

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

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daytonsbuffdistrictforum.org

"The Voice of the Community"

Sixth Annual Art in the Hollow a success!

Forum Staff

The sixth annual Art in the Hollow was a wonderful success. The weather was beautiful on Saturday June 6, the artists were great, and the attendance was the best yet. Visitors new to the event marveled at the beautiful, picturesque setting.

Entertainment was excellent: the Mariachi Estrella Mexican mariachi band, Young Voter Voices, The Baron of Bubble, John Knowles,

Wayward Creek, American Indian Magnet Indian Dancers, Ken Buras, Amit Snir, Eugene Rosso, Dorothy Doring, sound person and singer Paul Garding, Swede Hollow Songs—East Side Thrive Talented Youth, May North Band, Dan Choma, Kamala Chaand Dance, and singer/sound man Kirk Larson.

The sculpture contest winners were Catherine Riley; The Tree, Mike Garlish; the Gallery, and Romi Slowiak; Floating World.

A special thank you to everyone involved, including the Saint Paul Police Department who helped make the sixth annual Art in the Hollow a magnificent success.

To share ideas, thoughts, or to register for the Seventh annual Art in the Hollow in 2016, contact Karin or Romi at 651-776-0550; visit www.artinthehollow.org or on Facebook. For more information on Friends of Swede Hollow, see www.swedehollow.org.



Jennifer Gascoigne

American Indian Magnet School Dancers performing at the sixth annual Art in the Hollow on Saturday, June 6.

New Saint Paul East Side Optimist Club has busy spring

Fred Kaphingst

Optimistic East Sider

The East Side has many reasons to be optimistic and the recently-formed Saint Paul East Side Optimist Club is giving it several

more.

The Sandlot Baseball program had its roots in the summer of 2014 during the Saint Paul Police Department's "Safe Summer Nights." This program provided fun activities for kids at various inner-city parks and playgrounds: a jumping castle, climbing wall, and baseball.

Future East Side Optimist Club President Ann Polachek and future

Vice President David Anderson traveled throughout the summer with the police, offering safe "wiffle ball" in conjunction with the other activities. They discovered that most of the children had never swung a bat and some didn't even know how to use a baseball glove. When the nights ended, the kids wanted to keep playing ball!

In August, Anderson published a novella titled *Johnny Baseball Seed*. The story is about a retiree who rides around the country from town to town, looking for playgrounds and starting pickup baseball games with local kids (drawing them outdoors from the indoor activities of TV and video games). His vehicle is a 26" Schwinn Meridian, three-wheel tricycle, complete with a rear folding basket, handlebar bag and two trailers for baseball equipment.

See "Optimist Club" continued on page 5.

WEQY radio build-out scheduled for July

Carla Riehle

Forum Staff

Engineers from Philadelphia-based Prometheus Radio Project will be on hand the second week of July to complete the installation of broadcasting and recording equipment at WEQY FM, the new East Side radio station. The studio, located at 790 East 7th Street, has already been outfitted with soundproof broadcasting booths opening out onto the location's storefront windows. Prometheus will also erect the station's antenna and transmitter atop one of the outbuildings at 180 Degrees at East 7th and Johnson Parkway and begin testing the signal.

A number of new, locally originated programs have slotted in under the oversight of the WEQY Advisory Committee, with the expectation that broadcasting will start sometime in August. Dayton's Bluff Community Council Program Manager Brenda Reid says she expects that in its initial few months the station will meet the FCC minimum requirement of 36 hours a week air time and gradually increase the number of hours over the ensuing few months. Programming that reflects the make-up and interests of the East Side community is still being sought; anyone interested in participating should contact Brenda at Brenda@daytonsbuff.org or 651-621-2760. And be sure to watch for an announcement of the station's grand opening early in the fall.

Good (left field) fences make good neighbors

Nick Duncan

Forum Contributor

Unless you live in a cave, you've already heard about our new neighbor in Lowertown. And even if you do reside in a cave you would have still seen the fireworks after every Friday night home game.

