

# Dayton's Bluff District Forum

Volume 26, No. 6  
 July 2013  
[www.daytonsbluff.org](http://www.daytonsbluff.org)

"The Voice of the Community"

## Potato dancers



Photo by Diane May

Girls participate in a traditional potato dance at the 21<sup>st</sup> annual powwow at Dayton's Bluff's American Indian Magnet School on May 31. Find more photos, page 3.

## Scenes from a "Better Block"



Photo by Karin DuPaul

The piano pictured above was delivered just in time for the Better Block event, held June 8 on the triangle-shaped block bordered by East 7<sup>th</sup>, Arcade and Margaret Streets. The piano was donated as part of the Pianos on Parade program created by Keys 4/4 Kids. For more information and to find the locations of other "public pianos" in the metro area this summer, visit [www.pianosonparade.com](http://www.pianosonparade.com). Below, right: Local artist Diane May painted faces.



Above: Children enjoyed the playground equipment at the Better Block event June 8.



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

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### In memory of a Dayton's Bluff legend

Dale Harbour, a resident of the Mounds Park section of Dayton's Bluff, passed away peacefully on May 24, 2013 at the age of 83, with his family by his side. Dale was a volunteer who touched countless lives and improved the community. He was honored in November 2012 with the second annual Roger Tetu Award, which is given by the Dayton's Bluff Community Council to celebrate the good works of "community members who offer kindness without

hesitation on a daily basis."

He is survived by wife, Jan and children Denise, Wendy and Brian Harbour and numerous grand and great grandchildren. Anyone interested in making a donation in his memory can give to the American Cancer Society, Second Harvest or the Senior Recovery Center in St. Paul, groups he worked with over the years.

### Friends of Swede Hollow

The next monthly meeting is on **Wednesday, July 10, at 6:30 pm**. Email [swedehollow@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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, July 17, at 6:30 pm, and Friday, July 19, 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, July 11**, because the first Thursday is the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. The meeting is from **6:30 pm to 8:00 pm** at 798 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street at the corner of 7<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto:karin@daytonsbluff.org) or call Karin at 651-772-2075.

### Take-a-Hike July 6

Take-a-Hike occurs on the first Saturday of most months. The next hike will be **Saturday, July 6**. 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](http://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](mailto: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 [givemnrzoo.com](http://givemnrzoo.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](mailto: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!

### Dancing to the beat of different drummers?

Drums exist in almost all cultures and are one of the earliest musical instruments ever played by humans. Do you play or have a favorite type of drumming? Why do we ask? Because the Arts and Culture Committee of the Dayton's Bluff Community Council wants to hear from you. They are hoping to have a multicultural drumming event in late September in a yet-to-be determined Dayton's Bluff location at which you can listen or even dance to the various rhythms.

The idea is having people or groups who enjoy performing on African drums, American Indian drums, Irish drums, Hmong drums, Karen brass drums, Aztec-style Latino drums, classical timpani kettle drums, Japanese taiko drums, jazz drums, elementary school group drum groups, to name only a few possibilities.

If you are a drummer and might be interested in playing, or if you can suggest someone that you feel should be contacted, the group wants to hear from you. Or, if you would be willing to be part of a group that will be planning the event, help see that the beat goes on. For more information, please contact Sage Holben at 651-528-0662 or Tabitha Derango at [tabitha@daytonsbluff.org](mailto:tabitha@daytonsbluff.org).

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



#### ● Open gyms:

- K-8<sup>th</sup> grade: Mondays through Wednesdays, 5:00-8:00 pm.
- 9<sup>th</sup> grade & older: Thursdays, 5:00-8:00 pm.
- All ages: Fridays, 2:00-6:00 pm.

#### ● Cheer America: Mondays, 6:00-7:00 pm.

#### ● Self-defense: Mondays, 6:00-8:00 pm.

#### ● Judo: Mondays, 6:00-7:30 pm.

#### ● Family Movie Mondays, July 11, 18, & 25, 5:15-7:15 pm.

#### ● Girls group: Thursdays, 6:00-7:00 pm, ages 12-16.

#### ● Parent & Tot Time: Wednesdays and Fridays, 10:00 am - 12:00 noon.

#### ● Free Zumba! Thursdays, 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 1<sup>st</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> graders.

#### ● African drumming: every other Friday beginning July 12 & 26, 1:00-3:00 pm. ALL AGES; open to the public.

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

**Stop by and check us out!**

## #CleanupStPaul contest winner selected

*Online campaign leads to major cleanup of St. Paul's parks system*

The St. Paul Parks and Recreation Department launched an online campaign in April called #CleanupStPaul, to help remove trash from parks throughout the city. The successful campaign was started as a result of late season snow that forced cancellation of the annual citywide parks clean-up event. The online campaign encouraged residents to clean up parks and post pictures of their efforts to social media sites for a chance to win summer pool passes. The campaign received dozens of entries, and following a random drawing, the Fong Hawj Volunteer Team was selected as #CleanupStPaul's first winner.

