

# Dayton's Bluff DISTRICT FORUM

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March 2012

## “Make it happen” on East 7<sup>th</sup>

by Deanna Foster  
Executive Director,

Dayton's Bluff Community Council

**Make it Happen** is our motto for East 7<sup>th</sup> Street. Together, we are going to create a vibrant urban destination and neighborhood center for the Dayton's Bluff community on St. Paul's East Side. The Dayton's Bluff Community Council is taking the lead on many of the recommendations from the Near East Side Area Task Force, which has completed its “Roadmap” for action. The Near East Side Area Roadmap is scheduled for adoption by the Planning Commission/City Council in spring/early summer of 2012.

FIRST we envision our favorite destination neighborhood business district...

- visually, the area is clean, attractive and vibrant
- pedestrians walk safely, creating an abundance of activity
- a broad array of businesses enthrall local and regional patrons
- colorful art and flowers abound

- buildings and signs have a local feel with an international flavor
- festivities and celebrations are frequent
- trees soften the landscape and lantern-style lighting adds old world charm
- sitting areas abound for relaxation and soaking up the sun
- laughter overflows from children's playgrounds
- art invites touch; music taps feet
- food and good company feed the body and soul
- parks and paths keep us fit
- history enthralls visitors and residents alike
- new signs encourage pedestrians to “walk the bluff”
- creative crosswalk designs slow traffic and respect pedestrian activity
- previously vacant and unproductive land and buildings are reclaimed

...and we make it happen.

As part of Make it Happen, the Community Council has launched a campaign to invite business and property owners to share their ideas and plans for expanding business opportunities and improving the appeal of the district. We will work together to increase the number, quality and range of businesses that locate on East 7<sup>th</sup> Street by creating an information center that supports the recruitment and placement of businesses in vacant properties. Redevelopment activities at Beacon Bluff (old 3M site) are an excellent opportunity for Dayton's Bluff to capitalize on the opportunities that new development brings to a community. Metropolitan State University is also building and growing their presence in our neighborhood, creating a unique opportunity to work with them to ensure the campus continues to make a positive contribution to the effort to revitalize the East 7<sup>th</sup> Make it Happen district.

Watch these pages for future updates and look for continued improvements to the East 7<sup>th</sup> Street business district.

### Inside this Issue

The *Forum* is trying out a new layout, in hopes of making it simpler for our readers to find the information they need. We've divided the paper into three sections:

**Opportunities** – Ways to get involved in the community; chances to connect people with resources. **Pages 2 and 3.**

**What's happening** – Know what's going on in Dayton's Bluff. **Pages 4, 5, and 6.**

**People in your neighborhood** – Who is making a difference on the East Side? **Pages 7 and 8.**

Let us know what you think of the new layout – and contribute your own content – at [editor@daytonsbluff.org](mailto:editor@daytonsbluff.org).

## Enjoy a special night on the town... and benefit your community

by Stephanie Harr  
Dayton's Bluff Maven of Merrymaking

Do you ever wish you had a neighborhood restaurant that you can walk into at any time and find all of your friends there?

Maybe you already do, but for one night in March, for neighbors in Dayton's Bluff, that special place is the **Strip Club Meat and Fish** restaurant. On the last Monday in March, the restaurant closes its doors to the rest of the world and becomes a strictly Dayton's Bluff hangout. On March 26, join your neighbors at the third annual Dayton's Bluff Community Council fundraising dinner.

As one of the few fine dining establishments in Dayton's Bluff, it's already a hot spot for neighbors. But because of its reputation for great food and drinks and its gorgeous environs, the restaurant

draws patrons from all over the Twin Cities (and beyond). Since its opening more than four years ago, the Strip Club has received accolades too numerous to count. Most recently, it was named by City Pages

**Third Annual  
Dayton's Bluff Fundraising Dinner**  
Monday, March 26, 6:00 p.m.  
Elegant 5-course dinner at the Strip Club  
\$100 per person (\$40 is tax deductible)  
Proceeds benefit the Dayton's Bluff Community Council.  
Advance ticket sales only. For information call 651-772-2075.

dinner with wine pairings as a fundraiser for the Dayton's Bluff Community Council. This dinner has become a much-anticipated event, and guests often leave eager to sign up for next year.

According to Deanna Foster, Executive Director at the Community Council, this event is just one of

as one of the most romantic restaurants in the Twin Cities. City Pages also captured its classy and comfortable vibe - “It's a neighborhood joint that is actually a raucous dinner party full of exquisitely fun flirts.”

For the third year in a row, the restaurant is hosting a five-course dinner as a fundraiser for the Dayton's Bluff Community Council. This dinner has become a much-anticipated event, and guests often leave eager to sign up for next year.

the ways that the Council builds community spirit. “One of the special things about this event is that it supports a larger community gathering and dinner in October of each year. We are committed to building a more inclusive agenda that



Photo courtesy of Stephanie Harr

The Strip Club Meat and Fish restaurant, at the corner of 6th and Maria, is once again the site of the annual Dayton's Bluff Community Council Fundraising Dinner.

welcomes all residents of Dayton's Bluff. The Strip Club Annual Fundraising Dinner is an important way for some of us to support all of us.”

The restaurant can accommodate a maximum of 60 people, so don't wait to reserve your place. Advance ticket sales only. Send your payments to Dayton's Bluff Community Council, 798 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street, St. Paul, MN 55106 or call 651-772-2075 for more information.

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

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Photo by Lou “The Photo Guy” Michaels

A toast to the future of Dayton's Bluff, at the 2011 fundraiser. From left, Jane Prince, Ann Daly, David Murphy and Deanna Foster.

## Opportunities

Check out this section of the *Forum* each month to get involved and participate in community activities. Do you have an Opportunity to share with your neighbors? Email us at [editor@daytonsbuff.org](mailto:editor@daytonsbuff.org).



Hmong  
American  
Partnership

### Hmong American Partnership Announces 2012 Scholarships for Hmong Students

*from a Hmong American Partnership press release*

Hmong American Partnership is currently inviting applications from students for the 2012 Hmong Scholarship Award competition. This is the 15<sup>th</sup> year Hmong American Partnership has been able to offer Scholarship Awards. **Application deadline: March 2, 2012.**

To be eligible, applicants must:

- be Hmong,
- reside in Minnesota, and
- demonstrate financial need.

Awards will be made in March 2012. These scholarship awards are disbursed from the Hmong American Partnership Educational Endowment, established by a generous gift from an anonymous donor whose intent was to help Hmong students in Minnesota attain their educational goals.

