

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

Volume 27, No. 6
July 2014
www.daytonsbluff.org

Ve la página 4 para un artículo en español.

"The Voice of the Community"



Bridger Merkt

Celebrating the beautiful colors of Dayton's Bluff

Left: Siobhan Merkt displays some fierce face paint at the Dancing Goat coffee house during the Make it Happen on East 7th Street event on Friday, June 20.

Right: Make it Happen event attendees take a rest while enjoying a spectacular sunset.



Deanna Abbott-Foster

New Senior Commander Matt Toupal

Karin DuPaul, Forum staff

This summer, Senior Commander Joe Neuberger retires from the St. Paul Police Department. Joe has been an excellent head of the Eastern District for the last four years; the community will miss him, and wishes him well in his new endeavors. Our new Senior Commander is Matt Toupal. I asked him some questions to get to know him and welcome him to the community.

Why did you get into Police work?

Years ago, I played baseball; my

coach happened to be a police officer. At the time I was going to school to become a biomedical technician (fix and repair hospital equipment). My coach was persistent in asking me to do a ride-along with him. I finally agreed, and from that day forward I changed my career path. I can't put my finger on what exactly happened that day, but the excitement and fulfillment was overwhelming. I have not looked back from that day and I wouldn't change a thing.

How long have you been in the Police Department?

See "Police," continued on page 8.



Pictured above, left to right: Commander John Lozoya, Senior Commander Matt Toupal, and Commander Jill McRae.

Council makes it happen on East 7th Street

Carla Riehle, Forum staff

Hundreds of visitors attended Make it Happen on East 7th Street the evening of June 20. Lured by tables and other attractions representing over 90 businesses and organizations, they sampled, opined and talked to old and new friends up and down the mile-long stretch of 7th Street, from Maria Avenue to Forest Street.

Some of the businesses on East 7th have yet to open their doors; The Dancing Goat coffee house and cafe has moved into the old cigar factory/police station and will soon be providing some neighborly competition to the nearby Swede Hollow Café. And across the street, Mississippi Market is expecting to open its third grocery store coop sometime next year.

Favorite standbys were there, like the expanded La Cabaña restaurant and Mañana Pupusería, both with specialty tidbits. Hmong Village gave out egg rolls, Culver's dished up frozen custard, and Sweet Science had ice cream available. Unfortunately, no samples from Flat Earth Brewing Co, but four-day-a-week sample tastings are on offer at 688 Minnehaha Avenue.

Kids had a bounce castle and a portable climbing wall, courtesy of St. Paul Parks and Recreation. Faces were painted with exquisite artistry by Diane Michele May. Gateway Corridor and Rush Line folks talked up transit; Metro State University promoted education; and Health East Medical Transportation handed out commemorative Band-Aids, just in case. Danza Mexica Cuauhtemoc and Kalpulli Yaocenoxtli danced and drummed atop the pavement mural on Margaret Street, and Tanya Brody played the harp several blocks to the

west. This writer and a friend were invited to attend an 11:00 am Sunday service at the Ethiopian Evangelical Church, where a lively time is promised.

Tim Herman of the East Side Area Business Association (ESABA) teamed with Kathryn Harris, station manager for the new east side community radio station. They were raising money, selling East Side Pride maps and taking entries in a "name the radio station" contest. For further updates on the radio station, please see an article on page 8 of this issue of the *Forum*.

Upon completion of visitors' game boards, drawings for 67 prizes began, as event organizer Tabitha Benci DeRango called out the winners. A girl won a tool box and a boy won a Princess Perfume set (Joyería y Perfumería Perla), but Dayton's Bluff is not about gender stereotyping and we know the prizes will be put to good use. Other prizes included quinceañera dolls (Novedades la Michoacana), a massage (Assisted Healing Center), hot towel shave and facial (Testa's Barbers), dry cleaning (Storchak Dry Cleaning), free health consultation (East St. Paul Health) and lots more. Check www.daytonsbluff.org for a complete list.

As a summer opener, Make it Happen was a winner. The season will be rounded out sometime in September with another milestone: the grand opening of the East Side Enterprise Center, a partnership between the Dayton's Bluff Community Council and the Latino Economic Development Center and – at last count – 10 other community partners. Watch for details in the next issue of your *Forum* newspaper.



Susan Stewart

Above: an Aztec dancer at the June 20 Make it Happen event.

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New Friends of Swede Hollow are welcome

The next Friends of Swede Hollow monthly meeting is on **Wednesday, July 9, 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, 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 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.

Meet with the police

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

The next meetings are **Wednesday, July 16, at 6:30 pm, and Friday, July 18, at 9:30 am**. The meetings, open to all, are intended to address and listen to concerns about crime and other issues on the East Side. Bring your neighbors!

Take-a-Hike July 5

Take-a-Hike occurs on the first Saturday of most months. The next hike will be **Saturday, July 5**. Hikers meet at **10:30 am** in Indian Mounds Park at Earl Street and Mounds Boulevard, and walk to the East Side Heritage Park. The hike is about two hours (four miles) with some moderately rough terrain. New hikers are always welcome. For more information, call 651-776-0550.

Forum monthly meeting

If you'd like to contribute to the *Forum* newspaper, come to our next meeting, **Wednesday, July 2, at 9:00 am** at 798 East 7th Street.

National Night Out Aug. 5

2014 will be the 31st annual National Night Out. It is celebrated every year on the first Tuesday in August all over the country. NNO is designed to connect neighbors, generate support for – and participation in – local crime-prevention programs, strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships, and send a message to criminals, letting them know that neighbors are organized and fighting back. Neighbors spend the evening getting to know each other.

Each year, families, neighbors, neighborhood groups, churches and block clubs host events. Ideas for gatherings include a neighborhood barbecue, neighborhood garden tour, fish fry, bands playing music, games for kids, a softball game – or anything else you can imagine for your community. For more information or to sign up, go to www.stpaul.gov/index.aspx?NID=5194.