The Fong Hawj Volunteer Team organized a cleanup event at Lake Phalen on April 27 and uploaded photos to Facebook of themselves with trash bags full of the debris they collected. As the contest winners, the team will receive single-day pool admission for each member of their group.

Lissee Thao, a member of the Fong Hawj Volun-

teer Team, participated in the cleanup and said it was the first time she had done anything like it. "It was a really good feeling, knowing you're doing good and making the parks clean and beautiful," Thao said. "I encourage everyone to go out and help because it doesn't take much of your time and really does make a difference."

For the past 27 years, the City of St. Paul has hosted an annual volunteer-based spring cleaning of the parks system. Each year, thousands of residents volunteer their time and spend a Saturday morning in April picking up trash and debris from their favorite park or neighborhood. Tons of garbage and debris have been removed from parks over the years, but this year, due to snow and inclement weather, the annual event had to be canceled. The Parks and Recreation Department continued to receive interest from volunteers who wanted to help, so to help coordinate all of the interest and give residents an opportunity to participate, the online campaign #CleanupStPaul was started. Supplies and preferred park locations were provided as part of the campaign, and summer swim passes were offered if volunteers posted pictures of themselves participating as part of a contest.

"What a tremendous show of support and concern for St. Paul's parks!" said Mike Hahm, St. Paul's

Parks and Recreation Director, "I'm sure the swimming passes to one of our award-winning pools helped, but residents are really passionate about their parks and its shows. I know the 12-plus million visitors who use St. Paul's park system each year will appreciate as much as I do all the hard work these volunteers completed."

Residents are encouraged to continue park cleanup efforts and to post their cleanup photos to Twitter or Facebook using the hashtag #CleanupStPaul. For additional information on the program, visit the St. Paul Parks and Recreation Department on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/stpaulparks](http://www.facebook.com/stpaulparks).

St. Paul Parks and Recreation is a nationally-accredited and gold medal award-winning organization that manages more than 170 parks and open spaces, AZA-accredited Como Park Zoo and Conservatory, 25 city-operated recreation centers, four municipal golf courses, more than 100 miles of trails, an indoor and two outdoor aquatic facilities, a public beach, a variety of premium sports facilities and Great River Passage ([www.greatriverpassage.org](http://www.greatriverpassage.org)), which is the new identity for all proposed public development along St. Paul's more than 17 miles of Mississippi riverfront. For more information about St. Paul Parks and Recreation, visit [www.stpaul.gov/parks](http://www.stpaul.gov/parks).

## Ramsey County Fair celebrates 100 years

The annual Ramsey County Fair is being held July 10-14 at the County Fairgrounds at Frost Avenue and White Bear Avenue, just north of Aldrich Arena, one mile south of Hwy 36 in Maplewood. Fair planners intend to make this annual county fair a participation experience as well as a spectator's experience. Youth and adults can compete in all of the educational exhibits (cooking, sewing, crafts,

gardening, etc.) for ribbons and cash prizes. Winners in the talent contest will enter into the Minnesota State Fair competition. There will be a variety of entertainment: bands on stage, kids can be "farmer for the day," children's petting zoo, talent contest, fireworks, carnival rides, and a parade. Other fair highlights include commercial exhibits, Gibbs Farm demonstrators, food vendors,

beer, bingo and more. Before the fair opens, carnival ride tickets at significantly reduced prices can be obtained. For a complete list of events and times, call the county fair office at (651) 770-2626 or visit [www.ramseycountyfair.com](http://www.ramseycountyfair.com). Fair opens at 5:00 pm on Wednesday and Thursday and 12:00 noon on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Admission to the County Fair is free.

## July at the Mounds Theatre

*by Raeann Ruth, Executive Director, Historic Mounds Theatre*

### **Empower Emporium**

The Empower Emporium returns to the Historic Mounds Theatre on Saturday, July 6, from 12:00 noon to 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. For more information, visit [www.moundstheatre.org](http://www.moundstheatre.org). Admission is a \$5 at the door.

### **"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 19, 20, 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](http://www.moundstheatre.org).

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

The Historic Mounds Theatre is located at 1029 Hudson Road, St. Paul, MN 55106; [www.moundstheatre.org](http://www.moundstheatre.org); 651-772-2253.

## Kicking off to a better Night Out



Photo by Forum staff

The National Night Out Kick Off Picnic is a city-wide opportunity for residents to get information and learn more about National Night Out, which will be Tuesday, August 6. The kick-off picnic was held at the Phalen Park pavilion. If you are interested in having a National Night Out event in your neighborhood, email [Karin@DaytonsBluff.org](mailto:Karin@DaytonsBluff.org) or call 651-772-2075.

Right: More colorful scenes from the 21<sup>st</sup> annual powwow, enjoyed by all ages and held May 31 at the American Indian Magnet School at the corner of Earl and 3<sup>rd</sup> Streets.



# What's happening with the Gateway Corridor?

by Sherry Johnson, special to the Forum

Despite some setbacks with transportation funding this legislative session, the Gateway Commission will move toward the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) phase, with its route from the Union Depot through Woodbury. The path would take it along Kellogg and Mounds Boulevards and Hudson Road.

