

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

Volume 26, No. 7
August 2013
www.daytonsbuff.org

"The Voice of the Community"



Photo by Angela DuPaul

Neighbors gather at East 6th and Maple Streets to celebrate National Night Out 2012. In the background, children get an opportunity to check out the inside of a St. Paul police car.

National Night Out – Tuesday, August 6

Celebrate community with your neighbors in Dayton's Bluff on National Night Out, **Tuesday, August 6**. Neighborhood groups and block clubs are planning a variety of activities for their NNO events. Some have a barbecue or a potluck; others may have a magic show, live bands, kids' games, etc. This is the thirtieth Annual National Night Out, which is celebrated nationwide.

Most NNO celebrations start around **6:00 or 6:30 pm**. Bring a dish or dessert to share with your neighbors. Another way to celebrate is to get all of your neighbors to turn on outside lights from dusk to dawn. For

more information, or if you would like to host a National Night Out event in your neighborhood, call Karin at 651-772-2075.

New this year: The National Night Out Before-and-During Photo Contest.

The national organizers of NNO (www.natw.org) want to see how you transform your quiet block or site into a marvelous NNO extravaganza. The top entry will win a \$100 Gift Certificate to the NNO Super-Store. How it works: Take a photo of your block or event

site before NNO 2013; then take a photo *during* your NNO 2013.

Winners will be determined by the photos with the most "likes" on Facebook.

Take your "before" photo now. Please hold onto your "before" and "during" photos and submit them together in an email to info@natw.org. Have your subject line read "Before and During Photo Contest." Contest deadline is October 16. Thanks and good luck! If you have questions, call Karin at 651-772-2075.

For more NNO information, please turn to page 3.

Second annual event Saturday, August 17

The Dayton's Bluff Community Council presents the **Make it Happen Night Out on East 7th Street**. This business and community fair is a fun way to involve residents in the growth of a vibrant business district in our neighborhood, bringing the community together for a memorable celebration.

Gather your family and friends and make your way to East 7th Street, where you will find business representatives out on the sidewalk to meet, greet and inform you of the richness of products and services available in the neighborhood. There will be deals offered for the evening, including lots of free stuff and extra fun for the kids. This is definitely an all-age event!

Our walkable Make It Happen District along East 7th Street stretches from Maria Avenue to Mendota Street. Look for the volunteers in their bright green *Make it Happen* t-shirts to guide you to the clearly-marked "starting points" on each block to get your *Make it Happen* boards. You can go any direction along the route, but remember: the more businesses you visit, the more giveaway items, special

deals and chances to win prizes.

Watch for designated parking areas and stay safe by crossing the streets at the crosswalks. Don't miss the jump castle for the kids, free popcorn, and cultural dancers. Bring your family and friends and plan to eat out on 7th Street! Visit the food court and local restaurants for dinner.



The drawing for prizes takes place at approximately 7:45 pm at the band stage on the hospital linen site. Then, sit back, relax and enjoy live

local music from 8:00-10:00 pm. Rock out with Probable Cause, Youth in Transition, G. Class, Tom Robinson and other great music groups from the East Side.

Gain a whole new appreciation for businesses in our district and find out how to buy local, including many everyday services and great food. Meet your neighbors and those who work in our district.

Don't miss it; mark your calendars: **Saturday, August 17, 4:00-8:00 pm.**

Call Tabitha at 651-332-9069 for information, if you want your business to be represented or if you are willing to volunteer at this community event. See you all there!

Hot day at the old ballgame



Photo by Meg Gronau

Girls and boys from one of Parkway Little League's machine-pitch teams cheer during a tournament July 21. For nearly six decades, the Dayton's Bluff organization has drawn families from all over the east metro.

Tension high between Metro State, community at July 9 meeting

report and opinions from Dayton's Bluff residents

Report by Sage Holben, Dayton's Bluff Community Council:

On Tuesday, July 9, approximately 40 area residents took Metropolitan State University up on its invitation to a Community Forum for an update and discussion regarding MSU's future parking ramp, student center, and science education building. Various university vice-presidents and representatives of design and construction were present to answer questions, with the focus on the parking ramp. Construction on the student center and ramp are slated to begin mid-September, on condition that the city council grants two variance requests.

The location of underground sewage and water pipes were central to MSU's response to several attendees' very strong and rebuffed suggestions that MSU build the facility closer to New Main, on Maria Avenue, which would have let the MSU community enjoy the wall of the multi-level parking ramp. If the ramp would be built with one or two tiers underground, indicated several residents, MSU would demonstrate their respect for residents who purposely purchased homes with a view of the Capitol City.

Jesse Bethke, Vice-President of University Planning and Advancement, said, "Economics said this building has to be above ground." To build underground, according to one MSU representative, would be costly and "heroic" of Metropolitan State; therefore, no study was done about underground construction. "This", one resident was heard to say, "flies in the face of the wind turbine debacle when [the then-

See MSU parking ramp meeting, page 6.

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Friends of Swede Hollow

The next monthly meeting is on **Wednesday, August 14, at 6:30 pm.** Email swedehollow@gmail.com or call 651-776-0550 for more information and the meeting's location.

Donate your junk car

Budget Towing of Minnesota will remove your junker at no charge. The vehicle owner receives a tax deduction; the Dayton's Bluff Community Council gets a donation. Call 651-772-2075 or email karin@daytonsbluff.org.

Meet the police

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

Community meeting

The next Dayton's Bluff Community Meeting is **Thursday, August 1, 6:30 pm-8:00 pm** at 798 East 7th Street at the corner of 7th and Margaret Streets. Agenda items include code enforcement issues and discussion. What can we do to make Dayton's Bluff the best it can be? We need your ideas to make your neighborhood a better place to live.

Issues that come up at this monthly meeting may include problem ad-

resses, problem behavior, (both criminal and nuisance behavior) and code enforcement issues. There will be someone from the Department of Safety and Inspections Code Enforcement and the police department at every meeting.

All Dayton's Bluff residents and business people are welcome. Email karin@daytonsbluff.org or call 651-772-2075 with addresses of problems before the meeting, so we can get them to the police and code enforcement, and they can bring information about the problems to the meeting. For more information, email karin@daytonsbluff.org or call Karin at 651-772-2075.

