

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

Volume 28, No. 11
December 2015
January 2016
daytonsbluffdistrictforum.org

"The Voice of the Community"

SAVE THE DATE

2015



MANY CULTURES.
BUILDING THE FUTURE.

Annual Meeting & Elections



Breaking Boundaries, Connecting Communities

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Monday, December 21st
East Side Enterprise Center
804 Margaret Street
St. Paul, MN 55106

LOCAL FOOD will be served

Dayton's Bluff Community Council to hold Annual Meeting and Board Elections

Dayton's Bluff Community Council Staff

Please join us on Monday, December 21, for the Dayton's Bluff Community Council Annual Meeting and Board Elections. We want to thank the Board, staff, and the community for making this an amazing year. All are invited to attend and

local food will be served.

We encourage all residents to become leaders in their community. Sitting on the Dayton's Bluff Community Council (DBCC) Board of Directors is an opportunity to represent the interests of your community and to guide the Council and the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood to a bright and prosperous future.

To ensure that all have an opportunity to cast their vote in this election, we have created the following 2015 absentee/early voting schedule:

**December 14-17, from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.,
December 18, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.,
December 21, from 8:00 a.m. to noon, and 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.**

All voting will take place at the East Side Enterprise Center (ESEC) located at: 804 Margaret Street, Saint Paul, 55106. Call 651-772-2075 for more information.

The DBCC will follow the Minnesota voter identification requirements. These requirements can be viewed at [http://mn-](http://mn-votesinfo.sos.state.mn.us/voters/voter-registration/eligibility-instructions/)

[votesinfo.sos.state.mn.us/voters/voter-registration/eligibility-instructions/](http://mn-votesinfo.sos.state.mn.us/voters/voter-registration/eligibility-instructions/).

Community members must meet at least one of the voter identification requirements to prove residency in Dayton's Bluff in order to receive a ballot.

The one exception to the state of Minnesota voter eligibility is age. Per the DBCC by-laws, membership shall be granted to anyone 16 years of age or older who resides, owns property, or owns or operates a business within the boundaries. Each member is eligible to cast one vote in organization elections.

A locked/sealed ballot box will be available at ESEC on the dates and times outlined above. Ballots will be color coded by sub-district and contain the names of all candidates in that sub-district that filed by the December 1, 5:00 p.m. CST deadline. All at-large candidates that filed by the December 1, 5:00 p.m. CST deadline will be included on all ballots.

Community members will be required to show proof of residency, per Minnesota voter identification requirements. Once residency has been validated, all voters will sign in via a sign-in sheet. Voters will be provided with the appropriate sub-district ballot.

Copies of all board candidate applications will be available for voter review at ESEC.

*See "Elections,"
continued on page 3.*

**Dayton's Bluff
Community Council
804 Margaret Street
St. Paul, MN 55106**

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Community Calendar

Saturday, January 2

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Dayton's Bluff Take A Hike

Learn a little history of the East Side while hiking through Dayton's Bluff.

The hike starts at Indian Mounds Park at Earl Street and Mounds Boulevard and is about one and a half to two hours long. Hikers will have their choice of ending in Swede Hollow Park or at East Side Heritage Park.

For more information, email Karin@SwedeHollow.org or call 651-776-0550.

Wednesday, January 13

Time: 6:30 p.m.

New Friends of Swede Hollow

Watch over, restore, and celebrate the history of Swede Hollow Park. Come join the Swede Hollow community at their monthly meeting.

Email Karin@SwedeHollow.org or call 651-776-0550 for more information and the meeting's location.

**Saturday, December 13 -
Sunday, January 3**

"We are Hmong Minnesota" at the Minnesota History Center

November 2015 marked the 40th anniversary of the Hmong migration to Minnesota following the war in Southeast Asia. Today, the Twin Cities metro area is home to 66,000 Hmong, the largest urban Hmong population in the United States.

Developed in partnership with the Hmong community, the Minnesota Historical Society's exhibit commemorates the anniversary and celebrates the significant political, social and economic contributions the Hmong have made to Minnesota and the nation.

For more information, hours, and admission visit mnhs.org.

**Wednesday, December 16
& Wednesday, January 20**

Time: 9:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.

Police Community Meetings

The Eastern District Police will host their monthly meetings for community members held at the Eastern District police office at 722 Payne on the corner of Payne and Minnehaha Avenues. The next meetings are at 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. The meetings are intended as a time to learn, listen to and address people's concerns about crime and other issues on the East Side. Saint Paul Police Eastern District is committed to maintaining and growing the quality of life for all our residents. Bring your neighbors it is a great way to talk about all neighborhood related issues.

Thursday, December 17

Time: 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Grand opening of the new Dayton's Bluff Teen Space

Teens (ages 12 to 18) are encouraged to stop by for fun activities like making LED greeting cards and Shrinky Dinks, video gaming, and more.

For more information about the event, visit sppl.org or call 651-793-1699. The Dayton's Bluff library shares it's home with Metropolitan State university at 645 E 7th Street.

December and January at the Mounds Theatre

December 18-20 & 26-27: *A Klingon Christmas Carol*, live on stage at the Historic Mounds Theatre. This is the classic tale of Squja' learning the true meaning of courage and honor on the eve of the Long Night. Presented in the original Klingon with English subtitles. All shows start at **7:30 p.m.** December 20 and 27 are matinees only, starting at **4:30 p.m.**

January 8-10: Bulldog Community Theater presents Agatha Christie's *The Mousetrap*.

January 16: The Mounds Theater presents *IWI Wrestling*. Doors open at **6:45 p.m.** with bell time at **7:30 p.m.** This is a family-friendly pro wrestling event. Don't miss out on the fun! General Admission tickets are available at the door. VIP seating at tables on stage above the ring are available in advance online.

January 23: The St. Paul Conservatory puts on a Vaudeville show.

For tickets and more information visit moundstheatre.org, call 651-772-2253, or historicmoundstheatre@gmail.com. The Historic Mounds Theatre is located at 1029 Hudson Road.



**Monday, December 28 -
Wednesday, December 30**

Time: 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. &
2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Vacay Movie, Craft, and Game day

Dayton's Bluff Library is ready to entertain the kids while they're out of school. **Monday, December 28**, they are playing the popular family movie *Shaun the Sheep* from **3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** **Tuesday, December 29**, from **2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.** They are featuring electricity experiments with the Bakken Museum for craft day, and **Wednesday, December 30**, they will be hosting game day from **3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** with Minecraft, Monopoly and more.

Thursday, January 14th

Time: Noon to 2:00 p.m.

Elder Cafe

Calling all Dayton's Bluff Seniors: *Meet new friends and old!* First Lutheran Church and Dayton's Bluff Seniors Program will host an event with artist and author Lucy Rose Fischer who will talk about the power of creativity in later life.

Fischer will share her own experience of launching her art career around age 60 when she asked herself: "How old do I have to be to follow my dream?" She will include an illustrated reading of "*I'm Young at Being Old*" along with open discussion. Copies will be available for purchase.

Make your reservations at 651-237-7633. Dayton's Bluff Seniors is located at 463 Maria Avenue, St. Paul.

Neighborhood Announcements

Business classes

Spring 2016

The next Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Microentrepreneur Class is starting in the spring of 2016. This program helps startup and young businesses on the East Side. All East Side entrepreneurs are welcome. Class training lasts eight weeks and includes topics such as operations management, marketing, financial management, one-on-one assistance with creating a successful business, and preparing a business plan, plus eight hours of one-on-one time with the instructor.

