

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

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February 2013

www.daytonsbuff.org

"The Voice of the Community"

Veá las páginas 4 y 5 para cosas en español.

See page 4 for an item in Hmong.

2012 Annual Report: Working together for a better East Side

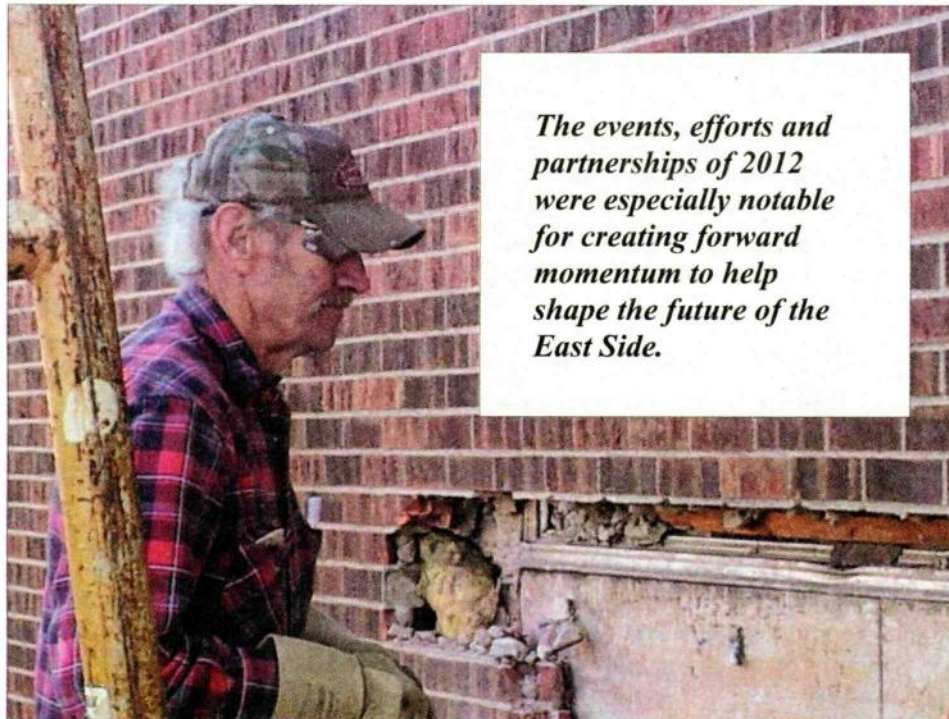
by Deanna Foster and Tabitha DeRango
Dayton's Bluff Community Council

Dayton's Bluff

This issue of the *District Forum* highlights the committed residents, organizations and businesses who worked together in 2012 to accomplish projects relating to the quality of life in East Side neighborhoods. The events, efforts and partnerships of 2012 were especially notable for creating forward momentum to help shape the future of the East Side.

In 2012, the Dayton's Bluff Community Council initiated *Make it Happen on East 7th Street* to implement the *Near East Side Roadmap*, a forward-thinking planning document created by community members and adopted by the City of St. Paul. *Make it Happen* sponsored business surveys, forums and the successful Night Out Business Fair in August, which drew over 1,000 people to celebrate the East 7th Street business district. Additionally, *A Million will Make it Happen* Neighborhood STAR loan and grant program was approved, establishing a \$500,000 public investment and \$500,000 private match that will jump-start multiple capital improvements for East 7th Street businesses. As of the end of the year, 14 businesses proposed projects for well over \$1 million in capital improvements. Improvements to commercial buildings will be made both inside and out, making East 7th Street businesses more competitive and offering a greatly improved local business district. Watch for plenty of construction in 2013.

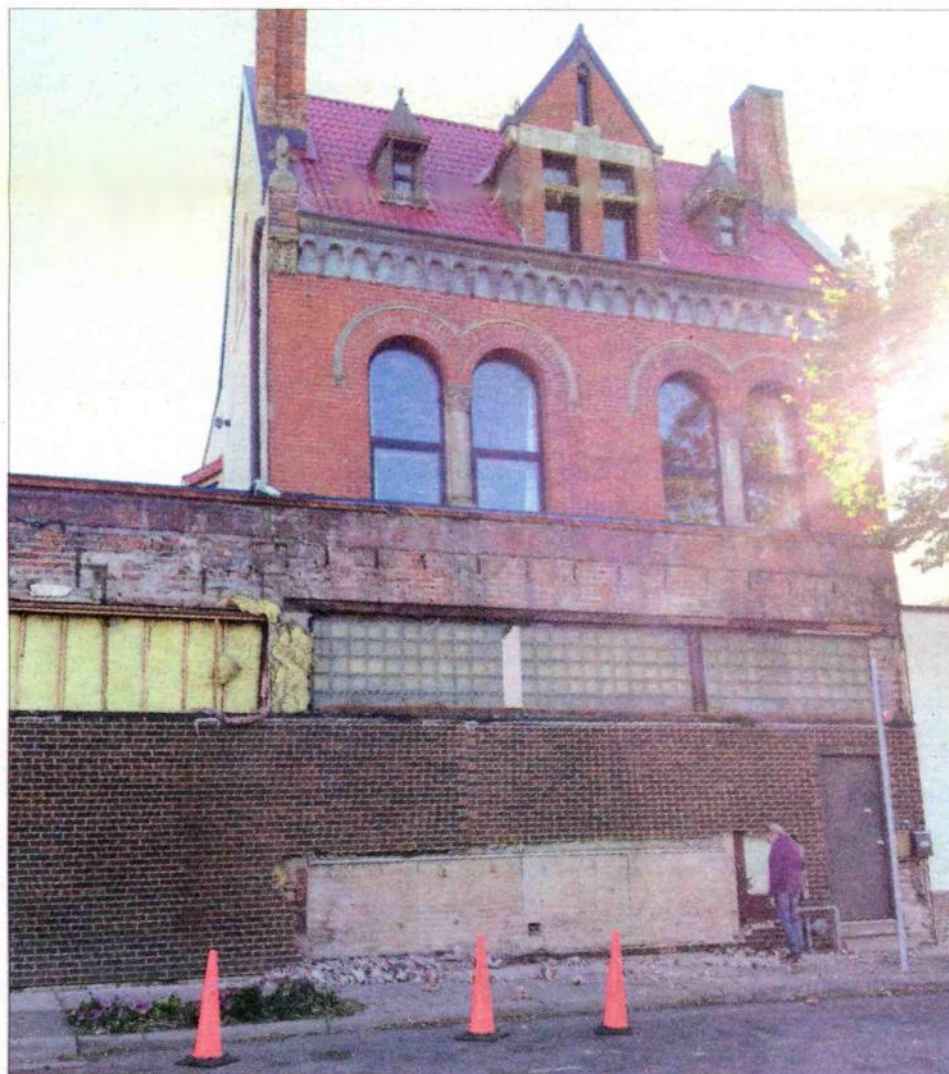
Another important Community Council partnership is with the Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center youth programming. In 2012, the Council was awarded an *Artist Neighborhood Partnership Initiative* grant, which introduced and legitimized a very creative approach to youth work in our community. The \$10,000 ANPI grant allowed us to engage a successful artist to work with the youth and establish a fully-equipped music production studio, allowing us to reach Dayton's Bluff youth in new ways. Traditional "sports" oriented activities do not allow for the kind of discussion, creative expression and new skill development that this project introduced to the group. Youth participants learned not only the technical skills needed to use the studio, but also experienced the power of creative writing. 2012 mem-



The events, efforts and partnerships of 2012 were especially notable for creating forward momentum to help shape the future of the East Side.

Photos courtesy of Dayton's Bluff Community Council

Above: Cleo Kelly, owner of the historic building at Margaret and 7th Street, pitches in with some demolition work. Below: Built in 1885, the building is being restored.



bers are developing a plan with the artists that taught them to reach and teach the younger members of their group.