Find home *In the Heights*

Young Artists Initiative (YAI) presents our annual teen production with the Tony-award winning musical *In the Heights*!

In the Heights tells the story of a vibrant community in New York's Washington Heights neighborhood – a community on the brink of change, full of hopes, dreams and pressures. Please note: Situations and strong language may be inappropriate for pre-teens.

This production features an all-youth cast of 22 talented performers age 12-18, from around the Twin Cities.

YAI is a performing arts organization based on St. Paul's East Side that provides access to high quality arts programming, teaching and developing young artists in our community.

Performances are held at the Performance Space at Wellstone Center, 179 East Robie Street, on the West Side of St. Paul. Shows run July 10-20: Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays at 7:30 pm, Sundays at 2:00 pm. Saturday, July 12 at 2:00 pm is an additional "pay-what-you can" show. Saturday, July 19 will be an ASL-interpreted performance.

Tickets are \$10.00 for adults, \$8.00 for students & seniors, and can be purchased at www.youngartistsmn.org or at the performance.

Serve your community – join the Dayton's Bluff Community Council

Did you hear the big news? The Dayton's Bluff Community Council has openings! The Dayton's Bluff Community Council (DBCC) has a number of mid-term vacancies and are looking for YOU to take this opportunity to learn about happenings in our neighborhood

and engage with fellow neighbors.

The DBCC is a neighborhood organization designed to encourage participation in and awareness of the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood. It is one of the 17 councils within the St. Paul District Council System.

The Council is overseen by a board composed of people from the neighborhood. All adults who reside, own property or own a business in Dayton's Bluff are eligible to serve. The council also has several subcommittees addressing ongoing programs or issues.

Our mission statement: to advance equity and enhance quality of life through partnerships and community engagement. We meet on the third Monday of the months and sub committees meet on various nights, based on the schedules of the members.

If you're interested in serving on the Dayton's Bluff Community Council, please call the council office at 651-772-2075 or info@daytonsbuff.org.

Free meals for all children

St. Paul Parks and Recreation, along with the St. Paul Public Schools Nutrition Services, provides free summer meals Mondays through Fridays to anyone 18 and under, at parks and recreation centers around the city. Dayton's Bluff sites are:

Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center, 800 Conway Street. Hot lunch (at DB school): 12:00-1:00 pm; snack: 3:00-4:00 pm; supper: 6:00-7:00 pm (Fridays 5:00-5:30 pm)

Dayton's Bluff Library, 645 7th Street. Snack: 12:30-1:00pm and 3:30-4:00pm.

Many programs and activities are offered around meal times, including tennis, camps, and more. For more information, call 651-292-6508.

Upcoming opportunities at Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center



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

● **Judo:** Mondays, 6:00-7:00 pm.

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

● **Self-defense:** Wednesdays through August 13, 6:00-7:45 pm.

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

● **Armobile!** Mondays, July 28-August 22, 1:00-3:00 pm.

● **Movie Mondays:** Through August 25; movie starts at 6:00 pm.

● **Jump Jam Double Dutch** jump-roping, Monday through Thursday afternoons, through August 14. Ages 5-18; FREE.

● **Open gyms 5:30-7:30 pm.** Elementary age: Mondays & Wednesdays; Middle school-age: Tuesdays; High school-age: Thursdays.

● **Summer Blast!** Now through August 21, Mondays through Thursdays, 12:00 noon-5:00 pm for 1st-5th graders; FREE.

● **Summer Food Program:** Mondays through Fridays. Snack: 2:30-3:30 pm; Supper 6:00-7:00 pm.

● **Mass produce distributions:** July 24, August 28, September 25. 3:00 pm until food is gone.

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!

Dream of Wild Health



Dream of Wild Health

Clara Sandberg, Market/IFS Coordinator

On a hot summer day, red-wing blackbirds shout above lush, green corn stalks. The small fields on this 10-acre farm are filled with row upon row of fruits and vegetables. The kitchen and the grounds are likewise full of life, as urban youth learn about good food and living a balanced life.

Dream of Wild Health began in 1998 as a program of Peta Wakan Tipi, a St. Paul-based non-profit with a dream of holistic, natural health for Native people. When Cora Baker, a Potawatomi elder and Seed Keeper, gifted her lifetime collection of seeds to the organization, we began growing our rare indigenous crops each year, in addition to market vegetables. This legacy of healthy foods from our ancestors serves as the inspiration behind all our programs. In bringing these foods and medicines back to the Twin Cities, we are rebuilding the healing relationship between land, food and our communities.

Each summer, the farm welcomes dozens of Native American youth to the farm for our experiential programs. Teenagers in the Garden Warriors program learn how to plant, grow, harvest, and cook the wide variety of produce grown on the farm. They also learn the importance of healthy nutrition and exercise in preventing diabetes, a disease that has reached epidemic levels in the Native community. Some of the kids who come to the farm have never tasted a fresh green bean, much less wondered about the best way to prepare kale or beets! Working on the farm and at the markets helps them develop job skills and apply what they've learned in our program in real world settings. Without exception, they take great pride in the work they do at the farm.



This year we are very excited to join the Market on the Bluff. It's fantastic to see new markets popping up in our neighborhood! Access to fresh produce and the knowledge of how to prepare it is an important step in tackling so many health problems, from diabetes and obesity to heart disease and some types of cancer. So we strive

to make healthy and indigenous foods accessible to all, regardless of income or education. Stop by the market to see what we have and maybe learn something new as well!

The Market on the Bluff runs every Thursday at First Lutheran Church, 463 Maria Street, from 4:00 to 8:00 pm. The market accepts EBT food stamps and WIC vouchers.

Free food and fun: annual Families First Picnic

Dan Stahley, Dayton's Bluff

The 2014 Families First Picnic will be held **July 19** at John A. Johnson Elementary School, 740 York Avenue. This has been a successful event sponsored by the Ramsey County Bar Association for more than 20 years.

