ● Bluff Club (ages 11-14): Make a difference in your neighborhood. The Bluff Club helps out at holiday parties and special events selling concessions and participating in teen opportunities! Meet on Thursdays from 6:30-7:45 pm.

#### ● Free Summer Lunch program will be offered again this summer for kids 18 and under from June 12 - August 24. We will offer hot lunch from noon-1:00 pm and snack from 4:00-5:00 pm.

#### ● Night Moves Basketball League at Harding High School

There will be two leagues consisting of six teams each on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Registration and player drafts will be June 19 and 21. After the first night, additional players will be accepted if roster space is available. Night moves will be held at the Harding High School field house. If you have questions, please call Dayton's Bluff Rec Center.

#### ● Art: Beading Bonanza for Parent & Child

Join us in this intergenerational beading class, where children and their parent/guardian will make a variety of beading projects using wide assortment of beads! Class begins Tuesday, June 19 from 5:30-7:30 pm. Fee is \$1/class.

#### ● Fall sports registration July 9-20

We will be registering for soccer and flag football at the Dayton's Bluff Rec Center. Tackle football registrations will be at Conway Recreation Center (Harding Area) 651-501-6343 or Wilder Recreation Center (L.E.S.) 651-298-5727.

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

#### ● Rockin' Eastside 5k

Sunday, July 29 at Phalen pavilion. Race begins at 8:30 am. \$25 registration fee includes a shirt and a drawing for door prizes. For more information please call 651-793-6600 or visit [www.stpaul.gov/parks](http://www.stpaul.gov/parks).

**Stop by and check us out!**

**The KEYS Project is coming to Dayton's Bluff**

*by Raeann Ruth*

The KEYS Summer Program at the Historic Mounds Theatre is a five-week theatrical extravaganza for youth in grades six through 11 that offers experience in all aspects of theatrical production. Students will learn the basics of scene creation, costuming, make-up, and sound and light engineering. Sessions run **Monday through Thursday from 8:30 am-1:00 pm.**

For \$60, your child will be led on an enchanted journey through everything "Theatre" including improv and dance. Scholarships are available. Free breakfast and lunch will be served daily.

The program begins **July 9** and runs Monday-Thursday until **August 9**, with a community performance on **Saturday, August 11 at 6:00 pm.**

Application deadline is **Friday, June 22.** To register for summer camp, go to the KEYS website: [www.moundstheatre.org/YouthTheatre.html](http://www.moundstheatre.org/YouthTheatre.html).

Or call for a registration form at 651-772-8674.

**"The Joe Hill Story" premieres at the Mounds Theatre**

*by Raeann Ruth*

The Rosemount Players, in collaboration with the Historic Mounds Theater, presents a Rosemount Area Arts Council production of "*The Murdered Minstrel of Toil: The Joe Hill Story*," written and directed by Keith Reed. This is the world premiere of an original play: a dramatization of the life of Joe Hill, an early 20<sup>th</sup>-century labor activist, who reached laborers through song. Framed for murder, he was executed in Utah in 1915.

When: **June 15, 16, 22 and 23\* at 7:30 pm**  
**June 17 and 24 at 2:00 pm**

Tickets: \$14.00

\*Saturday, June 23 is a "pay-as-you-are-able" performance.

Where: The Historic Mounds Theatre, 1029 Hudson Road, St. Paul, MN 55106

One very basic right we have always enjoyed in this country has been the right to work. Unemployment is high; while progress is being made, this extended period of high joblessness is accompanied by a very tenuous political situation, both at the state and the national level. No one wants to take responsibility; everyone wants to lay blame. Suffering the brunt of this is the unemployed worker.

Forgotten, indeed in many cases considered a pariah, is the labor movement. Terms such as "inflated union wages," "protected employment," and "obscene union benefits" are used as taglines by some to describe why the state of the economy is where it is today. Forgotten, of course, are the contributions unions have made over the past 150 years, which have led to safer working conditions, institution of child labor laws, fewer hours a person must work to maintain a living standard, and higher wages for all.

Sometimes, people need to be reminded of the sacrifices and contributions made by those who helped bring these changes about. That is the purpose of this project.

**Neighborhood News**

What's happening in our neighborhood? Submit your own news at [editor@daytonabluff.org](mailto:editor@daytonabluff.org)



Photo by Deanna Foster

Metro Liquor Warehouse, pictured above and located at 854 7<sup>th</sup> Street East, along with Swede Hollow Café, would benefit from Neighborhood STAR funds.

**MILLION (continued from page 1):**

- 5) Provide remediation, repair or replacement of highly visible damage or blight
- 6) Encourage shared parking, increased parking lot efficiency and landscape amenities.

It is estimated that within three years the program will provide:

- 2 local businesses with acquisition assistance
- 5 façade improvements (adding 2 jobs)
- 5 interior improvements for new businesses (adding 12 to 18 jobs)
- 2 interior improvements for existing businesses (adding 3 new jobs)
- 10 signs installed (adding 3 new jobs)
- 2 blight removal or repair
- 2 parking lots improved
- 3 shared parking arrangements

The Neighborhood STAR Board, made up of St. Paul residents appointed by the Mayor, will be making recommendations to the City Council and Mayor in June. Support this important project and watch these pages for continuing updates.

