

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

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March 2013

www.daytonsbuff.org

"The Voice of the Community"

Vea la página 8 para una cosa en español.

See page 4 for an item regarding the Hmong and refugee community.

Dine out for Dayton's Bluff

By Stephanie Harr
Dayton's Bluff Community Council
Arts and Cultures Committee

One of the most anticipated events of the year; it's time again for the annual Dayton's Bluff Community Council fundraising dinner at the Strip Club Meat and Fish restaurant. On April 8, join your friends and neighbors for an elegant dining experience. On this one special night, the restaurant closes its doors to the rest of the world and becomes a strictly Dayton's Bluff hangout.

As one of the finest dining establishments in the city, The Strip Club Meat and Fish is already a hot spot for neighbors. Because of its reputation for great

food and drinks and its gorgeous environs, the restaurant also draws patrons

from all over the Twin Cities (and beyond). Since its opening more than five years ago, the Strip Club has received accolades too numerous to count. Recently, it was named

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

Demonstrating its commitment to the neighborhood, the restaurant is hosting a five-course dinner with wine pairings as a fundraiser for the Dayton's Bluff Community Council.

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

**4th Annual
Dayton's Bluff
Fundraising Dinner**
Monday, April 8, 6:00 pm
Elegant 5-course dinner
at the
**Strip Club Meat
& Fish**

\$100 per person
(\$40 tax deductible)

Proceeds benefit Dayton's
Bluff Community Council

Advance ticket sales only.

For information, call
651-772-2075.



Photo courtesy of Dayton's Bluff Community Council

The Strip Club Meat and Fish Restaurant will once again open its doors to the community as it hosts the annual fundraiser for the Dayton's Bluff Community Council.

spirit. "One of the special things about this event is that it supports a larger community gathering and dinner in October of each year. We are committed to building a more inclusive agenda that welcomes all residents of Dayton's Bluff. The Strip Club Annual Fundraising Dinner is an important way for some

of us to support all of us."

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

Getting to know State Senator Fong Hawj

submitted by Brad Griffith, realtor

Back in December, the Forum published the first part of this community Q-and-A with State Senator Fong Hawj, who was elected in November 2012. The following is part 2.

Fong Hawj has made a commitment to the community that a dialogue with the citizens of the East Side will continue throughout his term. Together, we can make Dayton's Bluff an even better place to live.

Emily
Dayton's Bluff Resident

How will you work to reduce crime, control gangs and promote the prevention of both on the East Side?

Senator-elect Fong Hawj

Despite how different we may look or how different our culture may be, everyone wants a safe place to live and raise their family. I like to promote neighbor-

hood friendly officers such as bike and horse patrols in the parks and recreational areas. I will also continue to encourage participation for our citizens to improve the safety of our communities by getting to know their neighbors. As a legislator, I will fight for adequate funding for fire and police departments to make sure we have enough good officers on duty.

Jennifer Marcus Newton
Dayton's Bluff Resident

What strategies do you have for keeping in touch on a very regular basis (e.g., town halls, newsletters, social media, quick response to email or telephone calls, etc.) with constituents?

Hawj:

I plan to shift the content of my website and social media from my campaign message to citizen outreach information in the next couple of months in order to

keep people informed of my progress. I will attend community events whenever I can to stay in touch with constituents as well as strengthen the network of diversity that we built during my campaign. This will keep me involved with every corner of our district. One thing that I hope to do outside of session, from June to December, is hosting smaller meetings or activities to engage our citizens. That may be going from restaurant to restaurant for community meetings or holding neighborhood cleanups. I plan to use the different media as well as the word of mouth to inform people about my progress and activities and to listen to your concerns. My goal is to be your voice at the Capitol. I can only do that with your input and your help.

Tabitha DeRango
Dayton's Bluff Resident

What specifically would you do to support revitalization and growth on the

East Side of Saint Paul?

Hawj

Some of the ideas I have include directing economic development money to train and hire local workers to work with local businesses and non-profits to help improve our business climate. I really believe that training and education are vitally important if we want to make progress in revitalizing our community. We also have to work with our cities, not just in St. Paul, to support what they are doing. Mayor Coleman, the City Council and the Port Authority have worked hard to revitalize the Phalen Corridor Area, but they also had to fight deep cuts in Local Government Aid. We have to restore some of these funds, but also make sure that part of this money goes to local working families.

Stay tuned for further information on a Dayton's Bluff Town Hall with Senator Fong Hawj.

**Dayton's Bluff
Community Council**
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Designing the "Better Block" on East 7th Street

Community input meeting March 16

by Tabitha Benci DeRango

We have been selected to be a Better Block site this spring! Better Block is a tool to rapidly revitalize neighborhood blocks by listening to community and business input to structure a temporary walkable, livable area that reveals the potential for the area in terms of traffic calming and attracting people to the street. You can see the results of past projects by checking out the website at www.betterblock.org. Set the date to come out and join us to review the area

and gather input on March 16. All are welcome. The project will be slated to happen around an event planned for June of this year. Stay tuned to the *Forum* for more information.

This is part of the **St. Paul Complete Streets Initiative**. Complete Streets means that our streets are planned to be safe and accessible for pedestrians, transit riders, bicyclists, and drivers—all users, regardless of age or ability.



Photo by Karin DuPaul

Small business classes

The Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Microentrepreneur Program's spring class has filled and will start in March. 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 for the fall session, contact karin@daytonsbuff.org or 651-772-2075.

Friends of Swede Hollow

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

Donate your junk car

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

Community meeting

The next Dayton's Bluff community meeting is **Thursday, March 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.

Take-a-Hike March 2

Take-a-Hike occurs on the first Saturday of most months. The next hike will be **Saturday, March 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. Return transportation is available, if required. All are welcome.

Join 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

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.**

The Forum needs YOU

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

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

Community Council

The Dayton's Bluff Community Council Board of directors meets at **7:00 pm, Monday, March 18** at the council office, 798 East 7th Street. The public is encouraged to attend.