The Gateway Commission will form three committees over the summer: Community, Policy, and Technical Advisory Committees will oversee the planning process. The Engage East Side Resident Network is working closely with Commission members to ensure that the Community Advisory Committee (the CAC), will receive appropriate representation from East Side residents and business owners.

This fall, a number of "scoping hearings" will take place as the first step in the DEIS process. These hearings will seek public input into the variables for inclusion in the Environmental Impact study.

The primary decision during scoping is whether the DEIS will move forward with Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) or Light Rail Transit (LRT) as the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA), which they hope to complete by July 2014. After more public engagement and a great deal of engineering, the project aims to break ground in 2020.

This fall's scoping meetings will attempt to gauge resident and business-owner concerns with respect to the Gateway Corridor. Below are some possible issues to be included in the scope of the Draft Environmental Impact Study:

- **Effects on neighborhood resources**, including parking, Mounds Boulevard views, pedestrian and bikeways, and Sun Ray/Earl Street/Mounds Boulevard businesses.
- **Noise and vibration**, particularly when compounded by I-94 noise.
- **Historic and cultural resources**. Some historic district buildings are on the preliminary property-takes list, including a half-million-dollar DBNHS renovation of a brick duplex on Conway Ave.
- **Parks and public land**, including possible changes to Johnson Parkway.
- **Water resources, wetlands, and habitat**, including possible effects on Bruce Vento and Phalen Creek.
- **Air quality and climate change**. BRT will contribute to poor air quality near I-94. Depending on how its electricity is generated, LRT can have a smaller carbon footprint than BRT.
- **Land use and zoning**, particularly within ¼ mile of station areas. Sun Ray, Earl Street, and Mounds Boulevard stops could markedly change their surrounding areas, with respect to business development, property values, and parking issues
- **Consistency with local plans**. What about MNDOT's proposed noise wall new-builds and re-builds? How do Gateway's SunRay station plans compare with District 1 Community Council's Strategic Transportation Plan? How do Gateway's Earl Street station plans compare with streetscape designs drawn up by Dayton's Bluff Community Council?
- **Right-of-way impacts**. How will all modes – pedestrians, bikes, cars, buses – easily get to Sun Ray shopping center? What will Mounds Boulevard look like with another dedicated lane, turning left onto the Kellogg Bridge?
- **Economic development and redevelopment**. How can we leverage a dedicated transitway for the most improvements to our station-area business hubs, particularly Sun Ray and Earl Street?
- **Visual and aesthetics**. Is there a way to design for aesthetics, especially running next to an Interstate? How will this affect the look of Dayton's Bluff's historic district?
- **Transportation**. How will people travel to and from the stations? How will buses, bikeways, and pedestrian routes change to accommodate the Gateway?
- **Safety and security**. What about vagrancy, crime, and personal safety at and around stations? How can we ensure traffic safety along the transitway, especially for children?
- **Environmental justice**. What might be the effects of the proposed alternatives on minority and low-income populations and communities? The East Side has a very high concentration of these groups, many of whom are transit-dependent.

If you want more updates and details on the Gateway Corridor and on East Side transit issues, visit Sherry's blog at [eesresidentnetwork.wordpress.com](http://eesresidentnetwork.wordpress.com).

## If you're reading this...

It means you found us online. Thank you! Due to lack of funding, the *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* was unable to cover printing costs for this July issue.

We have received generous donations from many members of our community (see our "Friends of the Forum" on page 8!); however, it costs nearly \$1,000 to print approximately 8,000 copies of the *Forum* each month, and we have fallen short of our fund-raising goal.

We're so glad you've taken the time to find us online this month. Clearly, you value this community resource. Won't you consider a donation to sustain the *Forum* in the future? Become our Friend. See our ad on page 8 and donate today. Thank you!

## Dayton's Bluff District Forum

798 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street, St. Paul, MN 55106

Phone: 651-772-2075 Fax: 651-774-3510 E-mail: [editor@daytonsbuff.org](mailto:editor@daytonsbuff.org)

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Board of Directors: Greg Cosimini, Karin DuPaul, Carla Riehle, Steve Trimble

Editor/Layout: Meg Gronau

Editorial Assistants: Mark Gallagher, Danny Evans

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

## 2<sup>nd</sup> annual ESABA bowling tournament

from an ESABA release

Get your bowling shoes on – it's that time again! ESABA, the East Side Area Business Association, is holding its second annual Battle of the Businesses bowling tournament at Sunray Lanes, 2245 Hudson Road, in St. Paul, on Tuesday July 30, from 3:00 pm to 9:00 pm. This year, expectations are high.

20 teams will be battling it out with two start times: 3:00 pm (24 teams of 4-5 bowlers), and 6:00 pm (10 teams of 4-5 bowlers, due to summer leagues).

Cost per team is \$150. Reserve your team's spot today, especially if you want the coveted 6:00 time slot!