Greater East Side

New leadership at ESABA (East Side Area Business Association) has begun the work to unite and support individual businesses and districts by sponsoring networking opportunities and events that unite people throughout the east side. Other initiatives, like the Buy/Hire local effort begun by the Prosperity Campaign, are gaining momentum and promise for our neighborhoods. Local residents have joined together to organize the Gateway Food Co-op, hoping to soon establish a co-op on the East Side.

In 2012 we began the discussion of transportation options that will better serve the whole community in the future. Connection to jobs, commerce and regional prosperity are essential to future progress, and East-Siders are prepared to speak out.

Continued cooperation between community organizations and law enforcement has led to productive dialogue about issues and the strategies to curtail the "bad" behaviors and support the "good." The police commanders and officers of the East Side have shown a commitment to listening and working with the community to bring new energy to our commitment to the positive future for the East Side.

Improved working relationships – at all levels of city, county and state government – open the door to inclusion of East Side priorities in decisions that will impact the social and economic success of the entire region.

Our seniors are an important presence in our neighborhoods, and continued support in service and daily connections through church affiliations, neighbors, and resources like Merrick, Dayton's Bluff Seniors, the Block Nurse Program, and others allows us to ensure quality of life and intergenerational living.

Engagement of people from all neighborhoods and cultures is a priority for creating a viable, equitable and prosperous plan for the future of the city as a whole, and the East Side as an invaluable part of St. Paul.

Don't hesitate to be involved in your community – the connections we nurture make all the difference in the quality of our lives and the future of our communities.

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

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Personality spotlights

Interns and volunteers shine their light in Dayton's Bluff

Dayton's Bluff is graced with many people who volunteer their time and energy toward bettering our community. Some dedicate a semester of school to helping out; others give many years. As part of our 2012 recap, we'd like to show off just a few of the people making a difference in Dayton's Bluff.

Timothy Goss: DBCC Intern

My experience with Dayton's Bluff Community Council has been very positive and is something I will take with

me as I move forward in life. All the people I met and worked with have been very kind, hard-working and considerate.

I have enjoyed getting out in the community and receiving feedback about how the community needs to be improved. I also enjoyed my time working with the children and giving them a positive role model to look up to – someone who will be there for
(See "Interns and Volunteers," continued on page 7.)

Small business classes

The Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Microentrepreneur Program is taking applications for the **spring 2013** class, which will start in **April**.

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

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

The registration fee is based on a sliding scale; class size is limited. For an application, call 651-772-2075 or email karin@daytonsbluff.org.

Community meeting

The next Dayton's Bluff community meeting is **Thursday, February 7, from 6:30 - 8:00 pm** at the Dayton's Bluff Community Council office, 798 E. 7th Street. The object is to work on community-building, as well as criminal and nuisance behavior, code enforcement issues, and any other concerns or good things going on in the Bluff.

Confidential complaints about specific properties can be made at 651-266-8989 or dsicomplaints@ci.stpaul.mn.us.

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, February 15, at 9:30 am, and Wednesday, February 20, at 6:30 pm**. The meetings are intended to listen to and address concerns about crime and other issues on the east side.

Friends of Swede Hollow

The next monthly meeting is on **Wednesday, February 13, at 6:30 pm**. Email swedehollow@gmail.com or call 651-776-0550 for more information and the meeting's location.

Dayton's Bluff beat phone

The Police Beat Phone, 651-341-7637, is available for residents' calls. It is not answered on officers' days off, or during special training. Call about ongoing neighborhood problems; concerns about people in vacant buildings after 10:00 pm; police-related questions, and so on. **If you need police right away or see a crime in progress, call 911 or 651-291-1111.**

Donate your junk car

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

The Forum needs YOU

The *District Forum* newspaper needs your help! We are a nonprofit operation that mails out a valuable community resource to every address in Dayton's Bluff. For free!

Please contribute to the paper at www.givemn.org. The *Forum's* nonprofit name is Hopewell Communications. <http://givemn.razoo.com/story/Hopewell-Communications-Incorporated>

Take-a-Hike February 2

Take-a-Hike occurs on the first Saturday of most months. The next hike will be **Saturday, February 2**. 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. Transportation to Indian Mounds Park is available, if required. All are welcome.

Introducing: STOMP Stewards Of Margaret Park

This brand new 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 on big changes taking place at Margaret; announcements of upcoming STOMP meetings; to ask questions or share thoughts about the new Margaret Park! www.facebook.com/stompmn

Skidmore Park Community Garden

New gardener applications now available for the 2013 growing season. For information, contact 651-280-9183 or kaylabrinkman@gmail.com.

Welcome new neighbors

A get-together will be held at the Community Council office (798 East 7th Street) on **Tuesday, February 12, at 6:30 pm**, to acquaint new residents with the neighborhood. If you are a new neighbor, please come! If you have new neighbors, please bring them. Everyone is welcome to help greet new residents and talk about Dayton's Bluff past and present. For more information, please call 651-772-2075.

Mounds Park United Methodist Church

Sunday School classes for all age groups, **9:15 am** every Sunday. Service starts at **10:30 am**; fellowship follows with coffee and treats.

February 4: Family/Kids' Club: 4:00-5:30 pm sledding at Battle Creek (open to the public).

February 16: Glorious Grocery Giveaway: 10:00 am. One bag of groceries to all who come.

February 16: Family Movie Night: games 4:30 pm; free-will dinner 5:30; movie 6:00 pm. Open to the public.

March 6: Lenten Service 11:00 am; Soup Supper 6:00 pm; service to follow at 7:00 pm.

Please contact Mounds Park United Methodist Church at 651-774-6780 or www.moundsparkumc.org.

Upcoming opportunities at Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center

- **Tuesday, January 29, from 5:00 - 7:00 pm, is the Grand Opening Party for the newly-remodeled Teen Room and Music Production Studio!** Come for snacks, and see the mural designed by Dayton's Bluff youth with local artist Diane May (see photo, page 8).
- **Dayton's Bluff fitness center open house Thursday, January 31, 6:00 - 7:30 pm.** The Fitness Center is open Monday through Thursday from 3:00-8:00 pm and Friday from 10:00 am-6:00 pm. Fitness memberships are \$30 per year or \$3 per day; use them at rec centers throughout St. Paul.
- **Parent and Tot Gym Play time:** Wednesday and Friday from 10:00 am - 12:00 noon.
- **Open gym for teens** is on Mondays and Thursdays from 6:00-8:00 pm and for 8th grade and younger on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 6:00-8:00 pm.
- **Free Zumba class** on Thursday evenings from 6:00-7:00 pm at Dayton's Bluff Rec Center dance room. Call 651-793-3885 for more information.
- **Free Arts:** Thursdays from 6:00-7:00 pm. Come one, come all and join us in doing fun projects.
- **Karate and Cheer America** start the week of February 11. Both programs require registration and a fee.
- **Judo** is offered every Monday (fees may apply).
- **Messy Fingers & Toes** (for parents and tots) 6-week session begins February 1; \$38
- **Dayton's Bluff basketball** season is going great! Our 12-and-under boys are the defending champs and we are incredibly proud of them!
- **If you have a forum, dance recital, spoken-word program, or talent show** you would like to host, Dayton's Bluff has a theater and dance room! Fees may apply.