Those who successfully complete the course and locate their businesses in target neighborhoods are eligible for ongoing business support services. Some examples of businesses started by people who have previously taken this course include graphics, landscaping, photography, food service, restoration of wood furniture, art, custom floral design, and exterior and interior painting.

The course is sponsored by the Dayton's Bluff Community Council and the Neighborhood Development Center. There is a small registration fee based on a sliding scale. The next session will be starting in the spring and class size is limited, so sign up now. Please call Emma Spillman at 651-379-8432 for an application.

Homes needed for the 2016 Home Tour

Would you like to have your home on next year's home tour? Do you have a suggestion of a home that would be great on the tour? Contact karindupaul@comcast.net, 651-776-0550.

The tour will take place on Saturday, April 30, and Sunday, May 1, 2016. The tour features occupied homes to show visitors our wonderful Dayton's Bluff people, homes, and community.

Visitors from all over the metro come each year to see homes in Dayton's Bluff. Some even end up moving here.

CALLING ALL: singers, musicians, comedians, spoken word performers and dancers

The Historic Mounds Theatre will be hosting the fourth annual "CABARET!" Friday, February 19. To sign up to perform or buy tickets, please contact Karin DuPaul at 651-776-0550 or email karindupaul@comcast.net.

"CABARET!" tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door.

Dayton's Bluff Library Update Extended hours and services

While the George Latimer Central Library is closed for remodeling through the end of the year, the Dayton's Bluff Library will be adding some additional hours and services! These include extended hours for the **Job Search/Computer Skills/Open Lab Monday & Wednesday from noon to 3:30 p.m. and Tuesday & Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**, as well as the C.R.O.P. (Community Resource Outreach Project) **Wednesday from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.** C.R.O.P. will have experts on hand to provide information and answer questions about services such as:

- Housing resources
- Mental health case management
- Chemical dependency resources
- Health care
- Employment info
- Youth resources
- Veteran's benefits
- MNsure

Call 651-793-1616 for information.

The Library will also offer *Snack in the Zone*, Monday-Thursday from **4:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.** and *Homework Help in the Zone*, **Sunday, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Monday-Wednesday from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

Suburban Square Women, Infants & Children (WIC) location now open

WIC provides nutrition counseling, breastfeeding support, nutritious foods, and referrals to community programs.

The new location is near the intersection of Interstate 94 and White Bear Avenue.

Income guidelines are: a household income below 185 percent of the federal poverty level, or qualification for Medical Assistance or MN Care.

More information about Ramsey County WIC is available at 651-266-300 or online at www.co.ramsey.mn.us/ph/wic.

Free food for Families needing help this holiday season

The Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center has started a new program for residents having a difficult time. They will be handing out "Family Food Boxes" every third Thursday of the month at 800 Conway Street.

The next distribution date will be **December 17, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** If you would like to receive a Family Food Box, call 651-793-3885.

Elections: Meet the Candidates

At large: Laura Kidd



My name is Laura Kidd (family name White Eagle). I have lived in Saint Paul for over 40 years and moved to the East Side in 2002. I am a homeowner, mother of two daughters, and I have four grandchildren. I attend Metropolitan State University. Upon completion of my Bachelor's degree, I plan to enroll in a Technical Communications Master's program.

I have a wealth of work experience in health care and community outreach. While working at the tribal branch office of my Ho-Chunk Nation, Health Partners St. Paul Clinic, American Indian Family Center, Native American Community Clinic, and currently at the Minnesota Organization on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (MO-FAS), I gained a wealth of knowledge about how disparities within different systems impact the health of residents. I would bring many local and regional connections to the Board.

I enjoy the medical field, reading, children/youth, gardening, culture, art, computers, and writing. My focus is to bring a greater sense of community, safety, positivity, and to stand united. I love the diversity of Dayton's Bluff and I believe this is what makes Saint Paul a great city. I have East Side Pride and I want to share it!

Sub-district A: Todd Gramenz



I was born and raised on the East Side of St. Paul. I graduated from Harding Senior High School, and was very involved in my school and community. I played football, ran track,

and was awarded the Highest African American Achievement Award.

After high school, I went directly to college at the University of Minnesota Morris, on a full-ride scholarship. I was a recipient of the Page, Temoli, and KOPP scholarships, and was a part of the Multicultural Excellence Program.

At Morris, I became the President of Independence Residence Hall, President of the Management and Economics Club, and President of the Black Student Union. Since graduating from college in 2012, I've worked in management. Now that I have the knowledge, time, and leadership skills, I am committed to helping my community. I want to see a stronger Dayton's Bluff that is more civically engaged, focused on employment issues, and advocates for youth in Saint Paul Public Schools. I want to work with the community to build ties that will allow us to move forward on these goals.

Sub-district A: Jeanelle Foster



I am an average person and your neighbor. I have raised two children on the East Side over the past thirteen years. I work with children/families and occupation. I facilitate parent education and diversity groups. I enjoy cooking, learning to bike, and spending time with my granddaughter. I care about my family and community and believe in the good of others. I bring a new face, perspective, insight, and point of view. I bring a commitment to being a part of continuing to build a flourishing East Side. I have loved seeing the revitalization of the neighborhood over the years, and the diversity in families and family structures.

We are an eclectic community and I love seeing how we come together through our differences. I want to continue to impact the change in perception that the East Side is not safe. We are a vibrant, thriving community!

Sub-district A: David Gray

I am a five-year resident of Sub-district A. I am Co-owner of the East Side Open Market and owner of two small businesses, Just Jelly and Jam as well as Cabin Attitude, which are both located in Sub-district A. I want to give back to my community. I want to be a part of the solution for change instead of remaining part of the silenced minority.

I see many challenges in the Dayton's Bluff community. For example, I see the alienation between the community and leadership. I see the struggle for small businesses to be prosperous in Dayton's Bluff and I want to be part of the solution and re-vitalization of my community and neighborhood.

Sub-district A: Rob Sebo Lubke



2016 will be my fourth year as an East Sider. I moved to Dayton's Bluff not because I knew anything about the place, but because my husband came with a neighborhood. All I can say is, "Dayton's Bluff I'm glad we met."

I spent most of my life in my hometown downriver. Born and raised in Winona I have a feel for how streets follow the river and the bluffs, not a grid. I like Saint Paul a lot. I love Dayton's Bluff. We have a beautiful funky home that is getting better every day.

I'm a communications professional...a former journalist who now works for the Lutheran (ELCA) church. I'm also a preservationist...I want to protect the special parts of the bluff we love while promoting jobs and development, including better transit. I want clean, safe, well-lit streets. I want opportunities for kids and to capitalize on our diversity. I want us to build the home we want.

I'm honored to be Vice-President of the Dayton's Bluff Community Council and I'd appreciate your vote for another term as one of your Sub-District A representatives.

Sub-district B: Shannon Prescott



I am a Saint Paul native and moved to the East Side over a year ago. I have a passion for music. As a vocal performer, I am connected to the local music artist community and have performed original music in many venues across the state of Minnesota. As an artist and a mother, I am passionate about all people having the ability to live productive lives, regardless of age or race.

I am concerned about recent violence in the community. Our kids deserve to grow up in a community that is safe from gun violence. I will work to make sure youth voices are heard and their concerns addressed. I believe the new radio station will serve as a unique vehi-

cle to make that happen. I also want to bring a strong voice to the Community Council that advocates for living-wage jobs for the residents of Dayton's Bluff.