**Dayton's Bluff Community Forums**

The Dayton's Bluff Community Council is planning a series of community conversations around issues that impact everyone who lives, works and does business in Dayton's Bluff. As a community, together we can define the core values that will shape our future. The differences among us add to the creative quality of ideas and strategies; the shared values we hold motivate our common action. Together we can continue to enrich the quality of life for everyone in Dayton's Bluff.

The first of the series' topics will be Housing, followed by such conversations as Transportation; Commercial Opportunity; Green Space Amenities; Healthy Living, etc. The Council will sponsor the Forums around issues that are determined to be high-interest and -impact for the neighborhood's future.

Housing is a very important issue for Dayton's Bluff. It is hard to ignore the regular news stories about housing challenges all across our country. But what's the truth about the housing situation here in Dayton's Bluff? How are housing issues affecting our schools, our neighbors, and our community? How can we create a strategic housing plan that ensures a strong, vibrant future for Dayton's Bluff?

Help us begin a community conversation around housing. Get an update on the current status of housing in Dayton's Bluff. Hear personal stories about the impact of housing issues on our schools and neighbors.

Join us at the Housing Forum **Tuesday, June 5, 6:00-8:00 pm at the Dayton's Bluff Rec Center, 800 Conway Street.**

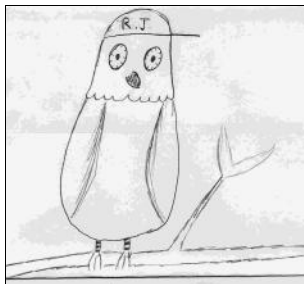
A free dinner will be served at 6:00 pm; please call 651-772-2075 to reserve your spot. Then join the conversation by sharing the core values which you think should help shape future housing strategies for Dayton's Bluff.

**Spaghetti and music for senior benefit**



Photo by Karin DuPaul

On April 21, the Dayton's Bluff Seniors raised funds with a spaghetti dinner and the band, The May North, entertaining at First Lutheran Church.



**Eagle eye**

Who's this little guy? Why, it's R. Little Eagle, drawn by Community of Peace student and Dayton's Bluff resident Jude, age 10. Check back next month and follow the adventures of R. Little Eagle.

**MOUNDS PARK BARBER STYLISTS**



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Photo by Alicia Runquist

The "Voices for Children" Rally Day event was held at the Minnesota State Capitol on Tuesday, April 24. Members of Dayton's Bluff Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) were able to catch State Senator John Harrington for a quick photo.



Photo by Karin DuPaul

Vacant Home Tour ambassador Colleen Ashton and Realtor Seanne Thomas talk with visitors to the Brownstones overlooking Swede Hollow Park during the Vacant Home Tour.

### Turning lives 180 Degrees

by Sherry Johnson, special to the Forum

180 Degrees, a company that assists adults and youth to transition out of the justice system, moved into the old Martin Lumber building on 7<sup>th</sup> Street and Johnson Parkway last November with leadership planning to develop the site to better accommodate and expand their many programs.

The 180 Degrees main building largely houses counseling and employment programs for offenders and their families, according to their guiding principle: "Turning lives around to ensure safer communities." Case managers, job trainers, counselors, and mentors from the community come alongside ex-offenders—as well as those at risk for entering the juvenile justice system—to help them make healthy lifestyle changes and find success. Their Juvenile Delinquency Unit seeks to reduce the number and the length of out-of-home placements, ensuring their continuing connection to family and community supports, and encouraging adaptation to healthy lifestyles within their contexts. Their juvenile recidivism rate in 2005 indicated that 80% of program participants did not re-offend.

"I will be involved in the community we serve, as I have been all my life, leading by example in building a safer society by helping offenders rebuild successful lives," CEO Richard Gardell wrote when he joined the organization in 2006, after retiring from his position as Assistant Chief of the St. Paul Police Department. 180 Degrees chose its East Side location with an eye on serving the community, as well as connecting more easily with its East Side clients. According to Sarah Walker, Chief Operating Officer, there seemed to be a dearth of transitional services for clients in the justice system on the East Side.

Walker described many "community members stopping by" in welcome.

Gardell said that 180 Degrees "plan(s) on being here for the next 100 years."

Dayton's Bluff will see major improvements to the former Martin site. Plans call for a local eyesore—Building 1—to be razed to make way for newly constructed office and program space. On their wish list for the new building is a youth crisis center, which Walker cited as a huge need in Ramsey County.

Gardell was proud to say that "We're raising funds as we go," explaining the importance of sustainable growth. When funds allow, a parking access would be built between the two main buildings, and perhaps a greenspace on what is now the "dustbowl" of English Street—currently a gravelly mess that serves as an alley. The old Martin office would house a wood shop for teaching building trades to ex-offenders. An urban raised garden would engage juvenile ex-offenders in gardening and healthy eating, while an indoor recreation area will provide continuing opportunities to play year-round sports, which is good news for their championship basketball team. Other spaces will potentially house retail storage for the public.

Already, nearby resident Heidi Graff has seen positive change in the neighborhood. Before 180 Degrees moved in, the vacant site drew "a lot of traffic, violence, a lot of bad things...Now there's less traffic; kids can play outside without a problem."

Dayton's Bluff residents can get involved with 180 Degrees by applying for training if they'd like to join their volunteer mentorship program. Neighbors can support their effort to green up English Street by signing an upcoming petition.

Alternatively, 180 Degrees takes an activist role in affiliating with the Minnesota Second Chance Coalition. According to their website, the coalition advocates "for fair and responsible laws, policies, and practices that allow those who have committed crimes to redeem themselves, fully support themselves and their families, and contribute to their communities to their full potential."