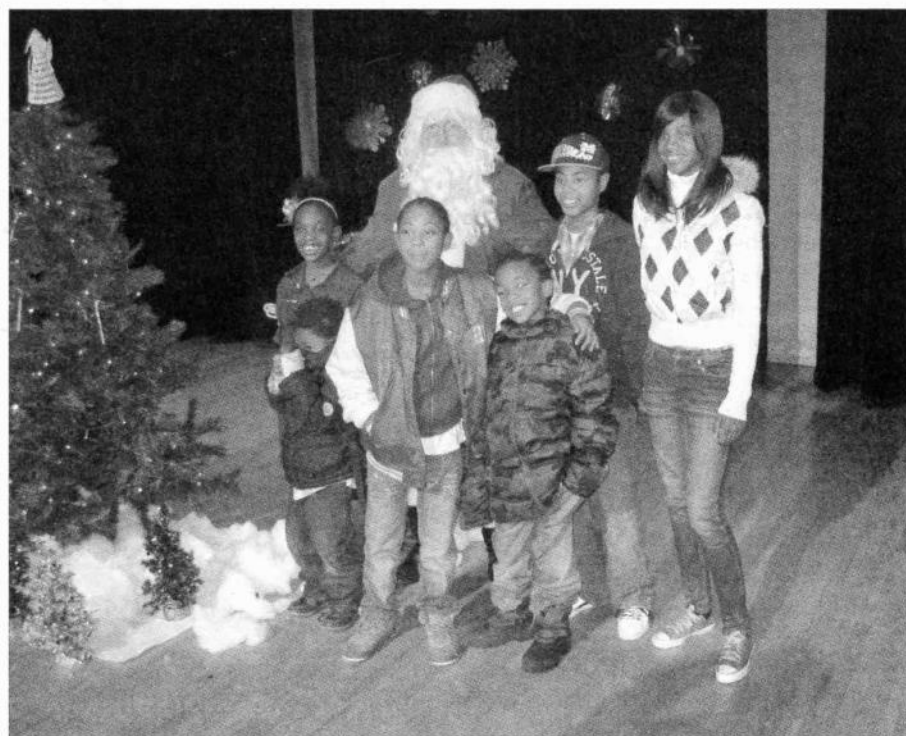


Photo by Steve Trimble

Santa always attracts a crowd. He made a stop by the Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center on December 11 for a special holiday event.

**The Dayton's Bluff Rec Center is located at 800 Conway Street.
Stop by and check us out!**

Dayton's Bluff Year in Review

Residential real estate sees real improvement in 2012

by Brad Griffith, DBCC

The sale price of single-family residential homes increased both nationally and in the Twin Cities metropolitan region in 2012.

However, real estate is local: neighborhood by neighborhood and block by block. This review will focus on the single-family real estate sales in Dayton's Bluff in 2012.

In 2012, there were 190 single-family home sales in the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood. The selling prices ranged from \$7,200-\$237,000. Of the 190 single family homes sold, 74 (39%) were traditional sales and 116 (61%) were distressed sales (bank-owned or short sales). The median sale price of traditional sales was

\$99,900; it was \$46,112 for distressed sales.

In 2011, 185 single-family homes were sold. The price range was \$14,000-\$200,000. 58 were traditional sales (31%) and 127 were distressed sales (69%). The median sale price for traditional sales was \$99,950; it was \$39,950 for distressed sales.

What these numbers indicate is that the value of single family homes is improving and more traditional sellers are able to compete in the market place due the reduction in distressed home inventory. In addition, mortgage rates are expected to be at historic lows throughout 2013, translating to continued home affordability.

While improving is a good thing, more needs to be done. The number of registered vacant buildings in the neighborhood remains high. Reasonable and sustainable lending practices are still a work in progress, and the process for assistance to underwater homeowners needs to be expanded and made less arduous.

In addition to creating jobs in and for the neighborhood, the best solution to prevent foreclosure is to provide home improvement loans that will allow a homeowner to make necessary improvements, even in situations where their Loan-to-Value (LTV) ratio exceeds 100%. This not only improves the neighborhood housing stock, but allows an individual or family to stay in their home.

In 2013 the Dayton's Bluff Community Council (DBCC) (specifically, the Dayton's Bluff Vacant Building Committee) will continue to work with the city of St. Paul to reduce the number of vacant homes and will become more proactive in reducing foreclosures and improving housing stock.

If you would like to participate in this effort, contact Karin DuPaul, DBCC Community Organizer, 651-772-2075 or Brad Griffith, member of the DBCC Vacant Building Committee, 651-263-2830.

Brad Griffith is a Realtor with Edina Realty, licensed in the State of Minnesota and a member of the St. Paul Area Association of Realtors.

Rapid transit decisions coming for the East Side
Suburbs poised for economic development

by Sherry Johnson
special to the Forum

2012 saw the Gateway Corridor Commission choose one route for an arterial transitway that would link downtown St. Paul and the East Metro.

In early 2011, the Gateway Commission began to engage various stakeholders in transit route and mode planning. Dayton's Bluff saw 12 of the 59 meetings in the district, two of which were public. The other 10 included entities like community councils, business associations, and Engage East Side (EES) – an association of East Side nonprofits, hosted by the East Side Prosperity Campaign.

By the Bluff's first public meeting in July 2011, a proposed East 3rd Street route had been eliminated. By the March 2012 meeting, the routes had been ranked with regard to engineering preference and federal-funding criteria.

As a result of news coverage and EES's mobilization, the March meeting turned out around 100 people. While transit planners explicated PowerPoint charts, area residents sought to protect their homes. At the top of the planners' rankings were Hudson Road Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), with two stops in Dayton's Bluff; and a MNPASS/BRT lane along Interstate 94, with no stops in Dayton's Bluff. Ranking in the lower half were BRT and Light Rail Transit (LRT) routes along White Bear Avenue and East 7th Street, as well as LRT for Hudson Road.

Federal funding guidelines favoring low-income and transit-dependent ridership were stressed at this meeting, and it became clear that Gateway might not win funding if its route failed to serve East Side residents. Ramsey County Commissioner Jim McDonough and a member of the Chamber of Commerce spoke in favor of the White Bear/East 7th Street route's economic development potential, another criterion for federal funding.

In an effort to engage more of the community, EES surveyed almost 600 East Siders on their use of transit last spring. About half of the respondents were frequent users of transit. Their report, which found an overwhelming desire for more and better transit on the East Side, was pre-sented to various nonprofit and civic groups and filed with the Gateway Commission.

Through the summer and fall, White Bear/East 7th Street support dissolved. More and more residents spoke out against it, driven by a sense of crisis to pre-

serve East Side thoroughfares.

Voices in favor of transit-oriented development faded, as district councils and politicians waited out the initial route decision. With significant analysis and debate missing from its newsrooms, institutions, and neighborhoods, the East Side's "Locally Preferred Alternative" defaulted to Hudson Road.

Meanwhile, east of the city limits, suburbanites rallied around the most direct routes to downtown and got Gateway planners to shift the dedicated lane east of Oakdale from the I-94 median to the south frontage area from Radio Drive to Manning Avenue, thereby positioning themselves for economic development.

As the December 3 public-comment deadline loomed, County Commissioner Jim McDonough made a last push to invite public debate, extending the deadline 30 days. On December 18, Dayton's Bluff residents held the Gateway Neighbors' Forum, a panel discussion to inform and arouse debate. Forty-five people attended the meeting and submitted their comments to Gateway's records. These eleventh-hour efforts produced a huge volume of public comment from East Siders, prompting Commissioner Rafael Ortega to put a 30-day hold on the Gateway Commission's next phase of engineering at their January 17 meeting.

Dayton's Bluff will be the battleground over many other competing plans for transit corridors. The city's year-long East 7th streetcar study began in Spring 2012. The Met Council's far-flung and unfunded plans include BRT options for East 7th Street. Most notably, the Red Rock Corridor from the northeastern exurbs will begin planning soon.