Sub-district B: Chris Lollie



Originally from Chicago, Illinois, I moved the East Side at an early age. I attended Johnson High School and graduated from the High School of Recording Arts. There, I learned vital technical and communication skills that have been key to my community building work with youth. I work at American Freight as a salesperson; however, I am currently in the process of creating a non-profit to expand my youth work, which focuses on engagement and intervention through music production. It is this knowledge and skill base that I wish to bring to the Community Council.

What I love about Dayton's Bluff is the mix of cultures and histories. The demographics of this neighborhood have changed and with it the needs and interests of the community. Diversity is nothing without authentic engagement and representation in systems and institution that affect these communities. People of color have been woefully absent from these institutions. I am excited to be a part of changing that.

I will work to create enjoyable and meaningful volunteer opportunities and programs that will build this council to be an organization that represents and advocate for all in our community.

Sub-district B: Kristin Madore



A lifelong resident of St. Paul, I live, work, and parent three daughters on the East Side. I live here because I love the diversity of East Side people, the history of East Side architecture, and the hills, bluffs, and hollows of East Side land.

As a teacher at Community of Peace Academy, I am aware of how children and families are affected by the safety and health of our neighborhood.

See "Candidates," continued on page 4.

I am concerned that crime and standard housing prevent people from thriving.

I believe the best way to build community is to know your neighbors. As a representative of my sub-district, I will work to bring neighbors together.

I will help build a network of dialogue between neighbors and police, landlords, city officials, and each other. I want Dayton's Bluff to be a neighborhood where all residents feel safe on the streets and in their homes, where people know their neighbors, and feel proud of where they live.

Sub-district B: Rainbow Espinosa

I have lived in Dayton's Bluff with my husband and our kids for about 12 years. We want the youth in our neighborhood to have opportunities for structured and unstructured positive interactions.

The community is changing a lot and many people live here because they can afford it. Some people want the neighborhood to gentrify to the point where many people might feel pushed out.

Sub-district B: Sage Holben

After 53 moves in my life, I came to Minnesota for my job at Metropolitan State University Library and have rented on Fourth Street for 15 of these 17 years. My life has been rich with opportunities to draw from my work experiences in domestic violence and crisis intervention as well as from my life experiences, starting from the outskirts of Chicago.

From planting Little Free Libraries to sponsoring youth drumming workshops, art projects, and youth trips to New York City; from lending my voice to someone fighting for his rights in the criminal justice or health system, to serving as Dayton's Bluff Community Council Board President and Board Director; from confronting drug dealers who stop in my neighborhood, to offering 'Movies on the Porch,' to writing for the *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* about life in our community. This is the core of Dayton's Bluff to me and is why I want to continue serving sub-district B.

When I meet with a group of neighbors about the use of Sacred Heart Convent, or with the community and Metro State on the new parking ramp, and bring owners of problem properties, tenants, and neighbors together to problem-solve: this is what Dayton's Bluff is to me. It's listening, respecting, and working on solutions. No one can do it alone, and real leadership has to come from the community, from people who LIVE in Dayton's Bluff; NOT from the Executive Director who lives in Woodbury. The Dayton's Bluff Community Council Board answers to the population of Dayton's Bluff, and the Executive Director needs to start taking direction from the Board, not dictating to the Board. I ask for your vote so I can help change the board dynamics.

Sub-district C: Rasheed Wade



I am a lifelong resident of St. Paul who moved to the East Side as a child in 2000. In 2012 I graduated from Johnson High School and in 2015 I was proud to become a homeowner on the East Side. Currently, I am in the second year of a four year Heat and Frost Insulator Apprenticeship program with Local #34 in St. Paul.

I enjoy wildlife, birds, sports, basketball, and fishing. What I like best about living on the East Side is the opportunity to do those things, the convenience of transportation and services, a healthy small business community, and clean living environment. I'm interested in participating in neighborhood discussions that affect me and my property. I want to promote and encourage homeownership on the East Side; especially with young people.

There are many great things about our Dayton's Bluff community, but I know more can be done. We need to find solutions to make our neighborhood safe for both people and property.

Sub-district C: Osman Egal



I am a graduate of South Seattle Community College with an Associate's Degree in Arts and Science, Highline Community College with an Associate's Degree in Business, and a Bachelor's Degree in Social Science. For 12 years I have provided leadership as a community leader and cultural advisor working to build better networks and opportunities for service providers to connect to my community.

I have strong bilingual communication skills in English and Somali languages and the ability to translate and interpret, advocate effectively, articulate ideas clearly, write concisely, and make compelling and informative oral presentations.

I have served as a strong community liaison with extensive experience in community development and cross-cultural civic engagement. As the current Director of the new Darul-Uloom Islamic Center, I have experience running a non-profit and engaging a growing Somali community in Dayton's Bluff. I believe the East Side's richness is demonstrated in the diversity of its residents, the variety of its businesses, and the shared commitment to building a strong vibrant community. I hope to strengthen those ties by championing work that will ensure equitable participation and benefit from economic revitalization happening on the East Side.

Sub-district C: Gibson Stanton



My name is Gibson and I am a fellow Dayton's Bluff neighbor. I grew up near Beaver Lake and later Oakdale. Following my time at Minnesota State University-Moorhead, I moved back to Saint Paul where I have been rooted ever since.

My husband, CJ, and I chose to live in Dayton's Bluff the summer of 2012 and have steadily made our 1909 house a home by filling it with friends, foster dogs, and family.

I am a creative, strategic, and passionate person. Currently, I serve as the Director of Children, Youth, Family Ministry and Communications, work which continually gives me hope in our future.

I will give my time and strengths of adaptability, ideation, positivity, and strategic thinking to support the DBCC staff, neighbors, and mission. I will provide a constructive space for criticism through listening, discussion, and claiming action.

My favorite thing about living in Dayton's Bluff is the rooted tradition of being a historic, transitional, and diverse community. Not to mention the amazing restaurants which curate some of the best meals!

Most importantly, I want to take time to listen and learn where our weaknesses are. Personally, I would like to discuss our overall connectedness. If someone is not seeking neighborhood information, who is giving it to them? Connecting neighbors to each other is critical to the quality of life in Dayton's Bluff.

Sub-district C: Tabitha Benci DeRango

My degrees are based in education and community organization and development. I am proud to call "the Bluff" my home. Most recently, my focus has been on creating valued engagement practices throughout the Twin Cities region. With my involvement in the Community Engagement Steering Committee, I co-authored the new Public Engagement Plan with the MET Council. I have skills in community organizing, event planning, creative education, and place making. I have an arts based predilection.

I would like to be part of a board that has strong governance and distinct direction. A board that is observant to community needs and that helps to strengthen the connections in community. A board that practices fiscal transparency and budgets in a way that holds accountability to its greater community.

I feel that the board needs to create healthy, active committees that empower community members to be creative in solutions to the issues in their neighborhoods. I think there needs to be awareness and responsiveness to the issues surrounding the vast amounts of transformation in our community in regard to economic development, rising housing costs, transportation, and diversity values.

Sub-district D: Pa Chua Vang



I am a Hmong American woman who has lived on the East Side of Saint Paul for the last 20 years. I am a LPN who works for a home care agency; I serve on the Board of the Dayton's Bluff Seniors Living at Home Block Nurse Program and St. Paul STRONG, a community-led organization committed to pushing for open and representative government. I also volunteer with East Side Neighborhood Development Corporation because I believe that in order for the East Side to thrive, we need our community to be informed about development in the neighborhood.