For the first time this year, there will be fresh produce available at no cost to those in attendance. There will be outdoor sports opportunities for children and their families, with Frisbee, and a soccer instructional course. A bounce house will be provided by the YMCA. The event is attended by the St. Paul Fire and Police Departments, and children and families will have the opportunity to look at the large trucks and squad vehicles. The Bookmobile will be on site, so that children and families will have the opportunity to register for a library card and to check out books and DVDs.

Inside, there will be a Native American dance show and a bingo game for families. There will also be gift prizes for children. One of the biggest opportunities for children will be the bicycle giveaway. There are expected to be several dozen free bicycles and helmets available for children who register before the event.

The picnic starts at **11:00 am and runs until 1:00 pm**. There will be a complimentary lunch, consisting of hotdogs, fruit, chips and ice cream that will be served at noon.

To register for the event, please contact Joan Schlecht of Neighborhood House at 651-793-7340.

Neighborhood House is also sponsoring a free, fresh produce giveaway on **Thursday, July 24 at 3:00 pm** at Dayton's Bluff Elementary School (262 Bates Avenue). At both events, the food will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Everyone is welcome; please bring a photo ID.

Free summer youth program at Margaret Park

Kids age 10-17 are invited to Margaret Park every Wednesday through **August 20**, for fun activities with an emphasis on teamwork, sportsmanship, and new friendships.

Each day will start with soccer from 10:30 am-12:00 noon. Lunch will be served from noon until 1:00 pm, and

participants will have fun with art, making a mural in the park from 1:00-3:00 pm. To register, call Greg Demaray at 651-353-1091 or just register in person at the event. This opportunity is sponsored by St. Paul Eastside SDA Church, STOMP, and Dayton's Bluff Community Council.

ESABA June business update

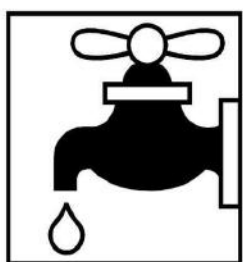
Tim Herman, ESABA Executive Director

East Side Pride Maps now available to the public!

The East Side Area Business Association (ESABA) has rolled out the East Side Pride Map Phase 2 project to help raise funds for non-profit organizations and make this much-talked-about map available to residents of the East Side. Pick up your 24"x36" map poster at the Dayton's Bluff Community Council Office for only \$20. \$10 from each map purchase will support several East Side non-profits. Additional locations listed on our website at www.esaba.org.

ESABA's 3rd Annual Bowling Tournament at Sunray Lanes is set for **Thursday, July 24**. The event will again have two start times; businesses field teams for a fun night of friendly competition and connection. Sign up your team today and grab the bragging rights for the East Side. Visit our website for more details, and like us on Facebook to stay up-to-date on other news!

For more information, please connect with us at 798 East 7th Street; 612-205-5693; tim@esaba.org; www.esaba.org.



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www.dbnhs.org



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:
3rd Monday each month, 7:00 pm

Land Use Committee:
1st Monday each month, 7:00 pm

Equity Committee:
1st Tuesday each month, 6:30 pm

Vacant Building Committee:
3rd Thursday each month, 6:30 pm

Arts and Cultures Committee:
1st Thursday each month, 6:30 pm

Ask about our **Marketing, Greenspace, and Outreach Committees.**

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

Updates on the use of neighborhood land

Jennifer Herman, Forum staff

On May 29, the Community Council Land Use Committee hosted an open meeting for updates from Mississippi Market and Dominion. On May 2nd at the monthly Land Use Committee meeting presentations were heard from Mississippi Market and Cerenity Marian. Here's what we learned:

Mississippi Market

The Market will be on the corner of Maple and East 7th Streets. Schematic drawings were presented. They hope to begin construction this fall and open in 2015. The facade is two-toned in color and is divided into several sections of varying heights; some sections step out slightly so that the front does not appear as one big box. There are many windows, front and back.

Residents have asked that a new curb cut be created mid-block, so that traffic could enter the Market and the Dominion development directly from 7th Street, but the state will not allow this. Eventually, delivery trucks for the market will turn on to Bates and drive through the Dominion parking lot to get to the market. However, Mississippi Market will be constructed first, so trucks will enter the market parking lot directly from Maple until the Dominion project is completed.

This \$10 million project will be funded in part by co-op members, but will mostly be financed. Although the city called the site "ready-to-build," further testing has revealed a need for additional pollution remediation. The only public money being sought is a \$90,000 grant to cover pollution remediation.

Questions still remain about hiring local, wage rates, and the number of full-time vs. part-time employees. This will be addressed at an upcoming Equity Committee meeting. The Land Use Committee did approve writing a letter of support for this project.

Dominium

The Dominion development shares the lot with Mississippi Market and will sit at the corner of Bates Avenue and East 7th Street. The plan is to construct 109 subsidized apartments for those age 55+. There will be parking under the buildings and some surface parking behind them. The building will be four stories of apartments over a one-story, underground garage. At Bates Avenue, five stories will be visible. There will be a patio area between Dominion and Mississippi Market.

Both projects will have trees and other landscaping. There are many windows, and most units will have a balcony. Some community members expressed a desire to see the project include retail stores at the street level, because 7th Street is a business district. Dominion said this would not be financially feasible.

Questions still remain about how to create a safe way for pedestrians to cross 7th Street when visiting or leaving Dominion and the market. Dominion has some upcoming presentations to the city; the community is encouraged to offer input. Project plans will be posted to the city website one week in advance of meetings. Meeting notices will be posted on the Community Council website.

Cerenity Senior Care Residence - Marian of St. Paul

This facility currently exists on Earl Street between Burns Avenue and Thorn Street, near Indian Mounds Park. This facility would like to build and renovate, so that they can offer private rooms to the residents in memory care and assisted living. To do this, they would construct a new four-story building in their current parking lot and then renovate the old hospital building.