Upcoming opportunities at *Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center*

- **Our music production studio** is now available! Hours and times may vary.
- **Teen room** now open!
- **YJC Jobs** will be available February 18-March 15. www.stpaul.gov/jobs
- **Parent & tot open gym play time:** Wednesdays & Fridays, 10:00 am-12:00 noon.
- **Open gym;** times may vary.
- **Free Zumba!** on Thursday evenings, 5:30-6:30 pm at Dayton's Bluff Rec Center dance room.
- **Girls group:** Thursdays 6:15-7:15 pm for ages 12-16.
- **Messy Fingers & Toes** (for parents and tots) 6-week session Friday mornings starting in April. \$38; registration opens soon.
- **Seniors card playing,** every Friday 12:00 noon-4:00 pm.
- **Dance studio available!** Fees and times may vary.
- **Adolescent pregnancy prevention group** (girls only) every Thursday 4:30-6:30 pm.
- **Kidventure** program for children during no-school days over spring break: Call 651-487-7383 to register your child.



Photo by Steve Trimble

Local artist Diane May and neighborhood youths pose in front of a new mural they designed and painted together, at Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center.

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

Stop by and check us out!

How to best use the land?

by Sage Holben
Dayton's Bluff Community Council

Let's be honest: "land use" sounds pretty mundane. But consider:

Will a school's new rolling information/message sign, possibly with bright lights, extreme size, or traffic distraction, be helpful to those who use the school or negate the quality of life for neighboring residents?

If the local convenience store receives a license to sell lottery tickets or alcohol, how will it impact neighbors? Will it create more litter, encourage more people to hang about on the sidewalk, or increase traffic?

Who will care? Who will speak up?

If a property owner of a four-plex

wants to obtain a variance and create a six-plex or a duplex, do you want a say in it? Are you interested in having a literal seat at the table in discussing and voting for or against zoning for a sober house, a change of business, or parking issues?

Are you a person who can listen to the situation and consider not only your personal view and desires, but consider the larger, long term picture? Can you set aside your personal attitudes and consider the effect on the larger community? Consider applying to



Have a say in how Dayton's Bluff land is used; join the Land Use Committee. Email karin@daytonsbuff.org.

serve on the Dayton's Bluff Community Land Use Committee.

What does the committee offer you?

As a Land Use committee member, you will have the opportunity to positively affect the quality of life in our community; transform your own life with new information, knowledge and abilities; gain a widened perspective, and have a vote that makes a difference as it makes its way to the Dayton's Bluff Community Board and to the St. Paul City Council.

Here is what is required of Land Use committee members:

- Attend all Land Use committee meetings (held once a month)
- Keep an open mind while applying your innate wisdom and common sense
- Make decisions applying a basic knowledge of Dayton's Bluff guidelines (including historic preservation guidelines).

To become a member, you must first attend three consecutive Land Use meetings and complete an application (available from Karin at the Dayton's Bluff Community Council office). You must also be a resident of Dayton's Bluff. Contact Karin at 651-772-2075 or karin@daytonsbuff.org, or pick up an application at 798 East 7th Street.

Chili cookoff!

Join Senate District 67 Republicans on Sunday, March 3 from 3:00-6:00 pm at Obb's Bar and Grill, 1347 Burns Avenue, for our first annual Chili Cookoff! We're looking for both cooks and taste testers.

Cost: \$10 (all you can eat chili), ages 12 and up (children 12 and under are free). Beverages will be available for purchase (please tip generously). First prize wins a \$25 gift certificate to Obb's Bar and Grill!

If you'd like to enter your chili, please email barnett.lorri@gmail.com

Mounds Park United Methodist Church

1049 Euclid Street (corner of Earl and Euclid Streets)

Sunday School classes are held for adults, youth (7th-12th grade), and children (preschool-6th grade), **9:15 am** every Sunday. Service starts at **10:30 am**; fellowship follows at **11:30 am**, with coffee and treats.

Brownies Girl Scouts (3rd grade) meet on the second and fourth Thursdays of every month, 6:45-8:00 pm. **Daisies Girl Scouts** (girls ages 5-7) meet on the second and fourth Thursdays of every month, 6:00-7:00 pm.

March 3: Family/Kids' Club: 4:00-5:30 pm. Open to the public.

March 6: Lent Service 11:00 am; Soup Supper 6:30 pm; Service 7:00 pm

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

March 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 for more information.

Urban C.R.O.S.S.

(Christians Reaching Out in Service in St. Paul)

A ministry of Mounds Park United Methodist Church

The organizers of Urban CROSS are looking for residents and non-profit organizations who could use a hand. If you have a project that you need help with such as: painting, yardwork, landscaping, cleanup, simple construction or repair, please contact us. We invite other youth from churches all over to join us for a week of an "Urban Makeover." During the second week of June, teams of youth, demonstrate the love of God through serving the people of St. Paul's residential East Side. Please go to our website and fill out a form, if you would like our help.

Deadline for requests is May 15, 2013.

If you would like to **donate** to Urban CROSS, we are always in need of: tools, supplies, paint, painting equipment, printing, staff t-shirts; food for the teams/staff; or even scholarships for youth. To make a financial donation, please send a check or money order written out to "Mounds Park UMC." (Please be sure to write "Urban CROSS" in the Memo line of the check or money order.)

All gifts are tax deductible. Please ask for a receipt if needed.

Contact Eric Buck, Youth Director, at 612-559-2369

urbancross.st.paul@gmail.com www.moundsparkumc.org/urbancross.html

What's happening at the Historic Mounds Theatre

1029 Hudson Road, St. Paul, MN by Raeann Ruth, Executive Director

My Mighty Mississippi

In this film, performing artist Steve Marking takes the audience for a ride on the Mississippi River, from the backwaters and tributaries to the sandbars and towns up and down the river. Born and raised on the backwaters of the Upper Mississippi, Steve has an innate knowledge of the twists and turns of the river and its ever-changing character.

