

# Dayton's Bluff District Forum

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daytonsbluffdistrictforum.org

Ve la página 4 para un  
artículo en español.

"The Voice of the Community"

## East Side Enterprise Center now open for business

Carla Riehle, Forum staff

The East Side Enterprise Center (ESEC) has held two major events to introduce itself to the world: the October 30 New Moon community celebration and the official November 18 Grand Opening for all ESEC partners.

Each event showcased a separate aspect of ESEC. The New Moon festival proved it's a family-friendly gathering place for the whole community, with a petting zoo, live music, Day of the Dead activities, Big Free Library and, of course, food. ESEC is already hosting a wide variety of organizational meetings and will soon also be available for private events.

The Grand Opening highlighted the rainbow alliance for small business that ESEC has created and is continuing to nurture. Event chair Mario Hernández,

Vice-President of the Latino Economic Development Center, stressed a common theme: the new level of energy and vitality on the East Side, and a confidence that by working together and supporting each other, the neighborhood's disparate cultural and ethnic communities will be much stronger and successful. Sia Lo, administrator of Dellwood Gardens assisted living center and leader in the Hmong community, echoed that sentiment, comparing the revitalization of the East Side to the community determination that created the Grand Avenue business area.

The brainchild of Hernández and Dayton's Bluff Community Council Executive Director Deanna Abbott-Foster, ESEC now has 12 organizational partners that will bring their services to the East Side. And in a move akin to moving from Baltic Avenue to Park Place, it's

also the sparkling new home of the Dayton's Bluff Community Council.

The Grand Opening also served as the venue to announce the formation of the newly-formed East Side Alive, an unprecedented collaborative of funders and city and non-profit agencies. The group's first project has been to submit an application for Promise Zone designation, President Obama's plan to create economic opportunity in high-poverty communities. Whether or not the designation is achieved, East Side Alive has determined that it will continue to support and promote the upward trajectory of the new East Side.

More information about all these initiatives and individual partners can be found at [daytonsbluff.org](http://daytonsbluff.org).



Gustavo Rosso, Patagonia Visual Solutions

Mahogany James, pictured above, is working for Metro State and ESABA on the internship program for local businesses. She and her husband Claude volunteered many hours for the ESEC Grand Opening.

## Preparing the field: Urban Oasis

Jacquelyn B. Fletcher  
special to the Forum

Urban Oasis closes the year with a celebration of the harvest and plans for new growth.

In June 2014, Urban Oasis officially launched. The winning idea in The St. Paul Foundation's 2013 \$1 Million Forever St. Paul Challenge, Urban Oasis is now an initiative of The Lower Phalen Creek Project.

"As we approach the end of the year, we're taking stock of where we've been and where we're going," says

Tracy Sides, executive director and founder of Urban Oasis. "Since June, we've worked with more than 40 community organizations to serve the people of the East Side. And next year, we've got a lot of exciting ways people can discover the magic of food."

Urban Oasis has assembled staff and a nine-member community advisory panel to help shape the organization's five-year plan. The group has begun building the trellis that will hold Urban Oasis for years to come.

"Many of our staff and community advisory panel members live and work

on the East Side. We've got similar values around the power of food. We're committed to cultivating a healthy, resilient, and prosperous community by strengthening the local food system and increasing access and enjoyment of sustainably-grown, affordable, whole food," Sides said.

Here are a few of the things Urban Oasis has accomplished this year:

- Held the first annual Urban Oasis Food Fest in August, drawing nearly 1,000 people from the neighborhood and beyond.

- Developed the Urban Oasis Healthy Meal-Making program, which will launch a free pilot class to East Side residents in January to teach food skills for use at home or in the job market.

- Created menus and plans for catering and food product development programs that will launch in March, focusing on purchasing from underserved local farmers.

- Published a monthly newsletter featuring articles related to Urban Oasis programs, food-system issues, and human-interest stories from East Side community members and business owners.

- Established an office in the East Side Enterprise Center, a home that enables collaboration with area organizations committed to the economic development of the East Side.

- Partnered with Latino Economic Development Center to reopen an incubator kitchen on the bluff in 2015, for food entrepreneurs, job training, community classes, and workshops.

As Sides looks ahead to next year, she's excited about the opportunities Urban Oasis is creating. "I believe that food can change the world. Food is a part of every celebration, every milestone, and every big moment of our lives. It's the magic that creates happy people and healthy neighborhoods."

To sign up for their newsletter or get involved in any Urban Oasis programs, visit [www.urbanoasismn.org](http://www.urbanoasismn.org).

## Noise wall looms for Mounds Boulevard neighbors

Forum staff

A planned noise wall in the Mounds Boulevard area is dividing residents and building owners as the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) gets ready to embark on an I-94 upgrade scheduled to begin in 2016.

The disagreement is between those who like their view of downtown St. Paul (and aren't so bothered by the noise) and those who hate the noise (but may not mind having their view blocked or partially obstructed).

After feedback from neighborhood meetings and a vote by those in the affected area, the original proposal was refined, with current plans calling for the barrier to stretch about two-tenths of a mile along the east-bound lanes of I-94, from Conway Street to Hudson and Wilson Roads.

The issue was put to a vote because federal law requires that if highway noise exceeds a certain decibel level, then a wall must be erected unless the neighbors vote against it. But how the vote is conducted is subject to a complicated set of rules that evaluate proximity to the wall and allocate different numbers of points (or votes) to different categories of voters. Two points are allotted to renters, four to building owners and six to owner-residents. The votes are then further weighted by their proximity to the wall and, to make it even more complicated (some might say more undemocratic) the feds decree that for a vote against the wall to succeed, it must include more than 50% of all possible votes, not just those that are cast.

The vote in the affected area was 27 for the wall and 27 against and since, under the voting formula, this was not sufficient to defeat the wall or trigger a revote, the construction is planned to go forward.

Dissension continues among the neighbors, some of whom have asked (see "Noise wall," continued page 5.)



Margie O'Loughlin, Sandhill Photography

Members of the Urban Oasis staff and Community Advisory Panel are shaping the future of the organization.

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### **New Friends of Swede Hollow are welcome**

The next two Friends of Swede Hollow monthly meetings are on **Wednesday, December 10, and Wednesday, January 14, at 6:30 pm**. Email [karin@swedehollow.org](mailto:karin@swedehollow.org) or call 651-776-0550 for more information and the meeting's location.