Photo courtesy of 180 Degrees

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



**NeighborWorks**  
CHARTERED MEMBER



## News from the home front by Karin DuPaul



Photo by Karin DuPaul

The 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual St. Paul Heritage Preservation Award was presented May 15. The Vote of Confidence Award was given to Michael Taylor for all of the beautiful work that has been done on her home at 672 Greenbrier. The house was built in 1891 for the Otto Muller family (one of the Hamm Brewery families) and designed by architect Augusta Gauger.

## Minneapolis/St. Paul Home Tour

Hundreds of people toured nine homes in Dayton's Bluff on April 28 and 29. Visitors included Dayton's Bluff residents as well as people from all over the Metro area. Many visitors attend the Dayton's Bluff Home Tour every year to see our wonderful homes and visit with Dayton's Bluff residents. The tour featured a variety of house sizes and styles. Visitors admired beautiful woodwork, large-scale home restorations, and leaded glass, among other period features. Three homes—formerly vacant—had been beautifully updated by Marpe Development. Some homes on the tour had over 400 visitors during the tour. Thirty-nine volunteers helped make the tour run smoothly; special thanks goes out to those volunteers—some who return to help every year—and to the home owners who opened your homes on the tour.

Planning for the 2013 Home Tour has already begun.



Photo by Karin DuPaul

Vacant Home tour visitors leaving the bus and rushing to the next home on the tour.

## Vacant Home Tour a Success

On Sunday, May 6, visitors flooded into the Dayton's Bluff Community Council meeting room at 1:00 pm, anxious to see the vacant homes on the tour. The bus was full and off they went to see the homes. Just as they were on the Minneapolis/St. Paul tour, the three Marpe Development homes at 868 Fremont, 336 Maple, and 314 Bates were favorites. Because of the beautiful job of restoration on them, 868 Fremont and 336 Maple have sold, and 314 Bates has a pending offer on it. At last report, two other homes featured on the tour have very interested parties looking at them.

The Dayton's Bluff Vacant Building Committee's vacant home tours have been very helpful in getting new families into the homes. The committee will be evaluating the tour to look at the possibility of holding another one in the fall or next spring. Thank you to everyone who helped make the Vacant Home Tour a wonderful success. The Vacant Building Committee is looking for new members. If you are interested email Karin at [karin@daytonsbuff.org](mailto:karin@daytonsbuff.org) or call her at 651-772-2075.

## Graffiti no more

*by Tabitha Benci DeRango, Arts and Cultures Committee  
Business Outreach Coordinator for Make it Happen on East 7<sup>th</sup> Street*

I could agree that not all of the graffiti is lacking in artistic ability. I've even had a business owner say he'd like to connect with a particular artist and have him do some appropriate mural work on his building. But these shadowless individuals come and go so quickly, always unseen and leaving behind the color choice of the day in what most of us would describe as unreadable script.

I think we could all agree that we wish this marking of our neighborhood would cease, although in reality, we know it will continue. For the most part, it is understood that graffiti present on the streets of our neighborhoods presents an air of unease. It is not welcoming to patrons of our business district, and for the most part, a complete nuisance behavior that becomes hard to deal with consistently.

There is a process to reporting and cleaning up of this particular art form. Each of you can help to clean up our streets by reporting the sites to the city that has a department to handle this issue. Sending in digital photos of the locations is also very helpful but not a necessity. Online, you can find the city of St. Paul at [www.stpaul.gov](http://www.stpaul.gov) and use the tabs to select and report a problem. A form will appear to let you choose the type of issue. Check graffiti and give a good description of location and submit. Call code enforcement at 651-266-8989, and they will direct you to the appropriate persons.

Here is what happens next: The city issues a letter to the owner of the property or structure asking that they remove the graffiti or send in a waiver that allows the city to come around with a paint van and paint over the site. If you do not send in the waiver and/or remove the graffiti, the city will then take steps to fix it and may be able to charge the owner for this service. However, anyone may submit the waivers at anytime and once on file it covers you for all instances in the future.

There are some owners who prefer not to use this option because of the materials of their buildings or to insure exact paint matches. I want to be clear that the property owners are just victims of circumstance and in no way to blame for being targeted for design. It can become very frustrating to have this problem over and over again. I appreciate the diligence of individuals on clean up efforts to insure a beautiful presence in the neighborhood.

The city Graffiti department has been hard at work with us to keep our streets free of graffiti. I hope you have all taken notice of the absence of it on our streets lately. Our job is to let them know when graffiti shows up on our streets and structures. By each of us helping to inform the city of the violated sites, we take part in creating an inviting, beautiful place for all of us to enjoy and explore.

Thank you for participating and taking pride in the East Side.

## Letter to the editor

### An attack on our right to eat

As more and more of our liberties and rights are under attack, one that should concern us all is in the area of food freedom. We might not all be passionate about local, sustainable food, but we all eat. Henry Kissinger said: "Control oil and you control nations; control food and you control the people." What follows is an unfolding story that that shows clearly how advanced this attack is and it is happening right here in the Twin Cities. Here is Alvin's story:

Alvin Schlangen is a peaceful farmer and volunteer manager of Freedom Farms Coop (FFC). This venture serves to connect people with the food sources that meet their high standards for health by providing private access under lawful ownership of farm animals for dairy food access: This is sustainable farming in reality: where the value of food supports the cost incurred, without government subsidies or harm to the environment.

