

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

Volume 27, No. 1
February 2014
www.daytonsbluff.org

"The Voice of the Community"

Blustery Bluff



Photo courtesy of the Pomrenke family

Cold but cute, Vikta Pomrenke snuggles up with dad Stefan for a sled ride in the neighborhood.

The Historic Mounds Theatre will be rocking!

2nd annual Hamming it up for the Hollow cabaret

Forum staff

Get your tickets and get it on your calendar NOW! On **Friday, February 28, from 8:00 to 11:00 pm**, the Mounds Theatre (1029 Hudson Road) will come alive with a riotous variety of acts. The cabaret will feature singers, musicians, and dancers, an auction of original art. Tickets are only \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door.

This celebration of talent – with East Side roots – is a fundraiser for this year's Art in the Hollow (Saturday, June 7, 2014) and we expect it to be a blowout! The Master of Ceremonies is no less than famed burlesque star Foxy Tann, and the house band is The May North, featuring our local star couple Stephanie and George McCorkell ("newgrass" and progressive original folk). We welcome acts of all kinds! A sample of the lineup: Paul Garding, traditional folk music; Anne DeJoy performing her "Mardi Gras review;" Soprano Nancy Sanchelli Guertin. And introducing



Photo courtesy of Karin DuPaul

Above: Last year's Hamming it Up raised funds for Art in the Hollow. This year's event is on February 28 at the Mounds Theatre.

"The Spirit of Swede Hollow" and other zany acts. For tickets or to sign up to perform, please contact Karin DuPaul at 651-776-0550 or karin@swedehollow.org. Don't miss this! The East Side has not seen anything like it since last year.

East Side co-op efforts gaining ground

by Cassandra Moe, Metro State employee and Dayton's Bluff resident

It's a familiar scene. You're in the neighborhood with a solid half-hour to spare. You haven't eaten for a few hours, but if you eat one more item from a vending machine this week, you might turn into a petrified Twinkie. Wouldn't it be nice to have another option to pick up a quick and healthy snack, and maybe even stock up on a few groceries while you're at it?

You might get your wish. The Gateway Food Initiative is making important strides toward their goal of bringing a cooperative grocery store to the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood. I spoke with Stephanie Harr and Michael May, both Dayton's Bluff residents and members of the Gateway Food Initiative.

A co-op is a member-owned business, a factor that distinguishes it from an ordinary for-profit business. There is a wide variety: REI is a co-op; many seed and feed businesses in small towns are run by farmers' co-ops; and there are also co-ops for shared services and for workers. In the Twin Cities, the type that might be most familiar is a natural food co-op, such as The Wedge or Mississippi Market.

A food co-op is more than just another grocery store. It *does* provide another food choice to a neighborhood; perhaps equally important is that a food co-op exists to serve the community. It's Harr's belief that "the community of the East Side deserves food choices and deserves the opportunity to express its unique identity."

(See "East Side co-op," continued on page 3)

Dayton's Bluff
Community Council
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DuPaul allowed to retire

Last fall, Karin DuPaul retired after 17 years of work with the Dayton's Bluff Community Council. A party in her honor was held on November 18. Karin's response:

Letter to the community:

Thank you to everyone that I have been working with over the years to make Dayton's Bluff a better place to live, work and visit. We have come a long way. I also want to thank everyone who planned and came to my wonderful retirement party. It was the best. I was delighted by all the people who attended. I will still be here on the Bluff and working on things like this newspaper.

-Karin DuPaul



Photo by Steve Carlson

At Karin's party at the Historic Mounds Theatre, local actors and actresses portrayed historic Dayton's Bluff characters in a mock trial to see whether Karin would be allowed to retire. Above, from left: Romi Slowiak portrayed Maria Bates Dayton; Sage Holben as Clara Bergmeier, and Stefan Pomrenke as William Hamm. In addition, Steve Trimble played Supreme Court Judge Warren Burger; Angela DuPaul the Court Stenographer; and Ed Lambert played attorney Harry Blackmun.

New Swede Hollow friends are welcome

The next Friends of Swede Hollow monthly meeting is on **Wednesday, February 12, at 6:30 pm**. Email 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, an active 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 also make a small donation to the Community Council for each car he tows.

Just call 651-772-2075 to get a junk car out of the way – and help clean up Dayton's Bluff.

Small business classes

The next Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Microentrepreneur Class is starting in April 2014. Class size is limited, so register early. This program helps start-up 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 8 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 and works of art, custom floral design for weddings and events, and exterior and interior painting. The course is sponsored by the Dayton's Bluff Community Council and the Neighborhood Development Center. There is a small registration fee based on a sliding scale. Please call 651-772-2075 for an application.

Meet the police

The Eastern District Police will host their monthly meetings for community members at 722 Payne Avenue, at the corner of Minnehaha Avenue. The next meetings are **Wednesday, February 19, at 6:30 pm, and Friday, February 21, at 9:30 am**. The meetings are intended to address and listen to concerns about crime and other issues on the East Side.

Community meeting: Come one, come all

The Dayton's Bluff community meeting will be on **Thursday, February 6, 6:30-8:00 pm** at the Dayton's Bluff Community Council, 798 East 7th Street at the corner of 7th and Margaret Streets.