It's hard to say when the next big transit project will break ground on the East Side, bringing along its ability to attract job-seekers, young professionals, and big developers. Until then, a core group of Dayton's Bluff residents are organizing to help shape parking, re-zoning, and quality-of-life challenges that transit corridors will bring. Join the conversation and the action; join the Gateway Neighbors online forum; email gatewayneighbors-owner@yahoo.com

MOUNDS PARK BARBER STYLISTS



651-771-6980

APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE
TUESDAY THRU SATURDAY

1043 HUDSON ROAD
SAINT PAUL, MN 55106

Judy Lee

ESABA

2012 in review; kicking off a great 2013

by Tim Herman, ESABA Executive Director

The East Side Area Business Association (ESABA) has been part of the community since 1992 and we are excited about the future. We are committed to being an organization that provides meaningful connections to our diverse businesses, cultures, and community organizations, while providing opportunities to our members and other business owners to be active citizens and experience business growth.

2012 was an exciting year for ESABA, with many new developments and successes.

· **Membership grew from approximately 35 in the beginning of the year to nearly 100 at year's end.** With over 2,500 businesses on the East Side, we are confident that we can reach our aggressive goal to double our membership in 2013.

· **ESABA's Board expanded to include representatives from each of the other business associations (PABA, WBABA, & DBABA) as well as from the SunRay/District 1 Council area.** This has helped ESABA meet our goal to become a deeply interconnected organization, which is valuable to all our members and the broader Business Community.

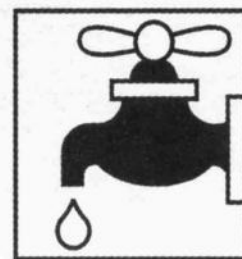
· **ESABA has made diversity a priority.** Membership growth in 2013 will more closely represent the business and cultural diversity that is the East Side. We are committed to continue this important goal to have the "face" of ESABA accurately represent the rich cultural diversity of our community. We are also seeking leaders from the Hmong, Latino, and other ethnic and cultural communities to serve on our board as positions become available in 2013.

· **Regular business lunch-&-learns, new events, and continued membership meetings with relevant topics were an important part of 2012.** 2013 will continue down this path, adding additional events, pub crawls, fun membership drives, networking and multiple series of "Running a Business" education opportunities from topics such as Bookkeeping to Marketing.

· **For more information, please visit our website at www.ESABA.org.**

ESABA's Annual Meeting Luncheon will be Thursday, January 31 at the St. Paul Federal Credit Union and Electrician's Union Hall from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. Contact Tim Herman at tim@esaba.org for more details or to be added to our database and guest list.

ESABA looks forward to what 2013 will bring with great enthusiasm and dedication to our members, the East Side businesses, and our community.



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.

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Dayton's Bluff
Neighborhood Housing Services
823 7th Street East
St. Paul, MN 55106
651.774.6995-office
www.dbnhs.org



Please join the East Side Prosperity Campaign (ESPC) for a community conversation focused on:

How can East Side residents, organizations, institutions and businesses ensure we have strong schools in our community?

Beginning with the 2013-2014 school year, the St. Paul Public School district will transition back to neighborhood-based schools.

The East Side Prosperity Campaign will convene a Community Conversation to explore how a return to neighborhood-based schools can present opportunities for the East Side. These gatherings are for teachers, parents, businesses, organizations and community members who wish to share their ideas and suggestions for ensuring strong schools in our community.

The purpose of this conversation is to inform folks about the upcoming change and to have a discussion about how to build community around the schools in our neighborhoods to ensure we have strong schools in our community.

Please join us for a Community Conversation on **Wednesday, February 13, 2013, 8:30 AM – 10:30 am**, East Side YMCA, 875 Arcade Street, St. Paul. Breakfast included. There will be a tour of the John A. Johnson Achievement Plus elementary school at 10:30. Share your ideas about how we can support and strengthen our schools on the East Side.

There is no cost to attend this Community Conversation.

Please contact us to reserve a space so we may plan for your participation. RSVP to Mikael Carlson, ESPC, at mikael_carlson@aifc.net or 651-793-3803, ext 3024.

If you plan to attend & will need either Child Care &/or Interpretation, please let us know when you RSVP.

These Community Conversations are a collaboration between the Education & Learning and the Community Building & Civic Engagement Vision Areas of the East Side Prosperity Campaign. Community Conversations are made possible with support from the East Side Prosperity Campaign and InCommons.

Cómo podrían los residentes, organizaciones, instituciones y negocios del East Side asegurarse de que tendremos escuelas sólidas en nuestra comunidad? Sea parte de esta conversación: Miércoles, Febrero 13, 8:30-10:30 am, East Side YMCA, 875 Arcade Street, St. Paul (desayuno incluida). No cuesta nada estos eventos solo reservar su asistencia para poder planear mejor. RSVP a Mikael Carlson, ESPC, 612-396-8407, o mikael_carlson@aifc.net. Si planea participar y necesita interprete o cuidado de niños, dejemos saber al reservar.

Cov pej xeeem, koom haum, thiab chaw ua lag luam nyob rau sab East Side yuav ua li cas kom cov tsev kawm ntawv ruaj khov kho? Thov caw nej sawv daws tuaj Sib Koom Sib Tham: Wednesday hnuv 13, lub 2 hli ntuj xyoo 2013, 8:30-10:30 am, East Side YMCA, 875 Arcade Street, St. Paul. Pub tsais noj dawb. Tsis yuav nqe tuaj koom cov rooj sablaj no, tuaj dawb xwb. Thov caw nej hu tuaj teem rooj kom peb thiaj tau txhij txhua. Hu rau Vibvas Yaaj, ESPC. Xov tooj: 651-771-2566, ext. 253 LOS YOG email viva.yang@lssmn.org. Yog koj yuav tuaj koom thiab yuav kev pab zov menyuum los yog yuav neeg txhais los thov nej qhia thaum nej tuaj teem.

St. Paul Garden Club appreciated

Over the years, the St. Paul Garden Club has played an important role with the Flowering Business Pots Program sponsored by the Dayton's Bluff Area Business Association and the Dayton's Bluff Community Council. The Garden Club has

donated funds to purchase the plants for the flowering pots. This year the flower pots were placed in front of businesses and removed in the fall by youth from the Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center. The planting was done by the youth at the Community Design Center.

In 2012, flowering pots were placed along the *Make it Happen on East 7th Street* area. Some of the pots were in front of the businesses at Hudson Road and Earl Street, and a number of East 6th Street businesses. This is, of course, a beautification project that

improves the look of the business streets, but it also serves as a crime-prevention and traffic-calming project.

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

Merrick Community Services – A shining light to many

by Mark Gallagher
Forum Assistant Editor

Many items of interest in the City of St. Paul attract attention and publicity, but as in the sports or entertainment arena, some people and organizations seem to get all the glory. Not so for Merrick Community Services, located at 715 Edgerton Street. Without much fanfare, their staff of dedicated people work their way through the day-to-day, sometimes extremely challenging situations, joyful in service to their beloved East Side.

"The mission of Merrick Community Services," says Associate Director, Mary Vidas, "is to improve the lives of the residents of the East Side of St. Paul, by empowering individuals, strengthening families, and promoting their independence."

The many things they do for

people are evidenced by the plethora of services they offer to the residents of the East Side. Mary says, "We go to where the need is. We've served Dayton's Bluff for 108 years." Since it is winter, it will be appropriate to focus on one of the services Merrick provides during winter months.

For the past eight years, Merrick Community Services has provided help for seniors in what is called the Chore Program. East Side community residents 60 years and older may qualify for services they are physically unable to perform. Some tech-savvy seniors use Facebook, the Internet, and MinnesotaHelp.info to

sign up. Other folks use just the plain old telephone to register for the services.