Contact the Planning Team or Tim Herman for more details. Rick Swanson: [rick@learningmeetsquality.com](mailto:rick@learningmeetsquality.com); David Dominick: [david.dominick@ymcatwincities.org](mailto:david.dominick@ymcatwincities.org); Barb Gomez: [bgomez@libertytitleinc.us](mailto:bgomez@libertytitleinc.us); Tim Herman: [tim@esaba.org](mailto:tim@esaba.org).

## Fireworks set for 4<sup>th</sup> of July in St. Paul Annual fireworks show will begin at dusk

from a St. Paul Parks and Recreation release

The City of St. Paul will once again celebrate America's independence with a traditional fireworks show from downtown St. Paul on July 4. Those interested in viewing the fireworks are encouraged to carpool, take public transportation, or use alternative forms of transportation to get to the city, and are advised to allow extra time for travel. Similar to past years, there will be no parking in the neighborhoods immediately surrounding the viewing area.

The fireworks show will take place from St. Paul's downtown river-front area, near Harriet Island Regional Park. Harriet Island

will be open for those wishing to bring a blanket and enjoy the show. Additional recommended areas in downtown for viewing include Kellogg Mall Park along Kellogg Blvd, Indian Mounds Park, Raspberry Island and the Science Museum of Minnesota Stairs.

The fireworks show will begin at dusk (about 10:15 pm).

Areas of Shepard Road will be closed before and after the fireworks show, and signs will be posted at least 48 hours in advance.

## MOUNDS PARK BARBER STYLISTS

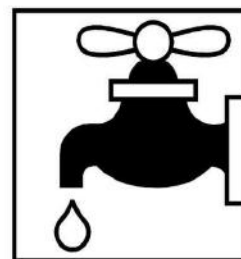


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651.774.6995-office  
[www.dbnhs.org](http://www.dbnhs.org)



## CLUES gives \$2M to low-income families

*from a CLUES release*

Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio (CLUES) is pleased to announce that it has helped 1,130 taxpayers, whose average annual gross income was \$18,726, to receive over \$2.1 million in total refunds through free tax preparation assistance this tax season. Additionally, over 2,500 community members received tax assistance in 2013 through one-on-one meetings, workshops, and phone assistance. This year, 55 dedicated volunteers provided over 1855 hours of service to assist these clients at six tax preparation sites located in Minneapolis, St. Paul, West St Paul, and Brooklyn Park.

CLUES offers free, year-round taxpayer assistance and preparation services through its Financial Empowerment Services, helping hardworking, low-income families save hundreds of dollars in fees charged by commercial tax preparers. The program assists Latinos, new immigrants, and other community members who struggle to understand the mainstream financial system, empowering them to build financial security. CLUES Financial Empowerment Program provides financial management classes, one-on-one financial coaching, pre-purchase homeowner counseling and foreclosure counseling, free tax preparation services, and lending circles/asset building services. As the result of the services provided, families navigate through the pathway for self-sufficiency, greater financial stability, and long-term prosperity.

CLUES was the first agency in Minnesota to become a certified Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN) acceptance agency and is currently the only certified agency in the Twin Cities to offer this service. Used as a tax identification number, the ITIN ensures that wage earners pay taxes even when they don't have a Social Security number. Consequently, CLUES assists taxpayers who don't qualify for a Social Security number to apply for an ITIN. Thus far in 2013, CLUES has assisted 58 taxpayers to apply for an ITIN.

"The overarching goal of CLUES' Financial Empowerment Services is to empower Latino and other low-income families to achieve long-term economic prosperity," said Ruby Lee, President of CLUES. "Free tax preparation assistance helps families to access all the tax credits and refunds for which they are entitled in order to get a head start on building assets and beginning savings for a home, an education, or building on their other hopes and dreams."

Financial Empowerment Services is one component of CLUES' comprehensive, integrated service model.

Nationally recognized by the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the National Council of LaRaza (NCLR), CLUES employs a linguistically appropriate and culturally proficient, family-centric program model that empowers individuals and families to achieve economic prosperity and to build stronger communities.

## Living wage policy adopted by council

*by Carla Riehle  
Dayton's Bluff Equity  
Committee*

On May 20, 2013, the Dayton's Bluff Community Council adopted a policy that encourages larger neighborhood businesses to offer living wages and engage in fair employment practices. The council's Equity Committee drafted the policy in recognition of the development initiatives that are taking place in the community and make it an increasingly welcome place to locate a business.

Since the council is an advisory body, not a lawmaking one, the policy is not mandatory, but seeks to set goals for the neighborhood and to begin a conversation about what it means to invest in the community.

The Equity Committee will be circulating the policy to neighborhood businesses and to policymaking bodies as a model for sustainable community growth and development.