The Educational Endowment will provide two types of scholarships this year: Leadership and Non-Traditional Student Scholarships.

· Leadership scholarships are given to seniors graduating from high school in 2012 who have demonstrated leadership and scholastic excellence. The student must use the scholarship for direct educational expenses. Each scholarship is a one-time award, which must be used within two years.

· Non-Traditional Student scholarships are given to students who have demonstrated leadership potential and scholastic excellence. "Non-traditional" is defined as more than 22 years old, married, OR a single parent. The non-traditional scholarships may be used for any educational-related needs. Students in technical, occupational, and apprenticeship programs are especially encouraged to apply.

The scholarship application form may be downloaded from: <http://tinyurl.com/7bblucx>

For more information about application packages, the scholarship awards, or Hmong American Partnership, please call Kabo Yang at (651) 291-1811, ext 222.

Completed applications must be postmarked by March 2, 2012, or hand delivered to 1075 Arcade Street, St. Paul, MN 55106 by 5:00 p.m. on **March 2, 2012.**

### Nelson Program Community Partners seeking project applicants

*from a Nelson Program  
press release*

Have an idea for a neighborhood applied-research project, but need some funding? The Kris Nelson Neighborhood Research Program is inviting proposals for the summer 2012 semester. Please apply online: <http://www.cura.umn.edu/CBR> or call Program Coordinator Jeff Corn at 612-625-0744.

The deadline for project proposals is March 15, 2012. Approved projects will run from May 28 to August 26, 2012.

The Nelson Program is a consortium of Twin Cities' colleges, universities, and community organizations that partners with neighborhood and community organizations on applied research projects. Organizations define and direct their research projects, and NPCR recruits and funds research assistance for the project.

A neighborhood staff person said, "The program is one of the best examples of collaboration between academia and the broader community. We've been able to get... good information that we wouldn't have been able to get on our own. Staff is too busy, they can't pull away to do focused research. It's been a huge help for us. It's... a marriage made in heaven."

More information on the program is available at <http://www.cura.umn.edu/Nelson-Program>.

### Join Skidmore Park Community Garden!

Applications for new gardeners available through March 15.

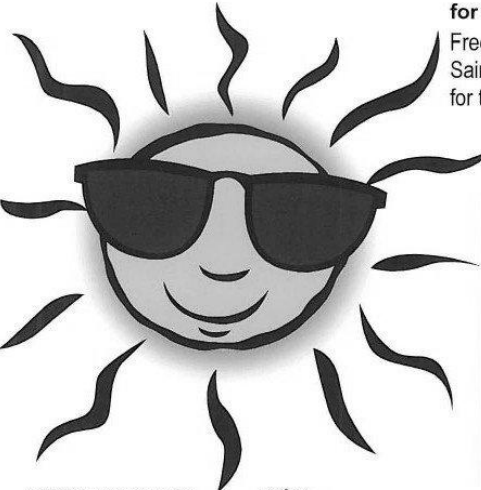
798 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street \$25 per plot

Mandatory orientation on April 9 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. Questions? Call Kayla: 651-280-9183

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

- **Parent and Tot Gym Play time:** This unstructured drop-in time is for parents or day-care providers and their children to play in the gym. It is only on Wednesdays and Fridays from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon.
- **Messy Fingers And Toes-** Join us for finger painting, tissue decoupage, paint bombs, rye seed grass heads and many more messy activities for children 1-4 years old. Starts on Friday, March 23, from 10:00-11:00 a.m. \$38.00 per session.
- **Take Home Chef** – Learn how to make simple healthy snacks or meals that you can take or make at home. Wednesday nights, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- **Teen and Youth Open Gym** Open gym space for teens and youth to participate in basketball, volleyball, dodge ball, and etc. Teens age 13-18 must show a school ID to participate. Beginning in March; call 651-793-3885 for information.
- **Free Zumba class** on Thursday nights from 6:00-7:00 p.m. in the Dayton's Bluff Rec Center dance room.
- **Spring Sports:** Come and register your kids for indoor soccer or girls' volleyball.
- **Teen Club-** Making a difference in your neighborhood. The Teen Clubs help out at holiday parties and special events selling concession during events and participate in teen opportunities! Meet on Thursdays from 6:30-7:45 p.m.

**The Great East Side**  
**"Get-Ready-for-Summer" Resource Fair!**  
**Summer Youth Program Resources**  
 for families with tots, tweens and teens




Free and fee-based summer programs for youth on the East Side of Saint Paul share information, answer questions, and accept registrations for the summer of 2012. Register on-site or take information to ponder.

*For the whole family ...*

**Indoor Picnic Supper!**  
**Prize Drawings!**  
(winners must be present to claim prizes)  
**Wii World!**  
**Other Games and Crafts!**

**Note: Children and youth must bring an adult in order to participate!**

**Thursday**  
**March 8, 2012**  
**5:00pm-7:00pm**  
 Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center  
 800 Conway Street, St. Paul 55106  
 651.793.3885



The Resource Fair is a great chance for *your* organization to share resources and recruit participants for your summer programs. Over 200 people attended in 2011 – there's still time to reserve your spot for the March 8 event!

Registration forms accepted until March 1; first come, first served!

If interested, please email Lou Bender: [LouB@campfireusa-mn.org](mailto:LouB@campfireusa-mn.org)

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

**Stop by and check us out!**



Photo by Karin DuPaul

Above: The Fall 2011 Entrepreneur Training Class at their graduation January 18. We are now taking applications for the spring class that will start on May 2. Email [karin@daytonsbuff.org](mailto:karin@daytonsbuff.org) or call 651-772-2075.

## Small business classes

by Karin DuPaul

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

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 two such hosting microentrepreneur classes each year since 1993.

Classroom training lasts ten 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, so don't wait to apply. For an application, email [karin@daytonsbuff.org](mailto:karin@daytonsbuff.org) or call her at 651-772-2075.

## Monthly Community Meeting

The next Dayton's Bluff community meeting is **Thursday, March 1, from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.** 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 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.

Each month, neighbors and block club members have good discussions with code inspectors and police share good discussions about how to make Dayton's Bluff a better place to live.

**At the March meeting, former Assistant Police Chief Richard Gardell will talk with us about 180 Degrees, a youth diversion program that moved into the former Martin Lumber Company buildings.**

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@daytonsbuff.org](mailto:karin@daytonsbuff.org) or call 651-772-2075.