One service provided by the Chore Program is shoveling the snow off the sidewalks and driveways of eligible East Side seniors. Merrick Community Services uses volunteers, as well as contractors, to handle the shoveling requests. Jennifer Anton, manager of the Senior Services Program, says, "3M has been a big supporter of Merrick Community Services for a long time; they've got

their walks or having to pay for the service. 3M volunteers do the same thing with the fall and spring cleanup of leaves and brush from seniors' yards.

"When you break that down into hours verses costs, what 3M donates every year, as far as time goes, is huge," Jennifer declares. "Those fall and winter cleanups and the snow shoveling are very labor-intensive and time-consuming."

But 3M is not the only volunteer provider. "We have these ongoing relationships with a

lot of different companies, agencies, organizations, East Side congregations, and churches," Jennifer says. "It takes all these little bits and pieces, some large and some small, but they all have their place."

Merrick Community Services is also the largest provider of Meals on Wheels to seniors in Ramsey County. In addition, they also

provide employment, family, youth, and emergency services, including the longtime food shelf in Dayton's Bluff. Over the holidays, Merrick served 1,000 families through their Holiday Share Program. They hope to continue developing new programs well into the future, to carry on the legacy of caring for and helping people, that was kindled in the hearts of the Quinlan Sisters and Mary Virginia Merrick in 1887.

The Merrick Community Center always welcomes new volunteers. If you are interested in helping, please contact Angela Rankin, Volunteer Coordinator, at 651-771-9339.



Photo by Mark Gallagher

Merrick Community Services is located at 715 Edgerton, at the southwest corner of Edgerton and Minnehaha.

their spoons in a lot of pots here. They help us out in a lot more ways than just snow shoveling, but they do a great job in taking care of seniors' snow shoveling needs."

Two or more inches of snow must fall before the volunteers or contractors engage their snow shovels. "You know the way 3M works," Jennifer says. "They get a team of volunteers together and say, 'We've got some time – send us to a bunch of houses so we can clean the snow off their sidewalks.' So I will give them a list of addresses and they will just go and polish them all off." The service is invaluable to the seniors, who are released from the anxiety of clearing

Swede Hollow Café under new ownership

Swede Hollow Café, at 7th Street and Eichenwald, has a new owner. John Campbell, a former resident of Dayton's Bluff, is new to restaurant ownership and hopes to keep the same quality of food and beverages that Bluff denizens have come to expect from the popular coffee-and-lunch establishment. "It's kind of a new experience," Campbell says.

At left: Campbell in front of the café's beloved bakery display case.

At right: Patrons congregate under lovely artwork for sale.

Photos by Meg Gronau



View from my porch

by Sage Holben

Privacy of the poor

"Anguish...anguish is the only way I can describe it." That was my answer to the Ramsey County dispatch on a hot summer night in describing the sounds emanating from the nearby building. It was one of those calls I teetered with - do I call or not? On the one hand, it could be someone who had been physically hurt...a woman? a child?...I couldn't distinguish which. Could it be a child alone? In fear? Could it be a woman trying to stifle the wails caused by a lovers' argument?

Like so many old buildings, these small apartments had no air conditioning. Windows open directly onto the street, inviting the immediate world to share in whatever life is dealing to the inhabitants at the moment. At that moment, I thought how unfair and humiliating life had to be for those who didn't enjoy the privacy and emotional safety of a private home, set back from the sidewalk with trees, grass and shrubs to filter and separate street noise and life from within what should be personal space.

True, sound can carry from any house if loud or piercing enough. But for apartments stacked on top of each other, often crammed with too many people or excessive energy, no air conditioning to muffle sounds or cool the interior, sounds of personal conversation, sex, sobbing, and family arguments waft or even leap into public domain. On this night, the sounds stopped and I called back to dispatch to cancel the call; dispatch indicated it was my decision on whether to cancel or not. What does 'stopped' mean? That someone died? Fell asleep? I opted to cancel, being of the mind that someone had been emotionally hurting, not physically harmed; and though I was unable to offer comfort to the unknown person, neither would I encourage the intrusion of police banging at the secured door and possible embarrassment to the tenant. Privacy works the other way, also.

I recall last year, dozens of mourners gathered on the corner opposite me, grieving for a young man killed in our intersection. For many nights the families within an apartment building were separated by only a thin wall from the angry talk, drinking, grieving, mournful murmuring, shouting, and the occasional smashed bottle. All this was taking place just inches away, on the outer side of their window. Some who were within had already lived through their own hell of death, shooting, and the unknown. As unwilling prisoners in their own apartment, were they now reliving nightmares?

I've recently come across several articles referring to 'privacy of the poor' in terms of data privacy. Important, yes. However, it's the daily humiliations that erode our spirits. What can we do?

Dayton's Bluff Seniors

Living at Home/Block Nurse Program 2012 Overview

by Rhonda Battisto, Executive Director

The year 2012 was eventful for us at Dayton's Bluff Seniors Living at Home/Block Nurse program (DBS). Carolyn Heim was hired to be our new volunteer coordinator as four board members, appointed in late 2011, worked to gain familiarity with the organization while seeking to do irreparable good. Planning began for our first annual signature fundraiser, a spaghetti dinner and auction event. Held in April, it was a success due to the board working as a cohesive team with our director, Maryann Chowen, PHN. Generous donations of time, money and auction items were made by board members, volunteers, local businesses and community members.

Our fine team of complementary and alternative modality healers, coordinated by Rhonda Battisto, worked with dedication to provide healing services to low-income and homeless community members at Love Grows Here Wellness Center (LGH), held each week at First Lutheran Church. In addition to serving elders in their homes with a myriad of services, DBS weekly wellness clinics were well attended by seniors 65 and better, as well as disabled residents 55 years and up at Wilson Hi-Rise and Parkway Gardens Apartments. These clinics provided service learning opportunities to U of M Nursing School students during the school year. We learned and shared much information while collaborating with Conway-Battle Creek Block Nurse Program. Maryann, our founding director, resigned in May to return to full-time public health nursing at Healthcare for the Homeless. Tina Morgan became our service coordinator volunteer and webmistress - read her personal reflections on page 7 of this pa-

per. Rhonda Battisto, board member and long-time volunteer healer with extensive retail and wholesale business experience, was hired as director in June. Her immediate challenges included filling vacant board positions, broadening volunteer recruitment and ensuring financial sustainability, while getting up-to-speed on non-profit sector administration.

In late summer, several of our volunteer teams were growing; nurses, drivers, web designers, chore providers, office support, bookkeeping/accounting services and healers for LGH. In the fall, service learning teams of U of M nursing students worked with our seniors weekly. They provided wellness education and health care and monitoring to our appreciative elders while working with their professor and our volunteer RNs. By the end of the year, we'd served 139 seniors and many, many other community members in wellness clinics and the homes of seniors.

In addition to some city and county funding, we received funds from Otto Bremer Foundation, Stevens Square Foundation, and MN Philanthropy Partners in 2012. We are grateful to Maryann Chowen for her years of dedication and great work in our community; to First Lutheran Church for our rent-free office space and telephone/internet services; and to all of our supporters. We couldn't possibly do what we do without our amazing and selfless volunteers. We are pleased that they choose to make a difference for our seniors! We approach 2013 with an eye toward increasing awareness of our program and the services we provide and expanding our services to include social opportunities for neighborhood seniors.

Dayton's Bluff Land Use Committee January meeting recap

by Forum staff

Dealing with neighborhood land use is one of the important functions of the Dayton's Bluff Community Council. A short summary of what was discussed at the group's Land Use Committee on January 7, 2013, may give an idea of the work of the Council and the kind of issues that will be coming up early this year.