What I like best about living here are the communities. I walk down East 7th, around Indian Mounds Park, on Payne, Arcade, and White Bear Avenues, and I see many family owned establishments, homes, and schools so diverse and full of colorful life and history.

I would like engagement with the community to be more transparent. With trust and knowledge, I believe we can come together to make our community stronger. I would like to empower the community to hold us accountable for making their voices heard.

Sub-district D: Quintin Kroger Kidd



On Memorial Day of 2011, Robyn and I moved to Dayton's Bluff. We chose to live in Dayton's Bluff because of its diversity and neighborhood character. Being able to rehab and preserve our 100+ year-old home was a bonus.

I love the sense of pride East Siders have in our community regardless of whether they've lived here their entire lives or just a few years. Walk or drive around the neighborhood and you'll get a small taste of the diversity of Dayton's Bluff; from pizza, to coffee, to a burrito, to barbeque, to pho. Step into a neighborhood bar and listen to someone talk about what they love, or don't love, about the East Side over a cold one.

People in our community are concerned about safety. We need to effectively address these concerns. We need to continue our economic development, business development, and job training efforts. We need to identify and leverage the resources available within our community.

As a former elected official and community volunteer, I have experience addressing the broad range of issues Dayton's Bluff faces. In my current job, I work with people around the globe representing a broad range of cultures.

See "Candidates," continued on page 5.

Sub-district D: Lisa Lemke



I am an early childhood special education teacher for Minneapolis Public Schools. Years ago, when I rode with a group of children on the special education bus through Dayton's Bluff, I knew one day I wanted to live here. I have resided in the Indian Mounds Park neighborhood for six years, becoming a homeowner a year and a half ago.

I love the community and caring neighbors I've come to know in Dayton's Bluff, as I walk along our streets and greet neighbors, getting to know them and their canine family members! I enjoy our beautiful park and overlooks, and the small-town feel we have in our beloved St. Paul.

I would like to encourage the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood to continue to work toward making our streets safer and our bluff beautiful.

Sub-district D: Holly Windingstad



I moved to Dayton's Bluff in 2006 and immediately felt at home in the community. My kids and I started attending story time at the library, toddler playtime at Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center, and ECFE classes. I am a member of First Lutheran Church. I served on the Indian Mounds Playground Advisory Committee and Dayton's Bluff ECFE Advisory Committee. Seven years ago, I developed Messy Fingers and Toes art class for toddlers, because the Recreation Center was not offering much-needed programming.

I would like to see our neighborhood become a destination spot for special businesses and events. We can do this by continuing the beautification of 7th

Street and expanding to radial streets. Improvements to commercial properties need to continue so businesses can open and thrive in our commercial district. Let's show off the dynamic energy in our district by offering vibrant community events.

Creating a safe environment in which we can work, live, and play is an ongoing challenge. Bringing our community together with mutual respect for each other, and better working and living conditions will move us closer to an alive and vibrant community. Additionally, improvements in transportation and building development are greatly needed; we need to ensure they are in line with the needs of a forward thinking community and historic character of the East Side.

Sub-district D: Barry White



I've lived in the Mounds Park neighborhood of Dayton's Bluff for 17 years.

I am a Video Maker, working in video production by writing, shooting, and editing video for small businesses and nonprofits. I am a good listener and I am patient. My skills as a visual communicator may be of use to the organization.

I like the momentum we have gained lately -- with new restaurants, grocery stores, and breweries, etc. I'd like to change greater St Paul's perception that the East Side "sucks."

Urban Oasis Awarded USDA Local Food Promotion Program Grant

Urban Oasis receives funding for its innovative approach to creating a more equitable local food system.

Urban Oasis is the recipient of a Local Food Promotion Program grant from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The grant will support the work Urban Oasis is doing to build new local food markets through expanding its catering and value-added food products line.

"We prioritize purchasing ingredients at a fair price from local, underserved farmers, who use sustainable growing methods," says Tracy Sides, founder and executive director of Urban Oasis. "We believe in building economic opportunities for neighbors as well as farmers who live, grow, or sell produce in Saint Paul. The more our food businesses succeed, the more purchases we can make from farmers, the more jobs we will need to hire, and the greater availability of delicious, healthy food in our community. We're grateful for the support from USDA to help transform our food sys-

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tem into one that is healthier and more equitable," says Sides.

Urban Oasis will focus on expanding sales of its craft condiments beyond CHS Field where seasonal ketchup, honey mustard, and a 100-year-old recipe for sweet pepper relish wowed St. Paul Saints' fans this past season.

This competitive grant will also help support a line of Urban Oasis soups and an expanded catering service. Equipment purchases will not only benefit the food businesses of

and producers. AMS grant funding supports a variety of programs, including organic certification cost-share programs, the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program, the Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program, and the Federal-State Marketing Improvement Program. This funding is one of the ways that USDA invests in the future of rural America and the nation's agricultural sector.

USDA's Food and Nutrition Service administers 15 nutrition assistance programs. In addition to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program,



Steve Trimble

Participants of the "Hmong Food Traditions" luncheon held at Urban Oasis on August 15, 2015.

Urban Oasis, but also other food businesses in the shared commercial kitchen operated in partnership with Latino Economic Development Center.

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) works to improve global opportunities for U.S. growers

these programs include Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, the National School Lunch Program, and the Summer Food Service Program which together comprise America's nutrition safety net. For more information, visit www.fns.usda.gov.

Urban Oasis is a sustainable food center in Saint Paul that strives to create a healthy, resilient, and prosperous community by strengthening the local food system and increasing access and enjoyment of sustainably-grown, affordable, whole food. Learn more at UrbanOasisMN.org.

Jacqueline LaSan — Always Trying to Make a Difference

Mark Gallagher, Associate Editor

A lot of us don't have much of an idea what people need when they lack a place to live. Jacqueline LaSan is trying to send a little love to the people who find themselves in that situation.

One day, about a year ago, the Spirit just hit me," LaSan says. "And He says to me, 'Get started. You have to start somewhere,' and that's when I decided to name it The Carol and Kahlin Foundation."

Carol and Kahlin are names that are dear to LaSan. Her mother's name was Carol and Kahlin was her daughter's uncle. Both passed away within 25 days of each other near the end of 2013.

"I think it was one of the saddest years of my life," she quietly says. "It was the holidays. I had already told my mom that she was going to help me build a shelter — because once I graduate, I'm getting a shelter. So we were talking about it all the time — that was my goal."

Jacqueline LaSan attends Century College in White Bear Lake and will graduate in May 2016 with a degree in Human Services. "I have been there since 2012," she says. "But I took a semester or two off when my mom and brother-in-law passed. I pushed my way through the end of the semester. I just pushed myself because I just wasn't emotionally and mentally there."

Her dream is to own and run a shelter, and she is taking positive steps to realize that dream. When asked what inspired her to put the idea of a shelter in her head, LaSan proudly says, "One morning the Spirit touched me, and I had a few dollars in my

school account. I took it out and went to Walmart, Target, and some thrift stores to buy a printer and a desk. I put them in my basement and turned the basement into an office — then just got started."