Unfortunately, the new building will take the place of about 30 current parking spaces which will likely need to be replaced. Cerenity is proposing a two-part solution: 1. Remove the No Parking restrictions on the north side of Thorn Street. 2. Widen the right-of-way on Thorn Street and install angled parking spots along the south side of the street, next to the park. This would require taking some park land.

The community was very concerned about losing park land, and many other possible solutions were suggested including a bus pass program for employees or other ways that might allow for a parking variance from the city. Cerenity-Marian appreciated the community feedback and will continue to look for parking solutions. They will return to a future Land Use Committee meeting with additional ideas.

Team aims to smooth neighborhood relations with MSU

*Rob Sebo Lubke
Dayton's Bluff District Council*

A new group, the Dayton's Bluff - Metropolitan State University Action Team, has been formed with a goal of building respect, trust, and better communication between MSU and the community.

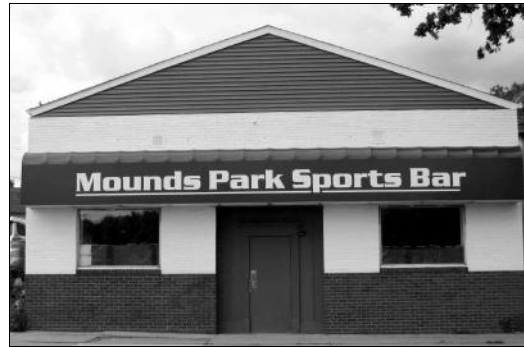
The group met for the first time on June 9 at New Main on campus, with members appointed by both MSU and the Dayton's Bluff District Council.

The first order of business for the committee will be getting out as much information as possible about the new science center, which is scheduled for a groundbreaking in August. The goal is to avoid the kind of "wars," as one

community member described them, that were seen over planning for the new student union and parking structure that occurred last year.

The district council website, www.daytonsbuff.org, is currently under reconstruction; the hope is it can serve as a "one stop shop" for residents who want to learn more about university planning. The council office is also the place to direct any questions or input you have about Metro State. The action team will get as many answers as they can, communicating to the best of their ability.

If you have questions or concerns about Metro State building plans or other university issues, please contact the District Council at 651-772-2075.



Opening soon

Left: The Mounds Park Sports Bar (formerly Mounds Park Lounge/Tavern) installed a new maroon-and-white awning on June 16. The Sports Bar, located at 1067 Hudson Road, next to Leo's Chow Mein, will re-open under new ownership in July, following an extensive renovation.

Greg Cosimini



Karin DuPaul

FOSH attend Neighborhoods USA conference

Forum staff

Friends of Swede Hollow (FOSH) members Romi Slowiak, Angela DuPaul (pictured above), and Karin DuPaul recently attended the Neighborhoods USA (NUSA) conference in Eugene, Oregon. NUSA conferences are attended by people who work and volunteer, making their community the best they can. It is very uplifting to be with so many people with new ideas, projects and programs that can benefit neighborhoods all over the world.

FOSH presented a workshop at the conference, highlighting Swede Hollow Park and its community art fest, Art in the Hollow (see article, page 8). The workshop began with an overview of the geological and rich ethnic history of Swede Hollow, the long struggle for designation as a city park, and the development of the Art in the Hollow. Participants of the workshop were shown how they can do similar community art events in special places in their hometowns.

Eugene is a city of about 160,000 residents and has in recent years become a flourishing community. New student housing for the University of Oregon has revitalized its downtown. Eugene is a green city: very bicycle-friendly, working toward zero waste, no plastic retail bags, and a good transit system. The 2013 NUSA conference was held in Minneapolis; in 2015 it will be in Houston, Texas.

Other workshop subjects included immigration, alcohol use and regulations, comparing Japanese and American neighborhoods, funding and grantwriting, and food hubs.

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Affordable housing: Did you know?

Jennifer Herman, Forum staff

Recently, the Dayton's Bluff community has engaged in discussions about the possible relocation of the Dorothy Day Center (it's not moving here) and the potential construction of affordable senior housing by Dominion on the Hospital Linen site. Though the topic of affordable housing has been raised in both discussions, it is clear that the facts about affordable housing are anything but clear.

Did you know...

- Affordable housing is generally defined as **housing that costs no more than 30% of your income**. In other words, it is a formula, not a program.

- Multiply your monthly income by 0.3. If the answer is less than or equal to your monthly mortgage or rent, then you live in "affordable housing," according to the above definition.

- The median earning of local food preparation workers and retail salespeople is not enough to afford the rent of a two-bedroom apartment in Ramsey County. The median earnings of a Licensed Practical Nurse are not enough to afford a mortgage for a median-priced home in Ramsey County.

- In 2013, 29% of Ramsey County homeowners paid more than 30% of their income for their mortgage.

- In 2013, 53% of Ramsey County renters paid more than 30% of their income for rent.

- The cost of housing now consumes more than half the income of 1 in 7 Minnesota households. In 2000, only 1 in 13 households experienced this level of cost burden.

- Since the foreclosure crisis, homeownership has declined and the number of renters has increased.

- Renters make up 39% of all Ramsey County households.

- In the third quarter of 2013, there was only a 2.5% rental vacancy rate, making it very difficult to find a rental unit.

- From 2000 to 2012, rent prices increased 8% in Minnesota, while renters' incomes decreased by 14%.

- Nearly half of homeless adults lost their housing because they could not afford the rent or mortgage and/or they lost a job or work hours.

- Of the more than 23 million households headed by an adult 65 years of age or older, more than 7.1 million households earn less than \$20,000 annually. In many areas, a household in this income bracket would have difficulty finding suitable, safe, market-rate housing it could afford and still have enough left over for other essentials like food and healthcare.

- 38% of households headed by a 65+ adult spend more than 30% of their income on housing costs, and 21% spend more than 50% of their income on housing costs.