On June 15, 2010, The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) brought armed police and inspected, closed, and embargoed the Traditional Foods Warehouse in Minneapolis, of which Alvin had recently become co-owner. The Warehouse was members-only and contained food from local farms. In addition the MDA illegally trespassed, without warrant, on Alvin's personal property space in this same building and removed records and food samples. The results of this illegal search and seizure resulted in the MDA obtaining a search warrant eight days later and searching and embargoing the Schlangen farm.

On March 9, 2011, Alvin's van was blocked by the MDA, again with armed police, while he was delivering his eggs to college students at Macalester. The MDA illegally entered the van without warrant, then, after visual inspection, called for a warrant to search, and seized the food inside that was owned by private food club members, towing the van to the MDA Complex for dissemination. The same day, they used the van raid to get a warrant to search the private space that Freedom Farms Coop leased at the Traditional Foods warehouse, raided and removed food and packing materials; the total value of what was taken that day exceeded \$5,000. If an individual had stolen what the MDA did that day they would be charged with grand larceny. Commercial food handling is controlled by statutes that define how our food regulators keep track of food in each state. These statutes pertain to Uniform Commercial Code and do not apply to our private food supply (like you, picking up a loaf of bread for your neighbor and being repaid for it). What Alvin is doing is simply not any of the government's business.

Instead Alvin was charged with four counts of criminal misdemeanor food handling without license and related issues, for his efforts to supply quality farm foods to his community and the growing number of Minnesotans who desire real milk and, more importantly, desire their autonomy to choose their own foods.

There is now a June 23 case scheduled regarding the farm raid that involves another six counts. A third action in administrative court includes 11 counts. It is obvious that there is an agenda to bury this farmer—and all of our rights—for a long while.

If you care about food rights, please show you are aware of what's going on by signing the following petition: [www.change.org/petitions/big-government-persecution-of-small-farmer-alvin-schlangen](http://www.change.org/petitions/big-government-persecution-of-small-farmer-alvin-schlangen). Learn more and get updates at [rawmilkfreedomriders.com](http://rawmilkfreedomriders.com)

*Natasha Simeon*

The following two articles are part of a series of profiles of the members of the Dayton's Bluff Community Council.

## Alex Bajwa – Champion of Dayton's Bluff

by Danny Evans, Forum intern

Dayton's Bluff is a cornerstone for the city of St. Paul. It takes great people to run and live in this community to make it successful. Alex Bajwa, a member of Dayton's Bluff Community Council, loves this community and is glad that he is a member of this historic area.

Alex is passionate about his community and likes "the unique and local businesses and the diverse area. It is beautiful, and easy to get to downtown, and it is the hidden jewel of St. Paul."

He went on to talk about how he came to live in the community he loves so much. "I met my wife, and she already lived over there. We got married, and she owned a house. So we moved there."

Next Alex discussed what he

would like to work on as a board member of the DBCC. "I am excited about... 'Make It Happen on 7<sup>th</sup> Street.' I also want to bring small businesses back to the East Side. I want to help with marketing and other improvements; I really desire to work on things that really make a community look good."

Finally, Alex talked about what he would like Dayton's Bluff to be like in the coming years. "I would like it to retain the character it has. I would like it to be known that it is a great place to live, to do business, and to play."

Whether you do business in Dayton's Bluff or live there, you will realize that it is a great place to be, and Alex Bajwa knows this well.

## Raising up Dayton's Bluff: Tabitha DeRango

by Danny Evans, Forum intern

Dayton's Bluff is a community filled with history and culture. People of many different ethnicities inhabit this great neighborhood. There are numerous diverse places that are open for business including churches, schools, restaurants, and many more. Also in Dayton's Bluff are members of the Dayton's Bluff Community Council who love this area of St. Paul and desire to make a difference here. One of those council members is Tabitha DeRango, who adores Dayton's Bluff.

When asked what she liked most about Dayton's Bluff and why she moved her, Tabitha declared, "I chose to move to Dayton's Bluff because it's close to the city. It has a great art culture. I picked St. Paul because of the old world style and the history of the neighborhood. I love the community feel. There are dedicated people who want to make the community better. It is a big city but doesn't feel like a big city." Tabitha also discussed how she opened a daycare in her house entitled Bluffside Daycare. She opened her business in 2004 and was able to stay at home and still raise her children. Tabitha said, "I decided to close the business because I decided to switch careers to community organizing and development."

Later Tabitha talked about why she wanted to be on the community council and what things she would like to work on as a board member of the DBCC. She stated, "I feel invested in my community and make good decisions in my community. I had already worked with several areas of the council and wanted to get more involved. I am involved with the marketing and communications committee, arts and culture committee, and I keep informed about what all the committees are doing. I tend to get involved with event planning for the community."

Tabitha discussed what she would like to see Dayton's Bluff be like in the next several years. "We are working on the Make It Happen on East 7<sup>th</sup> initiative. I would like to grow and revitalize this business district. In addition I would like to have pedestrians using it. I also desire for Dayton's Bluff citizens to have access to services locally. There should also be beautification before 2015," she said.

From running a daycare to being a member of the Dayton's Bluff Community Council, she is making a difference in this great community. Besides raising her children, she is also raising the neighborhood of Dayton's Bluff.