Take-a-Hike August 3

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

Join STOMP: Stewards Of Margaret Park

This group is open to anyone committed to taking an active role in ensuring that Margaret Park remains a safe and beautiful green space with recreational activities for everyone.

Visit us on Facebook for the latest updates and announcements, or to ask questions or share your thoughts. See www.facebook.com/stompnmn.

Small business classes

Interested in participating in the Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Microentrepreneur Program? The next class will begin in September 2013. The program helps start-up and young businesses; all East Side entrepreneurs are welcome. Classroom training lasts eight weeks and includes topics such as operations management, marketing, financial management, how to create a successful business, and how to prepare a business plan. In addition, each student will have eight hours of one-on-one time with the instructor to work on individual business concepts. Those who successfully complete the course and locate their businesses in target neighborhoods are eligible for ongoing business support services. Class size is limited. For an application for the fall session, contact karin@daytonsbluff.org or 651-772-2075.

The Forum needs YOU for a Friend

The *District Forum* newspaper is a nonprofit operation that mails out a free valuable community resource to every address in Dayton's Bluff. Please contribute to the paper at givemn.razoo.com under "Hopewell Communications."

Become a *Friend of the Forum* today by donating any amount online, or use the form on page 8 of this paper. Need more information? Email editor@daytonsbluff.org.

For an idea of how much an issue of the *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* costs, each issue requires many volunteer hours put in by neighbors writing, taking photos, and editing. The cost of printing each issue is around \$960.00

per black and white issue, and \$250.00 for editing and layout. Our ad base has fallen off over the years.

Because the *Forum* is a registered 501(c)(3) organization, your donation also gives you the opportunity for a tax deduction. See page 8 to become a *Friend of the Forum* today!

The *Forum* is also still actively seeking paid advertisements for every issue. Consider taking out a one-time ad, or commit to a monthly contribution. Thanks!

Help make a difference in Dayton's Bluff – join the Community Council Board

The Dayton's Bluff Community Council will hold its annual elections for board members **October 21, 2013**; half (nine) of the 18 the seats are up for election/re-election. The Board is organized into four subdistricts, each with four representatives, and two at-large seats. We are actively seeking candidates for board positions.

Interested residents and business owners (18 years and older) should file for these positions, at the District Council office 798 East 7th Street, between **August 19 and September 16 at 7:00 pm.**

Dayton's Bluff has a diverse community that welcomes all newcomers and strongly encourages everyone to contact the office (651-772-2075), or the Council web site www.daytonsbluff.org, to learn more about how they can make a difference in Dayton's Bluff. All are welcome as we seek board and organizational participants who fully reflect the people who live and/or operate businesses in Dayton's Bluff.

Upcoming opportunities at *Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center*



- **Open gyms:**
 - Mondays & Wednesdays, 5:00-6:30 pm, PreK-5th grade.
 - Mondays, 6:30-7:45 pm, 6th-8th grade.
 - Tuesdays, 5:00-6:25 pm, 6th-8th grade; 6:30-7:45 pm, high school
 - Thursdays, 5:30-7:30 pm, high school only.
 - Friday, 2:00-6:00 pm, all ages.
- **Family Movie Mondays,** 5:30-7:30 pm.
- **Girls group:** Fridays, 2:00-3:00 pm, ages 12-16.
- **Parent & Tot Time:** ongoing, Wednesdays and Fridays, 10:00 am - 12:00 noon.
- **Cheer America:** Mondays, 6:00-7:00 pm.
- **Self-defense:** Mondays, 6:00-8:00 pm.
- **Judo:** Mondays, 6:00-7:30 pm.
- **Free Zumba!** Tuesdays, 5:30-6:30 pm in the dance room.
- **Seniors "500" card playing,** every Friday, 12:00 noon - 4:00 pm.
- **Summer Blast** program has started for 1st -6th graders.
- **African drumming:** FREE, every other Friday, August 9 & 23, 1:00-3:00 pm. ALL AGES; open to the public.
- **High school open volleyball:** Wednesdays, 6:35-8:00 pm.
- **FREE MEALS for kids:** In the Dayton's Bluff Elementary School cafeteria (adult meal for \$3.75):
Breakfast: 8:30-9:30 am
Lunch: 11:30 am-1:00 pm

In the Rec Center (food unavailable to adults):
Snack: 3:00-4:00 pm
Supper: 6:00-7:00 pm

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

Stop by and check us out!

National Night Out August 6

For more information, check out our article and photo, page 1.

Turn the Night BLUE!

St. Paul's District Councils invite you to Turn the Night Blue on National Night Out (NNO) **Tuesday, August 6**. Turn the Night Blue is an opportunity for all St. Paul residents and businesses to say thank you to the professionals of the St Paul Police Department for all the work they do to keep our communities safe and vibrant! We all appreciate their crime prevention efforts, the generous amount of time they commit to all of us, and their patient, professional dealings with the public.

Participate in Turn the Night Blue by wearing blue to your National Night Out event (hat, shirt, shorts and/or blue ribbons). It would be awesome to see blue balloons and clothing all over the city of St. Paul on Tuesday, August 6! We are also asking NNO organizers to work to make thank-you cards for all NNO events across St Paul. To help make it easier, Karin will give blue poster board to each NNO event leader in Dayton's Bluff to have available for NNO participants to sign at their NNO event.

Events Listing

Here is a list of some of the Dayton's Bluff National Night Out events:

- Mounds Park, near Mounds Boulevard and Earl Street
- Maria Avenue and Euclid Street
- Bethlehem Lutheran Church, at Margaret and Forest Streets
- Mounds Park United Methodist Church, at Earl and Euclid Streets
- Swede Hollow Park, at Greenbrier and Margaret Streets
- St. Paul Federal Credit Union, 1330 Conway Street
- East 6th Street, between Hope Street and Bates Avenue
- Parkway Gardens at Hudson Road and Johnson Parkway (3:00 pm)
- Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Johnson Parkway and Margaret Street
- Bates Avenue and 4th Street
- Conway and Cypress Streets
- Gotzian and 4th Streets
- 1108 East 6th Street, in the yard

Watch the glow of the setting sun and enjoy a cookout

by Karin DuPaul
Friends of Swede Hollow

Come and delight in stories and songs from former Swede Hollow residents and Hamm's Brewery employees at the annual "Watch the Glow of the Setting Sun on the Red Brick Brewery" event hosted by Friends of Swede Hollow (FOSH).