LaSan went through The Nonprofit Council on University Avenue to get her foundation started. "They guide you through all the steps it takes to start

"Those are the basics that you need to get from day to day," she says. "So if you're looking for a job or looking for an apartment, at least you are able to maintain your hygiene because once a person is homeless, maintaining his or her hygiene becomes a hard thing to do.

"If I were to get an office, I would like to start off on the East Side and hope to expand to other nearby areas where I can help," LaSan says. "I'm new at this and I'm learning as I go. I just want to take my time and learn everything I need to learn.

"I have children. I have a family, and I have a house that needs to be taken care of and maintained," she says humbly. "But I also want to teach my children, so one day I can give the business to them, and help them understand to always help people — because you never know when you might need help.

"This is an exciting time for me," LaSan says. "I look forward to helping out the community. I want to help out if I can because I was once in need of help. My mom was scared to leave us kids alone.

"To my knowledge, I don't think there is a safe haven on the East Side; there's a community center and it does a good job of helping people out — but I think the East Side could use a little more."

Jacqueline LaSan can be reached by phone: 651-399-1013. A Web site has been developed for the foundation, and can accept donations. carolandkahlinfoundation.org

Mark Gallagher is a professional writer and editor. He can be reached at refineEditorial@gmail.com.



Mark Gallagher

Jacqueline LaSan, founder of The Carol and Kahlin Foundation.

a nonprofit," she says. "You pay a \$150.00 fee and they tell you what you need and what licenses you need to apply for. Then you tell the Nonprofit Council what your foundation is about, what your plans are, and then you have to abide by those plans."

LaSan and her family assemble hygiene kits to donate to women's shelters that may need them. The hygiene kits contain very basic but essential items: toothpaste, toothbrush, soap, washcloth, hand sanitizer, and deodorant.

Dayton's Bluff Seniors now serving seniors in Payne-Phalen District

The Living at Home Network announces the expansion of Dayton's Bluff Seniors Living at Home Network service area to now include seniors in the Payne-Phalen community.

Dayton's Bluff Seniors has been operating in the east side neighborhood since 2008 and offers a wide variety of services for seniors who wish to remain independent and in their homes. Diane Raff, Executive Director of the Living at Home Network said "Dayton's Bluff Seniors provides an important link to services and resources for seniors in the community, and we are pleased they are ready to share these with their Payne-Phalen neighbors."

DBS Executive Director, Janet

Golden commented that "we are ready and eager to serve the seniors in Payne-Phalen with our full range of programs and resources. It's a great opportunity to reach seniors where they live."

DBS services include rides to doctor appointments, the grocery store, post office, the beauty salon, and other destinations. The Elder Café held every month offers entertainment and a nutritious lunch to guests, and our Wellness Clinics at two senior residences round out our offerings. Most services are provided at low cost or based on a sliding scale.

Senior residents who were previously served by Payne-Phalen Elders are encouraged to contact Dayton's Bluff Seniors at (651) 237-7633 or (651) 400-1650 should they wish to enroll in our programs. More information on Dayton's Bluff Seniors can be found online at www.daytons-bluffseniors.org.

Project Recovery now accepting clothing donations

People Incorporated's Project Recovery, at 317 York Avenue, is now accepting clothing donations. Cleaning out your closet this winter? Any clothing donations of lightly worn items are welcome in the homeless services division. They will go to patrons of the drop-in center and the Housing First program, which serves the underprivileged homeless community in the East Metro, and also provides outreach in Hennepin and Ramsey Counties. **Call 651-225-8963 for more information.**

Old St. Paul Group discusses history of Dayton's Bluff

Greg Cosimini
Forum Staff

Dayton's Bluff resident and local historian, Steve Trimble, presented a talk about the history of Dayton's Bluff at the Old St. Paul Facebook group event on November 21, at the Historic Mounds Theatre. Over 70 people attended his talk to learn about one of the oldest neighborhoods in St. Paul.

Pictured below, Steve (right) gets an assist from Karin DuPaul who briefly spoke about the Hamm Brewery, Hamm family, and the many mansions they built in the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood.



Greg Cosimini

Karin DuPaul and Steve Trimble spoke about the history of Dayton's Bluff to a crowd gathered at the Mounds Theatre on November 21.

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

804 Margaret Street, St. Paul, MN 55106
Phone: 651-776-0550 E-mail: editor@daytonsbluff.org

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Board of Directors:

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Next issue: February 2016. Deadline for material: January 10, 2016.

Metropolitan State University Student Center Open House Week Jan. 19–22, 2016



*Join us to celebrate our
new Student Center*

690 East Seventh Street, Saint Paul

**Grand Opening Program
Friday, Jan. 22, 2016
4:30 p.m.**



This wonderful new addition to our Saint Paul campus is possible because of your collaboration and support. We appreciate the involvement of our neighbors and community leaders and thank you for your patience during construction. We are pleased that the Student Center contributes to our shared vision for a revitalized East Seventh Street!

Please contact the **Institute for Community Engagement and Scholarship** at 651-793-1285 for more information or visit metrostate.edu.

Metropolitan
State University



Take your right to vote!

*Tabitha Benci DeRango
& Jennifer Herman
Special to the Forum*

In October, the Dayton's Bluff Community Council invited residents to their annual dinner which usually includes elections for half of the seats on the board of directors. But this year they surprised residents by also announcing that elections had been postponed until February 2016, a violation of the Council's by-laws and of Minnesota state statutes.

Residents attended the October Council meeting and raised very serious concerns about losing their right to vote this year. The board responded by voting to reschedule the annual meeting so that elections could take place before

the end of 2015.

Both the Council staff and community members have been hard at work door knocking, emailing, phoning, and using social media to recruit candidates. Their efforts have paid off in a strong slate of candidates in each of the four sub districts within Dayton's Bluff.

It is essential that everyone in Dayton's Bluff exercise their right to vote. We need to elect a board made up of residents who are strongly connected to their neighbors so that the community can truly be engaged in the governance process in our neighborhood and in Saint Paul.

Residents fought for this opportunity to vote. So step up, do your part, and vote during the week of December 14-18, or at the annual meeting on December 21. You can make a difference just by marking a ballot!



Greg Cosimini

Two grumpy pumpkins did not appreciate the sudden switch to winter that occurred in Dayton's Bluff on November 26, Thanksgiving Day.

Mounds Park United Methodist Church

1049 Euclid Street (corner of Earl and Euclid); 651-774-8736
Mounds Park United Methodist on Facebook

Mounds Park United Methodist Church is a community based, multi-cultural congregation located at 1049 Euclid Street at the corner of Earl and Euclid. We strive to build on the positive assets of Dayton's Bluff; working together as neighbors while improving our community.

Everyone is invited to the following community events:

Wednesday, December 16, starting at Noon – Community Friendship Gathering with hot lunch. We begin with a hot lunch of Stuffed Pork Chops, mashed potatoes and gravy, pear salad, rolls, and dessert, followed by music from the Mounds Park UMC Women's Chorus. All are welcome; the focus of this event is on persons age 55 and over. A donation of \$8.00 is suggested.

The Children's Christmas Pageant entitled "O Jesse Tree, O Jesse Tree; a Living Advent Calendar" will be presented on **Sunday, December 20, at 10:30 a.m.** Afterward, everyone is invited to celebrate Christ's birthday in the Fellowship Hall with special treats for the kids.