## For three Dayton's Bluff teens, bikes mean freedom, friendship

Reprinted with permission from TC Daily Planet, May 1, 2012

by Jeanette Fordyce

Last May, three teenagers from Dayton's Bluff wanted to save money by fixing up their own bicycles. One year and 12 bikes later, they want more bicycles to renovate for selling.

Sixteen-year-old Jose Cruz from Johnson Senior High School is very proud of his chopper. "When I ride my bike, I forget everything," said Cruz. "I get to travel and it is freedom."

"There is no stopping with bikes," said Pedro Garcia, a 14-year-old student from Humboldt High School. "I ride in the winter and have tried pulling a sled with my bike."

Last May, three teenagers—Cruz, Garcia, and Riley Soeffker, all from Dayton's Bluff—started renovating abandoned bikes at a garage at 4<sup>th</sup> Street and Bates Avenue. They wanted to save money and have the freedom to travel. They all live within blocks of each other.

"We find abandoned beat up bikes, bikes thrown in dumpsters or the junk man gives us parts or bikes," said Soeffker, age 14, a student at Central High School. "We shine up the chrome,

bicycles with shiny rings, tags and even mounted MP3 speakers.

Last summer, the teenagers helped with a neighborhood bike competition. Two residents, Kari Soeffker and Sage



Photos by Jeanette Fordyce

Jose Cruz is one of three teens who work together on bikes.

paint and repair." They have worked on 12 bicycles this past year, selling bikes to neighborhood kids for \$5 to \$10. The teenage bicyclists like jazzing up their

Holben, organized the one-day event that included a large mural painted at the intersection of 4<sup>th</sup> Street and Bates Avenue. Dayton's Bluff Community Council donated the paint. Children painted a design of local businesses: Swede Hollow Cafe, Roy's Auto Service, Phoenix Market; and included the Hamm's bear, the Mississippi River and flowers representing their neighborhood garden tour.

Ten adults lined the route as 15 kids

raced their bikes through the hills of Dayton's Bluff over 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Maple Street, and Maria Avenue. "We are hoping to do it again this summer," said Kari Soeffker, who is Riley's mother.

For the future, the teenagers keep dreaming about a building at 7<sup>th</sup> Street and Bates Avenue, known as Budget Tires. "We want to call it 'The Garage' and have it open for youth to come to learn all about bicycles and just hang out," said Cruz.

"We need to learn more about gears, permits and putting codes on bikes," said Riley Soeffker. "We need a new air compressor. The one we have now blows fuses." They need buyers for the repaired bicycles, at \$5 to \$30 per bike.

When asked what advice they would give other teenagers about working with bicycles, Soeffker said, "Be organized. You can spend a lot of time just looking for your tools." Cruz commented, "Take yourself seriously. Be proud of what you are doing." Garcia said, "Work hard and be creative."

"None of them have their driver's license as yet," said Kari Soeffker. "I'm hoping that this won't affect their interest in bikes."



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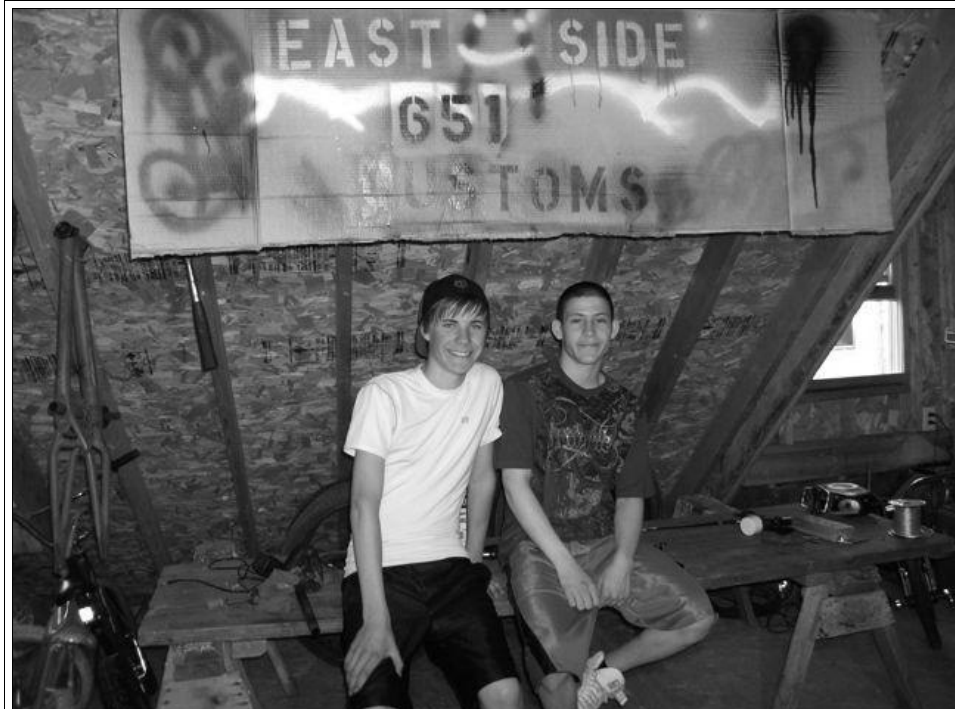


Photo by Jeanette Fordyce

Riley Soeffker and Jose Cruz in the bike shop.



