

# Dayton's Bluff District Forum

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June 2014

www.daytonsbuff.org

"The Voice of the Community"

## Art in the Hollow June 7!

*Artists, sculptors, performers wanted*

Now is your chance to tap into your inner artist. Our area's biggest explosion of art and talent – *Art in the Hollow* – is Saturday, June 7 from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. We have room for more artists to display (\$15 fee); tents required. There is no fee for performers, who will be selected based on talent, variety and local roots. As a community festival set in the heart of the neighborhood, this is an "unplugged" event.

Our newest attraction for both artists and audience is the temporary environmental sculpture contest. Entry is \$10, and, concepts meeting safety criteria will all be erected the day of the festival. The three sculpture prizes are \$300, \$200 and \$100. In keeping with the community feel of the festival, the awards will be made by a people's panel based on votes the day of the festival. This is your chance to make a statement with public art! There is no previous experience or credentials required. Deadline is June 1; apply at [www.artinthehollow.org](http://www.artinthehollow.org).

Here is a sample of some of the submissions, in the words of the artists:

*"My sculpture will be of Medeina, Goddess of the forest. She will be seven feet tall and her style will contain elements of the forest. What is unique about this sculpture is it will be comprised of many tiny solar panels. The power will be routed to her hands and torso, where charging stations will allow the public to charge their devices."*

Another artist says: *Stone cairns have been used by many cultures for millennia to give direction to travelers or as markers of significant locations. This project involves the building of cairns*

*from glass "stones" to mark (for a day) the heart of Swede Hollow. There will be a small performance aspect to the work as the "stones" will initially be scattered in a small area and then the cairns constructed after the event opens. I am hoping that there will be water in the stream this year and that the cairns can be constructed in the midst of the running water. The effect of light reflected off the stream through the "stones" should be transcendent.*

2014 marks the fifth year welcoming summer with this day-long event. The wonderland of the Hollow will come alive with environmental sculptures, strolling musicians, kids' activities, and "Wise Elders" of Swede Hollow who will share some of its intriguing history. Artists in a variety of media demonstrate and sell their works, and performers from around the globe grace our stage in the heart of magical Swede Hollow.

Scores of community members come together to make this happen, and volunteers are rewarded with a breakfast at the beginning of the day and a party with the artists afterward.

For the first time this year, you will find, in a cozy hidden fairy den, our lovely, spritely "Spirit of Swede Hollow" who will be accepting suggestions for a proper name while describing her dream: the emerging Hamm Center for Healing Art.

For more information on volunteering to be a part of this wonderful celebration of talent, or to exhibit, perform, or enter the sculpture contest, call Karin DuPaul at 651-776-0550, or [www.artinthehollow.org](http://www.artinthehollow.org).

## Dayton's Bluff Community Council

# Make it HAPPEN

### Night Out on E. 7<sup>th</sup> Street

## Business and Community Fair

Friday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, 5–8 pm  
Family Event

Gather your family and friends  
and come to East 7<sup>th</sup> Street.

Play the **Make it HAPPEN** board game to WIN PRIZES.  
Jump castle, free popcorn, musicians and dancers.  
Eat at the great restaurants on East 7<sup>th</sup> Street!



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Karin DuPaul

Above: Kids of all ages enjoyed the art activities at the 2013 Art in the Hollow event. This year's Swede Hollow event will be Saturday, June 7, 10:00 am-5:00 pm.

### New Friends of Swede Hollow are welcome

The next Friends of Swede Hollow monthly meeting is on **Wednesday, June 11, at 6:30 pm**. Email [karin@swedehollow.org](mailto:karin@swedehollow.org) or call 651-776-0550 for more information and the meeting's location.

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

Budget Towing of Minnesota, Minnesota's largest towing company, is owned by Roy Carlson, a former Dayton's Bluff Community Council board member. Budget Towing will remove any junk car or truck – located anywhere in St. Paul – and dispose of it at no charge to the vehicle owner or the property owner where it is located. The vehicle owner will receive paperwork for a tax donation, and Roy will 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, June 18, at 6:30 pm, and Friday, June 20, 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.

### Dayton's Bluff offers Community Meetings

Every first Thursday of each month there is a community meeting held at the Dayton's Bluff Community Council offices. Residents can bring issues to law- and code-enforcement officials for followup and discussion. It's a great way to build relationships with the people who work to keep our neighborhood safe, clean, and drug-free.

Each month we also explore a new topic with the community. In April we talked about pedestrian-friendly environments and making Dayton's Bluff more walkable, and in May we discussed homelessness (see page 5 of this issue to learn a little from the discussion). Come join us on **Thursday, June 5, at 6:30 pm** as we ask, "What is an engaged community?"

If you are unable to join us, you can always call the office at 651-772-2075 for committee and volunteer schedules.

### Take-a-Hike June 7

Take-a-Hike occurs on the first Saturday of most months. The next hike will be **Saturday, June 7**. 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

Would you like to contribute to this newspaper? Come to our next meeting, **Monday, June 2, at 1:00 pm** at 798 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street to meet the *Forum* board and staff.

### Making It Happen on East 7<sup>th</sup> Street! Friday, June 20

Tim Herman

Dayton's Bluff resident

Executive Director of ESABA

East 7<sup>th</sup> Street is on the rise as a direct result of bold, big vision and multiple economic development initiatives by the Dayton's Bluff Community Council, led by Executive Director Deanna Abbott-Foster, her board, and staff. Those investments are bringing new businesses and development along a corridor that, for many years, sat with vacant buildings. Metro State University is building a Science Center, Student Center, and a new parking ramp; the St. Paul Port Authority is developing Beacon Bluff (30+ acres of former 3M property at 7<sup>th</sup> and Arcade Streets); Mississippi Market opens in 2015; Dellwood Gardens memory care facility just opened; CentroMex grocery store has new ownership; and a new coffee shop opens soon in the old cigar factory. East 7<sup>th</sup> Street has become a hot new corridor for developers to shop new businesses, entrepreneurial ideas, and innovation.