### **Get rid of your junk car; help Dayton's Bluff Community Council**

Budget Towing of Minnesota, Minnesota's largest towing company, is owned by Roy Carlson, a former Dayton's Bluff Community Council board member. Budget Towing will remove any junk car or truck – located anywhere in St. Paul – and dispose of it at no charge to the vehicle owner or the property owner where it is located. The vehicle owner will receive paperwork for a tax donation, and Roy will make a small donation to the Community Council. Call 651-772-2075 to have a junk car removed – and help clean up Dayton's Bluff.

### **Take-a-Hike Dec. 6, Jan. 3**

Take-a-Hike occurs on the first Saturday of most months. The next hikes will be **Saturday, December 6, and Saturday, January 3**. Hikers meet at **10:30 am** in Indian Mounds Park at Earl Street and Mounds Boulevard, and hike down to Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary, then through Swede Hollow Park and winding up at the East Side Heritage Park. The hike is about two hours (four miles) with some moderately rough terrain.

Share experiences and hear stories about life in Dayton's Bluff. New hikers are always welcome. Return transportation is available, if required. For more information, call 651-776-0550.

### **Meet with the police**

The Eastern District Police hosts their monthly meetings for community members at 722 Payne Avenue, at the corner of Payne and Minnehaha Avenues.

The next meetings are:

**Wednesday, December 17, 6:30 pm**

**Friday, December 19, 9:30 am**

**Friday, January 16, 9:30 am**

**Wednesday, January 21, 6:30 pm**

The meetings, open to all, are intended to learn about, listen to, and address concerns about crime and other issues on the East Side. **The St. Paul Eastern District is committed to maintaining and growing the quality of life for all of our residents.** Bring your neighbors; this is a great opportunity to discuss neighborhood nuisance issues.

### **ESABA & East Side Enterprise Center: 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Raffle**

Sponsored by Dayton's Bluff Community Council, this raffle aims to help fund the programming and business engagement efforts of the East Side Enterprise Center.

The Grand Prize is \$5000! Second Prize is \$500, plus a 12-month Tour of East Side Food & Culture, and twelve \$25 restaurant, food and catering gift cards (\$300 in value). Third Prize is the 12-month Tour of East Side Food & Culture, and twelve \$25 restaurant, food and catering gift cards (\$300 in value).

Raffle tickets are \$100 each and can be purchased at the Dayton's Bluff Council office at 798 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street, and at upcoming ESABA or ESEC events. Raffle tickets are available now, up until the ESABA Holiday Gala. The restaurants to be featured in the Tour of the East Side Food & Culture will be announced soon.

The drawing will be held at the Gala on **Thursday, December 4 at 5:30 pm** at the Union Depot. You need not be present to win. Tickets can be paid for by cash or checks made out to the Dayton's Bluff Community Council. Credit cards are not accepted for legal gambling in Minnesota. Only 300 raffle tickets will be sold – make sure you get yours today!

### **Forum monthly meeting**

This *Forum* newspaper is always looking for help in several volunteer capacities. Help is always needed with writing, editing, online content, idea generation, and ad sales; or perhaps you have another idea for our publication. If you'd like to contribute to the *Forum*, please join us at our next meeting at **12:30 pm on Wednesday, January 7** at 804 Margaret Street (call 651-776-0550 for date and time).

### **DB Rec Center Dinner with Santa**

Area families are invited to the annual "Dinner With Santa" at the Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center. The free event is on **Tuesday, December 9, from 5:00 -7:00 pm** at the center, located at 800 Conway Street. As they put it on their Facebook page, "Beat the cold with a free warm dinner."

Some of the activities include face painting by the artistic Sienna, designing and making (with a machine) your own buttons, painting plaster snow flakes that are yours to keep and take home for decorations.

The staff requests that you RSVP and let them know you are coming and how many you will bring so they know how much food to make. Call Alyssa or Tim at 651-793-3885.

### **Business classes**

The next Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Microentrepreneur Class is starting in the spring of 2015. This program helps startup and young businesses on the East Side. All East Side entrepreneurs are welcome. Class training lasts 11 weeks and includes topics such as operations management, marketing, financial management, one-on-one assistance with creating a successful business, and preparing a business plan, plus eight hours of one-on-one time with the instructor.

Those who successfully complete the course and locate their businesses in target neighborhoods are eligible for ongoing business support services. Some examples of businesses started by people who have previously taken this course include graphics, landscaping, photography, food service, restoration of wood furniture, art, custom floral design, and exterior and interior painting. The course is a partnership between the Dayton's Bluff Community Council and the Neighborhood Development Center. There is a small registration fee based on a sliding fee scale. The next session will be starting in the spring and class size is limited, so get enrolled now. Please call Emma Spillman at 651-379-8432 for an application.

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



● **Judo:** Mondays, 6:00-7:00 pm.

● **Fitness Room:** 3-7:45 pm.

● **Teen "Bluff Room":** 3:00-7:30 pm.

● **Rec Check!** Free program for 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders; registration required.

● **Open gym 6:00-7:45 pm.** Monday-Thursday; all ages.

● **Cheerleading:** Mondays, 6:00-7:45 pm.

● **Karate:** Wednesdays, 6:00-7:45 pm.

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

● **Dinner with Santa:** Tuesday, December 9, 5:00-7:00 pm. Please call the Rec Center to register.

**The Dayton's Bluff Rec Center is located at 800 Conway Street. 651-793-3885**

**Facebook: Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center**

**Stop by and check us out!**



Diane May

Festive poinsettias grace a table at the 2013 Holiday Boutique. This year's event will be Saturday, December 6, 8:00 am-4:00 pm at the First Lutheran Church.

## Holiday Boutique Dec. 6 at First Lutheran

*Diane May, special to the Forum*

Last year after the inaugural season of our Dayton's Bluff Community Council's "Market on the Bluff," some of the vendors, including myself, decided to organize a Holiday Boutique. Everyone involved agreed that it was pretty successful for a first-time venture, with a lot of vendors getting to know each other and finding out who sells what, and we even had a visit from Santa. (It is always a good sign when your holiday event is Santa-approved!)