## History corner *by Steve Trimble*

### Remembering Walter “Moose” Moryn

The Minnesota Twins are obviously not having a memorable start this year. It makes a person want to look back in the past to find some better baseball times. That's what I've done. While researching the story of Henry Gehring in the last issue of the *Forum*, I ran across yet another great athlete who once lived in Dayton's Bluff and hoped for the best.

His name was Walter Joseph Moryn and he was born on April 12, 1926. Walter's father, Edward, the son of Russian immigrants, was born in St. Paul and earned a living working for the Omaha Railroad Company. Walter's mother, Sophie Dwuznik, was also born in St. Paul to parents who had emigrated from Poland. She was working in a meat packing plant when she married Edward Moryn.

By the time Walter was around five years old, they family moved from the West Side to 1058 Hastings (today's Old Hudson Road) where the family lived for many years above the Johnson Grocery store. One author mentioned that he played baseball on a St John's baseball team, but there is both a Catholic and a Lutheran church with that name in Dayton's Bluff.

I turned to Greg Cosimini, unofficial historian of St. John's Catholic Church, to check out their archives. He found records showing that the first communion of Walter and his sister Mary Jane occurred on May 26, 1935 and that they were definitely members of the congregation.

Mary Jane said in an interview that as Walt grew up “baseball was his love” and “he'd sneak out of the house to play.” She added that “even I would even play with them when they needed players.” While she concentrated on her homework, Water was not really interested in academics.

I thought that Walter may have gone to Harding High School, formerly at the nearby corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> and Earl Streets. So I was off to the school's present location to see what I could find. I knew that he had gone into the Navy at the end of World War II and there, in the 1944 school yearbook, was Moryn's senior portrait.

The annual included a bit of information about the Dayton's Bluff resident. The blond 6' 2" boy's nickname was “pole;” his favorite food was T-bone steak; a frequently-used phrase of his was “that's the way.” His hobby was sports; he “likes to dance, skate, hike and swim,” and “enjoys listening to Red Skelton.”

The 1944 Harding student newspaper *The Beacon*, archived at the Minnesota Historical Society, was helpful. In February, it showed that Walter was also skillful at basketball: “Wally Moryn, rangy pivot man, leads the Maroon regulars in individual scoring...his value to his team was unquestionable.”

Besides being an outfielder and powerful hitter, “Sonny” (as he was sometimes called) was an accomplished pitcher. He threw right-handed and batted left. In 1944, *The Beacon* said he “burned up the conference with his spectacular, sturdy brand of ball.” That year he made St. Paul's City All Star Team.

A March, 1944 issue had a lengthy laudatory poem dedicated to “Sonny.” Here are a few stanzas: “You are an athlete with muscles galore/Greeted with cheers as you come through the door/...You are a star in everything you do/... you love the sound of the roaring crowds; as you swat that baseball up through the clouds.” Still, the paper said in another issue, that in spite of his fame, “he's rather easy going.”

Walter enlisted in the U.S. Navy even before he had received his 1944 high-school diploma. He trained as a gunner's mate and served more than two years on a World War II ammunition ship in the South Pacific.

When he returned home, Moryn was barely 20 and wasn't sure what to do. He began taking courses to learn the tool and die trade. He was playing some amateur baseball with the St. John's church team in an industrial league.

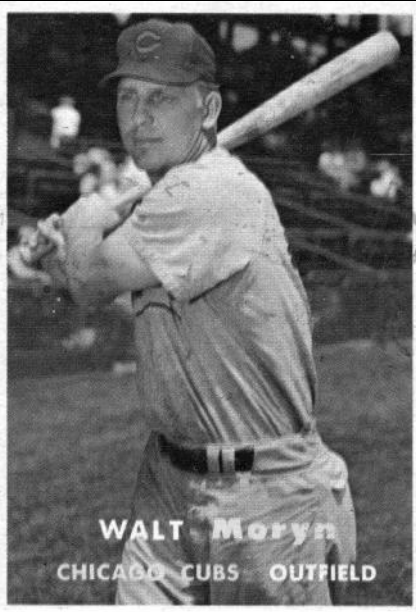
But then he went for a tryout with the Brooklyn Dodgers in St. Paul, where they had their minor league affiliate. He impressed them and they signed him up in their system. Moryn played in the minors and advanced to the point that he was playing full-time with the St. Paul Saints.

One year he had 18 home runs and 50 RBIs with a .301 average in 71 games for the Saints. One writer suggested that “perhaps it was the home cooking; Moryn's folks had purchased a house on the east side of St. Paul in the Five Corners area, and Walt lived at home during his time there.”

He was called up by the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1954 and had two lackluster years before being traded in 1956 to the Chicago Cubs, where he flourished. In 1958, Moryn hit a career-best 26 home runs and earned his only selection to the All-Star team. He finished out his career with St. Louis and Pittsburg and retired in 1961. In eight major league seasons, Moryn played 785 games and hit 101 home runs.

After baseball, he went to work for his in-laws' department store in Illinois, managing the sporting goods section. He later ran a tavern and liquor store in Cicero, Illinois. He died on July 21, 1996 from a heart attack at the age of 70.

Walter “Moose” Moryn was remembered in the *Pioneer Press* with a photo and short article two days after his death. It noted that he came from a “blue collar family” and stated that he “grew up playing on St. Paul's East Side and went on to launch long balls out of Wrigley Field for the Chicago Cubs.” They gave a brief history of his career and ended with a bit of baseball trivia: “A tall, popular player, the bleacher bums would chant ‘Moo-oose’ when Moryn lumbered up to the plate, and the nickname stayed with him the rest of his life.”