The annual Night Out on East 7<sup>th</sup> Street Business and Community Fair on **Friday, June 20, from 5:00-8:00 pm**, is a family event, with a *Make It Happen* board game and prizes, jump castle, free popcorn, musicians and dancers. Plan to eat out at one or more of the many great restaurants on East 7<sup>th</sup> Street, and get to know local businesses in our community.

### 529 Day: save for college

MN College Savings Plan release

**May 29** is National College Savings Plan Awareness Day. A 529 College Savings plan is a tax-advantaged savings plan that encourages saving for future college costs.

Minnesota's plan currently has more than 33,000 account holders, and Dayton's Bluff residents hold 107 of these accounts.

The amount saved for college by Dayton's Bluff residents was \$1,575,142 at the end of 2013 – an average of \$14,720 per account. "Many Dayton's Bluff residents have a good start, but with the cost of college going up as quickly as it is, we're hoping more people will start saving as soon as they can," said Robert Stern, Program Manager for the MN College Savings Plan.

"There's a misconception that students hurt their chances of qualifying for financial aid if they have a college savings account. That is not true," he said. "Any money you save puts you in a better position to pay for school."

"Also, people think signing up for a state's 529 plan means they must attend school in that state. But students with a Minnesota College Savings Plan can use the money at any accredited college."

The minimum deposit is just \$25 and the fees are extremely low.

To learn more about the Minnesota College Savings Plan or open an account, call 877-338-4646, 7:00 am-7:00 pm, Monday-Friday. Information is also available at [www.mn-saves.org](http://www.mn-saves.org).

## 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, June 4-August 13, 6:00-7:45 pm.

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

● **Free arts:** June 18, 2:30-3:30 pm.

● **Jump Jam Double Dutch** jump-roping, Monday through Thursday afternoons, June 23-August 14. Ages 5-18; FREE.

● **Open gyms 6:00-7:30 pm.** Elementary school-age: Mondays & Wednesdays; Middle school-age: Tuesdays; High school-age: Thursdays.

● **Summer Blast!** June 16-August 21, Mondays through Thursdays, 12:00 noon-5:00 pm for 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders; FREE.

● **Movie Mondays:** June 16, 6:00 pm.

**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!**



### Tree trek becomes a reality

Steve Trimble, Forum board

Get your cameras ready! On May 31, you can participate in the launch of a new Indian Mounds Park attraction. The Tree Trek is a walk through the park that takes you by more than two dozen different species of trees. On this day, some new, different trees will be planted. You can help with the planting, or place identification stakes that allow people with smart phones to access information about the tree.

The Tree Trek was developed with help from the St. Paul Forestry division of the city, the University of Minnesota Community Forestry Department, with funding from the Pohlad Foundation. Field work discovered what different kinds of trees were in the park and what new species could be added to the diversity.

Do you remember when you or your children were asked to bring in several different kinds of leaves as a class project and wondered where to find them, even if you could identify them? Now that will be much easier. Scout troops could earn merit badges and activity patches. Other people just might have fun following the trail and learning about the local fauna for an interesting, fun day.

Plan to be there on **Saturday, May 31**, starting at **11:00 am**. You can get involved in the planting and marking, or just watch the beginning of a new park amenity. Forestry experts will be available to offer information and answer questions. After the actual work, there will be a celebratory barbecue in the park. For more information, call Tabitha Derango at 651-772-2075.

### Mounds Park United Methodist Church

MPUMC release

Mounds Park United Methodist Church is located at 1049 Euclid Street, at the corner of Earl and Euclid.

**Sunday Mornings:**

Worship Service: 10:30-11:30 am.  
Coffee time: 11:30 am

**June 8-14:** Urban CROSS (Christians Reaching Out in Service in St. Paul), A Ministry of MPUMC. Youth from all over the state will be working on homes and yards in the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood.

**June 11:** Community Picnic in the Park (Sponsored by MPUMC). Please join us at Indian Mounds Regional Park from **5:30-8:30 pm**. Hot dogs, chips and lemonade will be provided.

6:00 pm: Special appearances from the Winter Carnival's King Boreas and

his Royal Court including the Senior Royalty.

7:00 pm: Raptor Education Program from the University of Minnesota. The Raptor Center will be bringing an eagle, a hawk and possibly other raptors.

**Urban CROSS Youth Service Project:**

We are still in need of tools, supplies, paint, painting equipment, printing, staff t-shirts, food for the Urban CROSS teams/staff. To make a financial donation, please contact Mounds Park Church at 651-774-8736.

For more information about Urban CROSS: urbanCROSS.stpaul@gmail.com; www.moundsparkumc.org/urban-cross.html. You may reach Eric Buck, Youth Director at 612-559-2369.

Contact MPUMC at 651-774-8736 or secretarympumc@yahoo.com.

### A capitol idea! Capitol City Tri brings national exposure to East Side

Trudy Marshall and Tim Herman

The East Side Area Business Association (ESABA) and the locally-based Best of the US Amateur Championship Triathlon have joined forces to bring a national signature event to St. Paul's East Side on **Sunday, June 22**.