The event will start at **6:30 pm on September 21** and everyone is welcome to attend. Meet at the Henge in Swede Hollow Park near the Drewry Lane and Beaumont entrance to watch the setting sun with its bright glow on the brewery building. After the sun sets, the evening cookout and socializing begins.

Former Swede Hollow residents and Hamm's employees share memories of the good old days of living in the Hollow and working at the brewery. For more information, email karindupaul@comcast.net call Karin at 651-776-0550.

Agent Fidelio – a picnic operetta

by Forum staff

Coming to Dayton's Bluff this summer, this 1805 opera of revolution and liberation is retold in the colorful and festive style that Picnic Operetta audiences adore. Emerging from the garden will be secret agents, covert operations and undercover antics – all mashed-up with many musical surprises and served with a sampling menu of locally-sourced bites. On **Saturday, August 17**, it will be held at Skidmore Community Gardens, 1085 East 4th Street; on **Sunday, September 15**, it will be held in Swede Hollow Park – enter from Beaumont and Drewry Lane (one block southeast of Payne and Minnehaha Avenues). Both performances start at **4:00 pm**. Bring a blanket or chair to sit on.

Share your voice about Hudson Road transit

from an Engage Eastside release

Have you heard about the plans to build a bus rapid transit or light rail train along Hudson Road? Well, join us near the corner of one of the proposed transit stations for our final Station Conversation: **Saturday, August 3, 1:00 pm-4:00 pm**: Mounds Station Area in the cul-de-sac near 652 Conway Street. Grab a free hot dog and discuss with neighbors the possible impacts and long-term development changes to the area. In case of rain, meet us at the Mounds Park United Methodist Church at 1049 Euclid Street.

This event is being sponsored by Engage Eastside, a coalition of organizations on the East Side of St. Paul, initiated and coordinated by the Eastside Prosperity Campaign that works to engage underrepresented communities in influencing transit planning and decisions. For more information visit eesresidentnetwork.wordpress.com or contact Veronica, Community Organizer at univaveequity@yahoo.com or 651-772-2075.

The proposed station areas are part of the larger Gateway Corridor transit project which would run from Union Depot in St. Paul to Woodbury next to Interstate 94 along Hudson Road. All-day transit service would stop at 11 stations, with 2 locations in the Dayton's Bluff community and would include connections to Minneapolis and Hudson, Wisconsin. At the moment, light rail or bus rapid transit is being considered and the system could be operational by 2022. The Gateway Corridor will encourage adjacent redevelopment that would revitalize communities along the way. The coordination of this project is currently being led by the Gateway Corridor Commission, which is comprised of local elected officials, business and community leaders. For more information visit www.thegatewaycorridor.com.

The beat goes on!

by Steve Trimble, Forum staff

Things are looking good for the first annual Drums on the Bluff event. We have several groups that are interested and we are looking for more. It turns out the leader of a Korean drum and dance group lives in the neighborhood. This summer kids from Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center are being taught African drumming. A professional percussionist – whose specialty is the timpani – is part of the community.

It looks like the event will take place on **Saturday, September 21**. It will be at the Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center in collaboration with their East Side Pride celebration, so there will be food and other family activities.

Any one who plays a drum or is part of a drum group or knows who we might get in touch with, please let us know. You may contact Sage Holben at 651-528-0662 or Tabitha Derango by email at tabitha@daytonsbuff.org.

Dayton's Bluff resident Barbara Sommerville publishes WWII memoir



Photo courtesy of the author

Sommerville holds her new book, *I Came Through Swell*.

From the author: *I Came Through Swell* is a WWII memoir about my dad, a St. Paul resident who became a B-17 bomber pilot. Using journals, letters, and research, I've put together his service record for an entertaining and informative read. The 158-page paperback is available on Amazon.com for \$13

(\$10 Kindle). Email me at somervil@q.com

Chauncey "Speed" Nelson always knew he wanted to be a pilot. Growing up on a farm, he spent his days dreaming of flying. When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor in 1941, Speed found his purpose as a bomber pilot for the U.S. Air Corps.

Join Speed from his first training days to dozens of terrifying and thrilling missions flown out of Italy. Experience the terror of bailing out of a burning plane, only to wind up in a POW camp. Though Speed survived the war, he did not like to speak of it.

15 years after his death, his daughter Barbara Sommerville pieced together the whole story, sending her on a fascinating journey to discover a young man she never knew – and the powerful way her father's intelligence and optimism influenced his life during the war. Barbara learns valuable lessons about her own history, ultimately showing the reader that every family has stories worth telling.

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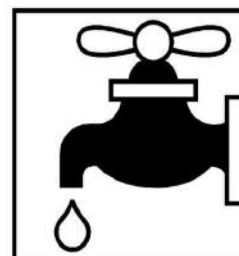


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Neighborhood groups to guide East Side transit

from a Dayton's Bluff Community Council press release

A collaborative of neighborhood groups has launched a community-focused project to guide transit development on St. Paul's East Side.

The project, funded by the Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority, seeks to build stronger relationships between government agencies and the people, businesses and neighborhoods they serve. The idea is to get residents and businesses involved in meaningful ways earlier in the process.

With a budget of \$150,000, the collaborative will examine transit patterns and customer needs and the challenges and opportunities for expanded transit service on the East Side.

The collaborative also hopes to cultivate a more informed constituency with resident leaders who can more effectively influence transit decision-making on their own behalf.

Partners include: Deanna Foster, District 4 (Lead Agency); Chuck Repke, District 2; Betsy Leach, District 1; Leslie McMurray, District 5; Mikael Carlson, East Side Prosperity Campaign; Tim Herman, East Side Area Business Association.

The project is being managed by St. Paul firm CultureBrokers® LLC.