On Thursday, May 21, the St Paul Saints played their first game at CHS Field in Lowertown, just down the slope from Dayton's Bluff. By all accounts, the new stadium has been a hit with fans and media alike. Over 8,500 fans crowded in for opening night. In the local dailies and on the local newscasts we've seen stories on everything from the locker rooms to the food and beer options to the environmentally friendly features of the new ball park.

The *Pioneer Press* and the *Star Tribune* have also covered the Lowertown neighborhood around CHS Field in-depth with restaurant reviews and parking suggestions. The *Trib* even has a fun little bird's-eye map of the entire Lowertown neighborhood west of the ballpark with cartoons featuring area businesses and restaurants.

See "CHS Field" continued on page 4.

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New Friends of Swede Hollow are welcome

Do you enjoy Swede Hollow Park and care about its history and future? The next Friends of Swede Hollow monthly meeting is **Wednesday, July 8, at 6:30 p.m.** Email karin@swedehollow.org or call 651-776-0550 for more information and the meeting's location.

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

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

Dayton's Bluff Take-a-Hike

On the first Saturday of most months the Dayton's Bluff Take-A-Hike starts at Indian Mounds Park at Earl Street and Mounds Boulevard at **10:30 a.m.** The July hike is on **July 4**. The hike is about one and a half to two hours long and will end at Swede Hollow Park or East Side Heritage Park depending on the desire of the hikers. Learn a little history along the way! If you have any questions, contact Karin DuPaul at 651-776-0550 or karin@swedehollow.org.

Police community meetings

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

The next meetings are **Wednesday, July 15, at 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.** Regular meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month.

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

Free summer meals for children

Second Harvest Heartland is providing free summer meals for children 18 and under in select Dayton's Bluff locations. The program will run June through August, but the ending time is different for each location.

There are 70 sites throughout St. Paul. Visit 2harvest.org/summerfood for a map of the different locations or for more information in Spanish, Somali, or Hmong, call 612-516-3663.

Free meals for children will be available at the Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center located at 262 Bates and 800 Conway from **June 15-August 28, from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. and from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**; Dayton's Bluff Elementary located at 262 Bates and 800 Conway from **June 15-August 28, from 8:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. and**

11:00 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.; American Indian Magnet located at 1073 E. Third Street from **June 15-August 14, at 7:20 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**; Dayton's Bluff Public Library located at 645 E. Seventh Street from **June 15-August 20, at 4:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.**



The East Side Open Market is live music, food, art, and farmers market located at 463 Maria Avenue. **Open Thursdays from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** Call 651-815-8523 for more information or East Side Open Market on Facebook.

Metropolitan State University to host free community event

Metropolitan State University Library & Learning Center and Dayton's Bluff branch Public Library will host a free community event on **Wednesday, July 8, from 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.** at the labyrinth on the west side of the Library and Learning Center. The Open Eye Figure Theater will perform *Tucker's Robot* at 7:00.

Tucker's Robot is the story of Tucker, a young boy who needs to go back in time to face a neighborhood bully. How do you go back in time? With a time traveling robot of course! Together Tucker and his robot discover the importance of friendship and the courage to face a bully.

Join us for food, games, and puppets, complete with face painting and an accordion player!

Margaret Park Summer Program

Saint Paul Parks and Recreation is bringing the fun to you this summer! **Mondays from 5:00 p.m.-7:45 p.m., Wednesdays and Thursdays from 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m., June 10-August 6** (no program on July 9 and July 29). Free games, arts and crafts, and snacks for kids ages 6-12. Younger children are welcome if accompanied by an adult. In the event of inclement weather, activities will be canceled and participants will be sent home. For more information, contact Ann at 651-292-6508.

Estimating and bidding classes start July 7

Beginning **Tuesday, July 7**, ProBid LLC will offer eight classes on pricing strategies, estimating, and bidding. ProBid is a Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry Approved continuing education provider.