## Take-a-Hike March 3

Take-a-Hike occurs on the first Saturday of most months. The next hike will be **Saturday, March 3**. Hikers meet at **10:30 a.m.** in Mounds Park at Earl Street and Mounds Boulevard, and walk to East Side Heritage Park.

## 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, March 16, at 9:30 a.m., and Wednesday, March 21, at 6:30 p.m.** 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. Please call for location. The next monthly meeting is on **Wednesday, March 14, starting at 6:30 p.m.** For more information, email [swedehollow@gmail.com](mailto:swedehollow@gmail.com) or call 651-776-0550.

## 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@daytonsbuff.org](mailto:june@daytonsbuff.org).

## Home Tour

The Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Home Tour and the Minneapolis/St. Paul Home Tour will take place on **Saturday, April 28, from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., and Sunday, April 29, from 1:00-5:00 p.m.** We are looking

## Dayton's Bluff Early Childhood Family Education Celebrates 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Plant Sale

by Christi Saari, Dayton's Bluff ECFE Advisory Board Member

The Dayton's Bluff E.C.F.E. Advisory Council is hosting its 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Plant Sale. A variety of plants are available from ornamentals to vegetables to hanging baskets. Plant pick up is held the Friday before Mother's Day, just in time for local planting or Mother's Day gifts.

All proceeds support Dayton's Bluff E.C.F.E. programming which this year includes purchasing equipment for the classrooms, educational speakers, and field trips to the Children's Museum, a local apple orchard, and Dodge Nature Center & Farm.

Browse for plants and order online at <http://www.ecfedaytonsbuffplant-sale.org> or call us at 651-293-5343 if you would like an order form mailed to you. **Orders are due by Friday, March 30.** Plants will be picked up at the Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center gymnasium at 800 Conway Street on Friday, May 11 from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

St. Paul Early Childhood Family Education (E.C.F.E.) offers parent and child education for families with children between birth and kindergarten age. One defining feature of E.C.F.E. is that it includes a focused educational component for the parent as well as the child. During parent time, licensed educators lead parents through discussions intended to improve parenting skills, while children are involved in age-appropriate activities with an early childhood teacher.

E.C.F.E. is based on the idea that the family provides a child's first learning environment and that parents are a child's first and most significant teachers. E.C.F.E. gives parents valuable information and support for a job that many describe as the most important they will ever have—being a parent. At the same time, parents develop strong social connections which in turn strengthen the community.

Dayton's Bluff E.C.F.E. classes are held at Dayton's Bluff Elementary School located at 800 Conway Street. Classes are held in the morning, afternoon, and evening, including two for Spanish speakers. Limited transportation is available for some classes. If you would like to enroll in a Dayton's Bluff E.C.F.E. class please call 651-293-5343.



## 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.

On March 28, learn about the Karen Community; on April 11, the LGBTQ Community. The events are from 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

These events are free and open to the public; light refreshments or dessert will be provided. No RSVP required; call 651-793-1542 for more information.

for volunteers to help with the Home Tour. If you are interested in helping, or for more information, please email [karin@daytonsbuff.org](mailto:karin@daytonsbuff.org) or call Karin at 651-772-2075.

## Seeking donations

The *Forum* runs on a shoestring budget, so we'd be delighted if you included us in your monetary contributions. If you value this community resource, consider donating a few dollars. We are a 501(c)(3) registered nonprofit, so your donation is tax-deductible. Call 651-772-2075 for more information. And thank you!

## WANTED: Forum Board Members/Treasurer

The *Forum* needs fresh faces for our board. Put in as little or as much time as you wish! Please email [editor@daytonsbuff.org](mailto:editor@daytonsbuff.org) or call 651-772-2075 for more information.

## Annual Parks Clean Up

Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary, Indian Mounds Park, Swede Hollow Park, as well as the recreation centers are looking for volunteers to help clean up on April 14, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. to noon. St. Paul Parks and Recreation Department is hosting an annual Citywide Cleanup event. Groups

or individuals can sign up at [www.st-paul.gov/parks/environment](http://www.st-paul.gov/parks/environment) (registration is not required, but is preferred).

Each spring, approximately 1,000 community volunteers unite to remove tons of trash from St. Paul's parks, natural areas, recreation centers, and neighborhoods. This important event helps ensure the beauty, safety and environmental health of St. Paul.

Volunteers pick up their supplies at one of four Kickoff Celebrations across the city or email [karin@daytonsbuff.org](mailto:karin@daytonsbuff.org) call 651-772-2075 before April 10 and she will pick up the supplies for you.

## Free tax and FAFSA help

Get tax help at Metropolitan State University Library & Learning Center, co-located with Dayton's Bluff Library at 645 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street. People who qualify for this assistance include working families making less than \$41,000 in 2011, people with disabilities, senior citizens, and students. The workshops will be offered March 6 and March 8 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. in room 312.

The FAFSA, or Federal Application for Student Federal Aid, helps thousands of students get the money they need to attend college or a university. A FAFSA application workshop is being offered at Metropolitan State University on March 3, from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in library room 329. Questions? Call 651-699-4707.



## What's happening?

Stay up-to-date on all the events in Dayton's Bluff each month by checking out the *Forum's* "What's happening" section. If you have news to report, send it to [editor@daytonabluff.org](mailto:editor@daytonabluff.org).



Photo by Holly Wardlaw

How might you feel if, one afternoon, you stepped out your front door to this unexpected sight?

## Unannounced police training frightens, angers residents

by Meg Gronau, Forum Editor

Around 2:00 p.m. on January 12, Dayton's Bluff resident Holly Wardlaw opened her front window for her cat, and saw armed forces – rifles in hand and sidearms strapped to their legs – surrounding and entering a vacant, county-owned home across the street.

Wardlaw caught an officer's eye; he greeted her and explained that the agents, who came from out-of-state Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), were doing some training. Wardlaw and other neighbors requested some kind of notification – postcards or posted signs – alerting the community about future training sessions.

On February 16, the agents were back – again with no warning or notification for the community, other than a thin band of police tape around two vacant properties.

"I don't have a problem with their training," Wardlaw said, "I know that they need to do that, but I do have an issue with doing so in an area and not telling anyone."

Wardlaw has a good working relationship with law enforcement, and felt secure enough to approach the agents. But many Dayton's Bluff residents are frightened and intimidated by what appears to be a large-scale enforcement action by uniformed officers.

"What bothers me is the concentration of these kinds of activities along the most distressed blocks in Dayton's Bluff," said Sherry Johnson, who has also witnessed such action on Conway Street.