Wilder Research will be providing data and reporting; Organizing Apprenticeship Project will be training community organizers.

Several transit projects that would traverse East Side neighborhoods are being studied or discussed:

- Gateway Corridor, a dedicated Bus Rapid Transit line along Hudson Road from St. Paul to Woodbury.

- Rush Line Corridor, a transit line from Union Depot, generally following Highway 61 and Interstate 35E to Hinckley.

- Metro Transit Arterial Transit Corridor: East 7th Street Bus Rapid Transit, to Arcade along Maryland.

- A citywide streetcar line serving East 7th Street, Payne, Arcade, Maryland, Phalen, Rush, Prosperity and East 3rd Street.

Collaborative partners are organized into a Steering Committee that will work alongside transit planners to ensure that these projects are done "with us; not to us."

The project's partners believe that this project will help to add to the East Side's shared capacity to influence key decisions on a range of issues earlier in the process, before final decisions are made.

For more information, contact Deanna Foster, Dayton's Bluff Community Council, 651-772-2075.



Dayton's Bluff & District 1 Cleanup & FREE Stuff Area Saturday, September 14, 2013

9:00 am - 12:00 noon in the Hamm Brewery parking lot at 700 East Minnehaha Street (on the south side of Minnehaha)

This cleanup is for Dayton's Bluff & District 1 residents only.

COSTS:

Entrance: \$7 per car, \$10 per small truck or mini van, \$25 per pickup truck and trailers. No dump trucks.

Extra Fees: \$10 per mattress, box spring, couch or love seat. \$10 per child car seats. \$3 per car tire; \$5 per truck tire.

Electronics: \$10 to \$25 depending on the item.

You may also bring: fluorescent bulbs, scrap metal, bicycles, demolition debris, clean wood, concrete/rocks.

WHAT TO BRING:

Proof of Dayton's Bluff or District 1 residency in the form of a driver's license or utility bill is required to gain entry. Be prepared to unload your own materials. Materials will be sorted at the site into different dumpsters to maximize recycling.

In order to simplify unloading, vehicles should be loaded in the following manner:

On the bottom of the load: concrete, bricks, rocks, construction debris, general refuse.

In the middle of the load: bikes and scrap metals, mattresses/box springs, tires, clean dry carpet

On the top of the load: reusable household items, electronics, fluorescent bulbs, child car seats

Remember: DO NOT bring appliances to the cleanup. See below for appliance pickup information.

WHAT NOT TO BRING:

Not all materials are accepted at the cleanup. For more information about how to recycle or dispose of these or other items, call 651-222-SORT (7678). TTY for the hearing impaired: 651-221-9832.

No railroad ties or chemically-treated wood.

No appliances. Appliances can be picked up at your curb.

Call JR's Appliance at 651-454-9215 before Thursday, September 12, to arrange to have your appliances picked up at your curb on Monday, September 16. Cost \$25 for the first appliance, \$10 for each additional appliance (there is a \$10 surcharge for each air conditioner and water softener). JR's Appliance accepts air conditioners, dehumidifiers, dishwashers, dryers, furnaces, garbage disposals, heat pumps, microwaves, refrigerators, stoves, trash compactors, washers, water softeners and water heaters.

No Car Batteries: Bring car batteries to a store that sells them. All stores and service stations that sell car batteries are required by law to accept up to five batteries per person for free.

No Paint, Pesticides, Motor Oil or other Hazardous Wastes: Free disposal at Ramsey County household hazardous waste drop-off site: Bay West, 5 Empire Drive, St. Paul, open Wednesday-Friday 11:00 am-6:00 pm and Saturday 9:00 am-4:00 pm (April-October) and Saturday 9:00 am-4:00 pm (November-March)

No Leaves, Grass or Brush: Free disposal at Ramsey County compost site: Frank Street and Sims Avenue, open Monday, Wednesday and Friday 11:00 am-7:00 pm, Saturday 9:00 am-5:00 pm and Sunday 11:00 am-5:00 pm.

No Curbside Recycling Materials: Dayton's Bluff District 4 curbside recycling is picked up every Tuesday. Have your Recycling at the curb by 7:00 am.



Good free stuff at the cleanup

Even if you do not have junk or trash to get rid of, come and check out the Free Stuff. The cleanup will once again feature a Reuse Area so that used items that still have some life left in them can be shared with new owners. Good stuff like dishes, furniture, building materials, cabinets, lawnmowers, bikes, toys and other items in good condition will be set aside in the Reuse Area for anyone to take home. All materials in the Reuse Area are free and there is

no charge to enter this area. Items must be hauled away from the Free Stuff area by noon on cleanup day or it all goes in the dumpster, so bring your car, truck or trailer.

Volunteers are needed

Help neighbors clean up the neighborhood. All skill levels are needed. Work four hours and get free entry for one load of material. A free lunch will be provided. Call 651-772-2075 if you would like to help.

Sponsors:

The Cleanup is sponsored by the Dayton's Bluff Community Council, City of St. Paul and the Eureka Recycling.

Rules:

The above guidelines will be strictly adhered to. The Dayton's Bluff Community Council reserves the right to turn away any person or vehicle, to refuse any item or to close the site early if dumpsters are filled or costs exceed budget. There will be limited senior pick-up service. For more information or to register, call the Dayton's Bluff Community Council at 651-772-2075.

August at the Mounds Theatre

by Raeann Ruth, Executive Director,
Historic Mounds Theatre

"Night of the Living Dead" – live on stage

From the creative team that brought you the spine-chilling "War of the Worlds – A Live Theatrical Radio Drama," and based on the legendary film by George Romero and John Russo, comes "Night of the Living Dead."

45 years ago, on October 1, 1968, an independent horror film astonished and scared audiences everywhere as droves of the undead filled the silver screen. And now it's lurching its way to YOU.

The Historic Mounds Theatre is proud to present an original treatment of the beloved horror classic, bringing you "Night of the Living Dead – Live & Undead."

You may have seen it on screen. You may even have seen it on stage. Now come live it! Experience the tension and horror like never before when it's your turn to be part of the action. Trapped along with the rest of the survivors hiding from the living dead menace outside – will you fall prey to becoming one of the zombie flesh eaters?