Clearly, housing is not affordable for many in our community, yet all of us hope to live in affordable housing. Much is at stake if housing is unaffordable: families cut back on food, medicine, and other essentials when their housing expenses exceed 30% of their income. We must keep in mind the true definition of affordable housing as we continue to discuss projects such as Dominion's, issues such as minimum wage, and opportunities around economic development. A vibrant community engages in development in a way that ensures affordable housing is available for folks of all income levels. Everyone should have the opportunity for their family to live in safe, affordable housing.

If you would like to stay involved in the discussion about the Dominion affordable senior housing development, please attend the Community Council Land Use Committee meetings on the **first Monday of each month at 7:00 pm**. If you would like to be involved in more discussions about a broad range of housing topics, please consider attending the Community Council Housing Committee meetings on the **second Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm**.

Sources for this article:

www.huduser.org www.housingpolicy.org/toolbox
www.housinglink.org www.mhponline.org
www.wilder.org/Wilder-Research

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) renewal

Marisela E. Cantu, special to the Forum

On June 5, 2014, Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson announced the process for individuals to renew enrollment in the DACA program. There is now an updated form to renew the deferral for a period of two years. Effective Immediately, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) will begin accepting renewal requests.

The first DACA approvals will begin to expire in September 2014. To avoid a lapse in the period of deferral and employment authorization, individuals must file renewal requests before the expiration of their current period of DACA. USCIS is encouraging renewal requests to be filed approximately 120 days (4 months) before their current period of deferred action expires. The renewal process requires filing the new forms and paying the \$465 filing, fingerprint, and photo fee.

As of April 2014, more than 560,000 individuals have received DACA. DACA is a discretionary determination to defer removal

action against an individual. Individuals who are approved for DACA will be able to remain in the United States and apply for employment authorization for a period of two years. DACA does not grant any path to citizenship. At the end of the two-year period, the president determines whether to extend the DACA benefits another two years.

The immigration reform bill passed in the senate and the house Republicans, "Standards for Immigration Reform," includes a path to citizenship for DACA recipients.

If you are eligible for DACA and you have not applied, you should do so now to preserve your immigration rights.

Marisela E. Cantu is an immigration law attorney on the East Side of St. Paul. She is a member of the American Immigration Lawyer's Association. She speaks Spanish and can be reached at 651-239-8195 or at her law office at 798 7th Street East, or at www.cantuattorney.com.

Acción por la infancia llegadas (DACA) renovación diferidos

*Marisela E. Cantu
especialmente para el Forum*

El 05 de junio de 2014, Secretario de seguridad nacional Jeh Johnson anunció el proceso a los individuos para renovar la inscripción en el programa DACA. Ahora hay una forma actualizada para renovar el aplazamiento por un período de dos años. Efectivo inmediatamente, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) comenzará a aceptar solicitudes de renovación.

Las primeras aprobaciones DACA comenzará a caducar en September 2014. Para evitar un lapso en el período de aplazamiento y autorización de empleo, las personas deberán presentar las solicitudes de renovación antes del vencimiento de su actual período de DACA. USCIS está alentando a las solicitudes de renovación deberán presentarse aproximadamente 120 días (4 meses) antes de que expire su actual período de acción diferida. El proceso de renovación requiere presentar las nuevas formas y pagar los \$465 archivar, honorario de la huella digital, y fotografía.

A partir de abril de 2014, más de 560.000 personas han recibido DACA. DACA es una

determinación discrecional a aplazar la acción de remoción contra un individuo. Las personas que están aprobadas para DACA podrán permanecer en los Estados Unidos y solicitar la autorización de empleo durante un período de dos años. DACA no concede ningún camino a la ciudadanía. Al final del período de dos años, el Presidente determina si se van a extender los beneficios DACA otros dos años.

El proyecto de reforma de inmigración aprobada en el Senado y los republicanos de la casa "Normas para la reforma migratoria" incluyen un camino a la ciudadanía para los receptores DACA.

Si usted es elegible para DACA y no se ha aplicado, debe hacerlo ahora para preservar los derechos de inmigración.

Marisela E. Cantu es un abogado de inmigración en el East Side de Saint Paul. Ella es miembro de la Asociación del abogado de inmigración estado-unidense. Ella habla español y se puede llegar al 651-239-8195 o en su oficina de abogados en 798 7th Street East, St. Paul, MN 55106, o visita www.cantuattorney.com.

East Side Transit Equity building community power

*Tong Thao, Community Organizer
East Side Transit Equity*

East Side Transit Equity (ESTE), formerly Fostering East Side Transit Equity Conversations (FESTEC), started in 2013 when District Councils 1, 2, 4, and 5 partnered up with Engage East Side and the East Side Area Business Association to actively engage under-represented voices in transit decision-making processes. There were 10 Community Organizers from the East Side who were hired and trained by the Organizing Apprenticeship Project to organize the community around transit through a racial-equity lens. With new developments such as the Gateway Corridor and the Rushline Corridor coming to the East Side, it is imperative that the community is actively involved in the transit decision-making processes.

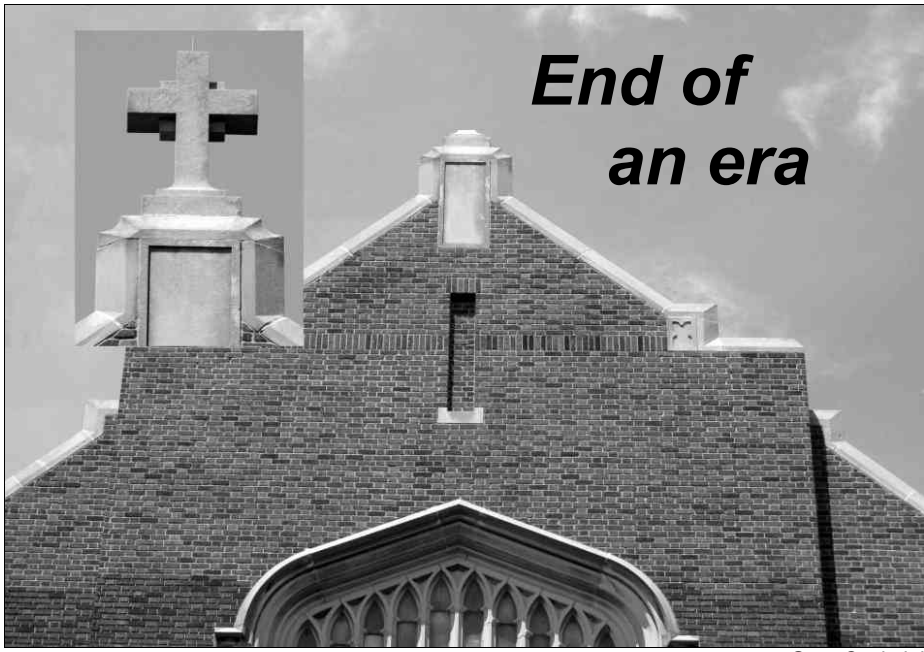
This year, ESTE is back and in full swing, starting with Mind Munch Mondays. Every Monday from June until August, ESTE will host dinner and community conversations focused on transit development on the East Side. Out of last year's community town hall meetings came the East Side Transit Equity Covenant, which outlines core equity principles that will be applied to development of the Gateway Corridor and the Rush Line.