"Isn't it enough that we have REAL SWAT, FORCE, K-9 raids, shootings, and muggings in our neighborhood and on this block? Do we have to experience unannounced ICE/Homeland Security 'trainings' also?" asked area resident Sage Holben. "So much for quality of life and investing in this block."

## Exploring Arts and Cultures in Dayton's Bluff

by Jean Comstock  
ACO Committee Member

One of the popular subcommittees of the Dayton's Bluff Community Council is the Arts and Culture Committee. In past years, we've organized a wide range of events—book readings, presentations on neighborhood architecture, talks by a local historian on the individuals and businesses who impacted Dayton's Bluff, gatherings to share stories, photos, information about making home improvements, a recent exhibit of art by local residents in the Council offices, and many more.

This year, we want to extend our activities even further to include more of the many diverse cultures who live, work, and go to school in Dayton's Bluff. As part of that expansion, we are renaming ourselves the Arts and Cultures Committee and revising our general mission statement:

To embrace the diverse heritages of Dayton's Bluff by showcasing their arts and cultural activities, while making the work of the Community Council more relevant to and involving people of the various cultures of the neighborhood.

Our intent is to both highlight the unique features of and advocate for the different cultures in our neighborhood. An example is the Know Your Rights article on the right side of this page. We'd like your ideas, too.

Please join us for one of our regularly scheduled meetings on the second Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. We usually meet over dinner at one of our fine ethnic restaurants. For more information on where we'll be, please check the Dayton's Bluff Community Council web site at [www.daytonabluff.org](http://www.daytonabluff.org) or call Karin DuPaul at 651-772-2075.

*This article is the first in a series on activities and people you'll want to know about in Dayton's Bluff.*

Advertise in the Forum!  
Call 772-2075 for rates and options.

## Conoce tus derechos

por el Comité de Artes y Culturas del Consejo Comunitario de Dayton's Bluff

El 12 de enero, algunos vecinos notaron a muchos agentes del El Servicio de Inmigración y Control de Aduanas (ICE) presentes en el barrio en la Calle 4 y Avenida Bates. Las autoridades municipales confirmaron que los agentes estaban haciendo un entrenamiento en el barrio y sugirieron de que ICE debería poner carteles explicando la acción si lo vuelven a hacer.

Debido a que algunos vecinos estaban preocupados, el Comité de Artes y Culturas del Consejo Comunitario de Dayton's Bluff hace del conocimiento la siguiente información sobre derechos de los inmigrantes que publicó el Comité por los derechos de los inmigrantes en Minnesota (MIRAc).

### QUE HACER FRENTE A LAS AUTORIDADES:

**Guarda silencio.** No digas nada o solo di: "Tengo el derecho de guardar silencio, quiero hablar con mi abogado."

**No abras la puerta.** La mejor protección es quedarte dentro de tu casa.

**Habla con un abogado.** No firmes nada sin hablar primero con un abogado.

**No digas tu nacionalidad.** No reveles información sobre tu estatus migratorio ni digas del país que provienes.

Para más información, llame a MIRAc al 651-389-9174 o al correo electrónico [miracmn@gmail.com](mailto:miracmn@gmail.com) o llame a Centro de Derecho de los Inmigrantes al 1-800-223-1368.

## Know your rights

by the Arts and Cultures Committee, Dayton's Bluff Community Council

On January 12, neighbors noticed that many agents from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) were present in the neighborhood of 4<sup>th</sup> Street and Bates Avenue.

City officials have said that the agents were doing training in the neighborhood and have suggested that they should put up signs if they do it again. Because some neighbors were worried, the Dayton's Bluff Community Council Committee on Arts and Cultures is making available the following information on immigrant rights published by the Committee for Immigrant Rights in Minnesota (MIRAc).

### IF YOU ARE CONFRONTED BY THE AUTHORITIES:

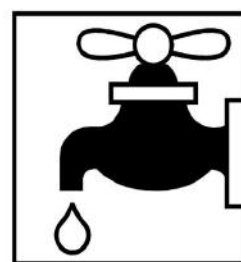
**Stay silent.** Do not say anything, or just say, "I have the right to remain silent, I want to talk to my lawyer."

**Do not open the door.** The best protection is to stay inside your home.

**Talk to a lawyer.** Do not sign anything without talking to a lawyer.

**Do not state your nationality.** Do not reveal information about your immigration status or say what country you are from.

For more information, call or email MIRAc at 651-389-9174 or [miracmn@gmail.com](mailto:miracmn@gmail.com) or call the Immigrant Law Center at 1-800-223-1368.



## Fix up your home now!

We are a non-profit agency eager to help you accomplish your home repairs using the latest green rehab techniques that may lower your energy costs.

There is no cost assistance for eligible homebuyers. We offer payback loans with low interest rates (3-5%) and special programs that do not require payments. Call 651.774.6995 to see if you qualify.

Yog koj xav nrog Hmoob tham, hu 651.774.9064



Dayton's Bluff  
Neighborhood Housing Services  
823 7th Street East  
St. Paul, MN 55106  
651.774.6995-office  
[www.dbnhs.org](http://www.dbnhs.org)





Photo by Karin DuPaul

The 4<sup>th</sup> Street Preservation Project is underway. At left, Holly Wardaw and Becca Hine from Historic Saint Paul and Linda Charpentier (at right) listen to Jonathan Herom from Croix Custom Homes, the general contractor for the first two homes in the project, 685/687 and 693 East 3<sup>rd</sup> Street.

## Mounds Park Methodist celebrates 155 years

*from a MPUMC press release*

Mounds Park United Methodist Church (MPUMC), located at Earl and Euclid Streets will celebrate its 155<sup>th</sup> birthday on Sunday, March 4. The service will be held at 9:30 a.m. and will be followed by a luncheon at 11:00 a.m. Everyone who has any connection with the congregation, past or present, is invited. The theme for the day is "Proud of our Past... YES, We Have a Future!"

The Rev. Wayne Walther, who grew up with MPUMC, will be a featured speaker at the event. The organist will be Rev. Richard Harper, who also spent his formative years attending MPUMC. The church is remarkably active in the community. In addition to worship services, Sunday school, and handbell choirs for all ages (directed by Phyllis Carlson and Bob Lucas), the Glorious Grocery Give-away has been an important ministry of the congregation for many years. Other important ministries are the Hallelujah Harvest celebration on Halloween, the neighborhood night out each summer, Sunday evening family suppers with movies and games, Vacation Bible School, Summer Light children's programs (directed by Amy Buck), and Urban C.R.O.S.S. youth community service (directed by Youth Director Eric Buck).