Police and code enforcement personnel will be in attendance to help neighborhood residents work on problem properties, criminal and nuisance behavior, code enforcement issues and any other issues or concerns. Submit the ad-

resses of problems ahead of time, so police and code enforcement can bring information about the properties to the meeting.

The Dayton's Bluff Community Council holds its Community Meeting on the first Thursday of each month. The purpose of the meeting is to work with neighborhood residents on neighborhood issues, concerns, and/or new ideas for improvement in Dayton's Bluff.

All Dayton's Bluff residents are welcome to attend and help Dayton's Bluff be the best it can be. For more information, call 651-772-2075.

The Forum needs YOU for a Friend

The *District Forum* newspaper is a nonprofit operation that mails out a free valuable community resource to every address in Dayton's Bluff every month. Please contribute to the paper at give.mn.razoo.com under "Hopewell Communications." Become a *Friend of the Forum* today by donating any amount online, or use the form on page 8. Call 651-776-0550 or email editor@daytonsbuff.org for more information.

Take-a-Hike February 1

Take-a-Hike occurs on the first Saturday of most months. The next hike will be **Saturday, February 1**. 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. Return transportation is available, if required. All are welcome.

Dayton's Bluff Seniors

Dayton's Bluff Seniors Living at Home Block Nurse Program helps seniors stay well, safe and independent in their homes. We draw a circle of care around our seniors with free nursing visits, wellness clinics, chores and house-keeping, and rides to the doctor and grocer. We also help them find and navigate community resources, including Elderly Waiver and brown bag food deliveries. We face challenging times; government programs cannot fill the needs. We stretch our resources to provide vital services which help to prevent isolation, emergency room visits and nursing home stays. We count on you, our friendly neighbors for financial support and volunteer efforts! We invite you to donate and/or engage. Contact us by phone: 651-776-7210 ext. 303 or visit www.daytonsbuffseniors.org.

Our annual meeting will be held on **Friday, February 7 at 9:00 am** at First Lutheran Church at 463 Maria Avenue. If you know a senior in Dayton's Bluff who may need our help, let us know!

Forum updates

The *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* welcomes Jennifer Herman to our board of directors! Jennifer has been a resident and active volunteer in Dayton's Bluff for 14 years. She loves writing and she loves this neighborhood. Find her articles this month on page 3.

Would you like to learn more about how you can contribute editorially to the Forum? Join us at our monthly meeting at the Dayton's Bluff Community Council office, 798 East 7th Street, on **Tuesday, February 4, at 11:30 am**. Treats are welcome.

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



- **Free Rec Check program:** 1st-5th grades; registration is open to the public.
- **Self Defense:** Starting February 19 (there is a fee for this program).
- **Cheerleading:** Starting February 24 (there is a fee for this program).
- **Dayton's Bluff Family Center Parenting Group:** every Friday, 9:00-11:00 am.
- **Basketball** season has started! We are hosting 8U games every Saturday, 11:00 am-2:00 pm.

● **Parent & Tot Time:** ongoing, Wednesdays and Fridays, 10:00 am-1:00 pm.

● **Free Zumba!** Tuesdays, 5:30-6:30 pm in the dance room.

● **Judo:** Mondays, 6:00-7:30 pm.

● **Seniors "500" card playing:** every Friday, 12:00-4:00 pm.

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

Stop by and check us out!

Updates from Margaret Park

by Jennifer Herman
Forum board member

Margaret Park (STOMP) at www.facebook.com/stompmn.

Mayor funds Margaret improvements

Mayor Coleman unveiled a new budget in December which includes \$500,000 in Capital Improvement Budget funding for improvements at Margaret Park. After bonds are sold, the funding will become available over the next two years: \$47,000 this year for the design process and \$453,000 for construction in 2015. Obviously this is not enough money to rebuild, staff, and program a new Rec Center, but it is enough funding to make some significant additions that will give Margaret a more park-like feel. What are your ideas for improving Margaret Park? Would you like to have a say in how that \$500,000 is invested at the park? Join Stewards of

STOMP calls first meeting

STewards Of Margaret Park (STOMP) invites you to their very first meeting. STOMP welcomes anyone who is committed to taking an active role in ensuring that Margaret Park remains a safe and beautiful green space with recreational activities for everyone. Our first meeting will be on **Thursday, February 20 at 6:30 pm** at the Dayton's Bluff Community Council Offices at 798 East 7th Street. Let's get together and think ahead to summer! What could be happening in the park this summer? Pick-up games or tournaments in the field; visits by truck-based services like the bookmobile; or church groups, art groups, music groups...the possibilities are endless! Bring your ideas and let's make a plan!

Mounds Park United Methodist Church

from a MPUMC release

Community Dinner and Movie Night

All are welcome on **Saturday, February 15**. Board games at 4:30 pm; dinner at 5:15 (free-will offering); movie, Lilo & Stitch, 6:00-8:00 pm. Free popcorn; lemonade and candy available to buy.

Sunday Schedule

Adult Sunday School: 9:15-10:15 am
Kids'/Youth Sunday School: 9:15-10:15 am
Worship Service: 10:30-11:30 am
Fellowship: 11:30 am-12:30 pm

Youth Sledding Party

Sunday, February 2, 2:00-5:00 pm: Meet at Mounds Park United Methodist Church. Open to 7th-12th-graders and adults.