Or will you survive this Night of the Living Dead? The only way to find out is to be there!

Performance dates: July 26, 27, and August 2 & 3 at 7:30 pm and a special matinee performance on August 4 starting at 3:00 pm.

Tickets: \$15.00 for adults; \$10.00 for seniors/students; \$6.00 children under 12. Get your tickets online now at our website at www.moundstheatre.org.

"Night of the Living Dead" is sponsored by Crypticon Minneapolis – The Nightmare Before Halloween!

Empower Emporium

The Empower Emporium returns to the Historic Mounds Theatre on Saturday, August 10, from 11:00 am-6:00 pm.

Empower Emporium is a psychic and healing fair for practitioners and interested members of the community to network, learn, share and grow through the intuitive and healing arts as well as other methods of cultivating a more holistic lifestyle.

Activities include free classes and workshops, psychic and intuitive readings, alternative health professionals, aura photos and artisanal businesses. We have the best vendors! For more information, visit www.moundstheatre.org.

The Historic Mounds Theatre is located at 1029 Hudson Road, St. Paul, MN 55106; www.moundstheatre.org; 651-772-2253.

St. John's Catholic Church closes

by Greg Cosimini
Forum staff

The northeast corner of 5th and Forest Streets in Dayton's Bluff will never be the same. For 127 years, starting in 1886, it was occupied by St. John's Catholic Church, but on July 1 that changed. That was the day St. John's ceased to exist, as it merged with St. Pascal's two miles east.

The official reasons given by the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis for its closing were financial instability and a shortage of priests. However, St. John's was debt-free when it met its demise, while St. Pascal's owes millions of dollars on the church it built a decade ago. St. John's had a pastor willing to continue his work but he was forced to retire on July 1 and move out of the parish house a few days later.

The beginning of the end started in 2000 when St. John's pastor Father Joseph Fink was transferred to another parish and no new pastor was assigned to St. John's. Eventually a retired priest, Father Thomas Pingatore, offered to take over the reins. It was a homecoming for him because his first appointment as a newly ordained priest in 1945 was at St. John's. Later he became the one and only pastor of St. Ambrose in St. Paul, another East Side parish that was closed. Poor health eventually forced Father Pingatore to resign and St. John's was once again without a pastor.

Several temporary parochial administrators ran St. John's until another priest volunteered to lead the parish.

78-year-old Father George Welzbacher took over in 2006 and stability was restored to the parish. Then on a Saturday morning in October 2010, parishioners picked up their newspapers and read that the Archdiocese's Strategic Plan had determined St. John's should be closed by July 2013. Appeals were made to the Archdiocese and to the Vatican in Rome, but they were denied. A variety of alternate proposals were suggested that could keep St. John's open, but they too were rejected.

St. John's closing came as a complete surprise and shock to its parishioners, most of who have decided for a variety of reasons not to become members of St. Pascal's. As with any business that closes, the closing of St. John's also impacts its neighborhood. Two full time jobs, three if the pastor is included, three part time jobs, and a number of contract worker jobs were lost. The money spent by the church, its employees and parishioners in this neighborhood is gone. A large parcel of real estate containing three buildings now stand empty, joining other abandoned properties in Dayton's Bluff. The sale of St. John's church, school, parish house and parking lot is actively being pursued, but no purchase is in the works yet. Any revenue derived from the property will go to pay off St. Pascal's debt.

St. John's may have closed, but it went out with style. A solemn final Sunday Mass was celebrated on June 30, with the church filled to overflowing with parishioners and friends, both past and present. That was followed by a giant pig roast in the church hall and parking lot to mark the end of a very long era in Dayton's Bluff. A final weekday Mass was celebrated on July 3 with attendance similar to that of a typical weekend Mass. After a flurry of photographs and tearful good-byes, the church doors of St. John's were closed for the final time and the locks were changed

shortly thereafter.

St. John's received plenty of media coverage in its final weeks with articles in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, the *Minneapolis Star Tribune* and the *East Side Review*, and television features on KSTP and KMSP. Homemade videos have already begun appearing on YouTube and a professionally made DVD and CD photo set of the June 30 activities was produced.

St. John's may be gone, but it won't be forgotten. For more information about the history of St. John's, visit www.LostChurchesOfStPaul.com.

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

798 East 7th Street, St. Paul, MN 55106

Phone: 651-772-2075 Fax: 651-774-3510 E-mail: editor@daytonsbluff.org

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Editorial Assistants: Mark Gallagher, Danny Evans

Next issue: September 2013. Deadline for material: August 10, 2013.

Join your neighbors and celebrate NATIONAL NIGHT OUT



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Email Karin@DaytonsBluff.org or Call Karin 651-772-2075
to find out about a National Night Out event near you.

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State Representative

**SHELDON
JOHNSON**

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100 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

(651) 296-4201

rep.sheldon.johnson@house.mn

www.house.mn/67B

www.sheldonjohnson.com

MSU parking ramp meeting, continued from page 1

presenting] MSU speaker responded in regard to doing a study, "...we did what we were required to do."

Tom Dimond, longtime resident and one of several knowledgeable historic preservationists present, called for the University to be "creative in looking long range what's good for the community." Acknowledging that he and some others in the room had encouraged and welcomed MSU in the very beginning to build in Dayton's Bluff, Mr. Dimond asked, "Where *ARE* you going? This parking *minimizes* the ability of MSU to be an attribute to neighbors. Parking should be built underground."

Mr. Bethke and others on the MSU team repeated several times the desire of the University to be a "good neighbor" and that the University continues to be "respectful" of the [Dayton's Bluff] community. Minnesota State Representative Sheldon Johnson commented toward the end of the meeting that Metro State is giving every indication that it is NOT listening to what the Dayton's Bluff community is saying.

Questions from the attending Dayton's Bluff residents included: "What went into the early decision-making process of Metropolitan State University choosing to build on the upper end of East 7th Street, with the imposing building abruptly fortressing its back up against the Dayton's Bluff historic district of unique homes that reflect St. Paul's early multi-ethnic and economic immigration history?"