The training is designed for any economically disadvantaged, minority, woman or veteran owned small business desiring to provide goods or services to the City of Saint Paul, and other government agencies and corporations that

have supplier diversity programs.

Tuition costs are subsidized by the City of Saint Paul, making tuition only \$100 per participant; however, participants who paid for ProBid's one-day continuing education classes or workshops this year will have tuition waived.

Classes will be held at the East Side Enterprise Center at 804 Margaret Street from **5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on July 7, 9, 14, 16, 23, 28, and 30.** Call 651-967-9395 or visit www.probidtraining.com for more information.

July at the Dayton's Bluff Library

The Dayton's Bluff branch of the St. Paul Public Library shares its home with Metropolitan State University at 645 East 7th Street. It has recently lengthened its hours and is open until 8:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday. One-hour parking is available in the lot, and the 61, 63, and 73 bus routes serve the location.

The library provides special services for kids: free snacks after school, baby and family story time, and *Sing, Play, Learn* with McPhail are just a few. Special programs offered this summer beginning June 15, include *Reading, Fun, and Games in the Zone!* Teens ages 12-18 will design computer games, play games, solve puzzles, and earn book prizes. This program is offered **Monday-Thursday, from noon to 4:00 p.m.** Drop in any time! For kids 11 and under, *Reading, Fun, and Games!* Will include games, puzzles, and book prizes, offered **Monday-Thursday from noon to 4:00 p.m.**

Beginning June 19, the *Summer Movie Series* will screen a FREE family movie (popcorn included!) every Friday afternoon in the Metropolitan State University Library Student Lounge; **Fridays from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.** Ongoing Events at the Dayton's Bluff Library include: *Job Search & Open Lab Assistance*; **Monday-Thursday from noon to 3:00 p.m.**, *Computer Help & Training*; **Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to noon**, *Summer Snack in the Zone*; **Mondays through Thursdays beginning June 15, from 4:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.**

On **Thursday, July 23, from 3:00 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.**, children can learn about horses and meet a real miniature horse inside the library at *Reading With Horse Power!*

Best of all, these services are free! A complete schedule of hours and events is available at sppl.org or by calling 651-793-1699.

Summer Youth Soccer

Free summer youth soccer at Margaret Park, located at Margaret and Earl Streets, will be offered **every Monday from June 22 to August 17, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.** for kids ages 10-18. Parents are welcome. Contact Greg Demaray at 651-353-1091 to register.

Mark your calendars

Join the Saint Paul Police for their Safe Summer Night Community Cookout at Margaret Park on **August 13, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.** Free dinner and fun activities!

Comidas gratis para niños este verano

Second Harvest Heartland ofrecerá comidas gratis este verano para niños y

jóvenes menores de 18 años de edad en los siguientes sitios en Dayton's Bluff. El programa funcionará hasta finales de agosto, pero las fechas variarán en cada uno de los sitios siguientes. Existen 70 sitios en St. Paul. Visite 2harvest.org/summerfood para ver un mapa de los diferentes sitios o para tener más información en español, somali o hmong, o llame al 612-516-3663.

Dayton's Bluff Block Nurse program needs volunteers

The Dayton's Bluff Block Nurse program needs volunteer drivers to help seniors without cars make it to doctor's appointments, dental offices, pharmacies, and the like. If you could help on a regular or occasional basis, please call program volunteer coordinator, Michelle, at 651-400-1650 or email michrenste@gmail.com.