Scout Sunday

Sunday, February 16, 10:00 am: open to all Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, Venture Scouts, Campfire youth, and adults. Please wear uniforms.

Mounds Park United Methodist Church is located at 1049 Euclid Street.
651-774-8736 - secretarympumc@yahoo.com

Plots available at Skidmore Garden

by Jennifer Herman, Forum staff

Skidmore Park Community Garden announces that garden plots are now available for the 2014 growing season! There are 24 raised-bed plots in this neighborhood park near the Earl Street Dairy Queen. Plots come in two sizes: 40 square feet and 64 square feet; the annual fee for all plots is \$25. The Early Bird registration deadline for returning 2013 gardeners is February 15. Registration for new gardeners opens February 16, and the final deadline for all registrations is March 15. A mandatory orientation will take place on **Monday, April 14 from 6:00-7:00 pm** at the garden, 1084 East 4th Street. An indoor location for orientation will be announced, should the weather refuse to cooperate. Applications are available for download on the Skidmore Park Community Gardens Facebook page, or you can pick one up at the Dayton's Bluff Community Council office at 798 East 7th Street. Plots are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis, so get your application in today! Spring will be here before you know it. Questions? Call the Dayton's Bluff Community Council at 651-772-2075.

Continued from page 1:

East Side co-op

The cultural and economic diversity of the East Side will be reflected, for instance, in the variety of ethnic and economical products sold.

The co-op will also provide the intangible benefits of community, opportunity for ownership, and an economic engine that will likely attract additional amenities to the neighborhood.

Great! When will we have a co-op here?

Most recently, the City of St. Paul granted Temporary Developer Status to Mississippi Market, a co-op with two other St. Paul locations. According to Mississippi Market's website, "[The status]...means two things. First, the co-op has expressed a serious interest in making the project work; and second, the City will [work] exclusively with us on the site for a period of time that will be spelled out in the agreement." There are a number of steps in the process before Mississippi Market would build a store, but Michael May is optimistic about the prospects. He said that Mississippi Market's next step is a series of internal meetings. If everything falls together, there could be a natural food co-op on the East Side by 2015.

Harr has several suggestions for anyone who'd like to get involved: sign up for the mailing list, tell people about the Gateway Food Co-op, "like" Gateway on Facebook, become a member, join the steering committee, and volunteer your special skills. For more information, contact eastcoop@gmail.com.

Continued from page 4:

ESABA update

tion's agenda for 2014.

This has the potential to have a tremendously positive impact on the businesses and the community of the East Side.

Continued Growth: ESABA is committed to improving its own organization as well, helping each of their members get the most out of membership. The organization wants to establish consistent communications, programming, and informative monthly events, and develop the infrastructure necessary for continued growth. A further goal for 2014 is to develop opportunities in sponsorship, marketing, and advertising that are effective and exceed the value of the investment for its members.

In 2014, ESABA will continue to be a dedicated advocate for its members and the East Side community. We will strive for relevant and important land development, improved business and community infrastructure, advocate for youth mentorship and job placement, and advertise the many benefits of bringing new businesses, both large and small, to St. Paul's East Side.

The East Side has established itself as a diverse community with amazing potential for continued growth and prosperity. The East Side Area Business Association, with its office at 798 East 7th Street, will continue to be a part of that growth and will help the community as a whole reach its full potential. 2014 promises to be an exciting and profitable year for St. Paul's wonderfully diverse East Side.

February at the Historic Mounds Theatre

by Raeann Ruth, Executive Director,
Mounds Theatre

Empower Emporium

Empower Emporium, a Psychic and Wellness Faire, will be held at the Mounds Theatre on **Saturday, February 22, 11:00 am-5:00 pm**. Network, learn, share and grow through the intuitive and healing arts and other methods of a holistic lifestyle.

Admission is \$5 per person. Activities include free classes and workshops; psychic and intuitive readings; alternative health professionals; aura photos and artisanal businesses.

Hamming it up for the Hollow
On **Friday, February 28, 8:00-**

11:00 pm, the Mounds Theatre will come alive with a riotous cabaret featuring singers, musicians, and dancers, and an auction of original art. This celebration of talent is a fundraiser for this year's Art in the Hollow on Saturday, June 7. Tickets are only \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door.

The Historic Mounds Theatre is located at 1029 Hudson Road. 651-772-2253. www.moundstheatre.org.

This article originally appeared in a Metro State publication. It has been edited for the Forum.

MOUNDS PARK BARBER STYLISTS

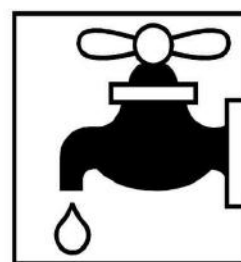


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651.774.6995-office
www.dbnhs.org



Senator Hawj, Governor Dayton agree on bonding

from a MN State Senate release

On January 15, Governor Mark Dayton announced his 2014 bonding priorities totaling \$986 million. Senator Foug Hawj applauded the inclusion of his top two projects: \$35.86 million for Metropolitan State University to build a new Science Education Center, and \$450,000 to design and build a Hmong-Lao Veterans Memorial.