### Dayton's Bluff Living Wage and Fair Employment Policy

Adopted by the Dayton's Bluff Community Council, May 20, 2013

WHEREAS, the Dayton's Bluff Community Council believes that the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood is well positioned to recover from the Great Recession and from the historic loss of jobs that

resulted from the departure of large employers like 3M and Whirlpool Corporation; and

WHEREAS, new initiatives like "Make it Happen on East 7<sup>th</sup>" support this recovery and employers are taking

*"The Dayton's Bluff Community Council welcomes employers that care about their employees and the community and recognize that paying a living wage and offering fair employment constitute a critical investment in the long-term prosperity of the economy by fostering a dedicated, skilled and healthy workforce . . ."*

*— from the Dayton's Bluff Living Wage and Fair Employment Policy, adopted by the Dayton's Bluff Community Council*

notice that Dayton's Bluff is a good place to locate a business; and

WHEREAS, Dayton's Bluff and its vicinity are host to large employers that have in place living wage and fair employment practices; and

WHEREAS, employees who earn a living wage are less likely to need government assistance; and

WHEREAS, employers receive public recognition for demonstrating a commitment to living wage and fair employment practices, making them more attractive to potential employees and customers; and

WHEREAS, employers that pay a living wage and offer fair employment experience a decrease in employee turnover and absenteeism, increased retention and productivity and savings on rehiring and retraining; and

WHEREAS, the city of St. Paul has a stated commit-

ment to diversity and inclusion in planning and development (stpaul.gov/index.aspx?NID=2931), and the Dayton's Bluff Community Council has adopted a policy that promotes equity in the community; and

WHEREAS, the Dayton's Bluff Community Council welcomes employers that care about their employees and the community and recognize that paying a living wage and offering fair employment constitute a critical investment in the long-term prosperity of the economy by fostering a dedicated, skilled and healthy workforce,

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Photos by Forum staff

### NUSA conference held in Minneapolis

*by Forum staff*

Neighborhoods, USA (NUSA) held its 38<sup>th</sup> annual Conference on Neighborhood Concerns in Minneapolis May 22-25. Participants took an East Side Pride tour that included dinner at Hmong Village (pictured above) at 1001 Johnson Parkway.

NUSA's mission is to build and strengthen neighborhood associations and to promote productive communications and collaborations between those associations and both the public and private sectors.

### Touring the East Side for Neighborhoods, USA



## Gateway Food Co-op hosts "Sunday Supper" series

*Engaging diverse community through shared cooking and eating*

*from a Gateway Food Cooperative release*

Gateway Food Cooperative announces a unique series of events – "Sunday Suppers with Gateway Food Co-op" – taking place every Sunday in July, from 5:00 to 7:45 pm at the First Covenant Church at 1280 Arcade Street.

Each event will feature a chef-demonstrated cooking class, followed by a shared meal. The first three "Sunday Suppers" will be led by a different chef demonstrating simple, healthy dishes inspired by their particular ethnic tradition. This series will include European, Latino, and Hmong dishes; organizers of the event hope to repeat the series featuring other ethnic food traditions. The fourth supper will be led by youth from Urban Roots, who will share their knowledge of cooking with food grown in their own garden.

In addition to enjoying the meal, participants will leave with the recipes

from the evening, and are also encouraged to bring their own recipe from home. At the end of the series, recipes will be compiled into a cookbook, which will be distributed to participants and available for sale locally.

Gateway Food Cooperative, which is working to establish a natural foods co-op on the East Side of St. Paul, is presenting the events in cooperation with Bravely Be, Mississippi Market, Urban Roots, and the Association for the Advancement of Hmong Women.

The Sunday Supper events are intended to celebrate the ethnic diversity in St. Paul's East Side neighborhoods, as well as raise awareness about the drive to establish a neighborhood store where area residents can purchase healthy, local, sustainably and ethically produced food, said Tracy Sides, series organizer and Gateway Food Co-Op Steering Committee member.

"Food provides a simple but profound way for us to recognize our similarities across cultures, but also to acknowledge and celebrate our differ-

ences," Sides said.

The event is free, but registration is required as space is limited. For more information, visit [gatewaytofood.org](http://gatewaytofood.org).

Gateway Food Cooperative is committed to:

- Promoting wellness for our neighbors and community
- Connecting local farmers with consumers
- Supporting a community-based food system
- Raising awareness about food justice issues
- Being an active member of our community
- Being a welcoming destination for all the diverse cultures that call the Twin Cities home.

For more information on the Gateway Food Cooperative, contact Sarah Geving at [eastcoop@gmail.com](mailto:eastcoop@gmail.com). For information on the "Sunday Supper" series, contact Tracy Sides at [tracy@bravelybe.com](mailto:tracy@bravelybe.com).

## Weekly neighborhood mindfulness group

*from a Bravely Be release*

Many people are interested in incorporating meditation into their daily lives, but have difficulty starting or maintaining a regular practice. Being part of a group that sits together and shares experiences can help establish meditation as a part of your everyday life. Benefits from regular meditation include greater creativity, concentration, and sense of peace.

Bravely Be, an East Side organization dedicated to promoting wholeness and community among people and the land, offers a free drop-in mindfulness session every Wednesday morning from 7:30 to 8:00 am in their Common Room at 733 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street. Each session includes brief instruction and sitting meditation. Beginners welcome! There is no cost, but donations are accepted.