East Side resident, event co-founder and Director Trudy Marshall says that Best of the US, ESABA, and the city of St. Paul are so happy together they've changed the race name and, with great pleasure, introduce the Capitol City Triathlon (formerly the Best of the US Sprint). The Best of the US Tri Series was founded in 2005 and has been in 7 different states across the US and has now found its

permanent home at Lake Phalen.

"The sprint race will still host the BOUS Championship," said Director Trudy Marshall. "But the sprint is for everyone, and we wanted the name to reflect that. Our goal is to create an instant classic. We're celebrating all of Minnesota's - and particularly St. Paul's - treasures: its incredible parks; its dynamism and energy; its diversity; people and businesses, small and large, coming together for fitness and recreation. We Minnesotans are so blessed! What an awesome place we have to work and play." Visit www.capitolcitytri.com to register or information. For sponsorship opportunities, contact Tim Herman at tim@esaba.org or 612-205-5693.

### Our Saviour's Lutheran Church centennial ice cream social June 1

Our Saviour's Church release

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church is celebrating its centennial this year. Throughout the church's 100-year history, the congregation has been an East Side institution - from our humble beginnings as a storefront on 7<sup>th</sup> Street, to our decades-long location on Earl Street and Minnehaha Avenue, to our current site on Johnson Parkway.

The congregation invites our neigh-

bors to join us to celebrate our centennial at an ice cream social on **Sunday, June 1, from 5:00-7:00 pm**. The party will be held on the church's front lawn. Local musician and storyteller Jack Pearson will be our special guest entertainer.

Our Saviour's is located at 674 Johnson Parkway. For more information, call the church at 651-774-2396.

### Women's Expo at the Historic Mounds Theatre

Raeann Ruth

Mounds Theatre Executive Director

The Historic Mounds Theatre presents the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Women's Expo on **Saturday, June 14 from 11:00 am-6:00 pm**. Join us for a fantastic day just for women! Whether you are single or married, a career woman or stay-at-home mom; there will be something for you. This one-day event will feature vendors along with classes. Women will have the opportunity to shop with vendors and gather infor-

mation from area businesses and organizations. Come to be empowered through education, networking, knowledge, and improved health opportunities.

Vendors will showcase their latest products and services in health, nutrition, financial planning, beauty, fashion and more! A \$5 donation will be accepted at the door.

Visit www.moundstheatre.org for other events coming in June. The Historic Mounds Theatre is located at 1029 Hudson Road. 651-772-2253.

### Free, fresh produce giveaways

Neighborhood House release

Neighborhood House, in collaboration with community partners, will be offering free, fresh produce once a month this summer.

**Friday, June 26** at Dayton's Bluff Elementary School (262 Bates Av-

enue); **Wednesday, June 18** at John A. Johnson Elementary School (740 York Avenue).

At both schools, the food will be available on a first-come, first-served basis from **3:00 pm** until it is gone. 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 from **June 25-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.



### Fix up your home now!

We are a non-profit agency eager to help you accomplish your home repairs using the latest green rehab techniques that may lower your energy costs.

There is no cost assistance for eligible homebuyers. We offer payback loans with low interest rates (**1-3%**) and special programs that do not require payments. Call 651.774.6995 to see if you qualify.

Yog koj xav paub ntxiv hu rau 651-774-9064



Dayton's Bluff  
Neighborhood Housing Services  
823 7th Street East  
St. Paul, MN 55106  
651.774.6995-office  
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 7<sup>th</sup> Street.

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

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

**Equity Committee:**  
1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday each month, 6:30 pm

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

**Arts and Cultures Committee:**  
1<sup>st</sup> 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.

## SPPD Community Response Team at work

Senior Commander Joseph Neuberger  
Eastern Patrol District  
St. Paul Police

In reviewing our 2013 crime statistics, surveying East Side citizens and officers, I have committed officers and funding to a full-time "Community Response Team" (CRT). Our afternoon shift will assign four officers to this team. They started working in this capacity in April and will continue through the summer.

Expectations for the team include:

- Partner with residents, community groups, and businesses to get input on their perception of crime trends, and offer guidance on crime prevention strategies.
- Build relationships to share information and prevent crime.
- Use social media to keep the citizens informed of gangs and problem locations on the East Side.
- Conduct pedestrian and traffic stops based on criminal/suspicious behaviors; generate arrests, citations, or field interviews.
- Assist in information-gathering for prosecution, effective patrol assignments, and proactive efforts of the East District.
- Build relationships and partner with Metro Transit regarding transit-related issues.

- Liaison with FORCE and Crime Prevention/Multi-Housing for intel sharing, info dissemination, and aggressive follow-up on problem properties.

- Respond to in-progress calls involving large groups and probable gang-related incidents/shootings, etc.

- Work in both uniform/squad and plain clothes/raid gear/unmarked vehicles, flex their shift hours to address criminal behaviors.

- Focus on what was formerly identified as the IL3CP area, but be flexible enough to move as crime trends and needs of the community dictate.

Commander McRae is coordinating with the city attorney and county attorney, who will also be aware of the project, much like the very successful 2012 IL3CP effort.

This project will be a highly-visible, flexible, proactive response to crime and concerns of East Side residents. For more information visit Facebook: Saint Paul Police-Eastern District.

In St. Paul, the curfew law is as follows: Age 15 or younger must be home by 10:00 pm every day, unless out with a parent. Teens ages 16 and 17 must be home by 12:00 midnight, unless out with a parent. The police will pick up juveniles and ticket them if they violate curfew.



Karin DuPaul

Our Swedish visitors, from the 2014 Rotary International Group Study Exchange. From left to right: Ola Jonsson, Therese Brusbo, Karin Malm and Dan Martinsen.