Starting in September, people began casually asking if we were going to have another Holiday Boutique. After the fifth person asked me, I started to get the idea that people really wanted us to do it again. So, back by popular demand, we are holding the 2nd Annual Holiday Boutique at the First Lutheran Church of St. Paul. It will again be in their education building which is located at 463 Maria Avenue. Unlike last year, it will only be one day – **Saturday, December 6** – from **8:00 am- 4:00 pm**.

This is a vendor-run event so we are not charging excessive table-fees and there is no charge to come in at the door. It is completely volunteer-run, with First Lutheran Church again playing the role of gracious host and making their rooms, tables, chairs, and heat available to us. Why do I mention all this? Because this is truly an "of the people and for the people" event. All our participants are your hard-working neighbors. What better way to spend some of your Saturday than to support them and get some great presents at the same time?

Heavenly Day Cafe will again be the food vendor. Last year, they made the most delicious breakfast sandwiches to order, had two soups available for purchase, and offered all sorts of Scandinavian treats. Before the boutique, my son had not yet had the experience of trying lefse, a soft Norwegian flatbread made

with flour and potatoes. After some initial trepidation, he tasted it and voila! A lefse addict was born. (I caught him using all his homemade apple sweet-tea money to buy a few more rounds of lefse later in the day.) This past weekend we were at a Scandinavian bakery and what did David get for lunch? *Ja!* More lefse.

So whether you want your little one to visit with Santa (available from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon), support your neighbors financially, or



Diane May

Santa will be available for visits from 10:00 am-12:00 noon at the Holiday Boutique.

get some authentic ginger snaps, come to the Dayton's Bluff Holiday Boutique, **Saturday, December 6, 8:00 am-4:00 pm**. You will be happy you did. And if you want to come on board as a vendor, just let me know by calling 651-295-4056. Thank you.

## Cabaret looking for talent

*Forum staff*

The third annual Cabaret will be on **Friday, February 20** at the Historic Mounds Theatre at 1029 Hudson Road from **8:00 pm to 11:00 pm**. We are looking for more East Side talent – singers, musicians, comedians, and dancers. This is a celebration of talent with East Side roots. Let us know if you or someone who would like to entertain at the Cabaret. Call Karin at 651-776-0550.

The evening will also include a silent auction of original art and other items. Cabaret tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. Get your tickets now and write the Cabaret

on your calendar! The theatre will come alive with an amazing variety of acts. To sign up to perform or to buy your tickets, please contact Karin DuPaul at 651-776-0550 or [karin@swedehollow.org](mailto:karin@swedehollow.org). Don't miss this!

The Cabaret is a fundraiser for this coming year's sixth annual Art in the Hollow, the art festival in Swede Hollow Park to be held again on Saturday, June 6, 2015). The Cabaret and Art in the Hollow are hosted by Friends of Swede Hollow, a nonprofit organization that works on restoring and protecting the park, celebrating Swede Hollow history, and hosting events honoring Swede Hollow Park and the neighborhood.

## Homes wanted for Home Tour

*Forum staff*

The 2015 Minneapolis/St. Paul Home Tour will be here before we know it. This home tour is of occupied homes to show visitors our wonderful Dayton's Bluff homes and community. Now, we need to line up the homes to be featured on the Home Tour. Visitors from all over the metro come each year to see the lovely homes in Dayton's Bluff.

Six to eight Dayton's Bluff homes are needed for the tour. Homes can be large or small, Victorians or ramblers, or anything in between. Homes may be works-in-progress or finished products. It's a fantastic opportunity for us to show off our neighborhoods and all the good things about Dayton's Bluff. Each year some

visitors enjoy Dayton's Bluff so much that they buy a home here. The tour is a great way to get new ideas on remodeling and updating your home. You can nominate your own home, or talk to your neighbors about getting their homes on the tour.

The tour will take place on Saturday, April 25 and Sunday, April 26, 2015. We are also looking for neighborhood people to volunteer to help out during the tour. On Sunday evening after the tour is over, an After-the-Tour Supper Party will be held for the homeowners' families and all home tour volunteers. To sign up to have your home on the tour, to volunteer, or for more information, please email [karin@swedehollow.org](mailto:karin@swedehollow.org) or call 651-776-0550.

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## Get Involved and Let Your Voice Be Heard!

### Want to Make a Difference in Your Community?

Dayton's Bluff Community Council is looking for community members who want to get involved. DBCC is dedicated to supporting and building a community of equity where everyone can thrive. Below are some ways you can get involved:

- Become a Member of the Board (Elections each Fall)
- Committee Involvement
- Volunteer Opportunities

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To Learn More About DBCC and how get involved, visit [www.daytonsbuff.org](http://www.daytonsbuff.org) today!

## Mounds Park United Methodist Church

1049 Euclid Street (corner of Earl and Euclid); 651-774-8736

**Mounds Park United Methodist Church** is a community cross-cultural congregation located at 1049 Euclid Street at the corner of Earl and Euclid. All are welcome to the following community events:

**Sunday morning service** starts at **10:30 am** with fellowship time following. Come join your neighbors in worship.

**Saturday, December 6, 1:00 pm - Community Christmas Concert & Dessert Buffet.** All are invited to share in this holiday special –“The Golden Melody Makers,” a choir of 30, will share Christmas music. Afterwards there will be a special dessert buffet and a Christmas cookie sale.

**Wednesday, December 17, 12:00 noon – Community Friendship Gathering.** We begin with a hot lunch and then the Summertime Barbershop Quarter will share their music. All are welcome to come; the focus of this event is on persons age 55 and over.

**Wednesday, December 24, we will host two Community Christmas Eve Candlelight Services at 4:00 pm and 11:00 pm.** Each service will include the Christmas Story, carols, special music and will close with a Christmas prayer and the singing of Silent Night.

All the above events are open to the entire community. All are welcome at Mounds Park United Methodist Church!

## Hazel Park United Church of Christ

1831 East Minnehaha Avenue; 651-735-2555  
hazelparkcongregationalucc.org – Hazel Park UCC on Facebook.

Hazel Park UCC, a neighborhood church on the East Side of St. Paul, is a progressive Christian community.

“Our faith is 2,000 years old, but our thinking is not,” says Rev. Sara Morse. “We are a forward-looking congregation, and we seek to embrace and carry out the mission of the church in our community and in the wider world. No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here!”