The core Equity Principles of the East Side Transit Equity Covenant are: 1. everybody benefits; 2. race equity impact assessment; 3. safety; 4. accessibility; 5. community involvement; 6. sustain equity organizing

The Mind Munch Mondays address the first Equity Principle: "everybody benefits." ESTE is asking community members to give their input on how they want to see transit developments improve the quality of life in their neighborhoods.

Earlier Mind Munch Mondays helped shed light on some of the issues that have been on East Siders' minds. Valerie Moore said, "I'm afraid of gentrification; there needs to be some way of keeping the housing and rental prices low for those who already live here." Another resident, Susan Lambert, said "the community member should have first dibs on any entrepreneur opportunities and there should be low-interest loans for people who want to start a business." Some of the common themes ESTE has been hearing are about jobs, housing, economic development, and improved transit services.

If you or anyone you know would like to get involved or host a Mind Munch, please contact Tong Thao at tongcthao@gmail.com or 763-742-5095.



**End of
an era**

Greg Cosimini

On June 3, after 91 years, the cross (inset, above) was removed from St. John's Catholic Church in preparation for the sale of the entire St. John's campus to a group that does not plan to use the building as a church. More information on the sale will be published in the August issue of the *Forum*.



Dancing to the music

Karin DuPaul

Above: Dancers kicked up their heels at the Dayton's Bluff Seniors - Living at Home Block Nurse Program fund raiser on May 17. The group helps seniors continue to live in their homes as long as they can, providing rides to stores and doctors, home visits, phone calls, and referral information.

EARLY CHILDHOOD SCREENING (ECS)

Early Childhood Screening (ECS) is a program that helps to identify health and developmental needs of young children before they enter Kindergarten. The screening includes vision, hearing, height, weight, development, speech, social/emotional, and review of health and immunization information. The screening is required by law for entrance into Kindergarten in Minnesota Public Schools.

Saint Paul Public Schools provides the screening without charge to children ages 3, 4, and 5 years old. It is important to have children screened at an early age so there is adequate time to obtain help for any identified concerns before the child enters school. Parents/guardians could use their child's third birthday as a reminder to sign up for this FREE screening.

**TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT OR
OBTAIN FURTHER INFORMATION CALL:**

Early Childhood Screening Office at 651-632-3746.

Screening is offered by appointment mornings and afternoons, five days a week at:

Student Placement Center
2102 University Avenue West
(University at Cleveland)

The screening may take up to an hour and the parent/guardian may accompany their child throughout the screening. Parents/guardians may also arrange the screening with their Health Care Provider. Forms are available. Questions can be answered by the Early Childhood Screening Office at 651-632-3746.

Children enrolled in Head Start are screened at their class site; parents/guardians should obtain a record of results to turn in at Kindergarten registration.

If you have concerns about the development of your child (birth to 5 years of age) there may be services available for your child and family. Call Help Me Grow, 1-866-693-4769.

Paid for by the Volunteers for Johnson Committee; 2031 Howard St. S., St. Paul, MN 55119



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Next issue: August 2014. Deadline for material: July 10, 2014.

History corner

Independence day incidents throughout DB history

Steve Trimble, Forum historian

The real name for the holiday is Independence Day, commemorating the day in 1776 that the Second Continental Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence from Great Britain. Most people just call it the 4th of July. Or refer to it as "Firecracker Day," which captures the most frequent activity that goes on, at least in our neighborhood. By the time you read this, you have probably put up with a week or more of sounds of minor explosions, even though these are supposedly against state law.

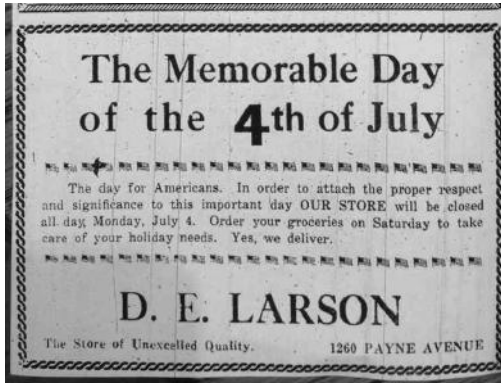
Here are a few incidents from our community's past to keep in mind.

One very unusual 4th of July event occurred in Dayton's Bluff in 1892. Newspaper columnist Gareth Heibert, writing under his pen name "Oliver Towne," described it as "the last battle of the Revolutionary War." Local people referred to it as "The Noble Riot," after an Englishman named Percival Noble, living at 258 Bates Avenue, decided to fly a British flag in front of the house on July 4.

John DeCourcy, of nearby 717 Conway Street, was upset and ran across the Van Buren schoolyard to protest. He pulled down the offending banner, folded it and handed it to Noble, protesting in the name of the fathers of the American revolution. Noble soon ran the Union Jack up again, this time cutting the rope to prevent anyone from lowering it.