As a videographer and photographer, Steve captures images that are entertaining and breathtaking. He uses his artistic eye and ear to weave those images into songs as he creates an exquisite tapestry of the river.

A world-class vocalist, Steve's classical training is apparent in songs like *Ol' Man River* and *River Chanty*, and his down-home, fun-loving spirit comes out in originals like *Take Me Back To the River* and the curmudgeonly *Gone Fishin'. My Mighty Mississippi* is loved by sportsmen, concertgoers, and anyone who appreciates the river. Popular songs like *Moon River*, *Bridge Over Troubled Water*, *Black Water* and *Proud Mary* round out this stunning film.

More information is available at www.stevenmarking.com.

March 8 and 9 at 7:00 pm, and March 10 at 2:00 pm. Tickets available at www.moundstheatre.org; \$15 Adults; \$10; Seniors; \$5 Children.

named Walter and Du have taken a woman named Keely after kidnapping her outside an abortion clinic. They intend to keep her until her seventh month, too late for her to obtain a legal abortion. Scott M. Rubsam directs.

Keely and Du was a Best New Play winner and a 1994 finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in drama. It is a mind-probing issue play with a gripping human face. Who is accountable? What is the extent of individual freedom? What are a rape victim's rights? What is a Christian's reality of procreation? Their passionate stories exist on the extreme edge of everyday reality. Author Martin is careful never to paint either side as completely right or wrong, good or evil, allowing audience members the opportunity to form their own conclusions.

Keely and Du is produced by Theater Underground and Metropolitan State University's Theater Program, which offers the final two years of a theater major for transferring students from MCTC and other Minnesota community colleges.

General admission is \$10. Please order your tickets online at www.moundstheatre.org. Students are free with ID.

For more information, contact Gail Smogard at 612-659-7156. Persons with disabilities who need a reasonable accommodation to participate in this event should call Disability Services at 651-793-1549 or 651-772-7687 (TTY).

Metropolitan State presents *Keely and Du*

Keely and Du by Jane Martin will run on March 21, 22, & 23, at 7:00 pm with matinees on March 23 and 24 at 1:30 pm.

Keely and Du takes place in a basement, where two Christian fundamentalists

MOUNDS PARK BARBER STYLISTS

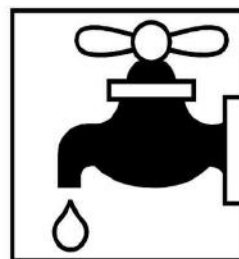


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2012 Dayton's Bluff Honor Roll announced

St. Paul's 17 district councils held their annual volunteer awards event on January 25, 2013 at St. Thomas University. The awards recognize people from all over the city who have given outstanding service to the community over a long period of time. Each of the 17 district councils has been able to add three new members/groups each year since the 1980s.



Photo courtesy of Karin DuPaul

Back row, left to right: Rich DuPaul, Steve Randell, Tabitha DeRango, City Council President Kathy Lantry, and Paul Broderson. Front row, left to right: Deanna Foster, Angela DuPaul, Mary Moore, Karin DuPaul, and Brad Griffith.

2012 Honor Roll Honorees

Carlos Stewart

Carlos is a volunteer at Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center and started the Regime Basketball Program for 13- and 14-year-olds. This program is geared to help youth have fun while learning teamwork and how to make positive life choices. He spends 20-25 hours a week with his Regime Basketball kids, giving them something positive to do together. In September of 2012, he received an Eleven Who Care award from KARE 11 TV, which included a \$1,100 donation to the Dayton's Bluff Youth in Transition program.

Colin and Mary Moore Steve Randell

Six years ago, this trio started the Youth In Transition (YIT) program at Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center. YIT has helped get kids out of the gangs, learn new skills, find jobs and make positive contributions to the community. Dayton's Bluff Community Council received a grant that brought a group of musicians to work with YIT members to create a recording studio of their own. There are plans to release a CD and to perform at festivals.

Paul Broderson

Paul has lived in Dayton's Bluff for over 30 years; for the last 16 years he has been on the Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Housing Services board of directors. He has been an active block club leader, helping neighbors to clean up the neighborhood from trash, code issues and criminal issues. Paul also served on the Dayton's Bluff Community Council board in the 1980s and 1990s.

Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Honor Roll

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

This space prepared and paid for by the Lantry for Council Volunteer Committee, 25 E. Sandra Lane, St. Paul MN 55110

Catching up with Ellen Biales

by Mark Gallagher
Forum Assistant Editor

Ellen Biales, a legislative aide for St. Paul City Council member Kathy Lantry, answered a few questions concerning her position and involvement with Dayton's Bluff community and how some of the Capital Improvement Budget funding directly affects Dayton's Bluff and/or the East Side.

Were you appointed or elected?

I'm appointed. I work for Kathy, and she hired me nine years ago. Each City Council member in St. Paul has one legislative aide they appoint, and the person works for that Council member.

What do you do in that position?

I work very closely with Kathy and each of the two main district councils in her ward (Ward 7): the Dayton's Bluff District Council and the District 1 Community Council. I do a variety of things, sometimes planning-related, sometimes business development-related.

What is the Capital Improvement Budget?

The Capital Improvement Budget (CIB) is a city budget that deals with all of our capital projects on public property. Every two years the City of St. Paul goes through a process where basically anybody can recommend what they think are important capital projects within the city. It can be anything from street projects, to work in our parks, to various buildings within our parks – any kind of public improvements we need to make. We have three different project categories: community facility; streets and utilities; and residential development.

What does the CIB do to help the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood?

This year the Dayton's Bluff District Council is proposing to use some CIB funds for pedestrian beautification projects along East 7th Street. They're also looking at making improvements to the Hamm's Park area on East 7th Street. Our Public Works Department is submitting a proposal for some CIB processes to get matching funds for a grant that we received to do street improvements in the Arcade and 7th Street area, and I think our Parks Department has submitted a proposal to make some improvements in Mounds Park.