The church hosts educational multi-generational events; a weekly visitation group; and groups for prayer and book discussion. All are welcome to attend. Events and schedules are subject to change.

### Save grocery money with Fare For All Express

Hazel Park United Church of Christ is a distribution partner for Fare For All Express, a cooperative food-buying program that offers fresh produce and quality meats at a savings of up to 40% off retail prices. The cooperative buying program is open to everyone, with no qualifying requirements or pre-registration. Fare For All groceries are available for purchase on select Wednesdays each month from **4:00-6:00 pm** at the church. The next drop-in distribution event will be **December 3**. Items available include produce, meat, and combination packs ranging in price from \$10-30. Cash, credit cards, EBT cards or debit cards accepted; checks not accepted. Visit [www.fareforall.org](http://www.fareforall.org) for other Twin Cities locations, or contact the church.

### Hanging of the Greens service

Hazel Park United Church of Christ invites the community to a special Hanging of the Greens Service at **10:00 am on Sunday, December 7** at the church, 1831 East Minnehaha Avenue. The special service involves church members and friends in a decoration ceremony in honor of the holy season. It’s also a great way to sing some of the classic Christmas hymns to get us in the mood for the season of love and life.

**The Bauman Fine Arts Series** at HPUCC continues with a performance at **4:00 pm on Sunday, January 11**, featuring Scotty Horey on marimba and Preston Duncan on alto saxophone. The series is dedicated to bringing diverse fine arts experiences to the church community and the surrounding neighborhood. HPUCC music director Dale Senty-Haugen, the coordinator of the Bauman series, says the concert is open to all: “Bring your family and friends; all the concerts are great opportunities to hear wonderful, professional musicians and various styles of music.” A reception follows each concert. Admission is \$8 for adults/seniors and \$5 for youth age 12-17; 11 and under are admitted free. Additional free-will offerings are welcomed.

All are welcome to attend any of the above events. The church facilities also house Sunshine Montessori and Childcare; the Iglesia Apostolica de la Fe en Christo; Capitol City Car Club; Silver Maple Boy Scout Troop; and Taking Off Pounds Sensibly. For more information, contact HPUCC at 651-735-2555, email [hazelparkchurch@q.com](mailto:hazelparkchurch@q.com), visit [hazelparkcongregationalucc.org](http://hazelparkcongregationalucc.org) or visit the Hazel Park UCC Facebook page.

## Green = environment, or green = money?

Forum staff

You may have noticed a few new donation bins around the East Side. But you may not have looked closely at these green structures. Put out by the Greener Read Company, they ask people to put books, DVDs, video games and other items down the chute.

It seems that the green color and the name is meant to resonate with environmentally-concerned people. Other groups have similar bins, but if you look carefully, there is a difference: the Greener Read Company is a for-profit enterprise. Donors may not take tax deductions in the way one can for giving to registered nonprofit groups such as the Salvation Army or Goodwill.

According to a recent newspaper interview, this business venture often sells these items for profit on Amazon or other outlets, and is looking at starting a re-



Forum staff

These green bins, soliciting donations of books and video games, look similar to bins set out by nonprofit organizations seeking donations for people in need.

tail outlet of their own to make money. Your donations may not be helping charitable groups at all.

Their website emphasizes that they do recycle items that are damaged or can't be sold, and they do donate some things to various places. The places that allow them to place bins on their property do get some monetary rewards and may not be aware that they are making profits off of donated material.

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### Letter to the editor

### Thank you

Thank you for the wonderful job you do for our community. I always look forward to reading the Forum – I know I will hear of the latest happenings across our district. I love the photos, letters to neighbors and the excellent news coverage. You pull our community together. I especially appreciate the cross-cultural images and stories. Ours is a true mosaic, a quilt of rich diversity living side by side. Excellent work!

Rev. Dennis Alexander  
Mounds Park United Methodist Church

### Eagles Club Holiday Event

Forum staff

Families from Dayton's Bluff are invited to a neighborhood event. The Eagles Club #33 and Guardians of the Children are sponsoring “A Very Merry Charity,” a day of family fun with free food and prizes for kids. It will be held on **Sunday, December 14, from 12:00-4:00 pm** at the Eagles Club at 287 Maria Avenue, just south of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. Santa will be visiting at 1:00 and 3:00 pm, and kids can get a free photo with Santa.

### Dayton's Bluff District Forum

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Board of Directors:

Greg Cosimini, Karin DuPaul, Jennifer Herman, Carla Riehle, Steve Trimble  
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Continued from page 8:

## Fire on the Bluff

Once the series gets going sometime in 2015, it will involve local story circles in English and Spanish that will be developed into live broadcasts of fictionalized narratives and a couple of theater-based productions that will also be broadcast live - something akin to a blend of old-time radio serials and *A Prairie Home Companion*.

If the radio novela idea is about building community and encouraging the arts, how does an Airstream-based pizza oven fit in? According to Barry, the projects flow together; he'll be turning out craft pizza for the East Side, and also using the trailer as a roving headquarters for neighborhood arts and food-based work - possibly including specialty bread-baking classes. Check out his Twitter stream @radiosanpablomn as well as his website fireonthebluff.com. Barry is looking to hear your ideas, find collaborators and maybe get a little help raising the \$50,000 match for the Knight Foundation grant.

### Fire on the Bluff: Encuentro de pizzería en un remolque Airstream con radionovela en el East Side

Barry Madore, residente de Maria Avenue tiene pensado dos proyectos para el East Side, que seguramente nunca fueron combinados anteriormente: una pizzería rodante en un remolque clásico Airstream y una serie de radionovela bilingüe que se transmitiría en la emisora de radio WEQY-FM, que muy pronto estará en el aire.

Todo esto forma parte de lo que se llama *Fire on the Bluff* y Barry ya recibió un subsidio de *Knight Foundation* para el proyecto de radio, y ha comprado un remolque Airstream adaptado que encontró en Pennsylvania a través de Craigslist.

Barry declara lo siguiente sobre la serie de radionovela: "Mi pasión por el radioteatro y el teatro convencional me motivó a soñar con la idea de colaborar con Teatro del Pueblo para crear una serie de radionovela, inspirada por lo que sucede en la comunidad, para la radioemisora WEQY que muy pronto comenzará sus transmisiones. La nueva emisora está perfectamente posicionada para brindar una voz a la comunidad latina del East Side, que es tan diversa y dinámica. ¡El obtener un subsidio importante para lanzar este proyecto de producir una serie de radionovela con representaciones teatrales en vivo, todo basado en el East Side, significa una oportunidad única!"