Community Christmas Eve Candle Light Services at 4:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. The church will be festively decorated for the season, special Christmas music will be offered, candlelight and carols, and a meditation entitled: **"Rejoice: God Comes To Us!" All are invited!**

Minnesota Public Safety Commissioner Mona Dohman named Metropolitan State Alum of the Year

Metropolitan State University is honored to recognize Minnesota Public Safety Commissioner Mona Dohman as the 2015 Alumna of the Year. Dohman was recognized at the Metropolitan State University Foundation Scholarship Celebration awards ceremony on Thursday, November 5, at the Saint Paul Campus.

Dohman graduated from Metropolitan State in 1998 with an individualized bachelor's degree focusing in criminal justice administration. She later received a master's degree in educational administration with a focus in police leadership from the University of St. Thomas, and is also a graduate of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, VA.

She has committed her career to earning the public's trust, which she views as a "gift." Dohman has merited the public trust during 33 years in public safety – 10 years as Maple Grove's police chief. For the past four-plus years, she has claimed one of the state's top public-trust posts—

Minnesota's Public Safety Commissioner.

"Mona Dohman exemplifies so many of the traits that are characteristic of Metropolitan State students, and her career of public service is an outstanding example. For these and many other reasons, I am proud to introduce Commissioner Mona Dohman as Metropolitan State University's Alumna of the Year," Interim President Devinder Malhotra said at the award ceremony.

Dohman was appointed commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Public Safety by Gov. Mark Dayton in January 2011. She oversees a \$600 million budget, 2,100 employees and 14 divisions, including Driver and Vehicle Services, Minnesota State Patrol, Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, Homeland Security, and Emergency Management. Prior to her appointment, Dohman served 10 years as chief of the Maple Grove Police Department. She joined the department in 1984 and served as an investigator, patrol officer, sergeant and captain before her promotion to chief in 2001. Dohman's nearly 33 years of law enforcement experience also includes serving as a patrol officer in Glencoe and Marshall.

Metropolitan State names new trustee to Foundation Board

Metropolitan State University has named a new member to the Metropolitan State Foundation Board of Trustees.

Greg Lais, founder and executive director of Wilderness Inquiry, will serve a three-year appointment.

Lais founded Wilderness Inquiry in 1978. Wilderness Inquiry is a non-profit outdoor recreation and education organization that annually serves more than 25,000 people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities. Prior to founding Wilderness Inquiry, Lais served as administrator at Camp New Hope for Developmentally Disabled Citizens. Since 1993, he has also served as an adjunct faculty in the Recreation, Park and Leisure Studies program, School of Kinesiology at the University of Minnesota.

Lais holds a bachelor's degree in Psychology from St. John's University in Collegeville, Minn. where he grad-

uated cum laude, and an MBA from the University of Minnesota Carlson School of Management.

"I've always been interested in education, especially helping non-traditional learners get in to and graduate from college," Lais says. "I've always considered Metropolitan State University to be a leader in this regard, and I hope to help build it so more people can get access to quality education."

Metropolitan State University, a member of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system, is America's premier university for life-long learning, providing unsurpassed, competitive academic and professional degree programs at the bachelor's, master's and doctoral levels while maintaining affordability.

The mission of the Metropolitan State University Foundation is to generate maximum public awareness, as well as governmental and private support, for Metropolitan State University, and to assist the university in its development as a comprehensive, urban university in the Twin Cities metropolitan area for changing and diverse student needs.



Karin DuPaul

Newly elected Ward 7 City Council member Jane Prince, Sue Thune, retiring Ward 2 City Council member Dave Thune, and Jane's husband – former Dayton's Bluff Community Council President Dave Murphy, at the celebration of Jane's election win on November 3.



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Are you interested in fostering or adopting a rescue dog?

*Kari Soeffker
Special to the Forum*

Are you interested in fostering or adopting a rescue dog? I live in Dayton's Bluff and as a dog lover myself, I was curious about what fostering entailed for a long time. Many questions came to mind; what if the dog I chose to foster didn't get adopted right away and I'd have him for months and months? What if I developed an emotional attachment to the dog and had to endure the agony of giving her up? I thought about the supplies that I didn't have – the food, treats, leashes, collars, kennels, toys, bowls, and everything else needed. Would I have to purchase all of this myself?

I decided to start my research by looking up different foster and rescue organizations and reading anything I could to educate myself on what I was in for.

I learned that in the Twin Cities, and Minnesota in general, we are blessed with many great rescues. We have a strong network of dedicated people helping this cause and we have a good record of spaying and neutering our dogs. Unfortunately, this isn't the case in many southern states and they are overwhelmed with an abundance of stray dogs.

Fox 9 News has a great video you can watch called "Puppy Pipeline" which aired this summer and explains how and why all these dogs are coming to the Twin Cities to get adopted. With my research complete and my questions answered, I decided I was going to be a part of this.

I have now fostered 10 dogs (an average of one dog

every six weeks since February). I am amazed to see how fast they are adopted once they get their freedom ride to Minnesota. The average I've had a foster dog at my home is 10-14 days before they go home to their forever family. There are many "foster failures" hap-



Kari Soeffker

Chanelle, a recently adopted five month old Golden Retriever/Collie mix from Kentucky, rescued by Secondhand Hounds.

pening every week, meaning that a foster decides to adopt the dog they are fostering themselves as they find the dog to be such a perfect fit for their family. Fortunately, I haven't fallen into this category...yet!

The true reward for me is seeing the transformation from sad faces and crowded kennel pictures from down south, turned into big smiles as dogs go home with their new forever families. The satisfaction I get far outweighs my attachment to them.

If you have any interest in applying to be a foster or learning about the rescues and seeing the available dogs, here are some non-profit rescues I've worked with: Secondhand Hounds in Eden Prairie. Many dogs in Missouri, Kentucky, and Tennessee spend months in a shelter just to "run out of time" simply due to lack of space.

Rescues work with "Mobile Mutts" and other individual volunteers to drive several different legs of their journey to Minnesota. Midwest Animal Rescue (MARS) in Brooklyn Park provides a free question and answer fostering class every Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

At Coco's Heart in Hudson, Wisconsin, you can see the dogs that are in need of fosters listed on their facebook page. They host a new foster orientation on the second Friday of every month from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at their office. During the orientation, you will learn more about their mission and the important roll you play as a foster family.

Once in the care of the rescues, the dogs are vaccinated, microchipped, and spayed or neutered. The rescues provide everything you need to foster free of charge including food, treats, collars, leashes, and kennels/crates.

Good luck on your fostering/rescuing journey and feel free to call the rescues listed, other rescues in the metro area, or myself if you have any questions. Kari Soeffker can be reached at 651-774-3005.

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Metropolitan State University Awarded \$444,429 Career Ready Internship Grant from Great Lakes

Metropolitan State University has been awarded a three-year, \$444,429 Career Ready Internship Grant from Great Lakes Higher Education Guaranty Corporation. An anticipated 335 new paid internships will be created during the 2015-2018 academic years.

Metropolitan State University is one of 33 colleges and universities in Minnesota, Iowa, Ohio, and Wisconsin that received a combined \$12 million in Great Lakes grants to make internships more equitable for their students with financial need. This is the second time Metropolitan State has received a grant from Great Lakes for developing paid internships for its students. Last year, 117 paid internships were created with the grant.

"It is difficult to overstate just how important The Great Lakes Career Ready award is to the university and Metro State students. During our initial 2014-2015 award period, many students reported that a paid academic

internship had been a game-changer for them, altering their career trajectory and opening a new set of opportunities which simply would not have been possible without the funding made available through this award," says Greg Mellas, director of the Institute for Community Engagement and Scholarship.