"I was delighted to see that the Governor shared my bonding project priorities. Metro State's new science building will not only add jobs, it will provide new learning space to offer advanced science

degrees in the Twin Cities. Equally important is the money for the Hmong-Lao Veterans Memorial – a significant project that honors the Hmong and Lao veterans of the war in Laos who were allied with American forces during the Vietnam War," Senator Hawj said.

Governor Dayton's bonding recommendations include an emphasis on higher education with investments of \$233 million, and economic development with \$232 million proposed which will address statewide housing needs, civic centers and more.

More information about bonding is available at www.build.mn.

East Side Family Clinic expanding dental services

from a WSCHS release

The East Side Family Clinic, at 895 East 7th Street, has recently expanded its services to include dental care for families, individuals, and children through a new strategic partnership with the University of Minnesota's School of Dentistry. The move is sure to put smiles on faces, young and old, by providing affordable and accessible dental care to community members.

"Oral health is an integral part of overall health," said Dr. Brad McDon-

nell, Dental Director of West Side Community Health Services.

The East Side Family Clinic features English, Spanish and Hmong-speaking staff and interpreters. Insurance assistance and a sliding fee scale option are available.



For dental appointments, call 651-602-7500. Clinic hours are: Monday-Wednesday: 7:00 am-5:00 pm; Thursday: 7:00 am-7:00

pm; and Friday: 8:00 am-5:00 pm. The clinic is accessible via bus MTC routes 61 and 74, and offers free parking to patients.

ESABA ends 2013 on a high note; expect great things in 2014

by Fred Jenkins, ESABA staff intern

In 2013, the East Side Area Business Association (ESABA) saw membership grow by 70 businesses, to almost 160. We doubled our annual revenue to over \$83,000, helping us continue to provide programming, advocacy, and other services for our members and the community.

ESABA's Board is guiding the organization toward having a greater impact in St. Paul's increasingly diverse East Side business environment. Here are some highlights from 2013:

Holiday Gala: With the help of an amazing group of sponsors and volunteers, the 2013 Holiday Gala was an unmitigated success. Hosted by eight East Side area restaurants, and with over 230 attendees, the Gala raised \$11,000. Council President Kathy Lantry and Juut SalonSpa Founder David Wagner gave inspirational speeches at the event. A good time was had by all who attended.

Business Map Project: Local artist Liz Harrell was commissioned to paint the East Side business community for this exciting project. 110 East Side businesses sponsored space on the map, and nearly \$20,000 has been raised to help support the programs and development of ESABA. The maps will soon be available around the area.

Memorable Events: ESABA's members enjoyed several other events that included a fun, successful Pub Crawl and a very exciting 22-team bowling tournament; monthly workshops and networking events, as well as grand opening ceremonies.

ESABA's Commitment to Community

ESABA demonstrated its commitment to community involvement and advocacy throughout the year. ESABA is a member of the Gateway Corridor Commission as well as the Gateway Corridor Policy Advisory Committee. We are now a member of St. Paul's Beyond the Yellow Ribbon, offering support to local area military families, and a member of

Metro State University's \$66,000,000 Parking Ramp and Student Center Construction Project Community Advisory Committee. As a FESTECC Steering Team Member on public transit, our organization helped develop new ways to engage often-overlooked citizens in important discussions about East Side Transit. ESABA also became an advocate for its members with the city of St. Paul's Department of Safety and Inspections and other city departments and its processes during the year, and collaborated with, and supported, PABA and WBABA events.

A bold vision and a bright future

The organization looks forward to the opening, targeted for June 2014, of the new East Side Enterprise Center. This move is seen as an excellent opportunity to create a "collaborative and unique incubator for small business development and resources." In addition to ESABA, the collaborative partners of the new office space will be lead by the Dayton's Bluff Community Council and the Latino Economic Development Center, and partner organizations: Hmong American Farmers Association, and the East Side Financial Center to name a few. The beautifully-restored building will be a hub for exciting new developments and ideas for the East Side's business community.

A major goal for 2014 is to "Develop, fund and launch a collaborative marketing and public relations initiative with East Side stakeholders to minimize negative press and stereotypes about the East Side in an effort to help people to shop local." ESABA will encourage its members to join a committee to help our organization have an even greater impact on our businesses and the community.

Development of a Mentorship and Volunteer Committee, designed to connect our businesses with our youth and nonprofit community, is on the organiza-

(See "ESABA," continued on page 3.)

VALENTINE'S DAY DANCE

Feb 14th, 2014 7:00pm

\$8.00 Cover




The Arcades, a family-friendly, '50s and '60s cover band, will be playing great songs we all love, from Elvis and Wilson Pickett to Buddy Holly and Lou Christie – songs perfect for dancing to!

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

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

Board of Directors: 3 rd Monday each month, 7:00 pm	Vacant Building Committee: 3 rd Thursday each month, 6:30 pm
Land Use Committee: 1 st Monday each month, 7:00 pm	Greenspace Committee: 3 rd Monday each month, 6:00 pm
Equity Committee: 1 st Tuesday each month, 6:30 pm	Ask about our Marketing, Arts and Cultures, and Outreach Committees.

Meeting times may vary from this schedule. Call 651-772-2075 to confirm, and for more information.