Not to be denied, DeCourcy returned, shinned up the pole, pulled down the flag and started sliding back to the ground. But Noble was waiting with a horse whip and used it on the trespasser. Then John Morris, headwaiter at the Ryan hotel, was attracted

to the scene from his house at 705 Conway Street. He stepped on Noble's toes and punched him in the nose. DeCourcy, now reinforced, grabbed Noble's whip and counterattacked, driving him into his house.



From the St. Paul Examiner, June 30, 1921.

Other neighbors, aroused by the commotion, moved in; some of them started tearing off parts of the porch. Paddy Hines, of 721 Conway Street, pleaded for peace and then called the cops. A squad arrived from the Margaret Street Station, dispersing the gathering. Many demanded that Noble be prosecuted for his defamation of the July 4th holiday, but no tickets were handed out. Noble soon packed up and took his family to Winnipeg. And, as Heibert wrote it, "thus was the last outpost of the British empire wiped out in the United States."

In later years, there were fireworks, but only as part of larger celebrations. There was a big municipal Independence Day event in the 1930s at Phalen Park, with a big sports program throughout the day. Music by the Minnesota State Band was followed by a speech from mayor Laurence "Larry Ho" Hodgson. At 9:00 pm there was a big fireworks display that ended the official festivities.

There were regular newspaper re-

ports of incidents concerning fireworks, sometimes involving mangled fingers. In the early 1900s, the Pioneer Press reported that Charles Wallace, a boy who lived at Mendota and 7th Streets, "was cut about the face while discharging a toy cannon." He had just finished putting the fuse into the cannon and "was about to light it when a bottle of powder he was using exploded in his face."

Over in the Mounds Park area, another family was affected. E. P. Benner's home at 877 Mound Street caught fire. The Benner children had stored their fireworks in a closet. "When they exhausted their supply, they returned for more," and somehow, a lit punk got mixed in with the fireworks and they exploded. The house sustained \$500 worth of fire damages, a very large amount at the time.

In 1910, just north of our neighborhood, an East Sider named Edwin Johnson, living at 837 Acker Street, was loading a revolver to shoot off in the air. To his surprise, it went off prematurely, and wads and bits of brass were blown into his chest. Friends carried him to Dr. Arzi, who carefully took out the shrapnel. The doctor said he would recover from the wound, but in the days before antibiotics, there was fear of life-threatening blood poisoning.

Have a happy 4th of July. Remember, flags as well as fireworks are symbols of the holiday. Here's final thought: maybe readers could send in their own memories – either good or not so good – of their own Independence Day memories and some of them may be printed in the next issue of this newspaper. Email editor@daytonsbluff.org with your submissions.

New admin a fresh face at DBCC

Mark Gallagher, Forum staff

Nicole Pressley is the newest face in the Dayton's Bluff Community Council office. Originally from Niagara Falls, NY, she attended Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill., majoring in African Studies with a minor in Economics. She moved to Minnesota in 2011 and currently lives in the Uptown area of Minneapolis.

After college, Pressley worked for a candidate for Congress, holding positions in finance and field organizing. Pressley then did small-donor fundraising with several different nonprofits. She continued her political work with Working America, an affiliate of the AFL-CIO. Pressley says, "Sometimes you just want to get behind a candidate, and at other times you just want to get behind an issue to get things done."

Her official title at the Dayton's Bluff Community Council is Administrative Coordinator. On an average day, Pressley is the first person Dayton's Bluff residents talk to when they call or walk in to the office. The residents usually seek information, advice, or resources. Basically Pressley answers questions that concern anything and everything that the Dayton's Bluff Community Council is involved in. "I handle requests as varied as land-use questions about building a structure on a certain plot, to asking where a resident can get a recycling bin, to information about SNAP (a food stamp program), to referring a resident to another community organization, or to what is happening in the community," Pressley says.

Right now, she is in the beginning stages of working with Jesse, the youth organizer in the office, to develop outreach that will encourage residents to get involved with the East Side Community Radio Station. "If I don't have the information on hand, I need to locate that information to give them so they can find out who the expert is," Pressley says. "I think people have gotten used to the Dayton's Bluff Community Council being a resource and always having the answer."

At the present time, one of Pressley's favorite things to do in her capacity as an Administrative Coordinator is to work with Tim Page on "Market on the Bluff," a farmer's market hosted at the First Lutheran Church on Maria Avenue and East 7th Street.

A grant through Blue Cross/Blue Shield, called the Market Bucks Program, allows people to use EBT at the farmer's market to get five dollars matched for each visit. Pressley says, "If people spend five dollars or \$50, they automatically get five dollars [back]; people can get fresh fruit and vegetables plus more bang for their buck."

Most of Pressley's days at the Community Council are long, and Dayton's Bluff becomes the place where she does a lot of things during her off time. "When I have the time," Pressley says, "I go through the neighborhood and see what's there. Obviously, this place has a lot of history."

Mark Gallagher is a freelance writer and editor: refneeditorial@gmail.com.

Indian Mounds Park Tree Trek ready for visitors

Steve Trimble, Forum staff

The Tree Trek project in Indian Mounds Park, a new recreational and educational opportunity, was officially unveiled on May 31. It was made a reality through the work of Dayton's Bluff Community Council, The St. Paul Forestry Department and the University of Minnesota Department of Forestry's Community outreach program. The expenses of the Tree Trek were financed by a grant from the Pohlad Foundation.

One of the highlights of the May 31 event was the planting of six new trees, bringing new species to the park, including ginkgo, catalpa, eastern redbud, tamarack, and bigtooth Aspen. Installation was completed by several community folks, along with three members of the University of Minnesota's Department of Forest Resources' Urban and Community Forestry Outreach program. Barbecue food was provided by Heavenly Day catering, from the First Lutheran Church.

The Tree Trek trail is all within Indian Mounds Park. It contains 31 different tree species. Each tree's sign has a QR code that link to more in-

formation on the trees.