MPUMC's mission statement is "We are a Christ-centered church that is committed to being a church of the neighborhood as we reach out to those around us in love and justice with the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ." MPUMC aims to be a beacon of hope to everyone in the community.

## Gateway Corridor Transit in Dayton's Bluff another step closer to reality

The Gateway Corridor enters 2012 with new funding and a nearly completed transit study. County commissioners throughout the Twin Cities metropolitan area made the Gateway Corridor one of the region's top transit priorities by awarding more than \$2.1 million in Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB) funds. Ramsey County also contributed nearly \$900,000 to the corridor. With approximately \$3 million secured for 2012, the Gateway Corridor will have the necessary resources to complete an environmental assessment of the corridor.

The Gateway Corridor transit study, expected to be completed this spring, will include potential station locations and ridership estimates for the eight potential modes and routes of new transit from downtown Minneapolis and downtown St. Paul, through Dayton's Bluff, and continuing along or near I-94, to western Wisconsin.

The potential transit options through Dayton's Bluff include bus-rapid transit (BRT) and light rail transit (LRT) from downtown St. Paul following Mounds Boulevard to East 7<sup>th</sup> Street before veering south on White Bear Avenue and connecting with the north frontage road of I-94. Transit options include walk-up transit stations at Metropolitan State University, and at East 7<sup>th</sup> and Earl Street.

The Gateway Corridor Commission met with the East Side Area Business Association in February to gain additional input on transit options for the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood.

Public comments and opinions are the backbone of the Gateway Corridor transit study. The Gateway Corridor Commission is holding public open on March 27 at 6:00 p.m. at the East Side Community Center in Harding High School. This is a great opportunity for Dayton's Bluff residents and business leaders to provide crucial input on the revised transit options and learn about the corridor's economic and community benefits for the region. Feedback from the open houses will be used to guide the final phases of the transit study.

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

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

*by Jodi Wittman, Branch Manager*

The start of a new year means a fresh start, and we are embracing this new beginning at your neighborhood Library.

The biggest change impacts hours. The Saint Paul Public Library system launched new hours on Monday, January 30, 2012. Dayton's Bluff Library will remain open seven days a week, provide daily access to computers and Homework Help, and offer weekly Storytimes. Our hours are now: Monday and Wednesday: 12:00 until 8:00 p.m., Tuesday, Thursday and Friday: 10:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Saturday: 11:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and Sunday: 1:00-5:00 p.m.

The interior changes are small, but provide better access to our collection:

- All of our new print items are shelved together near the DVD feature movie titles
- Biography titles have been moved to the front part of the Library
- The new Minnesota Authors area highlights state Fiction writers
- Black Authors is now near the Fiction titles to offer more browsing options
- Book Club in a Bag sets are featured in the front bookcase
- The Spanish World Languages collection was evaluated and will continue to grow in 2012
- The St. Paul Pioneer Press newspaper is stored in a free standing bookcase
- Read + Play To Go bags are offered only at Dayton's Bluff Library

Some of our changes occurred at the end of 2011, and these services will continue to be offered:

- A self service fax /scan / print machine is available for public use
- Notary services (dependent on the availability of Notary Public staff)
- Rental DVDs are only \$.50 per day. New titles are added weekly.

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 Seventh Street, within the University Library building.

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

## Moving from a "Problem-solving" to an "Asset-connecting" Mindset:

### Youth

*by Sherry Johnson*

I've noticed that when neighborhoods start gathering, they seem to start with a "problem-solving" mentality. Fact is, a lot of Americans need problems to draw us out of our well-guarded private lives. We meet in order to "vent" about problems, and our next step—if there are any action steps taken—is to seek a government or sometimes a nonprofit organization to listen to our problems so that they can solve them. As John McKnight likes to say, "We outsource our problems."

Alternatively, if neighbors are lucky, their little association or block club will organize further, attempting to create some action steps which they hope a governmental or other organizational body will adopt as the solution to their problems. They present said solutions, then step back and wait for implementation. Sometimes they use phone or email pressures to lobby for movement, and sometimes the action plan becomes a casualty of busy private lives. In Minnesota, the Great Killer of Momentum is often our long winter.

Fact is, most neighborhood problems can't be solved by block clubs, the police department, or community councils. The bad landlord or neighbor down the street might finally get shaped up or shipped out, but come spring, another one will often take her place.

This cycle is exhausting, and I've seen many a neighbor completely burned out by their efforts to "put out fires." That's why I've chosen to leave the problem-solving mentality entirely. It's not that I don't want to see problems solved; on the contrary, I want to *change what I see*. Instead of seeing problems, I see assets.

An example: Instead of spending my energy gathering neighbors to lobby city officials about bad behaviors and problem properties, I look for ways to mobilize and connect neighborhood assets—good behaviors and treasured places. The hope is that in focusing on increasing community connection, we'll all feel a lot prouder of what we have; moreover, that pride and involvement will translate into neighborhood safety and economic growth.

Here are a few examples of connections neighborhoods have fostered across the country that have produced positive results (with thanks to John McKnight and Jody Kretzmann for their *Building Communities from the Inside Out*):

**Youth + Rec Center + Community Council** = At our very own Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center, youths who want to leave gang culture learn how to rap about their feelings and hopes through a local artist-in-residence. With help from the community council and others, the youths build their own recording studio and have it staffed with a studio "trainer," who teaches kids how to use the production equipment.

**Youth + YMCA** = Youth are selected by YMCA staff and resident managers of housing developments to participate in a six-month fitness and leadership program. At the end of the training, the youth will be certified Y fitness leaders. They will structure and operate after school and Saturday night programs for other youths in the neighborhood.

**Youth + Community Development Corporation + Police + Parks & Rec** = The Northwest Side Community Development Corporation in Milwaukee, Wisconsin organizes a small group of youths to renovate a small park. A police officer helps the youth find funding and assists with writing of the proposal. The youths plan to approach businesses in the area for more funding. The major piece of their work will be the renovation of an abandoned community center at the park in order to make it available for public use.

**Youth + Parks & Rec + Churches** = At Youth in Action of New York City, youths gain ownership of an empty lot and transform it into children's park. They paint a huge mural on the wall of the church facing the park and renovate the basement of the church to create a youth center.

**Schools + Historians + City Council** = In Prairie Village, Kansas, fifth and sixth graders participate in an innovative educational program that takes them on tours around their neighborhoods to learn about buildings in the process of community planning. Then the students create their own walking tour and slide presentation about the community. When officials of their town proposed razing an old barn to make a parking lot, 90 students went to City Hall with information about the barn's historical significance to the community.