July at the Mounds Theatre

Jessica Johnson

Executive Director; Mounds Theatre

July 9-11, 16-19: War of the Worlds: A Radio Play. "But who shall dwell in these worlds if they be inhabited? Are we, or they lords of the world? And how are all things made for man?" The Conundrum Radio Players brings H.G. Wells science fiction classic *War of the Worlds* to life on stage at the Historic Mounds Theater in St. Paul. Presented in the style of Live Radio Theater, a small cast of actors perform over 30 roles, combined with a team of live sound and technical effects artists, to bring H.G. Wells' chilling tale into the 21st century, and brings the invasion right to your door. Show times: **July 9-11, 16-18 at 7:30 p.m. Sunday, July 19 at 4:00 p.m.**

July 15: BINGO BANGO is a monthly bingo night and stand-up comedy show hosted by Elizabeth Ess.

Love bingo? Want to do stand-up? Come play bingo and win a spot at the comedy show after bingo. Not a comedian? Come play anyway and give the set to your favorite comedian and stay to watch the show. This event is FREE, and fun if you like bingo, which you should. Each player gets two cards per round. Each win gets you a seven minute set. You can win up to twice per night and we'll round up to 15 minutes. Bingo Runs from **7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** Standup sets start as soon as the list is ready.

July 24 and 25: The Mounds will host the Twin Cities Top Drawer Burlesque Exposition, with shows at **7:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.** Returning this summer more sparkly and spectacular, the Top Drawer Burlesque Exposition features more than 100 performers across five UNIQUE showcases with one thing in common: Minnesota! Reserve your seats now! Ticketing and details are available on the Mounds Theatre website. Packages for all five shows (including the Thursday night showcase at the Town House Bar on University Avenue) will be available in limited quantities.

Visit our website at moundstheatre.org for more information on any of these events and to purchase tickets as they become available.

The Historic Mounds Theatre is located at 1029 Hudson Road. 651-772-2253; historicmoundstheatre@gmail.com.

Urban Oasis opens Kitchen on the Bluff with community meals!

Katherine Su
Urban Oasis

This summer, Urban Oasis is excited to celebrate the opening of Kitchen on the Bluff, our new commercial kitchen located on the East Side! The kitchen is operated by the Latino Economic Development Council (LEDC) and managed by Urban Oasis.

As a new addition to the neighborhood, we'd love to get to know the wonderful neighbors and community who surround our kitchen. Please join us for four free Community Meals throughout the summer.

Each Saturday lunch will be focused on a different food theme. Our first Community Meal and Grand Opening event will be on **July 25**. This meal will focus on Native American foods, featuring wild rice pasta from Red Thunderbird Endeavors. We're featuring Hmong food traditions on **August 15**, Latino food traditions on **September 12**, and East Side St. Paul eats on **October 24**.

At each event, we'll hear from a guest chef or presenter about food tra-

ditions, watch and participate in cooking demonstrations, and share a delicious lunch together. All Community Meals are on **Saturdays from noon to 2:00 p.m.** at Kitchen On The Bluff (705 E. 3rd Street, Saint Paul). They are free to attend, and limited to the first 50 people who sign up. Attendees are encouraged to bring snacks or appetizers to share.

LEDC and Urban Oasis are partners in the East Side Enterprise Center (ESEC), which is a meeting place, a connector, and a catalyst for building a thriving and equitable community. Both organizations have their headquarters at the ESEC, and The Kitchen on the Bluff grew out of their daily interactions in the space where local business owners, nonprofit leaders, and neighborhood crusaders are making change happen.

For more information and to sign up for a Community Meal, visit www.tinyurl.com/UOmeals. If you have any questions, please contact Katherine at katherine@urbanoasismn.org or 651-560-3031. See you at Kitchen On The Bluff this summer!

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 multicultural 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 improving our community. In May, we invited a new Karen congregation to share our building— they are called New Abundant Life Church. They worship at **1:30 p.m. on Sundays**.

Everyone is invited to the following community events:
Sunday morning service starts at 10:30 a.m. with fellowship time following. Come join your neighbors in worship.

Sunday July 26th – Free Community Breakfast & Worship
Everyone from the community is invited to a free hot breakfast served in the fellowship hall starting at **9:30 a.m.** followed by worship at **10:30 a.m.** A full hot breakfast will be served plus various pastries, toast, fruit, coffee, juice, and milk.