See links:

Metropolitan State University Capital Improvement Projects:

www.metrostate.edu/applications/drep/files/CommunityMeeting_Jul92013.pdf

July 9, MSU Community Forum presentation: www.metrostate.edu/msweb/resources/depts_services/bldg_services/capital_projects.html

Jesse Bethke, VP of University Planning & Advancement can be reached at jesse.bethkegomez@metrostate.edu.

Tom Cook, Executive Assistant to the President & Director of Government Relations can be reached at tom.cook@metrostate.edu.

Hospital Linen site "Community Discussion"

Report and Opinion by Steve Trimble, Forum staff:

The Hospital Linen Site. That's what the large, empty lot on south side of East 7th Street between Bates Avenue and Maple Street is being called – since there was once a commercial laundry there. You may have driven or walked by it and wondered what might be happening there.

This article will be a combination of what happened at the July 9 meeting, and my opinions of the event.

Opinion: I asked to have quotation marks put in my headline, because I don't view what happened as a true community discussion. It was a meeting at which the city introduced the two developers they were already working with, and allowed some after-the-fact comments on an already-made decision. Happens all the time, but I don't have to like it.

Report: Two developers were there—Dominium, wanting to build a multi-story project for senior rental housing, and the Mississippi Market Co-op, that wants to have a spot for organic food sales in the neighborhood. Representatives from the city offered that it was carrying out the recommendations of an earlier Near East Side Task Force. They

spoke of looking to have "a revitalized commercial corridor" that would be "a vibrant commercial district" with a diverse "mix of businesses."

Opinion: I was part of that task force. The goal was to add new businesses to fill in the gaps in the retail on East 7th Street, not to add large apartments. And the way I see it, the two proposals are quite different. A group of local people have been trying to get a food co-op going on the East Side and asked the Mississippi Market to come here. As far as I know, there is no group that has been pushing to have a big, fat apartment building on East 7th Street.

Report: The bulk of the property is inside the Dayton's Bluff Historic District, so some time was used to explain how Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) guidelines might affect the look of the buildings. Both developers said they had been in contact with the HPC.

A few moments were allotted to ask questions of the developers. The questions were wide-ranging, covering topics such as green space, the size of each building, and treatment of workers. One difference that popped up was that Dominium said they would be looking for city money, and the Mississippi Market people would not.

After that, the audience was broken into groups that met at separate tables to come up with ideas, suggestions and reactions to the proposals. Ideas were put onto large sheets of paper and one person at each table took notes and after a time each of

them make a short presentation to everyone. The city people said that they would look over all the material and that there would probably be gathering in the future.

Opinion: Of course, there were many differing opinions that were shared at the meeting. I don't like the neighborhood being told what is going to happen and then allow residents their "community input."

I know that this property has been vacant for a long time and the city is eager to get it developed and added to the property tax base. I'm with the folks who have asked Mississippi Market to make a community dream a reality. I hope they are given the go-ahead for their plans. However, I just don't think that a large housing complex is the right fit. It doesn't add to the neighborhood's current attempts to add to the retail offerings on East 7th Street.

Personally, I'd rather wait, even if it takes a few more years, and see if a recovering economy will give us a chance to find a more exciting use, like a multicultural collection of small shops and restaurants that could make Dayton's Bluff more of a destination. But that's just me. Maybe some readers would like to submit their opinions for publication in the *Forum*. Email editor@daytonsbluff.org.

Blogger response

Dayton's Bluff resident Jennifer Herman has crafted a response to the meeting on her blog *Outside My Door; Inside My Heart*. Read her post, entitled "Shame on you, MSU" at <http://wp.me/p2xgGT-2g>.

End-of-session legislative report

*from a release by MN State Senator
Foung Hawj*

The 2013 Legislative Session presented many challenges and important choices. This year, we helped thousands of Minnesotans by investing in job creation, education, property tax relief, and new initiatives to grow the middle class.

As Senator of District 67, I successfully passed bi-partisan legislation adding an adult basic education program advisor to the Governor's Workforce Development Council. This bill ensures all stakeholders will have a seat at the workforce discussion table.

Included in the Jobs and Economic

Development Omnibus Budget is funding for two programs that help build Minnesota's future workforce: the Minnesota Alliance of Boys and Girls Clubs, and St. Paul's Neighborhood Development Center.

I helped the legislature make a historic \$735 million investment in education for all learners – from early education scholarships and voluntary all-day kindergarten to a major investment in direct financial aid and a two year tuition freeze for all U of M and MnSCU schools. We also passed significant education policy reforms such as replacing the GRAD test with exams that better evaluate students' college and career

readiness.

In 2013 I co-authored legislation for access to quality health care coverage for 35,000 low-income adults. Not only does this expansion save Minnesota \$129 million next year, but it means thousands of low-income children, families, and individuals will be able to see doctors sooner and live healthier lives.

Through informative meetings with constituents and my legislative work this session, I have gained a new understanding of the everyday struggles Minnesotans experience. More importantly though, I've developed a boundless optimism about what is possible when we work together.

Letter to the editor – Forever St. Paul Challenge finalist recommends urban oasis

For years now, many of us who live on the East Side have wondered what might become of the abandoned, 36,000-square-foot "Lowertown Depot" at the foot of the Mounds Park overlook.

My idea is to honor the structure's unique history by creating a "signature food hub" – a place where we could aggregate, process and freeze local produce, thereby providing a new source of healthy, sustainably-produced food to thousands of people across the city.

The location is ideal: In this place where the Dakota were once nourished by the bounty of the land, we could purchase unsold produce from the Farmers Market a few blocks away, and use that food to provide fresh, healthy ingredients for food trucks serving crowds stepping off the light rail at nearby Union Station, or attending St. Paul Saints games in the new Lowertown ballpark. Downtown workers would have a new destination to buy healthy lunches, and would be able to enjoy their food in the pastoral setting of the nature sanctuary. A

signature food hub would be the perfect complement to the urban Renaissance taking place in Lowertown, and would connect that neighborhood to ours in Dayton's Bluff, which is undergoing its own transformation.