The first presenters were Peter Rachleff and Beth Cleary, two neighborhood residents and retiring teachers from Macalester College who are hoping to start a resource center in the Arlington Library when it is replaced in 2014. It would be a meeting place for study and discussion of race and ethnicity, using history and arts as a bridge between the older white ethnics and the increasingly diverse population. Those who have questions and/or suggestions can contact them on-line at eastsidefreedomlibrary@gmail.com

Up next was a representative of Covenant Capital, a construction company that is planning to rehab the vacant building at 699 East 7th Street. Originally a cigar factory a century ago, the structure's last use was as an East Side police station. During discussion the presenter said they have been working with the city H.R.A. and were aware that the structure is inside the Dayton's Bluff Historic District. The current plan is to have retail or commercial tenants, although they are open to other ideas.

A representative from the Mississippi Market food co-operative then talked about the possible creation of a new East Side co-op that would be built in the empty land on 7th Street between Bates and Maple, often referred to as the old "Hospital Linen site." Mississippi Markets focus on healthy and, when possible, locally-sourced products.

An East Side Group, the Gateway Food Initiative, has wanted a food co-op in our area for some time and have been supportive of the proposal. When asked, the Mississippi Markets representative said they have always tried to hire people who live near their two existing stores, and the East Side Co-op could provide around 50 jobs.

Matt Mazanec, who lives at 6th Street and Eichenwald, presented his concerns about a planned skyway from Metro States forthcoming science building across 6th Street. He felt that the structure would negatively affect the "viewscope" of nearby residents, and he hoped to get support for a "pedestrian mall" that would vacate 6th Street from Mounds Boulevard to Maria. After discussion, the committee decided that the matter needed further research before any final decision.

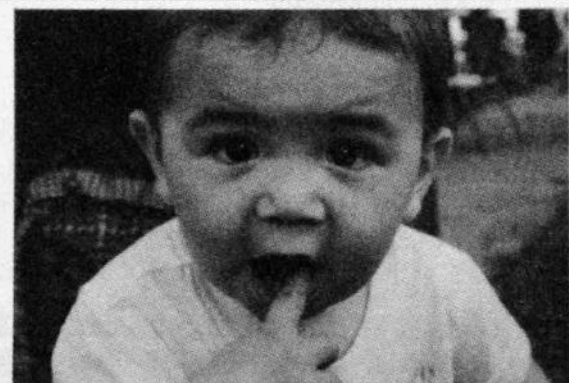
Finally, local resident Stefan Pomrenke gave a short report on what he is doing to try to establish a project calling for a "Margaret Street Bikeway." He is going to submit a proposal to the city to get funding for signage and other items. He pointed out that East St. Paul has few bike paths. This biking thoroughfare would start at McKnight and follow Margaret to Forest Street, and then jog over to 3rd Street and use the bridge to downtown.

The Land Use Committee is just the first step for many of these proposals. They are often forwarded to the full Dayton's Bluff Community Council which could vote to support or oppose these and other proposals in the future. Some of them would be finally decided by the City Council. If you have questions or want to make your views known about any of these proposals, you should call community organizer Karin DuPaul at 651-772-2075.

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Futuro • Cambios

A Century Ago: Dayton's Bluff in Early 1913

by Steve Trimble, Forum historian

There once was a weekly newspaper called the *St. Paul Enterprise*, a publication "for Dayton's Bluff and the East Side." Let's see what was happening at the time by the information the local paper contained, get an idea of how our neighborhood developed and lessons we might learn from history.

In its first 1913 issue of the *Enterprise*, there was a report by John Seeger, president of the Dayton's Bluff Commercial Club, about what the group had accomplished in the previous year and their plans for the future. The club was in the process of constructing a major addition on their clubhouse. After completion there

would be eight bowling lanes, six large billiard and pool tables, a dancing hall and a new dining room.

Seeger had several positive comments on how the Ladies' Auxiliary had successfully raised money for the project. The building, which was also remodeled in the 1930s, still stands at 770 East 7th Street and has most recently served as an Ethiopian Church. Do any readers remember "Worm City?" Maybe we need a neighborhood clubhouse. Other neighborhoods have community centers – why not us?

The information in the *Enterprise* was mostly in small snippets and advertisements. Here are a few examples from the first two months of 1913, including the engagement announcement of Miss Isabel Seixas of Hastings Avenue to Mr. D. C. Barrows. Then there was a meeting of the Eichenwald Branch of the Sunshine Society at the house of Mrs. Herbert Keller of 351 Bates. They voted to give \$5.00 to two "very poor old ladies" to help them pay an \$18.00 milk bill. The duo made a living "boarding children." The group also heard the stories of several other "sad cases of destitution."

There was at least one cluster of Swedish residents in the neighborhood, because it contained Branch #5

From the *St. Paul Enterprise*, January 10, 1913.

of the Lyngblomsten Society, a Scandinavian association. In late February, the local group met at the home of Mrs. A.S. Cairncross on Euclid Street. The program included "recitations" and music and was being held to raise money for a room in the new Lyngblomsten Home for old folks on Como avenue.

Two different community groups raised money to help strengthen the city. Why not start a neighborhood service organization that would help fund area improvements?

Other groups were mostly about entertainment and education--and there were many. One was the Evening Euchre Club that was meeting on Reaney Street. The Century Players, "a local talent organization," comprised of Dayton's Bluff residents, gave a play in late January at the Sacred Heart Hall. It was a comedy called "A Fool of Fortune," a vocal and instrumental program. How about organizing a community theatre troupe that could perform at the Mounds Theater?

Religious themes were frequently covered in the local press. There was an advertisement for a free lecture at the I.O.O.F. headquarters at 7th and Reaney. The fraternal group the public to come hear Rev. C. L. Dick to speak on "Why Did God Permit Evil?" In another issue Rev P. G. Kluge spoke happily about the new German Reformed Church building at East 7th and Forest. The paper said it was "a time of great jubilation" for "our good German brethren."

This article started with the Commercial Club and will end with it. The Mounds Park Improvement League held a dance there in early February. Dr. George Earl, who had just returned from a European trip, demonstrated "a lovely Roman dance" he had learned while "across the pond." Unfortunately, the historic records gave no details; fortunately, Dr. Earl's happy feet were not the only attraction as there was a square dance led by a well-known caller.

One of the things that became obvious was that there was a much more diverse and complete group of businesses in Dayton's Bluff in 1913, ranging from restaurants and department stores to banks and professional services as shown by ads in the *Enterprise*. The Dayton's Bluff Community Council is currently involved in a business improvement project for East 7th Street that may bring a renaissance on the former streetcar strip. The results may be written about in a 2113 issue of the *Forum*.

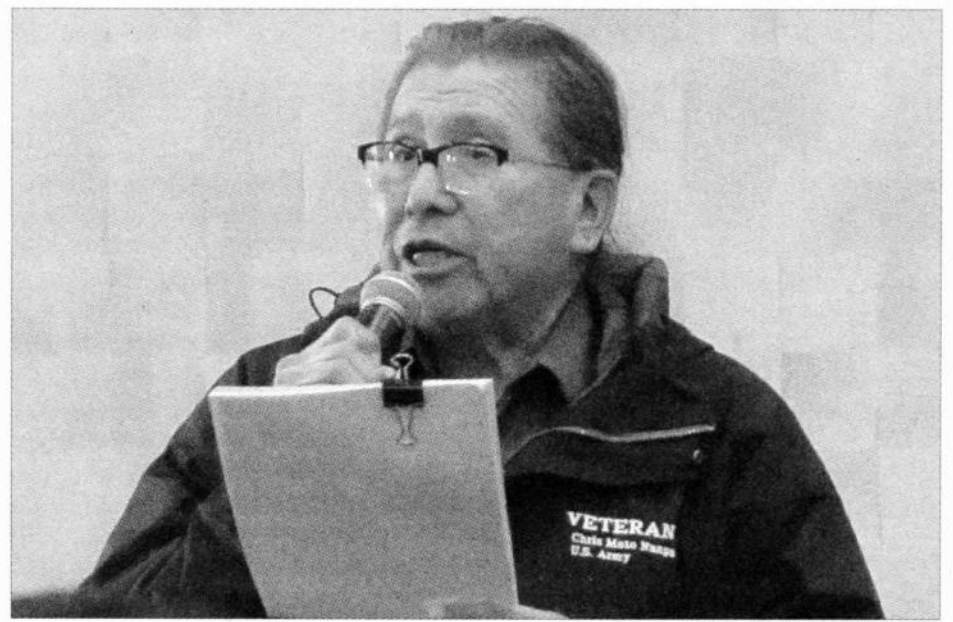


Photo by Jack Steinmann

February 19 Forum: *The Year of the Dakota* Remembering, Honoring, and Truth-Telling

by Carla Riehle, Community Council Arts and Cultures Committee

On January 9, the St. Paul City Council unanimously passed a resolution declaring 2013 the Year of the Dakota and declared that "every effort must be made to ensure that the Dakota perspective is presented during the year 2013."