Moryn's 1957 Topps baseball card



Photo by Jessica Jones

Dah Poh and Doh Htoo, building a future for their two daughters on St. Paul's East Side.

### Immigrants from Burma make Dayton's Bluff Home

*by Jessica Jones, ESL teacher, Minnesota Literacy Council*

*Second in a series of stories about recent immigrants to Dayton's Bluff, written by teachers and volunteers at the Minnesota Literacy Council.*

When asked where she is from, Dah Poh sometimes responds, “I'm from the Thailand Refugee Camp.” That's because, before moving to Dayton's Bluff two years ago she spent 10 to 15 years living in the camp. In fact, the 23-year-old can't recall exactly how long she had lived there after escaping her native Burma.

“I couldn't live in Burma because the Burmese soldiers shot the girls,” said Dah Poh. She said she didn't know any of the girls who were shot, but her family feared enough to make the four-day walk to the Thai border carrying nothing but food for the journey.

Burma has been in the news a lot recently. In December, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton met with the President of Burma (also called Myanmar) to discuss improved relations with the West if democratic reforms continue. Then last month Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Su Kyi's opposition political party swept parliamentary elections. But in between these landmark events came a smaller headline of great relevance to many new St. Paulites like Dah Poh: “Burma Signs Ceasefire with Karen Rebels.”

The Karen ethnic group (pronounced Kah-ren) has been seeking self-rule in Burma since the country's independence from Great Britain in 1948. And while the decades-long conflict between the military-led government and the Karen may finally be over, the future for many Karen people, like Dah Poh and her family, is here in St. Paul.

The Karen Organization of Minnesota estimates there are more than 6,000 Karen people now living in Minnesota and says St. Paul has the largest and fastest-growing Karen population in the U.S. (The BBC estimates that around 100,000 Karen are still in refugee camps in Thailand.)

When Dah Poh, her husband Doh Htoo, and their one-year-old daughter settled into a small apartment on Birmingham Street two years ago, they were the only Karen family in the neighborhood. “I felt sad because I did not see people to come visit our family,” said Dah Poh. Their refugee resettlement worker from the International Institute of Minnesota tried to be helpful. Dah Poh remembers, “We didn't have any food. Case worker brought English food: sugar, salt, rice, oranges, broccoli and other food I never ate. I didn't know how to cook it.”

In preparation for coming to the U.S., she and her husband received helpful information such as how to buy food and find a job in their new home as well as practical cultural tips. “We learned if you take [too much] pizza and hamburger, you will get fat,” laughs Doh Htoo.

Today, Birmingham Street is full of Karen families. Dah Poh and many of her neighbors spend their days in intensive English classes at the Minnesota Literacy Council. “I want to learn more English. I want to speak very good English. Then I want to get a GED and get a job.”

Her husband has already made the transition from full-time student to full-time employee. Doh Htoo works as a Personal Care Attendant, helping elderly and disabled clients wash clothes, prepare food and bathe. “If we speak English it is easy to go to work,” he notes. “I like this job because it is not too heavy. If we work in pork, beef, or chicken [processing], the work is very heavy.” Some of his neighbors have found work in meat processing facilities like the one in Austin, Minn., and spend their work week there, driving home only on the weekends to spend time with their families.

Although Dah Poh and Doh Htoo have accomplished a lot in two years—welcoming new neighbors, finding jobs, and the birth of their second daughter—they still have a lot to learn in order to reach their goal of owning a small transportation company to carry immigrants, like themselves, to important appointments. “I need to learn more about the United States, like manager rules and renter rules,” Doh Htoo emphasized. “And I want to know how to find a cheap car!”

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Thank you!

**People in your neighborhood**People make up the fabric of Dayton's Bluff. Who makes a difference to you? Email [editor@daytonsbuff.org](mailto:editor@daytonsbuff.org).**St. John's former pastor Leo Dolan dies**

by Greg Cosimini, Forum staff

Father Leo A. Dolan, pastor of St. John's Catholic Church from 1986 through 1993, died on March 22, 2012 at the age of 85. As one of many St. John's pastors of Irish descent, he was proud of his heritage.

Father Dolan had been a priest for nearly 60 years at the time of his death. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1952 and earned a Master's Degree in Guidance and Counseling in 1964. He was a former Chairman of the Governor's Inter-Faith Task Force on Chemical Health, and while at St. John's also served as Chairman of the Archdiocesan Commission on Chemical Health. Previously he had been a consultant on chemical dependency to the Holy See in Rome.



In keeping with his interest in chemical dependency treatment, Father Dolan established a shrine to Venerable Matt Talbot at St. John's. It is still there today. Talbot was an Irishman from Dublin who died in 1925. He struggled with alcoholism for many years before finally swearing off alcohol completely and committing himself to a life of holiness. Although not yet a certified saint of the Catholic Church, Talbot is often thought of as the unofficial patron saint of alcoholics.

Before coming to St. John's in 1986, Father Dolan had been pastor at two other parishes and taught at schools from elementary through college level, eventually spending eight years at St.

Thomas College (now University). He served in rural, suburban, and inner city areas.