With a signature food hub, everyone wins: Local farmers would have a new outlet for their produce. Local schools, restaurants, hospitals and consumers would have a new source of locally-grown, healthy food products. Entrepreneurs could get a start in the building's commercial kitchen. Classes could be offered on cooking skills and food preservation techniques. Jobs would be created (someone would have to clean, freeze and distribute all that food!) and the City of St. Paul would receive addi-

tional revenue from sales taxes.

A signature food hub would position Minnesota's capital city as a leader in the global effort to seek new economic models that support human and environmental health. Such a facility would help create a city that is environmentally sustainable and more prosperous, creative and equitable.

Tracy Sides, Dayton's Bluff

The signature food hub proposal is one of 30 semi-finalist ideas in the St. Paul Foundation's "Forever Saint Paul Challenge" competition, the winner of which will receive a \$1 million grant to implement his or her idea. The foundation will name three finalists in August, and a public vote will determine which of those three is named the winner.

See mnideapen.org/foreversaintpaul for more information about the competition and to read the ideas.

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More electronic history of Dayton's Bluff

by Steve Trimble
Forum historian

In case you missed the two earlier episodes of "Electronic History" here in the *Forum*, let me explain. Historic St. Paul is developing "mobile apps" for some of the city's history. People can carry the information on a phone – or download it and make a paper copy if they want – and get information as they walk around.

But you don't have to wait for the app to be available. Here is a preview for *Forum* readers. This is the third and final selection from a section of the our neighborhood history that was included under the name "Below the Bluff." Places that were, or still are located on the Mississippi River bank underneath this community are described in a few hundred words.

Is it Carver's Cave or Wakan Tipi?

After a lengthy war, France, which

had laid claim to the area that included today's St. Paul, ceded the land to England in treaty of 1763. Eager to find out the nature of what they saw as their colonial possession, the English dispatched Johnathan Carver to visit. His exploration led him up the Mississippi River and, on

November 14, 1766 he came to "a remarkable cave of amazing depth that the Indians called Wakan-Tipi," which roughly translates as the Dwelling of the Great Mystery.

Carver later wrote a book about his explorations that included information about the cave and, although the Dakota had led him there, he decided to give the landmark his own name. Here, with the original spellings, is part of his descriptions: "The rock at the entrance of the cave is of lightish gray colour and very soft like the grit of a grindstone. I found many strange heiroglyphycks cut in the stone some of which was very acient and grown over with moss. On the stone I marked the arms of the King of England."

Because Carver published an account of his adventures, later travelers often tried to visit the famous cavern. After the Revolutionary War, the United States gained its independence from England and its leaders also sent people to explore what they considered their new possessions.

The cave was sometimes "lost" when falling limestone and debris covered its entrance, so sometimes explorers were not successful finding the historic landmark. In St. Paul's early days, Wakan Tipi was accessible and often visited by early settlers. When the railroads arrived in Minnesota, the front entry may have been destroyed by construction work.

Over time, the famous cavern had been covered by falling limestone and other debris. Then in 1913 a neighborhood group undertook a year-long effort to find it and were able to uncover the entrance. At the time they hoped that it would become a tourist attraction complete with interior lighting.

While the city did buy the area around the cave, the grand vision of a national attraction faded and once again Carver's Cave was mostly forgotten. Recently,

however, the significance of Wakan Tipi was once again recognized. It has become one of the area's high points and while it is protected, it can be seen from the walking trails in the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary.

Discover the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary

A thousand years ago the area around the confluence of Trout Brook and Phalen Brook near the Mississippi River was a marshy flood plain. By the early 1900s, the entire delta had been expanded by filling and became an industrial railroad corridor. As rail use decreased in the 1970s, the land was largely abandoned and buildings and tracks were removed.

If you saw it in 1980, it was a barren, litter-strewn site that had been the victim of illegal dumping. However, local East Side activists and Lowertown residents saw the site's potential and in 1997 they began working together as the Lower

Phalen Area Project. They joined with the DNR and the National Park Service to reclaim a 27-acre area to start developing a landmark that combined restoration of the river-front habitat with public access.

The city purchased the land, and restoration work was soon undertaken by vo-

lunteers who removed tons of debris that had been dumped over the years. Clean soil was brought in to replace marginal land, and invasive buckthorn was uprooted. The goal was to bring back a mix of floodplain forest, prairie and oak savanna tamarack seepage swamps, and four acres of bedrock bluff prairie.

The 27-acre park now contains native plant communities and the wildlife is returning. Two small ponds attract waterfowl and the uplands are home to grassland bird species. Turkey vultures, bald eagles, and red tail hawks are now seen along the sandstone bluffs. Pedestrian paths and bicycle trails have been installed, a series of three wetlands now hold abundant water and a spring-fed stream runs through the property.

On May 21, 2005 the area was opened to the public and was named in honor of Bruce Vento, a native of the East Side, a teacher and a U. S. Congressman who served the area from 1977 until 2000. He was the author of a law that created a Mississippi National River and Recreational Area.

There are a few remnants of the older days, including railroad maintenance pads that echo the importance of trains to the area history and mention of the old brewery. The project recreated a number of ecosystems that had existed including oak woodlands, floodplain forests, prairies and oak savannas.

The Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary's walking and biking paths take visitors through a vibrant habitat with colorful signs that explain and interpret various parts of the site. Volunteers have planted nearly 2,000 trees, and wetlands and the prairie sections are now filled with colorful flowers. While trains occasionally rumble by below the bluff, you are more likely now to see eagles, indigo buntings, northern flickers, red tailed hawks and other wildlife in and soaring above the park.



Photo courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society

Carver's Cave, circa 1910.

View from my porch

Metro State labyrinth offers peace, reflection

by Sage Holben
Dayton's Bluff Community Council

On my walk to work several days ago, my neighbor, Karo, was picking up litter in front of his Maria Avenue residence. We exchanged a few weather-related comments, and he mentioned the labyrinth between Metro State's Library and lower Swede Hollow. He indicated how lucky our neighborhood is to have that nearby; that he has spent a lot of time reflecting there.