Bravely Be partners with the M2 Foundation to offer this neighborhood service as part of M2's network of neighborhood mindfulness groups located throughout St. Paul. Visit the M2 Website to find other Neighborhood Mindfulness times and locations.

Questions? Visit [www.bravelybe.com](http://www.bravelybe.com) or call Tracy Sides at 612-202-2442.

### Letter to the editor

## What's the big idea?

### Forever St. Paul semifinalist hopes to honor native cultures in Mounds Park

Maybe you've heard about the Forever St. Paul Challenge. If so, you know that this past spring, the St. Paul Foundation set out to find one idea that would make St. Paul great. And they pledged a million dollars toward that idea. Research has shown that Minnesotans are very proud of their capital city, and the Challenge is intended to capitalize upon those feelings, and make the city even better. Nearly a thousand ideas were submitted from across St. Paul (and even ideas from outside the city) and the field was narrowed to 30 semi-finalists. I am incredibly honored to be one of those. Later this summer, they will again narrow the field to three finalists and everyone will have the opportunity to vote for their favorite "million dollar idea."

When I first heard about the Challenge, I was intrigued; the possibilities seemed endless. What a fun thing to imagine – using a million dollars just to improve the place we live. I am very proud of my neighborhood, so I thought, what would I do to improve my little corner of St. Paul?

I immediately thought of Mounds Park, one of the most beautiful places in the city, with a stunning vantage point of our city skylines and unparalleled views of our most treasured natural resource, the Mississippi River. My idea started to take shape as I thought about the things that really make this park unique. Of course the views are beautiful, but then it came to

me: the Indian burial mounds are an incredibly unique resource. What could we do to capitalize on the history and significance of the mounds?

As I started to research it, it became clear that the burial mounds are not well understood, not only by our community, but by history and anthropology experts, too. The opinions vary about their age and specific progeny. Even the very brief interpretive sign that is in the park is disputed in terms of the facts. What is not generally disputed, though, is that these mounds date back at least 1500 years (likely 2000 or more) and are the only remaining evidence in our area of ancient cultures. It is astounding to consider that people built these mounds perhaps two thousand years ago!

The idea that I proposed is to build a Mounds Park Native Cultures Center that includes community gathering spaces, art and musical performance space, interactive learning opportunities and a place to research and explore the history of the Indian burial mounds and the native cultures that created them. I envisioned a place that has indoor and outdoor spaces to take advantage of the views and provide multiple learning, sharing

and entertainment opportunities.

There are a few things underway in the community that suggest the mounds are ripe for greater appreciation and understanding. The Minnesota Historical Society is currently in the nomination process for the site to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It was determined eligible for this designation in the 1980s by the National Park Service, and the process could be completed as soon as within the next few months. Recognizing this site as a Historic Place reinforces the value of this area, and the need to recognize it and offer interpretive information.

In addition to the historical importance, this site is considered a sacred site by the Dakota people. As part of St. Paul City Council's resolution designating 2013 as the "Year of the Dakota," there is a commitment to recognize sacred Native American sites in St. Paul. The resolution states that "the City of St. Paul and its Parks and Recreation Department will ... identi-

fy, 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." This significant commitment from St. Paul's City Council seems to make it an ideal time to launch efforts around a place that recognizes and honors one of the most sacred spaces in St. Paul for the Dakota people. What better way to fulfill this commitment than by creating a Mounds Park Native Cultures Center?

For more information about the Forever St. Paul Challenge and the semifinalists, visit [www.mnideaopen.org/foreversaintpaul](http://www.mnideaopen.org/foreversaintpaul).

*-Stephanie Harr  
Dayton's Bluff*

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## More electronic history of Dayton's Bluff

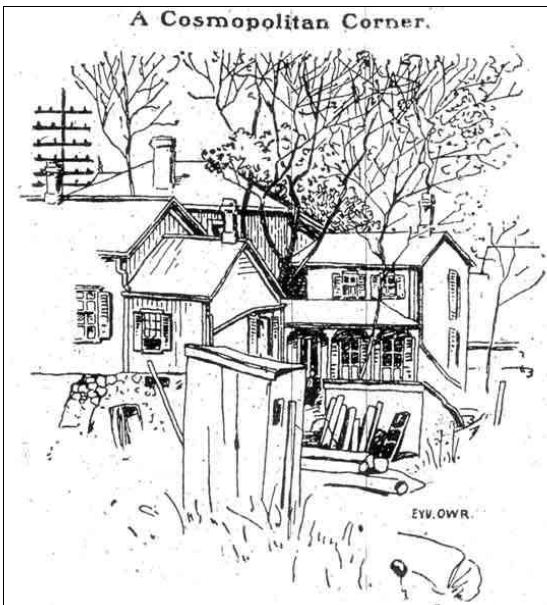
by Steve Trimble  
Forum historian

As I explained in the last issue, I have been asked to write up material about some of our neighborhood places – or former places – that have interesting stories. This is another preview of what the Historic St. Paul organization will soon be offering in an electronic form in the near future so people can use an app – or whatever they are called – to read information or view historical images of various city areas. You can read them here in the *Forum* before anyone else has access to it.