Part of the Dayton's Bluff proposal is to improve some of the sidewalk panels

along East 7th. But they also want to do some things like decorative benches and permanent planters, trying to improve the walking experience along East 7th Street for businesses and people in the neighborhood.

The chart below is from the last CIB process.

Recipient	2012	2013
Indian Mounds Park Play Area	\$27,000	\$283,000
North East Neighborhoods Dev. Corp. Economic Development Fund	200,000	200,000
Restore St. Paul Commercial Façade Improvement Program:	100,000	100,000
East Side Home Improvement Revolving Loan Fund	25,000	325,000

Aside from your work in the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood, what do you hope to see happen here in 2013?

We have some folks going into the Hamm's Brewery building, doing some tilapia farming, like a big fish pond – so you'll get fresh-grown tilapia right here in St. Paul. They are getting very close to opening.

Plus, we have a brewery going into the brewery. It looks like Flat Earth Brewing, a Minnesota company, will move into the Hamm's Brewery space, and maybe do a little brew pub there too. The nice thing about that is they can brew the beer, and some of the by-products from the beer apparently can go to feed the fish, and then some of the by-products from the fish can be used to do organic farming for lettuce and those kinds of things. It's called "Urban Organics."

We've put out a request for different kinds of proposals for the Hospital Linsen site. One is for a Mississippi Market. A lot of people in the neighborhood are eager to see a co-op in the neighborhood. Plus, I think we are going to be looking at doing some senior housing on the site with a rental building development. Also, Metro State is going to be building a new science-education center and a parking ramp, so we'll see a lot of activity.

What is your long-term vision for the city?

My one dream and long-term vision for the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood is to see in Dayton's Bluff the kind of transformation and renaissance that investment in a neighborhood creates.

New HAP matched-savings program to combat poverty, promote economic independence

from a Hmong American Partnership (HAP) press release

HAP is pleased to announce the creation of its Individual Development Accounts (IDA) Program, aimed at promoting economic independence in low- to moderate-income families and individuals. HAP's primary target audience for this program includes Southeast Asian refugees such as the Karen, Burmese, Bhutanese, and Hmong.

The IDA program provides matching dollars to deposits that participants make into an approved savings account. Participants can use the money to buy a home or car, to start or expand a business or as payment towards vocational or post-secondary education for themselves or their dependents.

Bao Vang, President/CEO of HAP, stated "HAP is excited and honored to be able to provide financial support and training so that our participants can become successful members of their new communities."

Program participants will attend workshops and trainings about financial literacy, savings planning, and money management. Successful completion of this program will lead to long-term success, development of good consumer habits and financial independence.

If you would like more information, please call Lisa Xiong at (651) 495-1511.



Tim Simmons: Youth work soup maker

by Diane Michele May, special to the Forum

Tim Simmons, who has been leading our Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center since July of last year, still considers himself a "Youth Worker." It even says that on his business card, right after "Assistant Director."

But don't think for a moment that Tim is a newbie around our neighborhood. He was hired on at Dayton's Bluff Rec Center just as they were "finishing it up" back in 1997. Over the years, he has worked at various rec centers in the Twin Cities, including the recently-leveled Margaret Rec Center. But he came back to the Dayton's Bluff Rec Center on Conway Street, and was already working as a "Rec Leader" before being promoted to Assistant Director.

"I'm not going to say that I know it all," Tim told me when we sat down in the recently-transformed Teen Room. "It's always a learning experience. You learn something from the kids every single day."

Early on, Tim learned the value of being flexible in his job. Over one summer, Tim noticed that kids weren't showing up for the rec center's programs. "It's hard to program [the kids]. Being an effective youth worker doesn't really work that way." He also noticed a lot of younger kids hanging out on the playground, but not coming into the building to use the indoor spaces. He decided to schedule an open gym time on the basketball courts for youth only ages 10 and under. That really got the younger kids excited. Then, after an hour or so, youth ages 13 and under got their turn in the open gym. Then an hour after that, the teen-

agers got their turn, until the rec center closed for the night.

And once the kids are in the rec center, Tim encourages his staff to keep them there. "There's a place for everyone here at the Rec Center. It's not all about sports. Do you want to play games? You want to draw? We have rooms available. I just tell my staff to open up a room."

Safety is a top priority. Tim tells parents, "These are my kids, too. Their safety is my safety. I want to make sure they have a safe environment where they can come hang out and play." Tim is quick to point out that he has been seeing successful activities such as "Summer Movie Mondays" scheduled around 5:00 or 5:30 pm, encouraging parents also to hang out at the rec center. The summer brochure in the office, affectionately titled "The Happening Book," will be available to the public soon. The printed copies can be picked up from the display rack in the rec center's atrium. There is something for everyone of every age, race, and background going on at the Dayton's Bluff Rec Center.

Tim feels the diversity in this neighborhood is "amazing." He wants the kids to know that they should always just be themselves. "It's not that you're different. Be you!" He also truly believes that kids are a lot smarter these days, and more vocal.

"Youth work is always challenging. You take the good with the bad and the bad with the good. But we always want good results. Put it all together, and hey! One good pot of youth work soup."

TCA: a Twin Cities achievement

by Danny Evans, special to the Forum

Since its foundation, Twin Cities Academy has been committed to constructing an education system for its middle school and high school students. Located in the heart of Dayton's Bluff, TCA serves a diverse array of students from many different ethnicities and backgrounds. TCA is a charter school, supported with the help of St. Thomas University. The new principal of the middle and high schools of TCA is Betsy Lueth, who began her journey at TCA in July, 2012. She wanted to work for the school, she says, because her "mission focused on solid leadership and connection with community. The vision of the school and my vision of school matched."

The co-director of the school, Andrew Minck, who leads with Lueth, had a fire to continue his educational career with Twin Cities Academy because he "likes the vision of engaged citizens, and making students members of community and college-ready."