I wondered how many other people find their way to the labyrinth in order to walk the path, perhaps to calm the mind, stimulate creative thought, reflect on some personal awareness, find their emotional, personal way through the intricate and sometimes confusing path in our world, or simply to enjoy the green and the quietness within an inner-city neighborhood. One weekday I took a break in the garden area of Swede Hollow Café. While there, a woman who lives in the Payne-Phalen area commented to me how refreshing it was to find the garden amidst all the "ugliness" of the surrounding East 7th Street area. I was too surprised at the word *ugly* to ask her to expand on her thoughts.

Why do I love an area so much, while other people may see it as ugly? I dislike the barrenness of much of East 7th; so much pavement reflecting the sun's heat. In the winter, the sidewalks become a dangerous slip-and-slide for pedestrians. I regard it as a homely person (and perhaps that is what I am to someone else) who becomes more lovely in my eyes as I get to know the inner person. Since the labyrinth's beginning last fall, I have

watched from the university library windows as the ground was cleared, the maze detailed, and more recently, rocks, benches and plaques installed and flowers planted. In three years, the flowers will have taken root, claiming the space as if they had been there forever. I will have forgotten how plain the area had been in previous years.

As I walk the labyrinth, I think of my deceased Library Dean, David Barton (it was in memory of David that the labyrinth was created). Like the labyrinth, David could seem a bit formidable until engaging with him (and often, even then). Yet David could be protective of those he respected. Perhaps it stemmed from his conscientious-objector background and that he applied himself to the service of others in exchange for the CO status. I knew him, in a sense, as a person who respected Dayton's Bluff residents/library patrons, whether they were moneyed, homeless, literary, or functionally barely managing life. The labyrinth to me, even as I hold it in my mind, brings out the best in Metro State for allotting space to honor David and his values. Well-dressed, well-positioned people attended the recent recognition of the completed reflective garden. I didn't see anyone I knew from the local homeless shelters or immediate neighborhood. I do know many are now using the pathways, enjoying the green space, and perhaps finding some peace and direction in this sometimes crazy world. I asked our facilities person once on how it could be used. I want to be a part, some dark night, of perhaps 50 people walking the labyrinth path, each carrying a light. Perhaps each light would reflect for onlookers all that is good.

Ever think, "Someone should do something..."? You ARE someone...in Dayton's Bluff.

Join us at our Community Council meetings. All are open to the public and held at the Community Council office at 798 East 7th Street.

Board of Directors:
3rd Monday each month, 7:00 pm

Vacant Building Committee:
3rd Thursday each month, 6:30 pm

Land Use Committee:
1st Monday each month, 7:00 pm

Greenspace Committee:
3rd Monday each month, 6:00 pm

Equity Committee:
1st Tuesday each month, 6:30 pm

Ask about our **Marketing, Arts and Cultures, and Outreach Committees.**

Call 651-772-2075 for more information.

Beautifying the Bluff



Photo by Karin DuPaul

Left to right: Preston Jones, Gary Weisbrod, Harry Gimpel, Ricky Caffey, and Steve Hakala were part of a work crew that put mulch around plantings along the *Make it Happen* area on East 7th Street and in Swede Hollow Park. Thank you for all the work!

June – July – August

Dayton's Bluff Community Council

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For Information Call 651-772-2075

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Every Thursday[⌘] – 4 to 8 pm
Local produce, Artists, Crafts, Music, Children's activities, Food

Mind Munch

Conversations & Lunch – 11 AM to 12:30 PM
Join us for lunch Every Thursday at 798 E 7th Street on our outdoor patio

⌘ Market and Mind Munch every THURSDAY June 13 - August 15 (no July 4th)

National Night Out – Tuesday August 6th – Multiple locations

**2nd Annual
Night Out on E. 7th Street Business & Community Fair
Saturday, August 17th**

Mind Munch

from a DBCC press release

The Dayton's Bluff Community Council is hosting Mind Munch: a series of FREE weekly community conversations. This lunch & conversation series is taking place every **Thursday, from 11:00 am-12:30 pm** through mid-August on the outdoor patio at the Dayton's Bluff Community Council offices, located at 798 East 7th Street. (In the event of rain, Mind Munch will be held indoors at the same address.)

Lunch and conversations are free and open to the public.

Each week will feature a new topic of facilitated conversation relevant to the revitalization of our neighborhood. Each week's gathering will also employ a different participatory conversation method, introducing participants to new ways of communicating.

Future topics of discussion are:

- July 25: *Intercultural focus. What do I call you?* (Method: Circle)
- August 1: *Transit* (Method: Appreciative Inquiry)
- August 8: *Housing* (Method: TBD)
- August 15: *What Did you Learn from the Conversation Series?* (Method: World Cafe)

Funding for the Mind Munch Community Conversation series has been provided by the Bush Foundation.

Friends of the Forum

Thank you!
 The Dayton's Bluff District Forum thanks these generous donors who have stepped forward with a monetary gift in support of the Forum.

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Consider joining them; fill out the form at left.

Dayton's Bluff

DistrictForum

798 East 7th Street, Saint Paul MN 55106
 Phone 651-772-2075 Fax 651-774-3510

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSPAPER NEEDS YOUR HELP

Dear Reader,
 The *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* has been around since the late 1970s. It's a volunteer-run newspaper that has always operated on a minimal budget, but is now facing the possibility that it won't be able to continue because of economic difficulties.

The large companies in Dayton's Bluff are gone, and most of the small businesses don't have the finances to purchase advertisements.

We have to admit that we can no longer rely on ad income alone, though we will keep trying to increase this revenue source. Grants are hard to get these days.

So we are trying this approach: We'd like to get 100 residents to become *Friends of the Forum* and agree to make annual tax-exempt donations

to help the paper continue to mail out neighborhood news on a monthly basis.

If you value having a community source of information, please consider filling out the form at right and enclose a check. Any amount is appreciated.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dayton's Bluff District Forum Board:
 Greg Cosimini, Karin DuPaul, Carla Riehle, Steve Trimble
 Editor, Meg Gronau
 Editorial Assistants: Mark Gallagher and Danny Evans

Yes, I will become a *Friend of the Forum*.

My tax-deductible check is enclosed, for (circle amount):
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