To that end, the Dayton's Bluff Community Council will hold a community forum at 6:30 pm, Tuesday, February 19, featuring Dr. Chris Mato Nunpa, Dakota elder and historian and emeritus professor at Metropolitan State University. He will talk about the 150th anniversary of the Dakota-U.S. War of 1862 and its aftermath.

The focus will be on crucial and significant events during 1862 and 1863 in the history of not only the Dakota People but also for the state of Minnesota.

This event will be of special interest to the residents of Dayton's Bluff, which is a place of great historical significance and loss for the Dakota people. The original village of Kaposia was located below the bluff and was home to many generations of Dakota people. Indian Mounds Park was once part of a much larger area of mounded burial sites that were looted, vandalized and ultimately leveled. Wakan Tipi, now known as Carver's Cave, was a sacred Dakota site destroyed by railroad construction in the 1880s.

The community Council's Arts and Cultures Committee hopes to make this event the first in a series about the people of Dayton's Bluff, beginning with its earliest and longest residents - the Dakota - and continuing with the waves of immigrant communities that have built this community and made it their home.

Local historian Steve Trimble will introduce Dr. Nunpa; the Living Justice Press will have books available for sale. The forum will be held at the Dayton's Bluff Community Council office, 798 East 7th Street. Refreshments will be available.

City council resolution passed January 9, 2013

Recognizing the 150th anniversary of the Dakota-U.S. War of 1862 and declaring 2013 the Year of the Dakota.

WHEREAS, the year 2012 is the sesquicentennial of the beginning of the Dakota-U.S. War of 1862 that led to the mass execution of 38 Dakota, the largest in the history of the United States, and the genocide of the Dakota people; and
 WHEREAS, much has yet to be learned about issues revolving around land, reparations and restitution, treaties, genocide, suppression of American Indian spirituality and ceremonies, suppression of Indigenous languages, bounties, concentration camps, forced marches, mass executions, and forcible removals; and
 WHEREAS, Indigenous women, children and elderly were held in a concentration camp at the base of Fort Snelling, separated from the men, before being exiled to reservations in neighboring states and Canada, and later being stripped of their culture and traditions in boarding schools and subjected to white culture and religions; and
 WHEREAS, the complete history of Minnesota must be taught from the perspective of all people that have lived it; Now Therefore
 BE IT RESOLVED that every effort must be made to ensure that the Dakota perspective is presented during the year 2013, through discussions at forums, events, symposia, conferences and workshops, to include the complex issues listed above; and
 FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Saint Paul works to promote the well-being and growth of the American Indian community, including Dakota People, marking the beginning of future dialogues and efforts to rectify the wrongs that were perpetrated during, and since, the year 1862, a tragic and traumatic event for the Dakota People of Minnesota; and
 FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Saint Paul and its Parks and Recreation Department will work with the Dakota Bdote Restoration Consortium to identify, name, and interpret sacred Native American sites at and nearby the sacred Bdote from the confluence of the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers to Mounds Park; including listing, mapping, identifying Dakota site names in the Great River Passage Plan, and participating in on-going collaborative research to further describe, dually name, publicize, and interpret significant Dakota sites in the Great River Passage Park Implementation; and
 FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the year 2013 is hereby designated "The Year of the Dakota: Remembering, Honoring, and Truth-Telling," from the date of passage of this resolution to December 26, 2013.

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Continued from page 1:

Interns and volunteers

them even after my time with Dayton's Bluff Community Council is over.

Overall, I have really enjoyed my time working here and I have learned some very positive things that I will be able to take with me throughout my journey in life.

Nicole Spiess Leisher: DBCC intern

When I registered for classes at Metropolitan State University, I was a little disappointed that they required an internship. Little did I know that the experience would prove to be more valuable than I could ever have realized. With my military background, I thought I knew all there was I could know about leadership. Working at the Dayton's Bluff Community Council allowed me to experience how a successful community organization functions. The experience allowed me to realize that leadership and leaders come in all shapes and sizes. While looking at individuals, some are blatant leaders while others are subtler. Each of these types of leaders is necessary to make successful organizations work.

During the course of the three months that I interned for the Dayton's Bluff Community Council, I realized that an organization is only as successful as the other organizations that it partners with and the community involvement. Deanna, Tabitha and Karin make it possible to help grow the Dayton's Bluff community by being dedicated to the organization. They help support the surrounding businesses, encourage community members to be involved, and help individuals find resources that are needed. These women demonstrate the selflessness to their community in a world that is incredibly focused on individualism. These are traits that I admire within the Dayton's Bluff Community Council and are traits that I will try to use in my own life forever.

Danny Evans: Forum intern

From getting engaged to graduating from Metropolitan State University, 2012 caused me to grow, learn, and be more grateful than ever. I feel fortunate to have succeeded at almost everything I set out to accomplish. One such endeavor was completing an internship. I chose to write for the Dayton's Bluff District Forum. Interviewing church pastors, business owners, and citizens of Dayton's Bluff, I came to know this

area in different, heart-warming ways. Every week I met with Karin DuPaul, checking in to see what I had learned and written about the community that week. She would give me my next interview assignment, and with glee in my eyes, I'd set out to learn about another person or business in Dayton's Bluff. My internship ended in April 2012, but I would write for the *Forum* until August. Now, having graduated, I am back on board with the *Forum*, and I look forward to what lies ahead. Writing for the newspaper in 2012 helped me learn about the area surrounding my university, about which I possessed little insight. I want to thank everyone in the Dayton's Bluff community for a wonderful 2012.

Ryan N.: DBCC intern

I have enjoyed every bit of my internship with Dayton's Bluff Community Council.

I was part of the Night Out on East 7th Street, Eastside Pride Day, the Community Council election annual meeting, and the after school program at Wilder Recreation.

I believe that the East 7th Street area has cleaned up quite a bit. Some friends and I walked up and down East 7th Street picking up trash and planting flowers for a few weeks. It helped out a lot because the people who live here have seen us trying to make it happen.

Also, I had a great time last summer meeting new people and helping out the community. It really is a great place to live; next year I hope more people will help out and keep Dayton's Bluff looking good.

Bethlehem Atoma: Dayton's Bluff Seniors volunteer

I graduated with a BSN in Nursing in 2009 from Metro State University. I have worked as a nurse in a nursing home, group home, and hospital. Currently I work at Abbott Northwestern Hospital on a Neuro ICU floor. I also have a son, Galetta who is 3½ and a 2-year-old daughter, Nemona. I volunteer at my church, Ethiopian Evangelical Church in St. Paul and at Dayton's Bluff Seniors LAH/BNP since 2008.