## Swedes in the Hollow

Karin DuPaul, Forum board

Kay Baker, a member of the St. Paul Rotary Club, brought four members of the Rotary International Group Study Exchange from Sweden to visit Swede Hollow Park in late in April. The visitors hoped to see the place where Swedish immigrants came to live in St. Paul in the mid 1800s.

At the park, Dayton's Bluff historian Steve Trimble read some stories from an article he wrote for the Ramsey County History magazine about Mike Sanchelli, whose Italian immigrant family came to St. Paul to start a new life in America, and how the children in the families loved living in the peaceful valley along Phalen Creek.

Dick Sherwood told the visitors

about his grandfather Eric Marelius, who came from Sweden to America to start a new life for his family in Swede Hollow in 1879. Eric's brother back in Sweden died, and Eric inherited an old building, now known as the Old Apothecary Shop in Visibly, Sweden. Eric went back to Sweden and sold the building. Then he returned to Swede Hollow and used the money to build his new home at 863 York Avenue and the family moved "up on the street," which was the goal of most residents of Swede Hollow. Today, the Old Apothecary Shop is on the National Register of Historic places in Sweden. Karin Malm, one of the Swedish visitors, mentioned that she had recently visited the Old Apothecary Shop before her trip to America.

## East Side Enterprise Center project moves forward

Dayton's Bluff Community Council

The East Side Enterprise Center, opening later this summer, will serve as an economic development hub for East Side residents. The Center promises to offer a range of programs including job training and placement, micro-enterprise development, access to personal and business loans, a fresh-produce warehouse for immigrant farmers, and other services aimed at improving family income and assets.

"This is a first step in working across ethnic boundaries," said John Flory, Special Project Manager for the Latino Economic Development Center. "The East Side Enterprise Center is a multi-ethnic partnership that is designing programs to support business development that is rooted in this community. Community members are the best people to motivate potential entrepreneurs and communicate with them in their own languages and cultural traditions."

The East Side Enterprise Center is also unique in its approach to governance. "We host listening sessions so the community members can help build this out," said Jay Bad Heart Bull, President of the Native American Community Development Institute

(NACDI) and one of the 13 founding program partners. "We're not trying to find the answer; we're here to experience something. We have the principle of respect and we have some common goals. When it changes, we change. We have to be agile to meet the needs of the community."

This centralized place, where a community can meet and build economic power, comes at an opportune moment. The East Side is riding high on a wave of renewed interest and investment, but more is needed.

"We're a business development center but we're also about social justice and business is the way to achieve social justice," said Deanna Abbott-Foster, Executive Director of Dayton's Bluff Community Council.

The East Side Enterprise Center will be housed in the former Pabst Grocery Store building, built in 1885, at 804 Margaret Street East. It is a locally-based, equity model for economic development, promoting job quality and access and increasing opportunities for education and training that lead to a productive workforce. Warehouse space at the Center will provide a facility for area farmers to refrigerate, store, and package their produce.

## Volunteer nets grant for Seniors

Rhonda Battisto  
Executive Director  
Dayton's Bluff Seniors

In recognition of Ann Barnes' commitment to the community and for her outstanding service, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota has contributed \$250 to Dayton's Bluff Seniors Living at Home Block Nurse Program on her behalf as part of the Dollars for Doers program for Blue Cross Employees.

Ms. Barnes began volunteering with Dayton's Bluff Seniors as the board of directors' Treasurer in 2014 and has donated more than 60 hours already this year. As a volunteer, she has worked on cash flow and budgeting matters, volunteer recruitment and fundraising.

"Blue Cross employees donate thousands of volunteer hours in fulfill-

ing our purpose of making a healthy difference in people's lives," said Michael Jones, director of Internal Communications and Community Relations. "Through the Dollars for Doers program, our employees can make and even greater impact on their communities. Blue Cross is pleased to support their efforts."

As part of the Blue Cross Dollars for Doers program, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota will award \$250 to eligible nonprofit organizations for which a Blue Cross employee volunteers 40 hours or more per calendar year.

If you would like to volunteer in any capacity or are/know a senior that would benefit from our services, please visit our website ([www.daytonsbluffseniors.org](http://www.daytonsbluffseniors.org)) or contact us by phone: 651-776-7210 ext. 303.

### CENTROMEX SUPERMERCADO

816 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street – OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK, 8:00 AM – 8:00 PM

Fresh Meat – Fruit and Produce

EBT & WIC programs available

10% off on meat Saturday & Sunday

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PURCHASE – GRACIAS POR SU COMPRA



## Spring is Here!

565 Earl Street Open 11 am – 9 pm

10 Dilly Bars for \$7.89 All-beef hot dogs \$1.39

Buy one Blizzard, get the second (same size) for HALF PRICE

Bring in this ad and buy one malt or shake, get one free!

Expires 7/31/14



# Homelessness...right here

*This special report was inspired by the May community meeting at the Dayton's Bluff District Council office. See page 2 for information on the June community meeting and its topic: What is an engaged community?*

## Did you know?

In 2009 the U.S. Congress defined a homeless person as anyone who:

1. Lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; AND 2. Has a primary nighttime residence that is supervised, publicly-or privately-operated temporary living accommodation, including emergency shelters, transitional housing, and battered women's shelters; OR 3. Has a nighttime residence in any place not meant for human habitation, such as under bridges or in cars.

**On any given night in Minnesota:  
About 14,000 people are homeless**

**Nearly 40,000 Minnesotans  
experience homelessness in a year**

### Who are the homeless?

The homeless are families:

- Nearly half of homeless adults have children. One in three have at least one child with them.
- The percentage of two-parent homeless families grew by 22 percent from 2009-2012.
- Children with their parents represent the fastest-growing segment of the long-term homeless population today – a 26% increase from 2009-2012

The homeless are children and youth:

- Children and youth make up almost one-half of the total homeless population.