Metropolitan State will collaborate with businesses and nonprofit organizations to provide the greatest number of current and future students with an educational opportunity they might not otherwise have. Internships will be targeted to undergraduate students studying to enter the science, technology, math, chemistry fields, the College of Management, and in areas of social entrepreneurship.

Strong preference for the grant is given to institutions that are most proactive in coordinating with the business and nonprofit community to create new paid internships.

Following three months of administrative planning, employer outreach and student recruitment, Metropolitan State will place eligible juniors and seniors in paid internships beginning in January 2016. The Great Lakes grant period continues through May 2018.

MOUNDS PARK BARBER STYLISTS



APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE
TUESDAY THRU SATURDAY

1043 HUDSON ROAD
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651-771-6980

Judy Lee

What is it?

*Karin DuPaul
Forum Staff*

I was recently asked "what is that new building being built on East 7th Street?" The new apartment building named "The Cambric" at 720 East 7th Street will open during the summer of 2016. The Cambric is a senior (55+) affordable living building. It will have 113 units of senior rental housing and it is right next door to the new Mississippi Market.

The Cambric will offer open floor plans, nine-foot ceilings, washer/dryer,

patios, balconies, and walk-in closets. Shared amenities available at The Cambric include community and fitness rooms, on-site salon, outdoor patio and plaza, common area fire places, and underground parking.

The Cambric is owned and operated by Dominion. Founded in 1972, Dominion is a Minneapolis-based owner, developer, and manager of apartment communities nationwide. With more than 21,000 owned and/or managed units at 180-plus sites across the country, Dominion is known for creative solutions to unique and challenging development projects, and management expertise. For more information visit www.dominiumapartments.com.



Karin DuPaul

"The Cambric," located at 720 East 7th Street, will be Dayton's Bluff's newest 55+ senior living option.

Saint Paul East Side Optimist Club's first year

Ann Polachek
President

The Saint Paul East Side Optimist Club is celebrating its first year anniversary following our charter with the Optimist International on November 13, 2014.

The Optimists International is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit Organization that is 96 years old and whose mission is "Bringing Out the Best in Kids."

Each club is autonomous, with its members serving the youth in their community in any way they see fit – we see the need and react to it.

Before the club was formed, member Dave Anderson (who has written three books on baseball) and I, brought wiffle ball to the Saint Paul Police Department's 2014 "Safe Summer Nights" at the city's various parks and playgrounds. We made two observations. First, that most boys and girls didn't know how to swing a bat or use a glove. Secondly, that they really enjoyed playing ball and did not want to quit when the event ended. With these observations and the fact that there is a national decline in baseball in the inner cities, it became the impetus to form the club and promote sandlot baseball.

Subsequently, on May 2, in partnership with the Arlington Hills Community Center we held a "kick off" program featuring a baseball clinic held by Mr. Steve Winfield of the legendary baseball family. This event included the serving of baseball food that brought families together, a mini parade, a concert by the 200+ Farnsworth School Band, and concluded with a showing of the movie *Sandlot*.

Following this, we were invited to the Duluth-Case Playground with its many ball fields, to start the program which was held twice-a-week. Many of the youth participating were of the Karen ethnic group.



Anita Johnson

The Saint Paul East Side Optimist Club at the dedication of Optimist Field on August 15.



Fred Kaphingst

A sandlot baseball game was played by 40 girls and boys in honor of the dedication of Optimist Field.

The program offers an opportunity for those not familiar with baseball, or due to circumstances are unable to participate in organized baseball, to simply

come as you are and play - and have fun!
On August 17, 2015, we had a formal dedication ceremony on field #5, with an unveiling of the signage by Councilman Dan Bostrom and Program Director Kong Chang, that reads: "Optimist Field Home of Sandlot Baseball - Tues and Wed 5:30-7:00." This was followed by a sandlot baseball game with 40 girls and boys taking their turn at bat and in the field. A professional umpire volunteered his time. Baseball food was served following the game. The event was co-sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Department and the Duluth-Case Booster Club

Our first season of sandlot baseball ended at the Wilder Playground as part of the Payne Avenue Harvest Festival.

We will continue with sandlot baseball as we plan a new program that is part of the Minnesota Twins RBI League, RBI meaning Reviving Baseball In the Inner Cities. The program would consist of two teams of both boys and girls. One team is for kids 12 and under and the other for 10 and under.

Next, we will be working with high school students to compete in the Optimists' Essay Contest.

Also, along the way we donated a portable electric sewing machine to the Arlington Hills Community Center for the sewing classes in their teen center and recently concluded a 5-weekend cribbage course as well.

So, that is a recap of our first year that we all are proud of. We now look forward to the coming year.

If anyone is interested in joining our club, please contact me at: Polly's Coffee Cove, Attn: Ann Polachek, 1382 Payne Ave., St. Paul MN 55130; 651-771-5531.

Rep. Sheldon Johnson and Councilmember Jane Prince wish you:

JOYFUL HOLIDAYS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR



PEACE, HEALTH AND FRIENDSHIP

The Story of Maria Bates Dayton

Steve Trimble
Forum Historian

Readers may know that Maria Street and Bates Street were so named in 1854 in honor of the wife of Lyman Dayton. We have written about Lyman several times and there is little need to tell his story again. That's why this history article will tell some of the story of Maria Bates Dayton.

Maria was born in 1811 in Rhode Island and raised in Providence by her aunt and uncle from the age of six when her mother died. Hers was a comfortable early life in a home with servants. It is not currently known how she met her husband-to-be, but is on record that the eighteen year old married Lyman Dayton on January 2, 1831. Their only child, known as Lyman C., was born around 1834.

Lyman Sr. was a financially successful merchant who "in consequence of ill-health, he retired from active labor" and headed for Minnesota in 1849. The Dayton family arrived at St. Paul on the steamboat Dr. Franklin, along with William LeDuc. They both took up lodging at the Central House, the principal hotel in town. LeDuc later wrote "the next day while walking in front of the hotel, Mrs. Dayton called from an open window excitedly to me, 'Come and help me quick. Mr. Baker has the cholera!' Mrs. Dayton was frightened and said she had given him all the brandy she had and he must have some more. I got more brandy and she insisted on his taking it, altho' he was then drunk. He recovered next day."

While in Minnesota, their first appearance in the census was in 1850. The three were living in the downtown area, as was almost everyone. They had no live-in servants. Lyman was forty, Maria a year younger and son Lyman C. was nineteen. By 1854 they built a very large frame house in today's Dayton's Bluff. According to the 1860 census, six others – most likely employees – in-

cluding Charles St. Clair, a clerk from England, Hannah and Betsy Johnston, listed as Swedish servants, Balt Ke-ton and Patrick McMahon, Irish laborers.

Maria was a very strong Baptist and it is said that she was responsible for having had lumber brought up from the St. Croix River to build the first church for her congregation in downtown St. Paul. When completed, it was carpeted; she placed a Bible on the altar and deeded it over to the church.



Dayton's Bluff District Forum Archives

Maria Bates Dayton.

Lyman died in 1865 and Maria had him buried on their property and probably remained there for a time. Then, in what may have been a surprising move, Maria married again on March 21, 1873. While remarriage was fairly common at the time, she became the bride of Michael Nell who had been a family employee. Then there is the fact that he was 33 years younger than her.