Una vez que se ponga en marcha este proyecto en 2015, incluirá conversaciones de grupos contando historias de su cultura y tradiciones, en inglés y español, que se convertirán en emisiones en vivo de narrativa de ficción y varias producciones teatrales, que también se transmitirán en vivo, algo parecido a una mezcla de series para radio tradicionales como y *A Prairie Home Companion*.

Si la idea de una radionovela es contribuir al desarrollo de la comunidad y promover las artes, ¿cómo explicar un horno para pizza en un remolque Airstream? Según Barry, el proyecto combina los dos aspectos: cocinar pizzas deliciosas para *el East Side*, y usar el vehículo como un centro móvil de operaciones para llevar arte y comida a los vecindarios; es muy posible que incluya clases de hornear pan artesanal. Para más información, Barry sugiere que vayan a su Twitter stream @radiosanpablomn y a su sitio Web fireonthebluff.com. Barry está deseoso de escuchar sus ideas, encontrar colaboradores y, quizás, un poco de ayuda para recaudar \$50,000 para el subsidio de desafío de *Knight Foundation*.

## St. John's World War II Honor Roll discovered

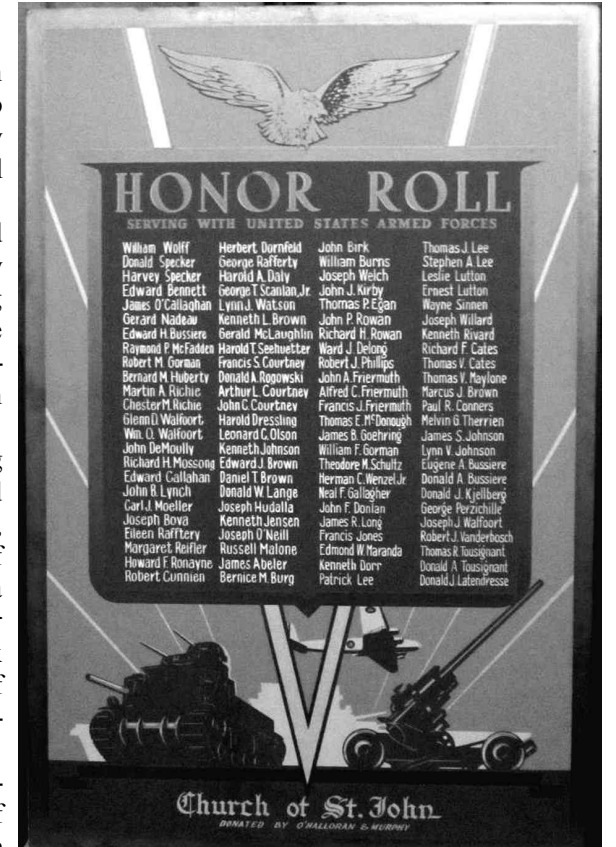
Greg Cosimini, Forum staff

After St. John's Catholic Church closed in July 2013, several former parishioners tried to preserve as much of its history as possible, by rescuing whatever they could during a final cleanup that occurred in October of last year.

Among the items I salvaged were four framed World War II Honor Roll posters that obviously had not seen the light of day for a very long time. They were found in a basement storage area covered with dust but otherwise in surprisingly good condition except for one broken glass front.

Each poster was titled "Honor Roll - Serving With United States Armed Forces" and painted or printed on heavy cardboard in shades of blue, gold and white. Each poster contained a list of names and was adorned with a gold eagle, a tank, an airplane, a cannon and a large V for victory. They measured approximately 20" x 30" and were designed by Byrne Display Co. of St. Paul. The posters were donated by O'Halloran & Murphy Funeral Home.

The 380 names listed on the four posters included eight women and three priests, two of whom were assistant pastors at St. John's in the 1940s. There were multiple names from a number of families including one father and son. I recognized several of the individual names and many of the family names. Eight names were marked with gold stars, designating those who gave their lives for their country.



Apparently such Honor Rolls were displayed at other churches during and after World War II but I haven't been able to find any trace of them. I hope to eventually donate these to the Minnesota Historical Society where they can be preserved and possibly displayed once again.

## Big construction projects a sign of renewed economic vitality

Forum staff

Heading down East 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> Street from the west, a visitor might be surprised at the amount of new construction and wonder if the neighborhood is starting over from scratch. It's likely that with four new major construction projects, many Dayton's Bluff residents aren't quite sure what's going on either. The map at right shows the location and identity of each of these projects.

Metropolitan State University, which is constructing a science center, a student center and a parking ramp, has provided a website link with information about the projects as well as a round-the-clock live cam trained on each of the three. Go to metrostate.edu and click on "Construction Updates."

Further east on 7<sup>th</sup> Street is Mississippi Market, scheduled to open its third St. Paul store in 2015. Regular updates and pictures can be found at

msmarket.coop.

Preservationists will be pleased to know that no existing buildings were torn down in the process of creating a sparkling new face of Dayton's Bluff.



Continued from page 1:

### Noise wall

the Dayton's Bluff Community Council to help facilitate a new discussion with MNDOT.

And in another twist, although officially the noise wall has nothing to do with the proposed-but-still-unfunded Gateway Corridor that in 2019 would connect the Union Depot with Woodbury and possibly beyond, in reality the two projects connect. That's because if the Gateway is built, one of the possible stops is on Old Hudson Road which would mean that a big portion of the noise wall would have to be torn down, and a new vote would be triggered for reconstruction of the wall. There's not much disagreement among the Mounds Boulevard neighbors that that would be a big waste of money.

### Noise wall: A neighbor's voice

I recently participated in discussions about the Gateway Corridor/BRT project, and also with MNDOT about construction along I-94 near Mounds Blvd. I am very concerned that overlapping projects are not being coordinated between different agencies. I feel that MNDOT should be working with the BRT project and city planners in a cooperative way, but it has been clear to me that MNDOT has no interest in working with anyone.