**Youth + Local Businesses** = Through the Youths as Resources Project in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, youths contribute to the economic development of their communities by rehabilitating housing. They're paid and earn school credit. An industrial council made up of local businesses provides raw materials and offers talks, tours, and job training for the youths. Many of them eventually start their own businesses or are employed by one of the local businesses.

**Youth + Senior Center** = In Chicago, when latchkey kids are feeling lonely, experiencing a crisis, or just want to chat, they can talk to community elders on the telephone through the "Grandma Please" program.

**Youth + Senior Center + State Government** = Several elders from Lincoln Park Senior Center in Chicago are paired with foster children at a neighborhood day care center. This partnership is facilitated by the Illinois Department of Aging.

*Adapted from A Thread of Connection, Sherry Johnson's blog at [dbcan.wordpress.com](http://dbcan.wordpress.com).*



**VIEW FROM MY PORCH**

by Sage Holben

*"When a young mother bundles up her baby to come out to a meeting on a cold and dark winter evening, I know that she has something important to say."* – Judge Lezlie Ott Marek

"We know we're your only route to justice." So noted St. Paul City Attorney Kim Bingham when Dayton's Bluff Community Council hosted an unprecedented event at its monthly community meeting on February 2. Ramsey County District Court Judges Robyn Millenacker and Lezlie Marek, St. Paul East Side FORCE Commander Jill McRae, and Attorney Bingham met with 16 residents of Dayton's Bluff to talk about residents' experiences as crime victims in their own neighborhoods. One panel member indicated that such a meeting was unusual and indicated that too often, those who make decisions really do not know the community in which the people most affected live. It was a listening session of respect and support.

Several residents cited break-ins of cars and homes; another of shots fired through a window. One talked moving of being home during a break-in and feeling powerless in working through the process afterward. Break-ins being much more common than being attacked, I wonder if we accept it as TOO common. After I was attacked and beaten, I was able to fairly quickly work through the report, identification, and attend court proceedings. Assistant City Attorney Anthony Tedesco and the SPPD proved extremely supportive and responsive in providing resource information, connecting me with reconciliation services, and keeping me updated in court appearances of 'my' attacker. As

Judge Millenacker stated, "The partnership between and among law enforcement, the courts and the community is vital to forging solutions...your voices were heard and will continue to be at the forefront of my mind, and those of my fellow judges, when we are determining the consequences for those engaging in criminal behavior."

I consider myself more fortunate a victim than someone who is a victim of a home or car break-in. An attack is close up and personal – direct. The attack on me was a rash decision and not against my 'secure space.' I later was able to personally meet with at least one assailant and ask questions, getting an understanding of the person who committed the crime. For the other two, for a short while, whenever I walked into Phoenix or Rainbow, or passed the bus stop, I wondered if the Black woman and man in front of me were the same who had beaten me. I felt safe, though; safe because I had a community's support. I felt safe to face my fears and let them go; safe to walk past the attacker's home. I believe having answers and knowing that the police and court process were working together gave me this sense of safety. An unsolved vehicle or home break-in doesn't offer this same sense of closure or safety. Through her directness in our dialogue, Commander McRae conveyed her understanding of our concerns. I personally believe that our voices were heard at this meeting and our experiences seen as those that affect *lives*, not simply numbers for statistics.

It seems appropriate to close with a comment from Judge Marek: "Please know that we listened closely to your stories about how crime in your neighborhood is eroding the sense of safety and peace that every citizen has the right to expect where they live and work and raise their families. The stories made a strong impression on all of us and they will help us to better perform our jobs."



Photo courtesy of Karin DuPaul

**Dayton's Bluff luminaries, including Honor Roll members: back row, left to right: Stefan Pomrenke, LeeAnn Pomrenke, Eric Buck, Susan Tietjen, and Deanna Foster. Front row: Jean Comstock, Amy Buck, and Karin DuPaul.**

**2012 Dayton's Bluff Honor Roll announced**

St. Paul's 17 district councils held their annual volunteer awards event on January 20, 2012 at St. Thomas University. The awards recognize people from all over the city who have given outstanding service to the community over a long period of time. In Dayton's Bluff, the community has added three new members each year since the 1980s. This year's keynote speaker was Jane McClure, a community newspaper editor and writer who helped reinstate the Dayton's Bluff District Forum after a shore hiatus. Jane gave a short, well-received talk on community organizations throughout the history of St. Paul.

**Eric and Amy Buck family**

They give freely of all their resources (time, money, love, sweat, etc.). They helped start and staff a program (Urban C.R.O.S.S.) through Mounds Park United Methodist Church, wherein young workers do odd jobs for homeowners in Dayton's Bluff. They are involved with Dayton's Bluff Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE), founded the "Reading Rodeos" program (an after school remedial reading curriculum), Boy Scouts, and Mounds Theatre. There are so many more good things that this unassuming family does; they are an inspiration to us all.

**June Bennett**

June did an outstanding job working with a Dayton's Bluff family of six who lost everything in a house fire, including organizing a donation drive to help the family. She helps a lot in the Dayton's Bluff Community Council office. June came to the Community Council through a senior aid program and worked here from 2005 to 2007. We were very lucky to get her back in October 2008 and we hope to keep her until her four year assignment is complete.



Honoree June Bennett accepts her award from Kathy Lantry.

**Susan Tietjen**


Susan operates the Assisted Healing Center at 733 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street. She was the driving force in re-starting the Dayton's Bluff Area Business Association, beginning with the flowering pots in front of 7<sup>th</sup> Street businesses. She served as President for the first year of the reformed association and was a key player in the success of the "Keys to the Community," an event to help residents learn about businesses in Dayton's Bluff.

**Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Honor Roll**

- |                  |                   |                  |
|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Ali Artoli       | Denise Erler      | Jane Prince      |
| John Barbie      | Chris Geurts      | Joan Rodriguez   |
| Julie Benick     | Charlie Golden    | Raeann Ruth      |
| June Bennett     | Amy Handford      | Roger Schaefer   |
| Glen Blomgren    | Stephanie Harr    | Jody Seidel      |
| Eric & Amy Buck  | Rob Huberty       | Margaret Sieland |
| Alice Burdick    | Beth Hyser        | Margie Smith     |
| Carol Carey      | Bette Johnson     | Maxine Smith     |
| Cliff Carey      | Teri Keller       | Ed Szalapski     |
| Maryann Chowen   | Ed Krahmer        | Dick Taylor      |
| Al Clausen       | Deanna Layer      | Susan Tietjen    |
| Mary Ann Cogelow | Diane May         | Steve Trimble    |
| Jean Comstock    | Matt Mazanec      | Lorraine Venaas  |
| Greg Cosimini    | Sharon McCrea     | Mike Voss        |
| Donovan Cummings | Wayde Moen        | Wilfred Weber    |
| Carrie Dimmick   | Dave Murphy       | Juanita Westman  |
| Margaret Doren   | Ruth Murphy       | Wayne Wittmann   |
| Steve Duerre     | Christine Nelson  | Lisa Young       |
| Jacob Dorer      | Susan Omoto       | Sandi Younkin    |
| Angela DuPaul    | Catherine Piccolo |                  |
| Karin DuPaul     | Eugene Piccolo    |                  |

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## Celebrating Women's History Month with stories from Dayton's Bluff history

by Steve Trimble  
Forum staff

This may be an appropriate time to look at some of the history that the women of Dayton's Bluff have made. Why? Because March is Women's History Month, and it's a special one. This celebration started as a week in 1981. It was wrapped around an earlier March 8<sup>th</sup> International Women's Day. In 1987, Congress passed a resolution expanding the focus to a whole month.

This is the centennial of the original International Women's Day, so it seemed a great time to link up local events about larger historical movements. An important question concerns who to talk about. One way is to research "women worthies," who were very successful and may have become highly successful.

However, I feel that everyday women who spent time working in their own families and neighborhoods deserve to be remembered just as much as those who are famous. Here are some of their stories.

Emily Borth devoted 36 years of her life to the ideals of Girl Scouts and led the Mounds Park Elementary School troop. She organized field trips to local companies, fire and police departments. Among other things, Emily taught the girls how to make placemats for hospitalized patients, helped them collect dolls for less fortunate children, took them camping, and aided their learning of various skills.

Then there is the life of Maria de Carmen Cervantes, who came to Minnesota along with Mexican farm workers in the 1940s. She lived on the West Side flats until moving to Maria Avenue two decades later. Maria believed that education as the key to advancement. The widowed mother of seven never graduated from high school, but her dream was to see that her children did. They all ended up earning college degrees.

Some Dayton's Bluff women have left valuable first person accounts of their memories. Marie Willius was part of a prosperous German American family in the 1880s. "A picket fence outlined the property" and "inside of the fence lilac bushes flourished, from the house down the line of the garden, softening the background," she later wrote.

"The vegetable garden... grew well and we relished our fresh vegetables of all varieties, especially asparagus.... After Christmas we received the seed catalogues" and "studied them eagerly with mother's help." Then there were "memorable, impressive evenings, gathered around the round walnut table...in the living room... warmed by the large coal stove...."

"The evenings were enriched by games, stories read aloud... and looking at picture books, while some fingers were busy darning and sewing." One of her fondest memories of grade school years were the afternoons when they "sewed and crocheted together, making gifts while mother read to us."

Emma Dieter was not from a prosperous family like Marie Willius and never wrote any reminiscences. However, her grandson, who came to live with her as an infant in 1911, wrote a booklet to honor her memory. Here, in edited form, are some of his memories of this remarkable, hardworking woman.

She was 56 years old when he came to be raised in the large, ten room house at 331 Maple. "She was a thorough housekeeper. As a child I can still see her on hands and knees scrubbing the oak floors in the large kitchen, the two pantries and the hall," her grandson remembered.

"Her will was strong and she drove herself... often to the point of exhaustion." Emma "was not one for outward show. She had a best dress, a good dress, and a dress for everyday, which was once a best dress. In season she canned beans, corn relish, tomatoes, apples, peaches, pears, wild plums, grapes, and gooseberries.

"From her house allowance she saved money and banked it," he concluded. But she "...did not gloat over her financial acumen, but rather... draw your own conclusions from the self-effacing statement: 'I'm only an ignorant old woman who never went beyond the third grade.'"

Those are the stories of four women you might want to think about during Women's History Month. Their lives were varied, but they all made important, if not always recognized, contributions to our neighborhood. If you have a mother or grandmother who lived in Dayton's Bluff, why not write about her? You have two months before Mother's Day, so start writing. Maybe some of them can appear in the May issue of the *Forum*.



Photo courtesy of Monte Bute

## Monte Bute: Living Life to the Fullest

by Mark Gallagher

As a little boy, Monte Bute dreamed of playing centerfield for the St. Louis Cardinals. That dream didn't come true. Instead, he became a Social Sciences professor at Metropolitan State University right here in the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood. He took a long and convoluted road with many twists and some hairpin turns to get to that destination.

Monte earned his high school diploma from the Red Wing Boys' Reformatory. "I was a real juvenile delinquent," he says. "I was a total screwup. I realized I wasn't very talented as a criminal, so I was going to have to find something else to do."

After graduation, Monte came to the Twin Cities and started working at the Pillsbury Company. He was put in charge of notepads. One day while working in the basement of Pillsbury, a company attorney said to him, "Kid, you really aren't as stupid as you appear to be. Why don't you go to college?"

Monte went home to Albert Lea to work in a turkey factory to earn money for college. He often found himself covered in turkey manure from head to toe—Monte needed and wanted something better.

Austin Junior College became his home away from home for two years. There he met an old curmudgeon who taught him the ropes of education and inspired in Monte a compulsive desire to learn. He became obsessed with knowing everything.

Monte then came north to attend what is now known as Minneapolis Community and Technical College but dropped out and returned to Austin to work as a reporter. The job seemed to fit this stage of his life because he could write well and there weren't many requirements to being a reporter.

In 1967, Monte Bute organized an antiwar march in Austin, Minnesota. Haight-Ashbury seemed to be the place where things were happening, so he loaded up a trunk full of books and headed out to California. He joined the counter-culture movement to protest, to organize protests, and to read. Monte was and is a voracious reader.

Haight-Ashbury was the apprenticeship that prepared Monte for his place in the social science niche where he excels. Even before he had a BA degree, he was asked to come to Metropolitan State University and teach a sociology course he developed himself. Monte taught in the Sociology Department for seven years without that elusive degree but had transferred in more credits than were needed for a BA degree. Metropolitan State University eventually granted him a degree.

"The best thing about being a professor at Metro State is that clocks don't exist," Monte says in his profound way. "It isn't a job to me. I would do this for free; don't tell my wife that. Yeah, this isn't a job—this is a calling. Everyday something exciting happens to stir people to have ideas and to think, reflect, and contemplate the world around them. It is absolutely a joy to do every day."