The 1880 census finds 68 year old Maria B. Nell in a

house in Elk River on the east side of the river opposite Dayton, Minnesota. With her 35 year old husband Michael, who is listed as a farmer, they shared a structure with five others – probably employees – whose ages ranged from 17 to 24. Michael died a year later on August 20, 1881.

In the 1880s, the Pioneer Press reported that Maria had died. They later received a letter from her saying they were in error. Finally, on December 27, 1896, the St. Paul Globe ended the speculation with the headline "Death of Mrs. Nell. Lyman Dayton's wife, the pioneer resident, dies poor." She was found in her home near present-day Elk River. "Mrs. Dayton, while once very wealthy, died in straitened circumstances," the writer said, "a large part of her fortune having been taken by the depreciation in real estate values...coupled with a great deal of expensive litigation with her son."

The son, Lyman C. Dayton, had died a year earlier. "For many years he was at litigation continuously with his mother over the property left by the father and husband." Much of the trouble was linked to the second marriage of Maria, "which created considerable excitement at the time." One source suggested he was their gardener, but the Globe said that Nell was "was formerly the family coachman," who left St. Paul for the Civil War and married the widow several years after his return. They moved to a farm across the river from Dayton, Minnesota. The newspaper ended with the following observation: "Mrs. Nell was a peculiar woman who seemed to have the faculty for getting into unfortunate quarrels with people. She lost most of her property through litigation, and was a constant figure in the courts. She lived to a ripe old age, being in the neighborhood of ninety."

An old history book's comments after the death of Maria might serve as her epitaph: "Her barque," (which is a sailing vessel) "lighted by the love and charity she has given others here on earth, will guide her safely to the dim unknown."

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Zoo Siab Txais Tos

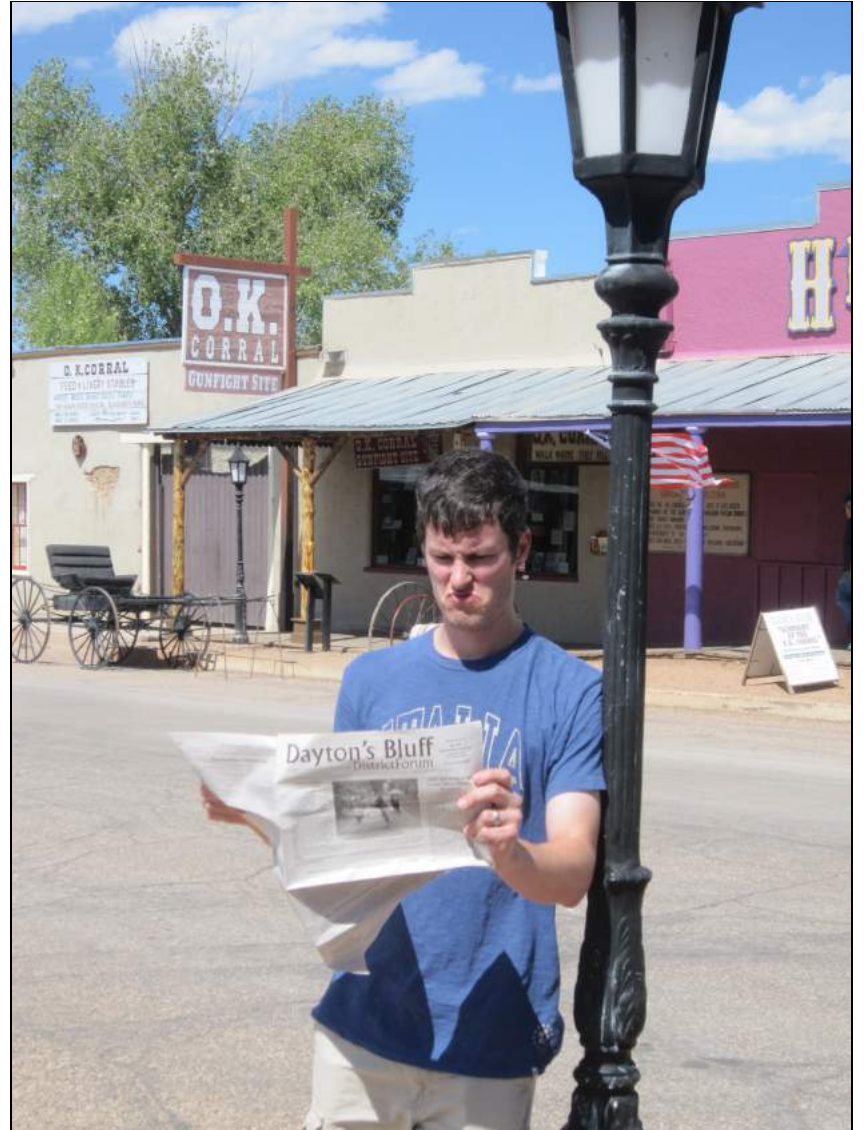
Bienvenida **Welcome** Soo Dhawaadda
Salvete

Have Forum, will travel



Several readers sent us pictures of themselves reading our newspaper on their travels. If you'd like to do the same, please email photos to editor@daytonsbluff.org.

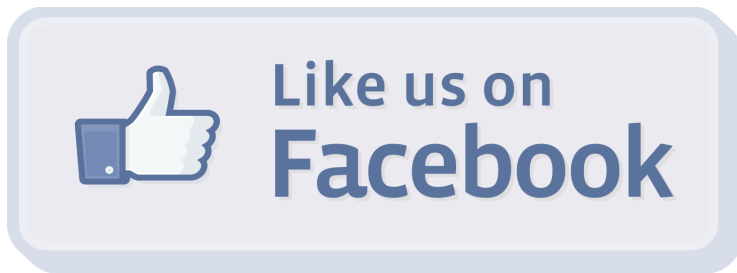
Rich DuPaul reading the *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* at Wall Drug on his way back from the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally in Sturgis, South Dakota. After all that reading in the sun, we hope he drank lots of the "free iced water" the roadside signs promise.



Grant Offermann just couldn't tear himself away from the local news. Not even a visit to the OK Corral Famous Gunfight Site while on vacation in Tombstone, Arizona, could distract this devoted reader.



At left: Tom Beer took his copy of the Forum all the way to Sumvitg, Switzerland. That's really Sumvitg!



Friends of the Forum

Dear Reader,

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

For the past two years we have been soliciting donations through our *Friends of the Forum* program. Thanks to the donations of readers like you, we have been able to keep the paper up and running.

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 have been our *Friend* in the past, please renew your membership with a donation in 2015.

Our goal for the year is \$2,000; as of this printing we have raised \$1,978.79. Won't you help us?

Sincerely,
The *Dayton's Bluff District Forum*

Board: Greg Cosimini, Karin DuPaul, Jennifer Herman, Sage Holben, Carla Riehle, Steve Trimble

Editor: Jennifer Gascoigne Associate Editor: Mark Gallagher Assistant Editor: Apryl Cave

Yes, I will become a *Friend of the Forum*. My tax-deductible check is enclosed, for:

\$100 \$50 \$25 Another amount _____

Or give online: razoo.com/Hopewell-Communications-Incorporated.

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Make checks out to *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* and mail to 804 Margaret Street, St. Paul, MN 55106.

For more information, contact 651-776-0550 or editor@daytonsbluff.org.

Thank you for your support!

Many thanks to our 2015 donors:

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