I, along with some other neighbors, met with city planners to discuss the best plan for a Mounds Boulevard BRT station. Residents of the East Side would like to reclaim Mounds as a boulevard (as opposed to the freeway on/off ramps it

has become by default) and reconnect the Mounds Park neighborhood with the rest of Dayton's Bluff and Downtown. In addition, we feel that Mounds Boulevard between Kellogg Avenue and 7<sup>th</sup> Street is an important and beautiful point of entry into our Capital City.

A simple and elegant solution was proposed by neighbor Marjie Pitz and then further developed by the planners and other meeting attendees. It included better walking and biking paths connecting a Mounds Boulevard BRT Station to the adjacent neighborhoods including downtown.

Unfortunately, we have learned that MNDOT refuses to allow the BRT on one of the westbound Mounds exits, thus requiring either the taking of property along Mounds, or running the frequent bus on a residential street. Doesn't MNDOT have an obligation to serve public transportation needs as well as cars? A really good

plan has been proposed by city planners and neighbors, but it is being thwarted by intransigent MNDOT officials.

In addition, I have learned that a sound wall is to be constructed without consideration of the BRT project. It would be a great waste of taxpayer dollars for MNDOT to do construction that will later have to be torn down.

Can something be done to get these agencies (in particular, MNDOT) to work in cooperation in order to best serve the residents of and visitors to our beautiful Capital?

I am also contacting Governor Dayton, Senator Fount Hawj, Representative Sheldon Johnson and Councilperson Kathy Lantry. Perhaps you can also help us remind these agencies who they work for.

Athea Faricy  
Mounds Park resident



image created by Tanya Ramsey

## Dinosaurs on the Bluff

*Judie Ramsey, special to the Forum*

The first dinosaur appeared on Bates Avenue very early last spring. It rumbled up to the corner of 6<sup>th</sup> and Bates and, with a few mighty bites, ate the huge house on the corner. His appetite unassuaged, the dinosaur ate the blue house next door. Fascinated, we watched, fully expecting that the little brown adobe house would be dessert. We were wrong. The dinosaur lumbered away and we breathed a sigh of relief. It seemed the rest of the Bates Avenue homes were not on the menu.

All was quiet for a few weeks, until the new dinosaur on the block appeared. This species has a much longer neck and large eyes that glow against the night sky. He swings his head back and forth over the neighborhood and sometimes pauses above our house to see what we are up to. Unlike the first dinosaur, who came swiftly and withdrew, this big boy seems to be

here to stay. He's very busy. Some days he lifts large loads of lumber in his mouth and shifts them from one side of the property to another. Recently he has been seen hoisting vast bags filled with sand and depositing them here and there.

While the giant roams freely about, various smaller dinosaurs scurry around his feet. They burrow into the ground, climb mountains of dirt and sand, and offer rides to green-vested humans.

Sometimes one or another of the dinosaurs lumbers up Bates Avenue. Our house trembles and the crystals in our hundred-year-old chandelier chatter.

The dinosaurs are multiplying and establishing themselves in more of the neighborhood. A flock of them are burrowing into the ground along 7<sup>th</sup> Street between Bates Avenue and Maple Street. Will they eventually migrate to another locale or are they here to stay?

## Reminiscences from the East Side

*Suzanne Nielsen  
Metro State University*

What was it like growing up on the East Side? It was tense and busy; comfortable and homey. Many houses smelled of fish on Fridays and tuna casseroles throughout the week. There was tension and there was tragedy. There was also a measure of contentment throughout the streets, inside the library, and even in St. John's hospital, where I'd bike whenever I needed a motherly connection.

The East Side of St. Paul is my childhood stomping ground. What now houses part of Metro State's St. Paul campus used to be known as St. John's hospital, where several East Siders came into the world, and also where they left. I remember riding my bike down White Bear Avenue to Maryland to Maria to 6<sup>th</sup> Street, taking a detour into Haag Superette for a bottle of Orange Crush before visiting Mrs. Christiansen, my neighbor, who worked at the hospital. Mrs. Christiansen was like a mother to me. She bought Pall Mall cigarettes at Haag Superette on payday along with two magazines: one for her and one for me. She'd sneak me into the hospital and we'd light up in unison. I was 8; she was 28.

*Mad* Magazine was my intro to reading for pleasure. I could say everything I ever learned, I learned from Alfred E. Neuman, but I also learned about the bigger world at large from checking out books at

Hayden Heights Library. I liked the library because it was a place I could go to get away from places less pleasant. Plus, during summer, the library was my air-conditioned retreat from the heat. No one I knew, including my own family, had central air.

There was a sense of community on the East Side, and on a typical Saturday morning my father and I would stop in at the Danish bakery on Payne Avenue to get donut holes and Bismarcks to take over to my grandmother's house on 4<sup>th</sup> Street and Earl. We drove by St. John's almost daily as our lives bled east side. My parents graduated from Harding High School, the rival of my high school St. Paul Johnson. I am a first-generation college graduate, earning my undergraduate degree at Metro State, partly in St. John's Hall.

Mrs. Christiansen and I stayed in contact up until she died after a brief battle with lung cancer at St. John's hospital. One time I thought I saw Alfred E. Neuman walking near the hospital with a book in his hand. He was most likely trying to deliver irony by saying, "Smoking helps you lose weight – one lung at a time."

I love that what used to be St. John's hospital continues as an academy of learning. I now teach in this building, most recently a class called The Graphic Novel. How's that for honoring text and image and Alfred E. Neuman? I quote my friends when they say, "You can take the girl out of the east side but you can never take the east side out of the girl."



***Kathy Lantry wishes you***

**Happy  
Holidays**

*with warm wishes  
for a wonderful  
New Year*

History corner

**Joe Karth: In service to St. Paul and the US**

Steve Trimble  
Forum historian

**Joe Karth: Union Leader and Politician**

Last month, I was asked to give a short talk as part of a panel on Farmer Labor history at the new East Side Freedom Library. It was about Joseph "Joe" Karth, who had a long-time connection with Dayton's Bluff and the rest of St. Paul. I didn't know a lot about him at the time, but I found there were 43 boxes of his papers at the Minnesota Historical Society. Here's some of what I discovered.