One of Father Dolan's major projects during his time at St. John's was the renovation of the church sanctuary. During the 1960s, a "temporary" wooden altar/table had been installed. Dolan had that removed, and moved the front portion of the original plaster altar forward about six feet, which was not an easy task considering it weighed about 800 pounds. This allowed for the priest saying Mass to face the congregation and yet preserved the original look of the altar. He also had a temporary lectern replaced with a more traditional oak pulpit and simplified the sanctuary with new furniture.

Father Dolan was a friendly person who always greeted people with a smile and kind words, whether at church, at parish council meetings, on the street, during one of his "Evening with Father" gatherings, at parish potlucks and senior luncheons, or at the local Byerly's, one of his favorite restaurants.

Archbishop John Neinstedt presided over a Mass of Christian burial for Father Dolan at St. John's on March 27. The church was filled with dozens of other priests and many friends, relatives, and former parishioners. Father George Welzbacher, St. John's current pastor and an old friend of Father Dolan, gave a homily that chronicled his life; his brother Dennis Dolan gave a eulogy recalling amusing anecdotes.

**Nancy Bagshaw-Reasoner**  
**Never say "can't!"**

by Mark Gallagher, Forum intern

The director of facilities at Metropolitan State University is responsible for all of the mechanical, electrical, heating, and cooling systems at the main university campus—and also coordinates engineers, technicians, and staff to keep those systems running at peak efficiency. No, it is not a job for the faint of heart.

Nancy Bagshaw-Reasoner is the Director of Facilities at Metropolitan State University, St. Paul campus. She was born in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. She went to Syracuse University to get a Journalism degree but ended up with a degree in theater. "I ended up in the theater because the country was fighting the Vietnam War at the time and many people were demonstrating," Nancy says. "All the political stories were in the street. That's where the drama was; it became a fusion. I got drawn into the theater, not because I was my high school star—I wasn't—but because I was so interested in the stories they were telling and the emotion that was being conveyed. So I became an actress; it was a form of activism."

Nancy came to Minneapolis in 1975 because it was becoming a mecca for small theater. "There was the Cricket Theater, Jungle Theater, and the Mixed Blood Theater—all these American contemporary theaters. I came out for the Guthrie, but I ended up falling in love with the small theater movement here," Nancy says effusively.

"There were actors coming from all over the country and Canada, so I would get into production and meet people from Colorado and Seattle, and make lifelong friendships. It was so vibrant, so wonderful." She and a friend started a small professional theater here in town called Stage One: Collaboration. It lasted three years.

Nancy did 57 shows in seven years, got married, had two kids, and got burned out! She was doing a lot of commercial voice-overs in addition to producing, directing, and performing, but she wanted to get back to her first love: writing. She ended up writing seven plays that have all been professionally produced; she also wrote for American Public Radio.

Nancy desperately wanted to write the great American novel. She needed time to do that and didn't want to spend her exquisitely precious time working on other people's writing. She figured if she could get a little part-time job, it would be easy to carve out sufficient time to write.

It just so happened that Metro State was hiring. So about 12 years ago, Nancy became an account clerk for the college.



Photo courtesy of Nancy Bagshaw-Reasoner

After a number of promotions, and by virtue of the Facilities Director and the Associate Vice President of Capital Planning leaving for other opportunities, the administration asked Nancy to "...just kind of keep it together until we can do a search for a new director." The plant maintenance engineer and a general repair worker came to her and said, "Oh Nancy, take the job."

"Are you crazy?" she said. They said, "No, we'll teach you everything we know."

Nancy now says, "Five years later, I'm so happy I did. This is probably one of the most satisfying things I've ever done in my life."

Nancy lives by the maxim she tries to instill in her children: "Don't say *I can't*. Even if you think that, don't let yourself hear yourself say that. Just put one foot in front of the other. What's the worst that can happen?"

"My husband says I have congenital confidence. I'm not afraid to fail. It's made my life interesting and very happy."

In the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood where she has lived for 28 years, Nancy is trying hard to create a vintage 1920s garden. "I try to shop locally," she says, "I am into sustainability. If I can walk somewhere, I will, especially in the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood with my border collie, Dixie."

Mark Gallagher is a professional writer and editor and a graduate of Metropolitan State University. Reach him at [refineEditorial@gmail.com](mailto:refineEditorial@gmail.com).

**Letter to the editor**

Last month, the *Forum* received a lovely note from Harriet H., "a long-ago resident of St. Paul's Lower East Side." Harriet wrote: "I really enjoy the variety and informational articles regarding the 'new' settlers as well as the old. Thanks to all who participate in the publishing of the *Forum* – long may it continue!"

Thank you, Harriet, for your note and your generous donation to the *Forum*.

The *Forum* is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that relies on donations to sustain its operations. Won't you consider a contribution? Write us at 798 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street, St. Paul, MN 55106, or email [editor@daytonsbuff.org](mailto:editor@daytonsbuff.org) for more information.

**Dayton's Bluff District Forum**

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Next issue: July 2012. Deadline for material: June 10, 2012.

**New babe on the block**

Kincaid Buetow welcomed his new brother, Loudon, into the world in March. Happy birthday, little brother!

Photo courtesy of Melanie Buetow.

**BLOG ROLL**

Quintin Kidd writes about the work he's doing on his Mounds Park home at [pacific1902.blogspot.com](http://pacific1902.blogspot.com).

Do you blog about Dayton's Bluff? Let us know at [editor@daytonsbuff.org](mailto:editor@daytonsbuff.org).