Wednesday, July 29th starting at Noon – Community Friendship Gathering with hot lunch.

We begin with a hot lunch of brats & sauerkraut, buns, seven layer salad and choice of dessert. Lunch will be followed by The Hubenette Thompson Trio providing Gospel Music. All are welcome to come; the focus of this event is on persons age 55 and over.

A summer community reading group is being formed that will focus on David Brooks latest book entitled: "The Road To Character." The focus is on forming positive values that lead to character. If you would like to be a part of this reading group, please contact the church office by either calling 651-774-8736 or Urbanmaple@earthlink.net

Swede Hollow Archaeology

St. Paul's Swede Hollow Park will be getting an archaeological look this summer to better understand its role in the city's history, according to University of Minnesota graduate students Stefanie Kowalczyk and Kelly Wolf. The two are heading up the project.

Swede Hollow, located in the East Side of Saint Paul, was originally home to Swedish immigrants who lived in former fur trader cabins in the 1850s. They called it *Svenska Dalen*, or Swedish Dale, and the name stuck. By the 1900s, the population grew to about 1,000 people, and Italian immigrants began replacing the Swedes.

When the Italians and Swedes eventually moved out, Mexican migrant workers settled in the Hollow in the 1930s. By 1956, there were 16 families remaining in the Hollow when the City

of Saint Paul reviewed the area as part of Urban Renewal. During the review, the city found hazardous living conditions including a contaminated water source, and relocated the residents. According to Wolf, the area was allowed to grow wild and became an unofficial dumping ground until the 1970s when a joint effort with the Saint Paul Garden Club made the area into the park we know today.

"The public will be invited to visit the project," Kowalczyk says, which is expected to start July 31. Visitors will be encouraged to ask questions and learn about the history of Swede Hollow and the archaeology process. There are also volunteer opportunities available. For more information go to www.Swede-HollowArchaeology.wordpress.com, or contact Kowalczyk at kowal169@umn.edu and Wolf at wolfx609@umn.edu.



Forum Staff

The new and improved play area in Indian Mounds Park features three canopied platforms, climbing boulders, and more slides and swings. The space is separated into two areas for younger and older children.

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Get Involved and Let Your Voice Be Heard!

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

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

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

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To Learn More About DBCC and how get involved, visit www.daytonsbuff.org today!



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Mounds Park Barber Stylists

Mark Gallagher
Forum Editorial Associate

Judy Lee, owner of Mounds Park Barber Stylists has been cutting and styling hair for over 31 years. All those years have been at the same location, 1043 Hudson Road. In the mid 1980s, Judy was serving an apprenticeship at a little neighborhood barbershop in St. Anthony Park when her boss became aware of a shop coming up for sale in Dayton's Bluff. Judy realized it was close to home and as she likes to say, "I just went for it and bought the shop."

Judy got off to a serendipitous start in the haircutting industry. She met a friend who was going to barber school, and the friend suggested that Judy investigate some barber schools. A little while later, she met a gentleman who was on the board of directors in the barber industry. He was so encouraging that Judy decided to check out the two barber schools in the area and eventually enrolled in one of them.



Mark Gallagher

Pictured is Judy Lee, owner of Mounds Park Barber Stylists.

St. Paul Barber School was located at 7th Street and Chestnut in the building where Cosetta's now is. At that time, barber school involved nine months of training and a 2500-hour internship. The barber school was held Tuesday through Saturday for eight hours a day. Judy went to the school, studied hard, practiced cutting hair, passed the required tests, and began an apprenticeship.

After the apprenticeship, Judy decided to go for it and become her own boss. "I value the freedom that owning my own business enables me to have," she says. Freedom from micromanaging bosses, freedom from time clocks, and freedom from difficult

fellow employees are some of the tangible benefits that she appreciates. Judy sets her own schedule, plans her own vacation, enjoys her regular clients, and extends her hand to welcome any new visitors to her modest shop.