It is the hope that the Tree Trek will offer enjoyment to many differ-



Neighborhood volunteers Angela DuPaul and Jude DeRango, and Sean Peterson from the University of Minnesota's Forestry department, plant a tree as part of the new Tree Trek in Mounds Park.

ent groups for many years to come. Think of it the next time your children or grandchildren are asked to do a school or scout project. Or take your out-of-town visitors for an outdoor activity. Or visit to educate yourself about the ecosystem in the neighborhood.

The Web site, www.moundsparktrek.weebly.com, has a downloadable map with the location of each identified tree, and a looped trail that starts and ends at the pavilion at Earl and Mounds Boulevard. If you've taken the Tree Trek and have comments, or if you're interested in leading a guided tour, please email the Forum at editor@daytonsbluff.org.

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Judy Lee



On the road with the Forum

Left: Dayton's Bluff residents Ben and Jeni Olsen take a moment to read the *Forum* while visiting Quandary Peak near Leadville, Colorado, with their children Adalie and Micah.

Olsen family



Graduate in the house

Left: Dayton's Bluff resident Jose Gaytan Cruz graduated from John A. Johnson High School, and will attend St. Paul College in the fall. Pictured with Jose, from left, are his mother and siblings Jesus, Maria and Francisco.

Sage Holben

Continued from page 1:

Police: New Eastern District Senior Commander

I was hired by the St. Paul Police Department in 1989, so 25 years.

What is your past experience on the East Side?

The first two years of my career began in the Western District. At the time, our building was located at University and Dale. I was actually bumped to the Eastern District because of my lack of seniority. For the next decade, I worked as an officer on the midnight shift and eventually the FORCE Unit (Focusing our Resources on Community Empowerment). I also spent five of those years working on SWAT. When I got promoted to sergeant, I worked the midnight shift right here in East, and the day shift. I planned on spending my entire career on the East Side but unfortunately, my partner of 10½ years was tragically killed in the line of duty; I needed a break and a fresh start. I spent a handful of years working investigations in the Central District and supervising a unit called GRID (Getting Residents Involved Daily). I spent about 8 months in Robbery/Homicide as an investigator before getting promoted to Commander and working out of the new Western District at Hamline and 94. While I was there I worked as the Investigative Commander and Patrol Commander. I have now been in my new position for a week, and I feel at home. I'm excited to meet new people, build new relationships/partnerships, and fight crime. There are so many good people that live here; I look forward to meeting them.

What are your goals as Senior Commander of the Eastern District?

I have many goals. My priorities are building on the relationships/partnerships we have, and making new ones. I want everyone to have a voice and hope to get more people engaged. We need more people to be an a part of solutions, as there is strength in numbers. I would love to have more block clubs and expand on the great events we have. Reducing crime is obviously a priority of mine. We have a lot of great, committed, dedicated officers here for me to work with. There are so many stories of great police work that nobody every hears about. I want to expand on the positive work being done to better this community and share it with others. I want to make a noticeable difference. The Patrol Commander, Jill McRae and Investigative Commander, John Lozoya are two of the most committed people you will meet. Together, we will meet and exceed our goals. Remember, if you need to call the Police call, 651-291-1111 and 911 for emergencies and crimes in progress. Check out St. Paul Police-Eastern District on Facebook.

East Side Community Radio Broadcasting 101

Carla Riehle, Forum staff

On June 18, aspiring broadcasters gathered to hear radio veteran Ben James lead them through East Side Community Radio's first training session. Ranging from experienced professionals to total newbies, they learned how to record and edit tracks using their computers or smart phones, and how to transmit them electronically. The first homework assignment was to create and edit a five-minute recording of interviews on the subject of their choice. The tapes will be reviewed at the group's next training meeting.

According to Station Manager Kathryn Harris, the finished work will be stored for the station's first broadcasts, with live programming to begin after the station gets up and running. Kathryn says that if all goes well, it's even possible that the station could be on the air by the end of August.

Construction on the antenna and transmitter is expected to start the week of June 22 on the campus of 180 Degrees at Johnson Parkway and East 7th Street. A studio will be constructed shortly thereafter at Plaza del Sol on Payne Avenue. Kathryn says that Richard Gardell, President and CEO of 180 Degrees, and Sonia Ortega, owner of Plaza del Sol, are owed special thanks for offering their facilities rent-free. Generous donors have also contributed broadcasting equipment and Kathryn is hoping to find donated office furniture as well.

Kathryn's main preoccupation right now, however, is finding underwriting to support the station, which by law will be noncommercial. Please contact her at kathar2000@yahoo.com or 763-607-1071 for more information on underwriting.

The next training session is tentatively scheduled for **6:00 pm, Tuesday, July 8**, at the Dayton's Bluff Community Council office at 798 East 7th Street. Please call 651-772-2075 to confirm the time. If you can't attend, but want to be involved, please call Kathryn or the Dayton's Bluff office at one of the above numbers.



Above: Thelma Stone and Dick Sherwood, former classmates at Lincoln Elementary School, reunited at Art in the Hollow and talked about the good old days in the neighborhood.

Art in the Hollow

Karin DuPaul, Forum staff

Art in the Hollow was great, though the weather was uncooperative. Artists created and sold their work, many reporting a good day of sales, saying, "On days like this, the serious art shoppers come out."

Because of the rain, most of the live entertainment (including the audience!) was in the Drewry Tunnel.

The sculpture contest winners were "My Glass Mushrooms" by Erick Wiger and "Green is the New Blonde" by Ruthie Krech.

Thank you to the artists, the beautiful Spirit of Swede Hollow, and everyone who made this happen, but especially Art in the Hollow Manager Romi Slowiak for an excellent event. A rain day backup plan will be considered for future years. To share ideas, thoughts, or register for the sixth annual Art in the Hollow in 2015, contact Karin or Romi at 651-776-0550; visit www.artinthehollow.org or on Facebook. For more information on Friends of Swede Hollow, see www.swede-hollow.org.

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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,
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