The homeless are veterans:

- One-tenth of all homeless adults, and one-quarter of those age 55 and older are military veterans. Nearly half of homeless veterans have a service-related health problem.

The homeless are people of color:

- People of color, particularly African Americans, are disproportionately overrepresented in the homeless population. 38 percent of homeless adults are African American, while only 5 percent of the Minnesota adult population is African American.

### What are the causes of homelessness?

- 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.
- Only 17 percent of homeless adults reported a drinking or drug problem as the reason they left their last regular/permanent housing (became homeless).

### Surprising facts about homeless adults:

- 77 percent of homeless adults have at least a high school education; 34 percent have attended at least some college.
- 8 in 10 homeless adults have some type of health insurance coverage.
- Nearly one-third of homeless adults have histories that suggest likely traumatic brain injury.
- More than half of homeless adults have a significant mental illness.
- 51 percent of homeless adults report a chronic health condition such as high blood pressure, heart problems, asthma, respiratory problems, and diabetes.
- 22 percent of homeless adults have been diagnosed with a substance abuse disorder, which is a decrease from 27 percent in 2006.

### Surprising facts about homeless children/youth:

- 60 percent of homeless youth have a parent who has been incarcerated.
- More than half (55%) of all homeless youth have been abused or neglected.
- 29% of homeless youth are parents, and one out of five has at least one child with them.

The above data comes from the Homelessness in Minnesota 2012 Study by Wilder Research and is available online ([www.wilderresearch.org](http://www.wilderresearch.org)). Some of these facts were presented at the May Community Meeting at the Dayton's Bluff Community Council and neighbors began a community conversation about the challenges of homelessness. Though this issue is difficult and complex, some things are clear: First, children and people of color, two significant groups in Dayton's Bluff, are being deeply impacted by homelessness. Therefore, this isn't someone else's issue – it's our issue. In fact, Project REACH, which serves homeless St. Paul Public School students, reports serving 9 percent of the current students at Dayton's Bluff Elementary. Second, the major causes of homelessness have more to do with economics and affordable housing than personal choices. Therefore, tackling this issue is a community responsibility rather than just a personal responsibility. The community conversation must continue, as there is more to be learned and understood, and well-thought-out strategies need to be implemented.

*Jennifer Herman, Forum board*

## Interview with Alan Grafing

*Sage Holben*

*Dayton's Bluff Community Council*

"Time for breakfast, fellas," is the typical 6:30 am lights on/wake-up at Union Gospel Mission, home of Bethel Hotel and many services for men who are homeless.

Alan Grafing summarizes his experience: "My son will always come first. With my own apartment again, he can have daddy cook for him. I've learned that rent will always be paid first. I want my child to be happy...I put Legos together, he played with them – we both had fun...but the rent needs to be paid first. I want to cook for my son. I have learned frugality in purchasing food and things for my son. I've learned the difference between needs and wants. If it wasn't for my son, I would have had a different path and it scares me to think what could have been."

Bethel Hotel at the Union Gospel Mission (UGM) has been Alan's home for eight months. A friend recommended UGM when Alan lost his apartment. Like so many, the spiral quickly went from losing his job to losing his apartment. For \$6 a night Alan reserves a 'paid bed' in a room with 33 other men. This is an alternative to a free bed which dictates an 'in-bed' curfew of 9:30 pm – among other specific requirements – or a private room at a cost of roughly \$180 to \$200. For a weekly fee, a shelter resident can rent a locker. Some men use their cars to hold their possessions, while others may carry their possessions with them throughout the day.

Life for Alan was once as normal as anyone's. He grew up one of four siblings, with his mother and Navy father. One sister is now in Colorado and the other in Wisconsin; his brother and parents have all died of cancer. Alan is an Army paratrooper vet and has been divorced for five years. He had been working in Mankato and caring for his ill mother. After his mother died, he moved to the Twin Cities so he wouldn't have to commute to see his son. He found a job in the Twin Cities, but was let go after two months.

A year later, he lost his apartment after trying to hang on while job-hunting, the futility eating through his 401K and unemployment. He went to court, attempting to keep his apartment. His apartment management stored his belongings as long as possible since Alan could not afford storage; since then, the property manager has been kind enough to continue storing photos and other very personal items until Alan gets on his feet. The heartache of losing family heirlooms and keepsakes reflects in Alan's face.

"Aid policies need to be in place so people are not forced into foreclosure or into losing an apartment [in harsh financial situations]. I applied for assistance to keep my apartment, but not in time. The court gave me a week to get the money needed, with the expectation that I knew people – friends or relatives – with money. A court-related call to the landlord could have helped; I was short of help by one week...just one week.

"My (eight-year-old) son worries about me. A child should not have to worry about a parent. We visit on the weekend, keep in touch. I had been calling every three days; lately every day.

"It's God who did the work. God's grace is what made it happen – so quickly. Two months ago God pushed me to the VA (Veterans Affairs office). I walked into my first

appointment knowing something had to change. I was told by an intake worker that I hadn't been homeless long enough [one year is required to receive services]. He called two days later, after having made some calls...told me I'd have a voucher from the Metropolitan Council for an apartment. One application did so much. The presence of God has kept me on a [positive] path."

Alan summarized his experience with Union Gospel Mission saying, "It's a natural fit for me; I'm a spiritual person, and UGM has a lot of programs that can help."