Lueth and Minck are very vocal about what makes TCA different from other schools in the surrounding area. TCA, they say, is about making the student the central mission of this educational system. The staff gives students more individualized attention, to ensure that no child falls through the cracks. Parents of TCA students are extremely engaged in their children's roles as students. When parents choose to enroll their kids, they agree to volunteer at least 50 hours each school year to help make the school a more student- and family-oriented community. Parents receive volunteer credits when they attend their child's band concert or go to a parent-teacher conference.

Lueth and Minck say they look to construct solid community relationships with nearby businesses in Dayton's Bluff. The high school students volunteer in the community; TCA is always looking for more opportunities for their high school students.

As for future goals for TCA, Principal Lueth and Mr. Minck want "more partnerships with the community, and growth in the enrollment in our high school. We also desire growing extracurricular activities for the school. Finally, we want to grow with the retiring founder's vision of the school and to expand that vision."

From a new principal in Betsy Lueth and co-director Andrew Minck, Twin Cities Academy is ready to begin a new phase in its education system. With the need for parent involvement and to ensure that the students are learning and growing while at the charter school, Twin Cities Academy is truly a Twin Cities achievement.

Engage with youth as allies to create good citizens

by Brian Hubbard, local youth worker

In previous *Forums*, several articles discussed how the shootings in the neighborhood can be prevented. I believe there are two ways the news media can make a difference in this. The first is about where young people go and hang out in their communities. Recreation centers, libraries, and schools are community spaces for most youth. Yet in news stories about shooting, they are presented (factually) as the site where the shooting or other violent incident occurred. This makes it easy for readers to make a connection between the violent incident and the (usually) safe spaces, and parents warning their children to stay away from these spaces. Of course, when the place of incident is crucial to the story, it must be named. But when it is incidental to the incident, does it always have to be named?

The second topic for the news media is how young people are portrayed in general and when reporting a violent incident. When specific names of individuals or groups associated with a violent incident are used, the individual or group too often is merely given more "street credibility" among their social circles. This street credibility can give them a sense of importance and can encourage others to participate in violence. To strengthen our efforts towards developing and sustaining a peaceful neighborhood, we must look to young people as allies, instead of problems to be dealt with. As allies, we can empower and partner with them to advance peace within our neighborhood. When young people are viewed as part of the solution, we encourage their positive behavior.

Adults are the gatekeepers to government, school, housing, food, and news media. Through our positions, we hold the capacity to disconnect and deny young people access to ways of being civically engaged. I am an educator working with youth, and I have seen the benefits of working with and alongside youth. Together we create shared power and develop win-win solutions for common problems that affect us and our communities. Every community member, along with news media, educators, planners, community decision makers, and community advocacy groups, has the ability to partner with and invite youth participation in authentic projects around violence prevention and other issues meaningful to them and to all of us. There is an ongoing need to provide access and to create inclusive environments for young people, rather than blocking them from participation in their/our community. Authentic, respectful, and understanding relationships can be built between youth and adults, providing a platform for crucial discussions about and joint action on how to make our neighborhood work for all of us.



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Emma Dieter: A women's history month story

by Steve Trimble, Forum historian

In case you didn't remember, March is women's history month. It's usually too cold to have the women's history walking tour I developed, so this will have to do. (By the way, if anyone out there is willing to take over the job of hosting Dayton's Bluff women's history walks, I will gladly give them all of my information and take you on a training-in walk.)

This month, I am featuring Emma Dieter. She is not one of the prominent "women worthies" who are usually written about, but she deserves to be remembered. She was a tireless person who cared for her family and church and made an effort to make this a better community.



Emma Dieter

Almost everything we know about her can be found in *In Remembrance of Emma P. Dieter*, written by her grandson Richard Dieter. Richard's mother died when he and his younger sister were just babies. The two were brought to Emma's St. Paul house at 331 Maple Street. Even though she and her husband were in their late 50s and had adult children, they welcomed the two infants into their home, raising the children in the 10-room house that still stands.

What follows is some information, often in Richard's words, about his grandmother's character and life. Emma was thrifty, putting to shame current efforts at recycling and self-sufficiency. They never had an automobile. She saved newspapers, rags and metal to sell to the rag man. She used a Singer treadle sewing machine, "making our first suits and dresses." She baked only one small one layer cake a week, so sweets were not a daily matter.

"She read the grocery ads and bought from the large downtown stores because they were cheaper than the corner grocers... Mother baked bread, cakes, pies and doughnuts... In season, she canned beans, corn relish, tomatoes, apples, peaches, pears and wild plums, grapes and gooseberries" and made sauerkraut.

"Every payday, Grandfather gave her \$40 to buy groceries, pay the light and telephone bills and buy whatever clothing we needed," her grandson wrote. She saved money from her house allowance, banked it and sometimes invested in bonds, feeling that stocks were too risky. But she did "not gloat over her financial acumen," and often said "I'm only an ignorant old woman who never went beyond the third grade."

Emma was quite religious. The family attended the German Methodist Episcopal Church at 4th and Maple Streets where, at the time, the sermons there were in German. The family always tithed ten percent of their income. She read from the Bible to children every day and over the years went all the way through it. The family prayed at every meal and sometimes in the morning before school. She once even said: "If I had it to do over again, I would be a foreign missionary."

Emma "was not one for outward show. She had a best dress, a good dress, and a dress for everyday, which was once a best dress." She never used face powder, rouge, lipstick or perfume. She was a thorough housekeeper. "As a child I can still see her on hands and knees scrubbing the oak floors in the large kitchen, the two pantries and the hall between the kitchen and dining room."

As her grandson summed things up: "She was a woman who never shirked what she had to do. Her will was strong and she drove herself to accomplish what she set out to do, often to the point of exhaustion."

Emma died on July 4, 1937 at the age of 83. A short notice in the paper said that friends could call at Guthunz & Hager Chapel and that the service was at her church. Perhaps because of her frugality, at the bottom of the funeral notice was a request: "Please omit flowers." Emma Pauline Dieter now rests in Oakland Cemetery.