TOP SIX ADVANTAGES OF AN ESABA MEMBERSHIP

1. Strong Business Advocate
2. Interconnected, Diverse Network
3. New Business Opportunities
4. Connect to the Community and Give Back
5. Opportunities to Engage Cross-Culturally
6. Business Education



ESABA
East Side Area Business Association
Advocating Success for St. Paul's Diverse East Side Business Community.

Visit www.esaba.org to learn more!



Left: Swede Hollow residents in the Sanchelli yard, 1929.

Photo courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society

Memories of Swede Hollow

by Steve Trimble
Forum historian

Swede Hollow abuts our neighborhood and is often visited by Dayton's Bluff residents. While a great deal has been written about this historic community, first hand reports are very rare. Mike Sanchelli (1915-2003) is considered the premier story teller of the Italian residents who lived along the banks of Phalen Creek. He was born in the hollow and lived there for many years. This is a portion of a long manuscript that can be found at the Minnesota Historical Society. It begins when his family moved back into Swede Hollow after a short stay in Montana and bought their first house.

Michael T. Sanchelli reminisces

My father had to borrow...the whole 20 dollars the house cost. The friends and neighbors gave us what extra furniture that they could spare and...we started our new life in Swede Hollow.

As I stood in the yard one morning after we moved in, I took a long look around the hollow. We owned our own home.

My father was digging a hole in one corner of the yard. "Whatta ya gonna put there, pa?" I asked. "Thissa gonna be de flaga pole, thissa my property in America," he said. The flag would fly on all proper days without fail because my father knew them by heart.

"What a great place to be poor," I thought to myself, listening to the chatter of happy kids, happy chickens, excited dogs, and mothers talking to each other across one side of the hollow to the other. I carried the happy thought back into the house with me... Swede Hollow was a great place for playing: no traffic to worry about; one class of people, even if there were different nationalities.

We weren't going to live high on the hog with my father getting his old job back – the railroads were not paying that good of wages – but we would be able to afford the necessities of living. We got into the old Italian way of life in Swede Hollow. In the day, the Italian ladies would visit each other and after supper the men would do the same.

I would witness an old Italian way of making wine... I walked in the front door of my house one evening and there were two Italians kneeling by my father.... They were trimming his toenails and washing his feet, then they picked him up and carried him... to the Barillas' front yard. They stood him up in a great big wooden half barrel.... Two men would dump crates of dark blue grapes in the barrel. My father was

mashing the grapes with his bare feet and singing at the top of his voice, songs of Italy.

My Uncle Martin would introduce the hotta dogga to the Sanchellis. I didn't know what to expect; I never heard of it. Uncle Martin came in from the kitchen with a large pan full of boiling water and wieners. He had mustard and ketchup ready... and the Sanchellis went American for supper. Everybody liked it, so every Wednesday we had hotta doggas. My father didn't care too much for the buns, so he used Italian bread instead.

Like the other Italians in the hollow, we started to raise chickens, rabbits and even had a pig. I remember the morning... Mr. Yekaldo plunged the knife into the pig's heart. The pig screamed and although I felt a little pang, I knew it had to be done. My mother fried pieces of fresh pork that were eatable while the men continued to skin the pig. The carcass was hung in the shed to cool... When the younger kids got up it was over and, after a few tears, they forgot about the pig that they had given a name.

We had no playground except for the old lot. Nobody had a ball and bat, so we played around the railroad tracks, the binder dump, in the street or play on the wagons... parked in the empty lot. We would also go to the freight yards near 4th Street and see if there was anything good to eat in the fruit cars. They sure hauled a lot of cabbage in those days. It seemed like we ate cabbage 5 times a week.

The year 1926 turned out to be a happy year for us. We were in the swing of things with the rest of the people of Swede Hollow, or it could have been called "happy hollow." Christmas Eve we heard somebody singing Christmas carols outside our door. We opened the kitchen door and there was Miss Dowling of the Christ Child Community Center with some of the boys I recognized. They had brought a basket of food... the little boost we needed. It was a great Christmas. Everybody was singing Christmas carols, Italian ones and English ones. We ate in the living room at the big round table we got from somebody. It was loaded...

Holidays. They are not what I had always looked forward to when I was a youngster.... In our days there were no presents. It was the routine that we cherished, going to midnight mass, singing Christmas carols in English and Italian, coming home to continue eating codfish...lupino (Italian popcorn) and nuts and peanuts. We did a lot of visiting the neighbors in Swede Hollow; it was like a village all by itself.

View from my porch

New York City

by Sage Holben
special to the Forum

I love the serendipity of life. José, one of my neighborhood 'grandsons', was cleaning my car one day last summer. Our conversation turned to New York City, where my son lives and works. The next day my son, Sam, happened to call and asked when I could visit. I asked if José could come with me, if his parents gave permission. Some weeks later, José and I began our adventure.

From my first visit to New York about 15 years ago, I fell in love with the city. As Sam has moved about the city, I have gotten to know areas of Brooklyn, Spanish Harlem, Midtown, the Upper West Side, and many places in between – riding the train and getting off at no particular place for no reason but to walk. I've met fascinating, friendly people and am always in awe of the history, architecture, public space, and how people adapt to and use their surroundings.