If a person has a free bed rather than a paid room, a few of the programs UGM offers are required – others are very helpful, but optional. These programs include helping men recently out of prison, including help finding transitional housing; helping men earn their GED; and classes on anger management and budgeting.

"A social worker employed by UGM is present and available every day," notes Alan, "and they are easy to access. A podiatry group offers foot care help monthly, for any foot-related problems, including foot massages. Health and dental care are offered on the premises, by East Side Clinic, Dr. Como, and dental students. UGM helps men to get their lives back on track."

Alan and other men from the Mission and Dorothy Day, enjoys the fellowship and computer access they find at Metropolitan State University and the co-existing Dayton's Bluff branch of the St. Paul Public Library. Other options for shelter residents, having to be physically out of the shelter for most of the day, are the downtown Passport which is for those over age 50; the Union Depot, which has WiFi; riding the city bus to the Minneapolis Central Library; the Veterans Administration; "and, unfortunately, downtown St. Paul, where drugs are easily available". Internet access and fellowship are very important – recreation often consists of watching movies on phones. UGM has no computers; people must have their own laptops and then sign a waiver in order to access the internet. Basketball and football are the usual TV fare in the common room at Bethel.

When asked how he sees people getting out of homelessness, Alan considered: "Start by recognizing 'need' versus 'want.' A person needs reliable transportation and a steady job. The city bus is the most common transportation for shelter residents. Housing and transportation are two critical elements in getting a job and stabilizing one's life. Alan noted that [homeless] people who have cars are working more than those who don't.

Alan had promised his son that he would be out of shelter in eight months. He would have realized his priorities much sooner, he mused, if he had been in touch with the VA sooner. Knowing what resources are out there, knowing what organizations are available to help, are key. Once he connected to the VA things really moved along. "Being homeless is life-altering, life-changing. Some people lose their sense of pride somewhere, or don't care. Not all who are homeless are lazy. A couple of bad breaks and we're forced out of our homes. Some of us are good workers."

*Note: Since this writing, Alan has found full-time employment and is looking forward to finding an apartment where he can cook for his son.*

## Small-town girl to university president: MSU's Hammersmith to retire

Mark Gallagher, Forum staff  
refineeditorial@gmail.com

The president of Metropolitan State University (MSU), Dr. Sue Hammersmith, took a different route than most of today's young people to start her educational journey. She went to a three-room school with privies out back and no library.

"We didn't have anything in the way of science and art," Dr. Hammersmith says. "I never got to take an art class in school."

Dr. Hammersmith was raised in a poor, conservative area of southern Indiana, where education was not valued and few people went to college. But Hammersmith's parents believed in the value of a college education and the importance of respecting fellow human beings.

With that philosophy as a benchmark, Hammersmith says, "I believe in the worth and dignity of every human being, and I've

always felt that working in public higher education and being able to make a difference in other people's lives was the greatest privilege I would ever get."

The Hammersmith family mantra of respect for every human being encouraged her to put herself in other people's shoes to understand where those people were coming from. "When I went to Indiana University, it opened a door to the whole world," Hammersmith says.

Growing up on a farm contributed to Hammersmith's academic journey by forcing her to learn practical problem-solving and a "can-do" attitude. "Problems come up," Hammersmith says, "and you have to solve them with the resources at hand, in the time frame you have – and that has been really useful for



me."

MSU's enrollment has increased about 20 percent on Dr. Hammersmith's watch. She attributes that to two things: "We're very fortunate to be in the urban location; this is where the population growth is. Also, we have developed methods of adding classes as they're needed. I think it's easier now for students to get the classes they need to move on toward graduation in a timely manner."

Hammersmith came to MSU in 2008 and will retire on June 31. She departs the university with many fond memories. During her tenure, President Hammersmith made some tough decisions about MSU, but her decision to retire wasn't predicated on them.

"In higher education, there are always tough things to deal with," she says. "I

turned 65 last summer, and I got a new grandson. I feel like I got some of the big things accomplished."

For Dr. Hammersmith, the best part of being MSU's president has been the inspiring students, faculty, and staff, and the university's commitment to meet every student where they are in their educational journey.

The first three months of Dr. Hammersmith's retirement will be spent on a honeymoon with her husband. "The day we got married, we had four kids in our household," she says. "I had two little girls and he had two boys in middle school, so we never really had time to be on our own."

"One of the first things we're going to do is celebrate being here in the Twin Cities and having the freedom to relax and enjoy. I'm also going to be able to contribute more of my personal time helping with civil rights and diversity issues."

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History corner

**Local cemeteries tell of life and death on the Bluff**

Steve Trimble  
Forum historian

Last month, I wrote about Dayton's Bluff residents buried in Oakland Cemetery. This month, I decided to recognize some people who ended up at other locations. I had the best luck searching for those interred in Calvary, known as a Catholic institution.

Theodore and Louise Hamm are probably the most well-known former neighborhood residents that are buried in Calvary cemetery. Their monument is rather elaborate, surrounded by headstones of the couple and other family members. Louise died in 1896 and her husband in 1903. If you want to see it for yourself, the plot is in Section 32, Block 37.

Theodore and Louise came to St. Paul in 1856 and operated a boarding house and saloon near West 7<sup>th</sup> Street for seven years. They came to own a small, struggling brewery on Phalen Creek in 1864; by 1878 it was transformed from a 500-barrel-a-year enterprise into a 5,000-barrel-a-year business. Hamm's eventually became one of the country's top beers, with its well-known tag line, "From the Land of Sky Blue Waters." Louise had an important hand in things, making plans for the building of dormitories for single men. She fed them three meals a day and also prepared a noon meal for those who were married.