We need more people like Richard Dieter who will make sure the stories of their relatives will live on. I'm sure of you readers know about other women who worked hard in spite of obstacles to take care of their families. Why not take time during women's history month to write about them for future issues of this paper? It might be great to have some of them published in honor of Mother's Day, for our May issue.

Willius is more than a street

Dan McGuiness, special to the Forum

"To think of our home on Dayton's Bluff seems like a dream. The outstanding feature...was the little pilot house, cupola on the roof. The view into the distance was superb; the river with green shores; above, the blue sky with delightful white cloud-formations moving."



These words, and more, were written by Martha Claussen, the daughter of Ferdinand Willius, an early St. Paul banker, alderman, community booster and German immigrant. The note was written for her granddaughter, Betty Hermann Cowie, who has become the family historian and archivist. The home so affectionately described was located at the intersection of 5th Street and Hoffman Avenue (now Mounds Blvd.) just below the present site of Metropolitan State University.

In 1853, St. Paul's population of 4,700 people congregated primarily around Lower-town and the riverfront where hundreds of new residents were then arriving weekly by steamboat. Willius was one such passenger, arriving on the lower levee in 1855. Within a year he established a succession of early banks, eventually becoming the National German American Bank. (It eventually merged with the Merchant's National Bank which later joined with the iconic First National Bank.)

Willius was an alderman from 1869 to 1876 and had a street named after him (now through the area where for the new ballpark and light rail maintenance facility will reside.) He initiated the idea for an improved connection between Lowertown and Dayton's Bluff and pushed for the removal of an old rickety

7th Street bridge with a new "great fill with two bridge spans of iron and stone" completed in 1885. Willius loved his neighborhood and writes in his papers about walks along the bluffs to the Indian mounds, the fish hatchery, the rail yards and Phalen Creek.

It would not be hard to imagine that Willius actually envisioned the walking trail and wetland restoration work that, over a century later, would make up the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary. At the age of 88, Martha Marie Willius Claussen wrote a long note to her grand-daughter, Elizabeth Hermann Cowie, in which she described life at their home on Dayton's Bluff. In the note she describes a lower garden:

"The gravel walk ran along a part of the lower garden, edging a drop of 12 to 15 feet. It was a grassy slope to shores of a small pool of beautiful clear, cold water. The shores of the pool were strengthened by large and small boulders. Here, father had developed a beauty spot from a very undesirable swamp. The water for the pool was supplied by the overflowing springs of cold water, too cold for bathing purposes or to keep fish. An underground overflow was constructed under the garden and under Commercial Street into the beautiful wooded valley below into Phalen Creek."

Ferdinand Willius and his descendants laid the groundwork for many community beauti-



Photo courtesy of Betty Cowie

Ferdinand Willius, pictured at his desk as the Vice-President of the State Savings Bank in the early 1890s. The "revolving book case" in the photograph remains a valuable family heirloom.

fication and improvement projects. Today's Willius Street does not do the name justice, but perhaps the ongoing work of the Lower Phalen Creek Project will help.

Readers who want to learn more about the fascinating history of the Willius family are urged to visit the family history web site created by Betty Hermann Cowie at www.betty-cowie.com.

Dan McGuiness is an emerging writer, East Side resident and board member of the Lower Phalen Creek Project.

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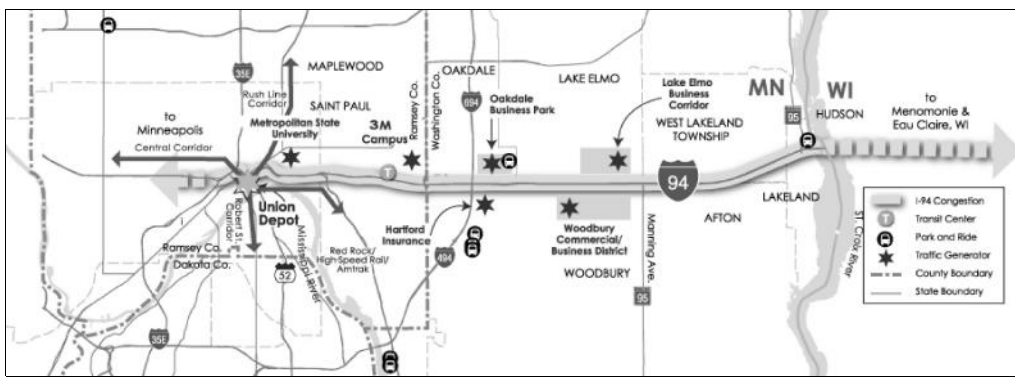
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People, get ready; there's a change coming

by Tabitha DeRango, Dayton's Bluff Community Council

Most of you know me from the *Make it Happen on East 7th Street* initiative to organize and revitalize our local business area. I now have the great fortune of a larger scope of work with the Dayton's Bluff Community Council. But I am mainly writing this as a resident of Dayton's Bluff and the East Side of St. Paul, bringing my experience and opinions living in this community.

It is my opinion that these important East Side transportation issues need to be explored further, through collective decision-making by all of the stakeholders of this area: everyone involved with the East Side of St. Paul.

When I first heard of the Gateway Corridor, I felt afraid for the unknown of what that change might look like – of what it might do to change the streets and the neighborhoods of the East Side of St. Paul. As I learned more about the Gateway Corridor and its purpose, I found I needed to get involved to make sure that the East Side had a strong voice in this decision-making process – just as strong as the suburban communities that already have their action plans in place. I realized that change will happen whether we want it to or not; but it's a matter of how we choose to direct that change, that growth, in our communities. I try to think about the larger picture – how this fits in to the rest of the metropolitan area, how it affects jobs and the interaction of us with things that happen around our area that we want to take part in.

How will we, as East Siders, utilize the Union Depot downtown? How do you envision yourself using that transit line? How do you get there?