After over 43 moves in my life, I found my home in St. Paul when I moved here 15 years ago. New York, though, holds a special place in my heart and I'm eager that everyone who visits gets to know it and love it as I do. When I'm away too long, I miss NYC as one might miss being in a lover's presence. I want others to fall under the magic spell of this city.

José's enthusiasm, unrestrained questions, and pure joy of experiencing the city brought new life to me. I realized anew how many public parks and green spaces NYC has, and the great

feeling of being a part of the congregation of people in Central Park, Walt Whitman, Washington Square, Chelsea Piers (and watching the lights appear floor by floor in the Empire State Building at dusk). The great seafood at Chelsea Market, Last Leaf in Ft. Tryon, the Frying Pan, and even the hot dogs in DUMBO. With our friend George, we visited art gallery after art gallery when we stepped off the High Line; Sam wanted José to enjoy the experi-

ence of being able to walk into art galleries, free to the general public. José obviously enjoyed many firsts: oysters on the shell, plane ride, taxi/car service, subway – and I glowed inside being a part of the experience! As we walked toward the Brooklyn Bridge, people streamed out of the nearby courthouse – another serendipitous moment! We were some of



Photo by Sage Holben

Jose Gaytan-Cruz, pictured above, and Sage Holben made time for the Blue Man Group during a trip to New York last summer. See below for Jose's thoughts on his experience in the Big Apple.

the first to congratulate new US citizens, certificates in hand!

On our wanderings, I would wonder if José had seen 'this' on the curb, the architecture on that roof, the person who.... José was seeing everything and recording it with photos. With all the time we spent walking (José had to take his belt in a notch) and riding the train, I have no doubt that José has the confidence to make his way around New York with no problem; even live there. I know I found someone who would develop his own love of NYC.

Post note: I would really like to take another youth for a NYC experience this summer, but cannot afford two fares. Someone suggested using donated airline points for the youth. Any donors?

The Big City by Jose Gaytan-Cruz

I boarded Flight 40 on July 17 in MSP Terminal 2. Going to New York City was eye-opening for me, to see what's out there in the world: the cool buildings, awesome art and people's way of life. I have never seen so many buildings in my life. I thought I lived in the city, but it doesn't compare to New York. I live in St. Paul, but I was born in Chihuahua, Mexico. One of my dreams was to see the Statue of Liberty; it inspires me a lot. I love the way New York is – you don't need a car. The subway will take you anywhere, and I have never seen so many taxis in a city. I took around 800 pictures of buildings, cars, statues, waterfalls, art, streets and other things. Something that was very unexpected was the way of parking cars – they park them in columns and rows on the outside walls of buildings.

I went to the Empire State Building, the coolest building in the whole city. Another awesome thing I did in NYC was to see the Blue Man Group. They're so creative and entertaining. My favorite thing was how they combine drums and color paint together and play pretty cool music.

The one thing about New York that was astonishing was that if you were lost, New Yorkers would stop and point you in the right direction. My first day in New York, Sage and I were trying to find Mother Cabrini's church but we were a little lost. A nice lady named Blanca took the time to walk us to the church and at the end she said, "If you ever are back in New York and want someone to show you New York's Times Square, just come back here and ask for Blanca Diego." Overall, New York was an extremely nice place to go on vacation. I can't wait to go again.

Dellwood Gardens – New senior-living facility aims to serve diverse community

by Mark Gallagher
Forum Editorial Assistant

A 92-unit assisted living and memory care residential facility is getting ready to open on the north side of 7th Street between Payne Avenue and Arcade Street. Dellwood Gardens, at 753 East 7th Street, plans to open at the end of February, though the exact date has not been set. The facility will address the scarcity of affordable assisted living and memory care options available to the growing and diverse elderly population present on St. Paul's Eastside.

Dellwood Gardens will be populated in two phases: the first will house 62 residents, and the second phase will accommodate 30 more.

The mission of Dellwood Gardens is to provide high-quality care that is accessible and affordable to seniors of every culture and economic background. They strive to create a welcoming, life-enhancing environment within the community.

One of the objectives of Dellwood Gardens is to take care of seniors whether they are elderly "waiver" patients (low-income, state assisted) or private-pay patients. Sia Lo, the administrator, says the facility has been carefully planned to serve both. "We hope that seniors will come here, so we

can keep this place open for a very long time."

"One short-term goal of Dellwood Gardens," Lo says, "is to employ a diverse staff as we reach out to local orga-

Lo also says, "The long-term goal is certainly to be so successful that we replicate ourselves. I think we need more multi-cultural facilities like this, caring for the growing and diverse elder-

he has been a member of First Covenant Church on Arcade Street, and still attends church there. Lo went to Cleveland Junior high, and graduated from Johnson High School in 1985.

Formerly a practicing attorney in the area of elder law, Sia Lo practiced in Minnesota—mostly in St. Paul and Minneapolis. Before becoming an attorney, he was a medical technologist at Regions and St. John's Hospitals. Lo presently consults for HealthEast, helping them with diversity training.

"My favorite thing about Dayton's Bluff is this hill where Dellwood Gardens is located, and the beautiful scenery," Lo says. "I think there are a lot of key players here in Dayton's Bluff, and we are right next to downtown. It is a beautiful, happening place, and I try to eat at as many restaurants here as possible."