Karth was born in New Brighton in 1922 and graduated from North St Paul High School. He attended the University of Nebraska School of Engineering, but his education was interrupted when he served in the Army during World War II. When he returned from overseas, Karth found a job at Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing or "The Mining" as locals called it. 3M, as it is now known, was one of the largest industrial organizations in Minnesota.

He was key in the creation of United Gas, Coke and Chemical Workers Union, the local CIO union at 3M, and was eventually in leadership in its national organization.

Karth was also interested in politics, and in 1950 and won election to the Minnesota House of Representatives, serving this area. He stayed there until 1958 and while there he was voted "outstanding legislator" by his colleagues.

**Serving in Congress**

When Eugene McCarthy moved to the US Senate in 1959, Karth ran for the 4<sup>th</sup> District office as a DFL candidate and won. He served in Congress for the next 18 years. He was a high-ranking Democrat on the Science and Astronautics Committee and active in the space program as chairman of the subcommittee on Space Sciences and Applications that

oversaw NASA and the space program.

His papers at the Minnesota Historical Society show the variety of matters that interested



Minnesota Historical Society

Congressman Joseph E. Karth of St. Paul

him, as well as listings of many of the bills he authored. Some of them were adopted without a great deal of debate, such as the initial creation of the Great River Road system that went from Minnesota to Louisiana. Other matters were controversial, such as the bill that would prohibit hunting the mourning dove.

Karth seemed to be a person who was open to information and ideas. In 1963, he wasn't sure about the expense of having a voyage to the moon and "saw greater needs elsewhere." But he later explained that he slowly came to support human landings on the moon.

**Vietnam**

As early as 1967, Karth was cautious on Vietnam and felt a political solution was best. In 1968, he urged the stop of bombing North Vietnam and urged getting the UN engaged. "I disagree with those who say the only way is military," he stated.

On December 28 1971, he sent a public telegram to President Nixon. A portion of it said: "I am deeply disturbed and concerned by the escalation... It appears that we have replaced serious negotiations in Paris with a policy of accelerated bombing that may be a prelude to an expanded war in Cambodia... We appear to be on the point of reverting to the previous policy of beating the heck out of them from the air to force concessions. I strongly

urge you to set down a withdrawal plan...not a stepped up air war in Indochina."

However, he did not approve of some of the anti-war activities. In 1967, concerning desecration of the flag, he said "I am totally fed up with a few lunatic fringe malcontents abusing the constitutional rights of all Americans."

World peace was one of his major interests and he was a major backer of the moratorium on testing of nuclear weapons, something that was controversial at the time. As he put it in a September 1962 issue of the *Minneapolis Tribune*, "The most important problem of our national government is the preservation of peace."

Karth was also an early environmental advocate. In January 1967 he stated that "the excellent waters of the St. Croix must be maintained for all people," and was instrumental in stopping the Army Corps of Engineers from building a dam across the St. Croix. Karth also wrote and passed the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, which still helps preserve many rivers.

**After Retirement**

Karth apparently had a heart attack while in Congress and he was not a candidate for reelection. After retiring from Congress in 1977, Karth did some lobbying and set up a firm specializing in trade issues. He moved to Arizona, where he died in 2005 at the age of 83. The legacy of Joe may have been best expressed by George Latimer - who became mayor in 1976 - his campaign manager in 1972. Here's what he said: "Congressman Karth's support for fair and equitable tax reform, higher social security benefits, ending US involvement in Vietnam, strong conservation measures, reduction of unemployment...are only several of many examples of his fine record of service for the Fourth District."

View from my porch:

**I was a mall Santa**

Sage Holben  
Forum contributor

An alcoholic, otherwise-unemployed Santa in the movie *Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street* or Art Carney as Henry Corwin in *Twilight Zone's "Night of the Meek."* That's what came to my mind when a mall-manager friend of mine offered me the Santa job in the early 1990s. His Santa had been showing up drunk or not at all. I was unemployed and living in Sturgeon Bay, Door County, Wisconsin, with a nonexistent job market; I took Robert up on his offer.

I donned the cheap, fleecy red costume with black plastic belt, pulling the white trimmed red hat and white wig down to cover my eyebrows. No amount of Lysol™ would remove the idea of germs or someone else's spit on the inside of the beard and mustache attachment. As I took my seat and waited for dreamers and wishers to visit, I wondered whether to use my own, female voice or try for a deeper male imitation.

The first few children accepted my deep voice with its "Ho, ho, ho." "Ho, ho, ho," by the way, is not very easy to transfer to a real, natural-sounding laugh. One child said my voice sounded like a woman. I asked if it mattered, and he said no. Cherry Point Mall was small; it contained a card/gift store, a soon-to-be-closed furniture store, sporting goods, and not much else (this spoke to the area's poor economy and was even more depressing for this recently-unemployed Santa!). After the first week a friend asked how it was going. He knew of the many resumes I had been sending out; the cold calls I was making, and how futile it was all seeming to me. As to the mall-Santa job, his words encouraged me: "Sage, as Santa in this emotionally- and economically-depressed area, you have the greatest of opportunities to reach people in a deeply spiritual way. Each time a child visits with you, you have the gift and opportunity to pray for that child and family and the special needs in their lives."

From that day on, I made that my mission as I played Santa in Cherry Point Mall. I

was careful not to assume that each child had a tree or stockings, or even celebrated Christmas. This wasn't difficult since my visitors would be poor or children whose families lacked transportation in this peninsular, rural small town. Families who were better off financially would be taking their children to Green Bay or Milwaukee for a large-department-store Santa, whose tacky beard lining didn't taste and smell of liquor and cigarettes.

One sweet child came to me with his grandmother. When I asked what he most wanted for Christmas, he said almost pleadingly, "I want my dad home from the Gulf War and my mom home from the hospital." His grandma mentioned prayers they had been saying for his parents. As Santa, I offered to pray with them and the three of us joined in prayer; it seemed like the only gift Santa was capable of giving.

"Boxes. Our Christmas is in boxes in a friend's basement." That's what a five-year-old girl told me. "Someone came and took our house and we're living in a basement."

One day a woman identified herself as a foster mom of three children whose ages ranged from about 10 to five. They came not to ask for gifts or stocking fillers, but to have Santa talk with the seven-year-old. Apparently, the child had beaten the family's small dog or cat to death with a shovel and then was chasing his younger sister trying to beat her. This was an ongoing pattern of behavior. The woman and the ten-year-old were hoping that Santa could talk the child into better behavior. Santa talked with the child, but also connected with social services the next day to be sure that DHS was aware of the situation (they were) and that the children were receiving the help they needed.