It is my understanding that there are two purposes for this transit line. One is to create an efficient transit option for people living outside of the Twin Cities (Hudson, Wisconsin and Woodbury) to reach the Union

Depot and take advantage of the light rail system. The second is an equity piece, which federal dollars are tied to, and which states that this transit line must impact neighborhoods of poverty and transit dependency. Those are also largely neighborhoods of color.

As a community, we need to explore opportunities for economic growth for our region. What does that look like? This community needs to have input into that. What is perception, and what is reality? The Dayton's Bluff Community Council, in partnership with the East Side Prosperity Campaign and Engage East Side, are working towards a plan to have several community conversation sessions. I urge all of you to take part in this process.

We know that when we create an environment, it affects the way people interact in a neighborhood, and some of that is very needed on the East Side. We have had talks about how to gain some updated infrastructure for the area. If a transit corridor is built, it could bring with it all of that infrastructure and create an environment that very well may help the economic growth, gain awareness and consumers for businesses and invite people to enjoy open spaces on the East Side. I know that creating inviting beautiful space is a way to also create a feeling of safety. Many of the citizens have been very outspoken about this being a need in our community. I also know from reading many studies about other rail lines that, typically, having a transit system in a neighborhood creates stability in housing. This is something that is also very much needed on the East Side of St. Paul. Our current high rates of housing vacancy and transition affects all sorts of systems, including education.

We do have a great opportunity, at this juncture, to learn from other Transit corridors in the Metropolitan area and to be

better equipped to know what we need to support businesses and residents. I would hope that our politicians would also take these lessons and, in the next 10 years, do whatever it takes to fulfill those needs on the East Side. Examples are common parking areas, good lighting, and social gathering/ waiting spots.

Our neighborhoods have vibrant businesses that offer desirable services, and we want to attract even more to fill up currently-vacant sites. Having a transit line would encourage developers to come in to places like Beacon Bluff, knowing that their workers have reliable transit to and from their jobs. This in turn creates an opportunity for local people to have jobs in this neighborhood, which is sorely needed.

I invite you to think about what you would envision for this neighborhood in 10 years. What do we look like then? Will a transit corridor be the thing that is needed in 10 years, but will not be available in 10 years? Think about how transit affects your life and think about how your life would be different if you were transit dependent – if you didn't have a car to get to your job or your daycare or your school. What values do you have that are tied to our communities around the growth of our community, and our community building.

I value the people who make up the neighborhoods of the East Side and I think we deserve better transit systems! We deserve consideration for being one-third of the city of St. Paul. We deserve for our quality-of-life needs to be heard and we deserve to be inclusive of all our cherished diversity.

Call the Council offices at 651-772-2075 to get involved. And stay tuned to the *Forum* newspaper for updates as the next steps begin in the transit studies for the East Side.

Transit decisions: The Gateway Corridor

Facing the facts

by Kathy Lantry, St. Paul City Council Member, Ward 7

In recent issues of the *Dayton's Bluff District Forum*, I have read opinion pieces related to the Gateway Corridor. As a member of the Gateway Corridor Commission, I thought it might be time to share some factual information about the corridor.

The Gateway Corridor area overlays interstate 94 from the St. Croix River Bridge to downtown St. Paul. The Gateway Corridor Commission, comprised of City and County elected officials representing communities along the corridor, was established to plan for transit along this corridor. The first step in this planning process is an Alternatives Analysis.

The Commission began the analysis of alternatives in the fall of 2010. We first developed criteria against which each of the alternatives would be judged. These criteria included providing for increased mobility, cost effectiveness, support for economic development, protecting the existing natural environments & community quality of life, and improving safety. Data collection included the estimated daily ridership, the capital costs for construction, economic development opportunities, the number of property acquisitions required, impacts on traffic, and transit travel times. Eight different alternatives were examined.

Early on in the process, the Hudson Road alignment rose to the top because it ranked high in each of the criteria. This alignment runs from Union Depot in downtown St. Paul east along Kellogg Boulevard, southeast along Mounds Boulevard, then runs along Hudson Road east to Manning Avenue.

At the request of the Commission, the data from the initial review was "optimized." Optimization re-examined the data to reduce the impacts and costs and increase the benefits associated with each alternative. Following this secondary review, the Hudson Road alignment again emerged as the highest-ranked option.

In October, the Commission unanimously recommended that two alternatives, Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and Light Rail Transit (LRT) – along the Hudson Road alignment – advance into the next phase of study: a Draft Envir-

onmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

Some believe that an alignment which travels down East 7th Street to White Bear Avenue would be preferable because it would provide greater development and local transit opportunities. However, because sections of East 7th and White Bear have limited width, it is estimated that the inclusion of BRT or LRT on East 7th/White Bear would require taking 80 full properties and 330 partial properties. These takings would include many businesses and residential properties. And, because the depth of these properties is minimal, there is limited space to put new development in their place.

Increased community development and improved transit access for the neighborhood along East 7th/White Bear are goals that I share with the community. I am supportive of other transit studies including the St. Paul Streetcar Study and East 7th Rapid Bus study. Because these two transit alternatives can operate in mixed traffic and don't require additional right of way, they may provide greater mobility within the neighborhood and improved access to the transit system without destroying the fabric of our community.

Throughout the Alternatives Analysis (AA) process, the Commission has provided many different opportunities for sharing information and gathering input. Despite these efforts, there will always be neighbors who aren't aware of this planning and may not engage in the discussion. However, after two years of review, the Commission needs to take the next steps planning for the corridor. This does not mean that the discussion is over—there is still opportunity for public involvement as the DEIS takes place.

I encourage neighbors to visit the Gateway Corridor website (www.thegatewaycorridor.com) to learn more about the corridor. I also encourage you to keep your eyes open for additional public meetings, or request a meeting for your neighborhood group. If you need assistance, you are welcome to contact my office at 651-266-8670 or ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us.