Lo says he is attracted to Dayton's Bluff because of his work. "I serve on the board of *180 Degrees*, a nonprofit that is creating a runaway youth center."

A Stillwater resident, Lo spends a lot of time in St. Paul. "My church is here, the Hmong council is here, as is the nonprofit organization I volunteer with. My law office is also here in St. Paul. I have a lot of ties to this area, and I am very happy to be here as the administrator for Dellwood Gardens."



Photo courtesy of Mark Gallagher

Above: Sia Lo, administrator of Dellwood Gardens.

nizations and leaders on the Eastside. Another is to make sure our staff is fully trained on the technology we are committed to." A state-of-the-art computer and monitoring system will help Dellwood Gardens increase its efficiency.

ly population in the Twin City metro area."

For most of his life, Sia Lo has called the Eastside of St. Paul home. His parents, his siblings, and Lo lived on Earl Street close to Lake Phalen. Since 1978,

Letters to the editor

Undocumented workers strain resources

A quote from the article "Thrift store 'desktop' raids unfairly punish families" (December 2013 *Forum*) reads: "Now, before we start judging people for being here without documents, let's look at some of the reasons why...?"

I believe that there are also reasons why we have such agencies as U.S. Customs and Enforcement, (ICE).

People of all nationalities, creeds and colors have asserted "reasons why" they want to leave their countries and call the United States/Minnesota, "home." Thousands are granted citizenship legally and have documentation. They find jobs, buy or rent housing, raise families and do so with "documentation."

And, at the same time, thousands of U.S. citizens, thousands of Minnesotans are homeless, jobless, living in the streets, hungry, striving to sur-

vive possibly because someone just moved into a home they might have gotten, or was hired for a job that would otherwise have been theirs, or got to the food shelf one loaf of bread earlier...why? You are asking us to believe it was because the other person had a "reason?"

We can not close our eyes to one form of injustice and then open them merely to question why another is the result. In a perfect world, everyone can "work and feed their families in peace," because, at the end of the day, charity must begin at home, and we do not live in a perfect world.

Dawn S. Keller
Dayton's Bluff

Kudos to Jennifer Herman

I would like to point out what an outstanding job Jennifer Herman did writing her 2 articles on the front page of the December 2013 *Forum* ("Giving her best – for the good of Day-

ton's Bluff" about Karin DuPaul and "Welcoming a new season with community meeting and dinner"). I have read other articles in past *Forums* from Jennifer, including her insightful piece on the Metro State University parking ramp, but really felt compelled to tip my hat to her after seeing her insightful writing covering the whole front page. Thank you, Jennifer!

Diane Michele May
Dayton's Bluff

Editor's note: See page 2 for a special note about Jennifer Herman's contributions to the *Forum* newspaper!

Cleanup: every bit helps

It starts with one candy wrapper. Then, an empty pack of cigarettes, a plastic drinking cup, a bag of fast food wrappings. Soon, the streets and boulevards are cluttered with litter discarded by random in-

considerate pedestrians and cars that pass through the neighborhood. I've gotten over being mad about it...mostly...after living here for many years. It's not worth the anger or feelings of disgust.

A fellow neighbor and I have been very faithful about walking 4 blocks of Maria once or twice every week, picking up the trash. I unofficially call us the Maria Clean Team. Takes us about 30 minutes and is a good time to talk about the neighborhood and simply be neighbors. It is extremely rewarding to look down the street and see... no trash. Even more rewarding is when someone intentionally comes out of their house, or rolls down their window as they pass, to say, "Thank you!"

But one thing is stuck in my craw about this. Who would pick up this trash if we didn't? How many times would people walk by and ignore it? Or even worse, add to it? By no means am I trying to hold myself above any other caring neigh-

bors. But at the same time, where are the rest of the people who want the neighborhood to be more tidy and appealing? Perhaps they aren't aware that there are others already doing this work?

Here is your official notice. There ARE people doing this, and they would be elated to have more neighbors volunteer in the efforts. I realize that winter is upon us and the ground is covered in snow. But look to the spring. Talk with other neighbors who might volunteer with you. I have a feeling there are more people who are ready to tackle this challenge than those who won't. There are so many proud Dayton's Bluff residents and I am confident more will become involved.

Come warmer weather, if you see us walking Maria and appreciate what we are doing, please give us a friendly shout-out – or better yet, join us!

Eric Zidlicky
Dayton's Bluff

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Monthly circulation: 7,500; also available online at www.daytonsbuff.org. This is a publication of Hopewell Communications, Inc. and is intended to provide a forum for the ideas and opinions of its readers and to be an instrument for developing community awareness and pride. No material contained in this paper may be reprinted without consent of the editor. Articles or photographs that are not attributed are the work of *Forum* staff. Articles and letters to the editor are welcome and may be emailed to editor@daytonsbuff.org or faxed to 651-774-3510. The *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* is delivered to every home and business in the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood. Outside this area, subscriptions cost \$15 per year and may be arranged by calling 651-776-0550.