On his 65<sup>th</sup> birthday, Monte Bute was diagnosed with stage-3 granular pulmonary lymphoma. When asked how much of his situation he brings to the classroom, Monte says, "All of it, everything. I am very open about it with students. I use films and fiction that indirectly lead students to reflect on issues of life and death. I don't talk about it much, but they're aware of it; they see stuff on Facebook. I try to be an example of someone who lives to the fullest and that a death sentence doesn't need to slow you down."

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



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## People in your neighborhood

Each month, the *Forum* will run features on some of the people who make up the fabric of Dayton's Bluff. Who makes a difference in your community? Let us know at [editor@daytonsbluff.org](mailto:editor@daytonsbluff.org).

### Happy Fanatic

by Stefan Pomrenke

Portland is weird, I know, but it has some amazing ideas.

When I was doing my interviews for my family medicine residency programs, I got to spend about a week with my wife's friends in Portland. Along with sleeping on the couch, I was introduced to their own extreme world of reduce, reuse, and recycle. Each morning we would check the plastic zip lock bags that were washed out the night before and drying on the dish rack. Then we would harvest some of the rain water from their rain barrels and check out the phantom power consumption on their volt meter, all while living in a communal living situation. I had never experienced that. I can safely say that they were happy fanatics about their life style. It was endearing; I wanted more of it.

My residency ended up being in St. Paul and we chose to live in Dayton's Bluff for the amazing house we found, the neighborhood programming, and the fact that I could bicycle or run down the hill to get to work. I started looking around figuring out how we could tap into some of that Portland craziness. I soon found some awesome antique stores, salvage yards and reuse stores that began to fill my needs for furniture and lumber for a large pergola. We created a garden with drip irrigation that is fed by a rain barrel that, along with our rain gardens, prevent water draining off our roof from going into the storm sewers.



Our next project was to insulate the attic with cellulose made from old newspapers. Who knows how many Sunday editions are above my head now?

I began to lament that although we were getting fresh fruits from our plum trees, veggies from our garden and CSA (community supported agriculture) from the Community Design Center, we still had not developed livestock! We went on the Twin Cities chicken coop tour (yes, that is a thing) back in 2010 and got our permit and chicks in Spring 2011, set up our own chicken coop in the summer and voila! Six months later, they just laid their first eggs. Quite tasty. I have definitely cut back on eating chicken and other meats, though.

My wife works in North Minneapolis - a bit of a commute - so I decided we should get a vegicar. You have probably seen it puttering around the neighborhood. It is powered by grease: the grease from deep-fryers at restaurants. We get 45mpg and pay about \$2 per gallon for the grease

after it has been properly filtered from a co-op. I love the idea of running a car on the stuff that makes us sick. Speaking of co-ops, did you know that 2012 is the year of the co-op? A dedicated group is working to bring a food co-op to the East Side. What a Portland, I mean St. Paul, thing to do!

So, there it is, I have become a happy fanatic. I openly and unabashedly admit it.

*Stefan Pomrenke is a Dayton's Bluff Community Council member, family physician, and champion of a new Food Co-op on the East Side.*

### No Little Thing

by Mark Schwister

It's no little thing.  
It's bigger than I first thought,  
going that way, wondering how long  
to the next stopping place.  
Falling in love with the train tracks,  
the metallic glint of the river...it's the same bend,  
the same view.  
Never downstream for too long, easy to  
get lazy and forget why I'm there. Moving.  
Bridges. City woods and frost. Houses that  
dream of being mansions, mansions that  
tried too hard.

This is no little place where I would stop.  
Old and ill-respected, perhaps. Forgotten.  
It creaks. It sleeps at the proper times,  
and thinks quietly of its past.  
I would laugh to see it sleepwalk, shuffling  
along the Mississippi, draping its historical  
ephemera around both its grittier and classier  
cousins, its sleep-breath carrying whispers of  
the Burlington Northern and river barges, the  
sighing of the interstate, the in-betweens of  
wooded vales and asphalt, burial mounds and airport,  
lake water and motor oil.

No little thing, I have discovered.  
Always moving, wondering about where I will have  
ended up once I've gotten there. Will it be  
a good thing to stop, then?  
To discover places, hide them in my coat pocket,  
and collect them like a hoard of secrets...  
streetlamps and ginkgos, hidden roads and  
parks, houses that hold their breath, a  
tiny world set like cake icing on an age-blasted  
river bluff, scoured by the sky  
when it surely must be so much closer here -

It's no tiny thing, after all.

*Mark Schwister has lived in Dayton's Bluff since 2003.*

### Happy Belated Birthday!

During the *Forum's* winter hiatus, we missed an important Dayton's Bluff milestone. Dave Murphy turned 60 on January 8, 2012.

He has been a long time resident of Mounds Park and looks forward to the next 60 years!

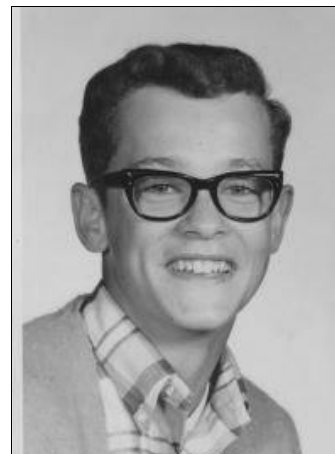


Photo courtesy of Kara Younk

*Do you know someone with an impending birthday or important event on the horizon? The Forum is ever so happy to accept your submissions for publication at [editor@daytonsbluff.org](mailto:editor@daytonsbluff.org).*

### The Forum needs your help!

If you value this newspaper as a resource in your community, please consider giving to support us. We rely on paid advertisements and cash donations - from readers like you - to keep the paper running. We are 503(c)(3) registered nonprofit organization. See below for our contact information. And thank you!

### Dayton's Bluff District Forum

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Greg Cosimini, Karin DuPaul, Carla Riehle and Steve Trimble

Editor and Layout: Meg Gronau

Next issue: April 2012. Deadline for material: March 10, 2012.

### Where in Dayton's Bluff?

Last issue, no one correctly identified the photo at right, although one person found a similar horse hitching post in a different part of the neighborhood. So, in the spirit of the Winter Carnival treasure hunt, we have put together a rhyming clue. But there will only be one. Here it is:

*It's not way back in someone's front yard,  
but is sitting right there in the boulevard.  
Look for the name given to a lot of trees  
And that of a swamp plant said to have knees.  
St. John's Church is located a bit west and north  
So by 9:71 a.m. you should really sally fourth.*

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