At least two of the former priests at St. John's Catholic Church are now interred in Calvary Cemetery. An early leader was Father Cornelis, who worked so hard that his health began failing; he resigned his post in 1886. The following year, he died in Michigan, but his body was brought back to St. Paul to repose in the priests' lot at Calvary Cemetery.

He was succeeded by Rev. James Fleming, and the parish made rapid progress during the seven years he was pastor. Money was borrowed for the purpose of erecting a pastoral residence, a modest frame structure beside the church. The debt incurred was paid off rapidly. The Total Abstinence Society was created under the guiding hand of Father Fleming.

Not all of the people who were buried in Calvary were prominent. One example is the Arth family, pioneer residents of the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood. Peter, Joseph, and Jacob Arth lived in what is now referred to as the Mounds Park area. They settled in the neigh-

borhood around 1870, and were garden farmers there, long before the neighborhood was more densely settled. The Arth home at 700 Plum Street was either demolished or moved during freeway construction in the 1960s and 1970s.

Some Calvary residents did not die natural deaths. Sixteen-

Although Oakland and Calvary cemeteries are the oldest of their kind in St. Paul and naturally contain more of the people from Dayton's Bluff, some of the community's deceased residents are in other locations, a fact that needs to be further researched. One example is Oscar Keller, whose remains were received by Elmhurst Cemetery.

Oscar Keller, owner of a grocery store on East 7<sup>th</sup> Street, broke into politics in 1910 when he ran for the City Assembly. Although he called himself a Republican, he was a radical who allied himself with the local labor movement and openly favored more far-reaching economic changes. With strong support from Labor, he was successful and was re-elected several times. In 1919, when the incumbent Fourth District congressman died, he decided to run for the office. He did not win his party's nomination, but entered the primary as an "Independent Republican" and won the seat.

He was reelected in 1920 and began introducing a number of far-reaching proposals. He began his greatest battle in Congress in 1922 when he called for the impeachment of US Attorney General Harry M. Daugherty for "high crimes and misdemeanors in office" for issuing injunctions against striking railroad workers. Keller eventually was attacked by fellow Republicans as a socialist and was defeated in a three-way race.

These examples are only a small part of the stories which could be uncovered with further research. Maybe some of you readers have some stories about your own family members who lived in our community who are now in a local cemetery – maybe Forest Lawn? Write in and let the *Forum* know.

Incidentally, no one has taken me up on my plea for someone to create a local neighborhood walking tour for Oakland Cemetery, featuring those who once walked around in our neighborhood.



Minnesota Historical Society

Theodore and Louise Hamm and their children, circa 1880.

year-old Josephine Cabuzza, who lived with her family in Swede Hollow, was seeing a man in his twenties named Pietro Narcuso. He gave her money and jewelry, but she ended their relationship and laughed at him when he demanded the return of the jewelry. Pietro bought a 32-caliber revolver, waited for Josephine outside her home and shot her down on February 11, 1949.

He admitted the crime and was eventually sentenced to life in prison, although he was inexplicably pardoned after serving only five years. The residents of the Hollow considered Josephine's death a "community tragedy" and one called her "the pride of St. Paul's Little Italy." Hundreds crowded in and around St. Ambrose church for her funeral.



MHS

Oscar Keller

View from my porch

**It's Little Free Library season**

Sage Holben  
Dayton's Bluff Community Council

How do I know spring is actually here? Because several people have asked me questions about building or 'planting' Little Free Libraries. As I responded to each, I couldn't help but flip through my mental scrapbook of our LFL on Bates Avenue at 4<sup>th</sup> Street East. In September of 2011, we were registered as #93, the first on the East Side and second in St. Paul. Now there are at least 67 registered LFLs in St. Paul and thousands throughout the world.

Actual special moments are etched into my heart. Early Wednesday evening, two days after we installed our LFL, a man was fatally shot in our intersection, with several of us standing at our new little library. During the next week people came and went, memorializing the slain man's life. As I met his family and friends through the exchange of coffee and books, what became clear was that violence, isolation, and fear are reasons we need Little Free Libraries. Though darker, these reasons are as important as those often expressed as "community, love of learning and sharing." Is the basic need not the same?

One day, five or six children, around the ages of eight or 10, were walking by, two of the children selecting books. One boy turned and slammed the heel of his hand into the plexiglass, shattering it. The other children yelled at him as they ran off. Later, two children came to me, apologizing, saying the boy was visiting and that they told him it was wrong to do that; that the LFL belonged to everyone.

An eight-year-old neighbor girl came up onto the porch to show me her backpack full of adult romance novels she found in the LFL. "Do you really read these?" I asked. She opened one, and running her finger under a line of small text, said, "No, but when I do this, I feel smart."

There are those who see books as a money-maker. The old man from the rooming house who took loads of

books to sell, until others in the rooming house confronted him. The neighborhood child who emptied the library several times a week to "sell" books at a friend's lemonade stand...even hawking them to me!

My former neighbor, a ten-year old Hmong boy, came to the porch to share a book. He had selected a 'Values Series' volume about Ralph Bunche on personal responsibility. We read through it and at the end, this child looked at me very seriously and told me that there are three values everyone needs to learn. I don't know what I really expected, but he knew these for a fact: "re-use, recycle, reduce."