In fall 2008, I was finishing up my senior year. I vividly remember the compassion I felt toward a homeless man I met in Love Grows Here Wellness Center at First Lutheran Church. He had very dirty, dry and cracked feet. I felt immense internal satisfaction as I washed his feet. Right then, I decided to do more than one session of volunteer work. I joined the program at the

Dayton's Bluff Seniors and dedicated my time – regardless of my busy life – to continue serving the homeless and seniors. I now volunteer at two of the clinics: Wilson Hi-Rise & Parkway Gardens, which focuses on keeping seniors living at home as long as possible by providing health promotion and wellness services.

They say we "live to serve." This may explain why I kept coming back to DBS; by helping others, I can fulfill my own destiny. At the end of each of my volunteer days, I go home knowing that I made a difference in someone's life. It may be that elderly lady who can't bend down to cut her toe nails. They grew until she couldn't put her shoes on, so I cut them for her. It may be that person who needed to talk to someone just about anything because he had not talked to someone for so long, so I listened. When I do such things, something happens inside of me; I feel a sense of purpose which gives me the energy to keep coming back. It is holistic care; you touch the physical body and also the soul and the spirit. In return, your own soul is touched.

Tina Morgan: DBS volunteer

I have been the Service Coordinator at Dayton's Bluff Seniors since January of 2012. I am native of District 4, currently attending Inver Hills Community College, pursuing my Associate Degree in Web development and Computer software. I am a proud mother of three wonderful children.

I originally started at DBS to expand my skills in social media and Web design. While working on the technical side, I was offered a service coordinator position. This opportunity overlapped my educational and personal experiences, and it warmed my heart to fulfill my passion to help honor people's quality of life by helping them stay in their homes for as long as possible.

Volunteering at DBS offers me a chance to give back to a community that helped me and my family at a time of need. This is also a chance to give back to seniors who already have given so much to the community. DBS also offers me an opportunity to be with people with like minds, creating a harmonious atmosphere unexplainable with words, but felt from the heart. Being a service coordinator makes me feel important when I witness the benefits reaped from the services and resources delivered.

If you would like to learn more about Dayton's Bluff Senior LAH/BNP, please call us at 651-776-7210 ext. 303 or visit us at www.daytonsbluffsensors.org.

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Arts and Cultures Committee meets the 2nd Monday of every month at 6:00 pm.

Vacant Building Committee meets the 3rd Thursday of every month at 6:30 pm.

Greenspace Committee meets the 3rd Monday of every month at 6:00 pm.

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Editor and Layout: Meg Gronau
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Caroling through the snow



Friends and neighbors gather in song

story and photo by Julia Hobday, Dayton's Bluff resident

Fatima Moore had the inspiration. Judith Reis had the voice and experience leading others in song. We Hobdays had a house waiting to play host to a neighbor gathering. And so was born unto Dayton's Bluff the first annual East 5th and Maple Streets neighborhood Christmas Carol event.

Saturday, December 15 dawned dark and dreary. Sleet was in the forecast and visions of walking along in a winter wonderland quickly dissipated. Despite the gloom, 10 families convened on Maple Street. Those gathered were waffling about whether to go a-wassailing when Tabitha DeRango and her girls arrived at the door. The indignation that met our indecision was motivation enough to hit the street.

Led by cantor Judith, the large chorus crooned carols to residents on East 5th, Hope, 4th and Maple Streets. Many opened their doors; some even offered refreshments. Children in the group played in the slushy snow as they sang. All were glad to have taken up the challenge to sing spirits soaring.

Upon return to the Hobday house, hot chocolate warmed the chill and Christmas cookies added to the sweetness of the day. The triumvirate of hosts was thankful for the opportunity to spread holiday cheer and plan to make it a yearly tradition. Next year will be better organized – be on the lookout for your invitation to join us, or the opportunity to request a house call!

Historic Mounds Theatre will be rockin'!

Hamming it up for the Hollow

by Karin DuPaul, DBCC Community Organizer

Get your tickets and get it on your calendar NOW! On Saturday, February 9, from 8:00 to 11:00 pm, the Mounds Theatre (1029 Hudson Road) will come alive with a riotous variety of acts. The cabaret will feature singers, musicians, and dancers, an auction of original art, and all the homemade pizza (Hot-Fire Pizza on Payne Avenue, and Mississippi Market) and local beer (Flat Earth Brewing) you want!



Pottery by Ben Greiling, Dayton's Bluff resident and regular exhibitor at Art in the Hollow.

Tickets are only \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. This celebration of talent – with East Side roots -- is a fundraiser for this year's Art in the Hollow (Saturday, June 1, 2013) and we expect it to be a blow-out! The Master of Ceremonies is no less than famed burlesque star Foxy Tann, and the house band is blues group Union Shakedown, featuring local sons Michael and Bill Lloyd. We welcome acts of all kinds!



The May North, a local, original alt-grass band, will play at the event.

A sample of the lineup features The May North ("newgrass" and progressive original folk), LOKI (contemporary acoustic duo), Juan Parker (R&B singer), Bradford Benner (award-winning tenor), and Anne DeJoy (Rumba!). For tickets or to sign up to perform, please contact Karin DuPaul (651-776-0550 or karindupaul@comcast.net).

Don't miss this! The East Side has never seen anything like it.



Photo by Kurt Larson

Sweet summertime memories – Above: Neighbors enjoyed a spread of picnic food at the 2012 National Night Out celebration in Swede Hollow last August. At right: The new mural at the Dayton's Bluff Rec Center was designed by neighborhood youths with help from local artist Diane May. Read more on page 2.

Dayton's Bluff, our home

by Karin DuPaul
Dayton's Bluff Community Council
Community Organizer

The most exciting program in 2012 was **Make it Happen on East 7th Street**, invigorating our business area on East 7th Street.

Over the last 20 years, in partnership with the Neighborhood Development Center, nearly 500 people have taken our **Microentrepreneur classes** to help them start their own businesses.

National Night Out, the first Tuesday in August, continues to grow in Dayton's Bluff. The gatherings are large and small, in churchyards or back yards. Some have music, like at Swede Hollow Park. The Great Brodini's Magic Show performed at the Reaney Avenue event. And great food is part of most events. In 2012, because so many neighborhoods in Dayton's Bluff and all over the city did an excellent job of planning, hosting and documenting NNO events, St. Paul returned to first place nationally for a city of our size in the National Town Watch National Night Out competition.

In 2013, NNO will be on August 6. If you would like to hold a NNO event in your neighborhood, contact me and to help you get it going.

The home tours continue to be a wonderful community-building and marketing tool for Dayton's Bluff. This is the 17th year that Dayton's Bluff will hold the Dayton's Bluff **Neighborhood Home Tour** as part of the Mpls./St. Paul Neighborhood Home Tour. Dayton's Bluff should have six to eight homes open April 27 and 28. The **Vacant Home Tour** will be Sunday, May 5, featuring vacant homes that are for sale and looking for new owners.

cies on neighbors' ideas to make their neighborhood better, as well as on neighborhood concerns and issues, is exciting work. The overall goal is to make Dayton's Bluff the best it can be.

Block clubs have changed. Today many groups and neighbors share information on Facebook, Google-type groups, email and texting. Many have face to face get-togethers that are more social, often over food. Others do neighborhood trash pickup, buckthorn removal, and any other objectives deemed necessary.

Partly due to the less active block clubs, in 2005 we started the monthly **Dayton's Bluff Community Meetings** on the first Thursday of each month. The meetings are designed for residents to come and meet other Dayton's Bluff residents. Representatives from the Police Department and Code Enforcement are generally on hand to answer questions and offer assistance.

If you would like more information, want to get involved, or have an idea for a Dayton's Bluff project, please email me at karin@daytonsbuff.org or call 651-772-2075.



Photo courtesy of DBCC

Working with neighbors, block clubs, other neighborhood groups, city departments, and other agen-