### "St. Paul's Most Unique Settlement"

The headline above appeared in a 1902 issue of the *St Paul Globe* over a story about a "group of quaint Irish families" at the "foot of Dayton's Bluff." The article is one of the few extensive descriptions of the area known as "Connemara Patch."

The history of this community can be traced to the arrival of a sizable group of



A line drawing of the Connemara Patch, as published in a 1908 issue of the *St. Paul Dispatch*.

immigrants from the Connemara area of Ireland. They had been persuaded to come to Minnesota in the 1880s by Archbishop John Ireland and were initially located on farms in the western part of the state. For a variety of reasons, the experiment was a failure, and many of the settlers came to St. Paul and settled along the banks of Phalen Creek between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Streets below Dayton's Bluff.

The area was haphazardly laid out, with irregular roads, containing small homes, referred to as "huts or shacks" by one reporter. While other groups lived there, the Irish were the predominant group of residents. People spoke with rich accents and retained many of their old world customs, such as the production of fine Irish point lace. The community was generally poor, but some of the men found jobs with various railroads.

And it was railroad construction that



From the collection of Steve Trimble

Postcard featuring the Willowbrook Fish Hatchery, circa 1889.

heralded the disappearance of Connemara Patch. In 1908, most of the homes between 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Streets were wiped out as new tracks were laid. A small cluster of homes under the 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Bridge and along Commercial Street remained, some of them until the 1950s. By then, Mexican Americans had become the predominant population in the remnants of the old Irish settlement.

There is one known remnant of the historic Connemara Patch. You can find it at a not-too-distant location at 671 Conway, where it was moved around 1881. The homes and grocery stores, saloons and boarding houses have disappeared from the area below the bluff, and now only fading memories remain.

Some of those memories were shared one August day in the 1980s when Matthew McDonough stood by the site of his old home in Connemara Patch and reminisced in a newspaper article. Matthew was brought into the world in 1900 by a midwife who came the family house at 267 Commercial Street. In the Patch, he recalled, "I don't remember there ever being much trouble.... Nobody had anything, but we all seemed to get along."

### Something fishy below the Bluff

Located at the foot of Indian Mounds Park, Willowbrook Hatchery was started in 1878 by the newly formed State Fish Commission. Raising fish to stock the lakes and streams of Minnesota was – and still is – an important state function, and the site below Dayton's Bluff was an almost perfect spot for such activity. The hatchery utilized ponds to catch the water that came flowing out of springs in the bluffs. The nearby railroad tracks made it easy to ship fish throughout the state. By 1894, over a million Brook Trout and 31 million Walleye Pike had been produced and distributed.

It became a tourist attraction, and contemporary writers tell of the large number of visitors from all over the state who came to stroll around the hatchery grounds. There was also mention of people from "neighboring camps," possibly referring to the frequent gathering of "hobos" near the railroad tracks.

Senator W. W. Dunn and others "engineered a private subscription" for the purchase of a number of acres of land that was donated to the state provided they continued to raise fish on it. The development of Indian Mounds Park on the bluffs boomed the tourism at the Hatchery, which was soon expanded to include 62 acres.

A Dayton's Bluff resident wrote that on balmy Sunday afternoons in the early years of the twentieth century, "whole families walked to Indian Mounds Park, thence down the long and steep pathway to the fish hatchery where there were several outdoor pools containing large fish, the likes of which some of us had never caught." Later, a small zoo was added as an additional attraction.

The St. Paul Parks Department reported in 1903 that the Fish Hatchery grounds

## View from my porch

by Sage Holben  
Dayton's Bluff Community Council

A few years ago, several of us met on a thickly littered block and spent a few hours picking up trash. A man came running out of a house yelling, "Why are you picking up that trash?!" I responded, "Because it's here and affects everyone." He offered a response that has remained with me: "Don't do it; my landlord will take care of it."

The trash was in the public area, and didn't necessarily come from that particular residence. On any given day, my neighbors and I can pick up garbage tossed from cars (Wendy's, McDonalds, and Burger King containers; condoms, plastic gloves, filled diapers, shirts, underwear, socks, as well as the typical papers, broken lighters, and even the rare bag of marijuana).

This man opened several questions, including: Who 'owns' the litter in front of my residence (yard, sidewalk, and street); Why are or how disconnected are residents from their actual neighborhoods? I mean living within the walls, but not really seeing as their responsibility the yard, sidewalk or street beyond their physical walls. I won't even venture into why people don't act more responsibly about disposing of litter.

Several years ago I was union-organizing in Anoka County. As I door-knocked in Ham Lake, Champlin, and Andover, I was amazed at the sanitized sense of neighborhood. Spacious front yards met the curbs; no sidewalks encouraged walking through the area. Residents drove into their garages and left their vehicles only once inside the garage. Over and over residents told me they seldom interacted with their neighbors, and never spontaneously. Each house seemed more like an individual fortress rather than linking to a community. Front yards were pristine, even quite boring. The few flowering

plants were mostly low maintenance; certainly not the full gardens we see in Dayton's Bluff as we enjoy a sidewalk stroll. Primary to all of this, I view the front of the house as the connector. The yards where I was door-knocking were *space-keepers*, creating impersonal, privacy space between those within and the world outside.