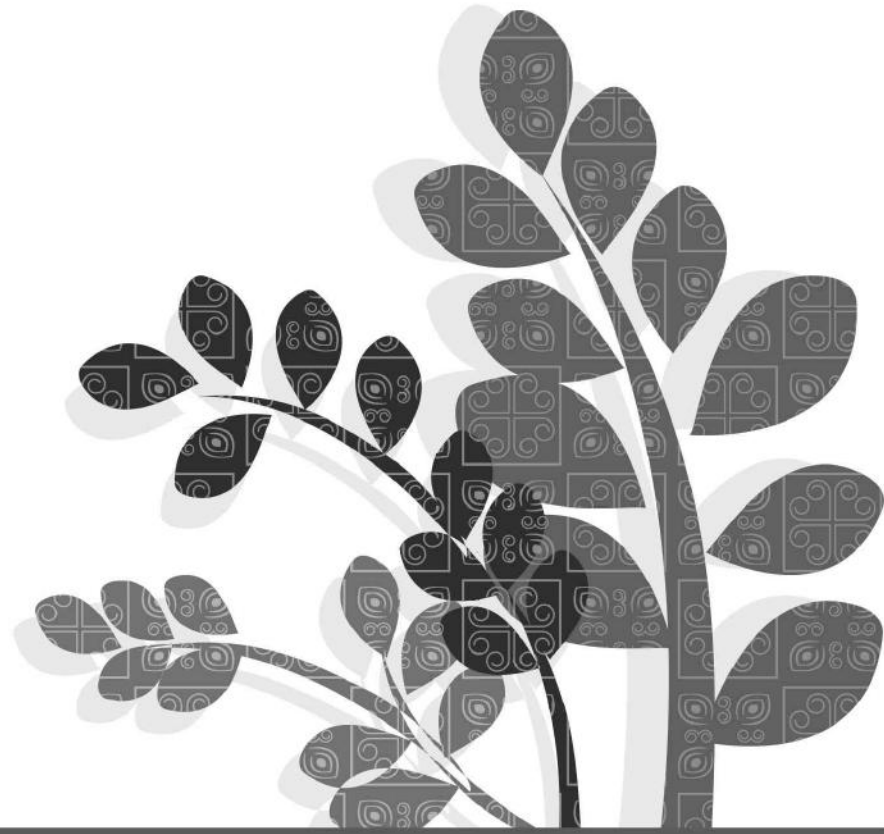
Board of Directors: Greg Cosimini, Karin DuPaul, Jennifer Herman, Steve Trimble
Editor/Layout: Meg Gronau Editorial Assistant: Mark Gallagher

Next issue: March 2014. Deadline for material: February 10, 2014.



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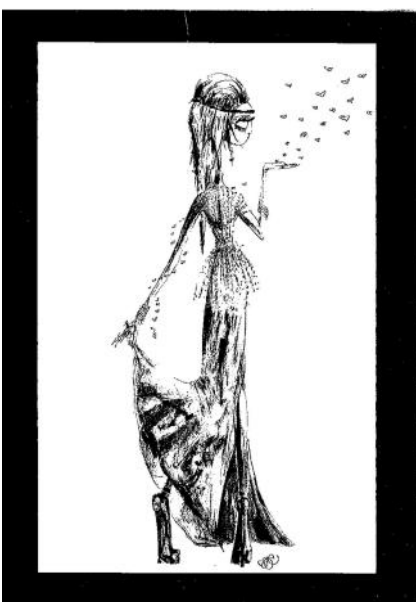
Photo by Greg Cosimini

This sculpture was spotted on Euclid Street during our recent cold wave.

Celebrating a great partnership



Friends of Swede Hollow give Fred Yarusso at drawing of Yarusso's and Morelli's businesses by Dayton's Bluff artist Diane May, for everything Yarusso's has been for FOSH over the years. Pictured above, from left: Fred Yarusso, Bill Zajicek, Romi Slowiak, Karin DuPaul, Rich DuPaul, Angela DuPaul, and Mike Grealish.



Hearts for Fashion exhibit at Metro State

from a Metropolitan State University release

Student-designed fashion will be on display in the *Hearts for Fashion* exhibit at Metro State's Gordon Parks Gallery through February 28. The gallery is open Monday-Thursday, 11:00 am-7:00 pm, and Fridays and Saturdays, 11:00 am-4:00 pm.

The designs, completed for the American Heart Association's "Go Red" campaign, will be displayed on mannequins to best allow visitors to observe and reflect.

Holiday hijinks



Photo courtesy of DBCC

Left: the Dayton's Bluff Community Council board holiday party included special guest Ken Iosso from Ramsey County Commissioner Rafael Ortega's office.

Friends of the Forum

Dear Reader,

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

We have to admit that we can no longer rely on ad income alone, though we do continue to try to increase this revenue source.

In May 2013, we thought we'd try to get 100 residents to become *Friends of the Forum* and agree to make annual tax-exempt donations to help the paper continue to mail out neighborhood news on a monthly basis.

We are proud to announce that we are nearly halfway to that goal. We have raised nearly \$2,800 in the last nine months and, as you can see, we are delighted to be able to bring you the *Forum* again this month.

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

Sincerely,

Dayton's Bluff District Forum
Board: Greg Cosimini, Karin DuPaul,
Jennifer Herman, Steve Trimble
Editor: Meg Gronau
Editorial Assistant: Mark Gallagher

Yes, I will become a Friend of the Forum.

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

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You can join them by filling out the form at left!