I've enjoyed so many conversations with strangers who became better acquaintances and friends through books and LFL. Hugh, who makes repairs as his wife asks him; the strangers who help with loose hinges; the neighbor who replaced the smashed window. Then there was the frigid winter day the Japan National Public TV station came to film our Little Free Library. We worked through the language barrier with some funny results. Herding everyone inside (many more people than the producer had expected), we forgot to have people remove their cold weather wear (it was freezing outside!). Everyone was filmed reading books still wearing their heavy coats and hats! What Japanese viewers must have thought about our winter weather or indoor heating!! (See [www.nhk.or.jp/worldnet/archives/year/detail20130316\\_286.html](http://www.nhk.or.jp/worldnet/archives/year/detail20130316_286.html) – we are in the middle of the video)


Last, strangers become friends and neighbors. Larry Simpson and Tom Russ held a "neighborhood-build" in Big Urban Woods when several families met and built their own libraries. A couple of these families came to the TV filming, and last year one of the families moved down the block from me. Soon, another library will appear on the corner of 4<sup>th</sup> Street and Maria Avenue.

For information on Little Free Libraries, see <http://littlefreelibrary.org>.

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*Judy Lee*

## Full speed ahead for East Side Community Radio

Carla Riehle  
Dayton's Bluff District Council

The East Side's new community radio station is on track to be on the air by the end of the year. Slated to broadcast as a low-power FM (LPFM) station on 104.7 FM, the transmitter and antenna will be located atop a large storage barn on the campus of youth service organization 180 Degrees, at Johnson Parkway and East 7<sup>th</sup> Street. The studio location is still being scouted; organizers are seeking a spot on the East Side that will allow for simultaneous recording and live broadcasting. A storefront site would be a definite plus.

It's estimated that it will take at least \$20,000 to procure equipment for a studio and erect an antenna and transmitter. The Dayton's Bluff Community Council has applied for a City of St. Paul Neighborhood STAR grant for some of those costs, and it's hoped that a matching grant from other foundations and underwriters will provide the basics, but monetary and equipment donations will still be needed.

The East Side has revealed an amazing wealth of radio talent and experience among its residents who have volunteered to help with the station. Kathryn Harris is acting as interim station manager and is working on a mar-

keting and start-up plan intended to take the station through the first year of operation. Kathryn's experience includes stints as on-air announcer and account executive at Twin Cities radio stations and she has operated her own media company. Rob Sebo Lubke, Mark Heitman and Thom Derus are planning antenna construction; Ben James, a decades-long radio veteran, has offered to conduct training for new broadcasters.

Although the Dayton's Bluff Community Council is currently the LPFM permit holder, East Side Community Radio is intended to include and serve the entire East Side of St. Paul. Under FCC regulations, only single nonprofit entities were allowed to apply in the brief window that opened in October 2013, and the Council scrambled to take advantage of the opportunity. As soon as allowed by the FCC, the radio station's formal governing structure will be expanded to reflect that constituency.

Contact [nicole@daytonsbuff.org](mailto:nicole@daytonsbuff.org) to be added to the email informational list, or call 651-772-2075. If you would like to make a contribution, you can contact Nicole or visit [www.givemn.org](http://www.givemn.org) and type in "Dayton's Bluff District Four Community Council." Make sure to indicate "East Side radio" in the dedication blank.

## Minneapolis/St. Paul Home Tour



Karin DuPaul

**Above: home residents, visitors, and volunteers all made the Dayton's Bluff Home Tour a success once again.**

Karin DuPaul  
Forum board

Hundreds of people toured seven homes in Dayton's Bluff on April 26 and 27. Visitors included Dayton's Bluff residents and people from all over the Metro area – and beyond. Many visitors come back to Dayton's Bluff every year to see our wonderful homes and visit with our residents.

This year's tour featured a variety of house sizes and styles. Visitors admired beautiful woodwork, large-scale home restorations, and beautiful new kitchens, among other new and period features.

Several owner-occupied homes were on the tour. One was 702 East 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, which was totally redone by the Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Housing Services; another was 1097 McLean Avenue, completely rehabbed by the owner. Both formerly-vacant buildings, with beautiful Victorian features, are for sale.

The old Mounds Park Elementary

School building, now upscale apartments, was a popular stop for visitors, including many former students, teachers, and inquisitive neighborhood residents.

At the end of the tour, homeowners and volunteers attended a party at Flat Earth Brewery. Everyone relaxed and enjoyed the unique historic space, brewery tour, good conversation, and food. Many people are looking forward to next year's Home Tour.

Thirty-eight volunteers helped make the tour run smoothly. Thanks goes out to them – some who help every year – and to the homeowners who opened their homes for the tour. Special thanks to Dellwood Gardens for meeting space, and Flat Earth Brewery for hosting the afterparty. We also need to say thanks for the delicious food donated by Yarusso Brothers, Manana Restaurant, Obb's Sport Bar and Grill, Culver's, and Checkerboard Pizza. And thanks to the Dayton's Bluff Community Council for participating in the Minneapolis/St. Paul Home Tour each year.



## The Hollow is calling...

**Saturday, June 7** is *Art in the Hollow* – the annual community festival in Swede Hollow. Join the fun from **10:00 am-5:00 pm**. Performers and artists still wanted! See page 1 for details.

## Friends of the Forum

Dear Reader,

The *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* began in the late 1970s and remains a volunteer-run newspaper that has always operated on a minimal budget, but we now face a "new normal" of an uncertain future due to economic difficulties.

Thanks to the generous contributions of nearly 50 individuals and businesses, we raised \$2800 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 and

enclosing a check. Any amount is appreciated; you may also make memorial donations or include the *Forum* in your legacy planning.

Already a *Friend*? It's time to renew your membership for 2014. Thank you!

Sincerely,

*Dayton's Bluff District Forum*  
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For more information, contact 651-772-2075 or [editor@daytonsbuff.org](mailto:editor@daytonsbuff.org).

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