In my neighborhood of Dayton's Bluff, porches sometimes are used, it seems, as extended rooms. Sidewalks are well used by all ages of pedestrians. My intersection is always alive to varying degrees. In 25 minutes this particular evening, I counted 29 cars going through the intersection of Fourth and Bates; eleven pedestrians, two with dogs, one car made a U-turn, three went through the stop signs. Earlier there had been five bikes and more U-turns. Who looks after the block? All neighbors who choose to make an active, not just monetary investment in our neighborhood.

I've noticed that when residents pick up litter, less litter is discarded... whether people notice or start caring, I don't know. One of our kids once saw a drug bag tossed under a car during a police stop; I've been told that a littered street makes it easier to lob out drugs when a police stop is likely. Who is going to look through all the litter? When people use porches and front yards, they create a presence, an eye on the neighborhood, but also a safe place for kids. When people greet passers-by, they make a connection. A simple 'hi, good evening, nice evening' is all it takes. These front yards become *place-makers*.

My theory is that by using front porches and yards, whether dressed with colorful flowers or a collection of mountain-kitsch, residents claim the streets and identify the quality of life they expect from other neighbors and passers-by. *Place-making* is an investment each of us can make.

**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 7<sup>th</sup> Street.

**Board of Directors:**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Monday each month, 7:00 pm

**Land Use Committee:**  
1<sup>st</sup> Monday each month, 7:00 pm

**Equity Committee:**  
Tuesday, July 2, 6:30 pm

**Vacant Building Committee:**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday each month, 6:30 pm

**Greenspace Committee:**  
3<sup>rd</sup> Monday each month, 6:00 pm

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

**Call 651-772-2075 for more information.**

had "for many years been an object of great interest to the public, but it was only accessible by a steep and difficult road, subject to frequent wash-outs."

A thoroughfare was finally constructed from Indian Mounds Park to the hatchery below, revealing "a series of delightful views as it winds around the crests and slopes of the hill." When finished, a newspaper said "it will be one of the pleasantest driveways in the city."

Today the fish hatchery remains below the bluff, but its operations have been greatly reduced. They still hatch

muskies, raising them to fingerling size before sending the fry, as it's called, to state ponds for further development.

The zoo is long gone, and Warner Road was cut through the center of the site during the post-war era. The old road and the trails are overrun and their remnants are barely visible, but could be resurrected at some future date. There is still one large pond and, in case you ever wondered about it, that's where the fish from the DNR's State Fair display spend the rest of the year.

### Art in the Hollow

Art in the Hollow was a great success and the weather was perfect most of the day. We started early, with volunteers putting up signs, helping carry artists gear down into the Hollow, and "Josette's Café" (Art in the Hollow bistro) providing breakfast for the artists.

Around 40 artists participated, some creating their work on-site, and others bringing their work to sell. Many of the artists attended last year and came back this year. Some Plein Air artists created beautiful scenes of Swede Hollow. Others sold paintings, photos, cards, jewelry, and many other forms of art.

The kids' area included making pine cone bird feeders, sidewalk art, and face



Photo by Brad Griffith

View from Mike Grealish's sculpture *The Gallery*.



Photo by Steve Carlson

The King and Queen of Hearts, from Polly's Coffee Cove at 1382 Payne Avenue, make a special guest appearance at Art in the Hollow.

painting. Parents and kids worked on projects together.

The live entertainment included a wonderful group that played Latin music starting at Payne Avenue and coming into the hollow, Mounds Park American Indian Magnet School's drummers and dancers, hula dancers, Scotty Reynolds and the picnic operetta group, and a sign language story by Ellie.

Thank you to all of the artists and everyone who helped make this happen.

Once again, Art in the Hollow Manager Romi Slowiak (aka "Josette") did an excellent job of pulling off a wonderful event. A big hurrah for Romi!

To share ideas, thoughts, or register for the fifth annual Art in the Hollow to be held in 2014, contact Karin or Romi at 651-776-0550; visit [www.artinthehollow.org](http://www.artinthehollow.org) or on Facebook. For more information about Friends of Swede Hollow, see [www.swedehollow.org](http://www.swedehollow.org).

## Dayton's Bluff District Forum

798 East 7<sup>th</sup> 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 an all volunteer 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 pay for 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 going to try a new approach. We are trying to get one hundred 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 below and enclose a check. Any amount would be appreciated.

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

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

My tax-deductible check for \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

Or, to give online, go to <http://givemn.razoo.com>, click on "donate" and type in Hopewell Communications.

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Make check out to Dayton's Bluff District Forum and mail it to the address at the top of the page. For more information, contact Karin at 651-772-2075 or [karin@daytonsbuff.org](mailto:karin@daytonsbuff.org).

## 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.*