Like the several foster youth who passed through my home during that time and touched me in a myriad of ways, I will never know what became of Santa's visitors during those two weeks. There was laughter during that stint - the time the mall janitor left early, locking my car and house keys as well as my clothes in the office.

I managed to call a friend (long before cell phones) who picked me up. In daylight, I had to "break into" my home and hope no one would consider Santa suspicious, climbing through a window!

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## Travels with the Forum



Doug Watnemo

**The Forum in Romania:** Carol Watnemo (pictured above) and her husband Doug, residents of Maplewood near Lake Phalen, enjoyed reading the *Forum* while traveling throughout eastern Europe. The photo above was taken in the Black Sea port city of Constanta, Romania. Don't forget to take a copy of the *Forum* when you travel, and submit your photos to [editor@daytonsbluff.org](mailto:editor@daytonsbluff.org).

### Holiday notices

Free concert: the Minnesota Sinfonia presents Happy Holidays, a program of seasonal favorites on **Friday, December 12 at 7:00 pm** at First Covenant Church, 1280 Arcade Street.

The IBEW Holiday Lights in the Park will illuminate Phalen Park from **November 25 - January 1**.

### History award

At the recent annual meeting of the Ramsey County Historical Society, Steve Trimble won the Virginia Kunz Award, which is named for the late longtime editor of *Ramsey County History*, the group's quarterly magazine. The award is presented every two years by three judges who decide on the best article in the previous two years.

Trimble's article, "Hands on Historian: Ethel Hall Stewart and Preserving the Gibbs Farm" told the story of a woman from St. Anthony Park who formed the Ramsey County Historical Society and was the leader of a group that saved the historic farmstead that

still stands at Larpentour and Cleveland Avenues. The article was printed in the Fall 2012 issue of *Ramsey County History*.

Trimble is a *Forum* board member and regular contributor – read his most recent article on page 7 of this paper.

### WEQY-FM: promises, promises

Carla Riehle, *Forum* staff

The last few issues of the *Forum* have carried optimistic predictions that WEQY-FM community radio would be on the air by the end of the month. We're going to stop making those predictions because fate (or maybe human error) keeps intervening to create delays. \$10,000 in St. Paul STAR money is waiting to be claimed for purchasing broadcast equipment, but the final interview with the city hasn't yet happened. When it does, the installation should be finished in short order at the new studio at 777 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street and then – we hope – airtime!

## Fire on the Bluff: Airstream pizza kitchen meets the East Side radio novela

*Para leer este artículo en español, vea la página 5.*

Carla Riehle, *Forum* staff

Maria Avenue resident Barry Madore is planning two projects for the East Side that likely have never been combined before: a roving wood-fired pizza kitchen in a classic Airstream trailer, and a bilingual radio novela series to be aired on the soon-to-be-live East Side radio station, WEQY-FM.

It's all part of the aptly-named Fire on the Bluff, and thus far Barry has already won a Knight Foundation Arts Challenge grant for the radio project and purchased a custom-fitted Airstream that he

found in Pennsylvania on Craigslist.

About the radio novela series he says: "My love of radio drama and theater led me to dream up the idea of collaborating with Teatro del Pueblo to create a community-driven radio novela series for the soon-to-launch WEQY. The new station is perfectly situated to provide a voice for the East Side's dynamic and diverse Latino community. And securing a prominent grant to launch a creative project like an ongoing radio novela series with accompanying live theater performances -- all based here on the East Side -- what an opportunity!"



This Airstream trailer, owned by Barry Madore, will soon be turning out artisan pizza and community arts. Visit [fireonthebluff.com](http://fireonthebluff.com) for more information. To read this article in Spanish, see page 5.

### 2014 Neighborhood Honor Roll looking for candidates

Do you know of a community member who should be recognized for his or her contribution to the community? You can nominate that neighbor for the St. Paul Neighborhood Honor Roll!

Since the 1980s, St. Paul has recognized residents who have made significant contributions to the welfare of their neighborhoods. Each of the city's 17 community councils annually add three names to the honor roll which is permanently displayed on the third floor of

City Hall. Past honor roll inductees have contributed a variety of services and include community, church and school volunteers, block club leaders and leaders of projects like buckthorn removal or community events. A banquet is held each year near the end of January to honor the recipients.

The Dayton's Bluff Community Council is looking for three people in Dayton's Bluff to add to the honor roll this year. If you know of someone who merits this recognition, please fill out the form online at [daytonsbluff.org](http://daytonsbluff.org), or contact Nicole at 651-772-2075 or [nicole@daytonsbluff.org](mailto:nicole@daytonsbluff.org). Nominations are due by **January 1**.

### Thank you to these donors for their generous contributions:

Rev. Dennis Alexander – Marge Bleakmore – Carol Carey – Greg Cosimini – Annie Cull & Jen King – John Davidsen – Karin DuPaul – Bonnie Featherstone – Mark Gallagher – Judy Gustafson – Bill & Amy Holland – David Hueffmeier – Bette Johnson – Gil & Wayne Lundeen – David Markegard – John Masiulis & Marise Widmer – Lois McKinnon – Mark & Linda Murnane – Mounds Park United Methodist Church – Stefan & LeeAnn Pomrenke – Carla Riehle – Gloria Russell – Donna Seabloom – Ramona J Shafer – Jon Sherman – Marjorie L Toensing – Steve Trimble – Ward 6 Food & Drink

## Friends of the Forum

Dear Reader,

The *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* has been a volunteer-run newspaper since the 1970s, and has always operated on a minimal budget.

Thanks to the generous contributions of nearly 50 individuals and businesses, we raised \$2,800 in 2013, enough to keep the paper running for now.

If you value this community source of information, please consider filling out the form at right. Any amount is appreciated; you may also make memorial donations or include the *Forum* in your legacy planning.

If you became our *Friend* in 2013, please renew your membership for 2014. Thank you!

Sincerely,  
*The Dayton's Bluff District Forum*

Board: Greg Cosimini, Karin DuPaul, Jennifer Herman, Carrie Oby, Carla Riehle, Steve Trimble  
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