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

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AZTECA MEXICA

Año Nuevo Ze Kalli
el sábado 9 de Marzo del 2013
11:00 am - 4:00 pm

Johnson Senior High School
1349 Arcade Street
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from a Kalpulli Yaocenoxtli
press release

On Sunday, March 11, 2013 at 12:45 am, the Mexica Aztec year *ze-kalli* (one house) will begin.

Kalpulli Yaocenoxtli, a traditional Mexica Aztec dance and drum community, is organizing the Aztec Mexica New Year Festival with local community partners and sponsors. The event will be held on Saturday, March 9, from 11:00 am-4:00 pm at Johnson Senior High School, 1349 Arcade Street.

This family-friendly, cultural festival highlights the diversity of

the Twin Cities. Observe a traditional Aztec/Mexica dance ceremony honoring the Aztec New Year; create stamp art inspired by Aztec/Mexica symbols; play games and win prizes; learn about community resources; see displayed Mexica art from Battle Creek Middle School students; and eat at the community feast.

The Mexican calendrical system is based on a rigorous, scientific study of nature. It was developed by multiple communities throughout the course of hundreds or thousands of years, through which diverse agreements, correlations

and corrections were recorded.

There are four year-signs within the Mexican calendar: Kalli (house), Tochtili (rabbit), Akatl (reed) and Tekpatl (flint knife). Each year's days commence at different times, which accommodates for an extra day every four years (leap year).

The Aztec Mexica New Year Festival at Johnson High School is free and open to the public. The event's community partners and sponsors are the St. Paul Public Schools, Radio Pocho, Nueva Imagen, and the East Side Arts Council.

FOSH cabaret a great success

by Forum staff

A couple of weeks before the Cabaret, it was learned a new location for the event was needed.

Raeann Ruth from the Mounds Theatre came to the rescue. The event was held on February 9 and was a wonderful success. This event was a fund raiser for Art in the Hollow, an art fest of Friends of Swede Hollow.

Foxy Tann, emcee and entertainer, started the evening by opening the silent auction. Auction items included art, gift cards for restaurants, a \$100 University Bank Visa card, a Hamm's walking stick, and a history evening.

Part of the activities were VIP Bingo cards with photos of some of the people in the theatre. To win, participants had to have the people in the photos sign the bingo card. And art was the reward for winning the

game.

The bands Union Shakedown and May North both played enjoyable sets.

17-year-old Magician

East Side, including Plaza Latina, and is in the furniture business. He's been a member of the Payne-Arcade Business Association for 12 years. As St. Paul Winter Carnival East Wind and Klondike Kate, Mike and "Trolley Dolly" became a duo during the Winter Carnival of 2005.

Bill & Michael have rocked all the major blues spots in town: The Cabooze, Whiskey Junction, the 400 Bar, Acadia Café, Lee's Liquor Lounge. They were chosen to open for blues legend Spider John Koerner & Tony Glover at the 400 Bar, and they made it to the finals in Famous Dave's Battle of the Bands.

Chia "Chilli" Lor, a spoken word artist, grew up and still lives in East Side. She gave a very nice talk about the wonderful East Side neighborhoods. Her poems have been published in local projects like the literary journal, Paj Ntaub

Voice, and the 2012 edition of the St. Paul Almanac. As an emerging community organizer, poet, hip-hop artist, and b-girl, Chilli has a vision of changing the lives of youth and women through performing arts.

Dayton's Bluff resident and soul singer Jennifer Page also performed, as did R&B Crooners Juan and Marc Parker, Rumba dancer Anne DeJoy, and Fred Sandy.

Other people who made this event a great success include Romi Slowiak, who put it all together and managed the project; Raeann Ruth and the Mounds Theater; Anne DeJoy (poster design and distribution); Kitty Anderson (decorator); HotFire Pizza; Mississippi Market; John Velin (accountant, cashier); Sheila O-Keefe (server); Andy Twedt (writer, press liaison); Corey Tesdahl (light and sound wizardry); Cub Foods; Rainbow Foods; Doug and Paul for setting up the space; and Karin DuPaul and the Friends of Swede Hollow Board. And a special thank you to the lovely audience.

For more information about this event, call 651-776-0550.



Photo by Stefan Pomrenke

Chilli Lor, spoken word community organizer, and audience holding up their "E for East Side" hands.

Nick Diffatte has been performing since he was 6. He was voted "America's Funniest Magician" in 2011 and awarded the International Brotherhood of Magician's "Presidential Challenge" for his original stand-up magic act.

Mike Haffner & "Trolley Dolly" sang the duet "Baby It's Cold Outside." "Trolley Dolly" took our Dayton's Bluff Small Business Class some years ago. Mike owns many buildings in on the

Foro de inmigración el 23 de marzo

Venga a un Foro de inmigración el 23 de marzo para ponerse al día sobre las leyes propuestas por el Presidente Obama y el Congreso. El abogado de inmigración John Keller del Immigrant Law Center dará una charla sobre las actualizaciones.

Tendrán la oportunidad de opinar y tomar acción.

El Foro se va a realizar de la 1:00 a las 3:00 de la tarde el sábado 23 de marzo en la Iglesia Sagrado Corazón, 840 East 6th Street, St. Paul. Es un evento gratuito. Se ofrece aperitivos y guardería. Para más información, por favor llame a Rafael 651-338-5458 o mande un email a respinosa@ufcw1189.org.

Immigration forum March 23

Please come to an immigration forum on March 23 to learn about the latest developments in the new immigration laws being proposed by President Obama and Congress. John Keller of the Immigrant Law Center of Minnesota will speak.

There will also be an opportunity to voice your concerns and take action.

The forum will take place from 1:00-3:00 pm on Saturday, March 23, at Sacred Heart Church, 840 East 6th Street, St. Paul. The forum is free of charge. Light refreshments will be served and child care will be available. For more information, please call Rafael at 651-338-5458 or email respinosa@ufcw1189.org

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Photo by Karin DuPaul

In the green room with Foxy Tann before the Friends of Swede Hollow fundraising cabaret at the Mounds Theatre on February 9.