"I think the friendships and the cliental are the most rewarding thing; you become just like family, you know," Judy says in her heartfelt way. "I have a few third-generation families that I cut hair for. Sometimes we barber/stylists have to be a psychologist to some people. You know it's true when they say, 'Only your hairdresser knows for sure.'"

Even average days for Judy can vary quite a bit. "I've had days where I've done two haircuts, and I've had days where I have done ten or twelve," Judy says. "I allow thirty minutes between haircuts because that gives me time if someone is a little late or time to cleanup between clients. "You know, a lot of people think that barbers having Mondays off was a law," Judy says. "It wasn't. It's the barber's choice, but Saturdays were always busy for the barbers, and having Monday off gave them a consecutive two-day weekend.

"In my years as a barber, I have met so many really, really nice people," Judy reflects. "My clients pretty much come from the neighborhood, but there are people who drive quite a ways. Some have come from about 15 or 20 miles away. My most loyal client has been coming to my shop for probably 30 years. That's what barbers strive for — longevity and loyalty."

Judy's shop is open Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., "If it is a busy day on Saturday," Judy says, "I'll stay open longer — I will work as late as it takes." Judy's business card reads: APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE TUESDAY THRU SATURDAY. CALL 651-771-6980.

Continued from page 1:

CHS Field

Some of us here on the Bluff were a little disappointed that the map—and the hype, seems to have cut itself off beyond the left field fence, at the eastern edge of CHS Field. Not to be deterred, the *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* took a little field trip down to CHS Field to see what our new neighbor has to offer those of us up here on Dayton's Bluff.

The first question we wanted to answer was is the new stadium drawing fans to Dayton's Bluff establishments like it's drawing them to Lowertown bars and restaurants?

On a beautiful Friday evening in early June, the first place Saints were at home against rival Sioux City Canaries. Game attendance that night was over 7,000.

An hour before game time, Mounds Park Sports Bar manager, Dave Spiess, was busy overseeing the weekly Friday meat raffle. The Mounds Park Sports Bar near the corner of Earl and Hudson was bustling with an impressive happy hour crowd. Spiess has taken notice of the popularity of the Saints but has yet to see that popularity translate into increased business at the Mounds Park Sports Bar.

Still, Spiess points out that CHS Field and it's proximity to our neighborhood does offer some potential opportunities for the Mounds Park Sports Bar. They are seriously considering offering a shuttle service to all home games.

A little farther north at the Flat Earth Brewery, the Friday night crowd is busy sampling small tastes of beer, eating pizza, playing with canine friends, and ordering growlers to go. Co-owner, Franco Claseman, points out that Flat Earth has a direct connection with the new stadium. Two of Flat Earth's beers are offered on tap at CHS Field's very popular Beer Dabbler Craft Beer Garden located just beyond the left field fence of the new stadium.

Flat Earth, which occupies a portion of the old Hamm's Brewery on Minnehaha, is easily the coolest space for a brew pub in the entire Twin Cities. It is also a prime Dayton's Bluff location to benefit from the new Saints crowd. A short walk through beautiful, historic, Swede Hollow connects Flat Earth with CHS Field. Claseman and the other Flat Earth owners are well aware of this potential windfall and are busy putting the final touches on Flat Earth's official, fully-operational brew pub which is set to open very soon.

On to our visit to CHS Field itself, let's start with getting down the hill. Considering there are exactly zero businesses on it, Commercial Street might be the worst named street in St Paul, and that's saying something. The desolate 3/4 mile road that begins near the northwest corner of Mounds Park, winds down the slope along Interstate 94, under the Third Street bridge, past the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary, under a couple of ancient railroad bridges, and at some unknown point morphs into Fourth Street.

Commercial Street is also the back door to CHS Field. Just 3/4 of a mile long with a beautiful bike/walking trail, Commercial Street allows Dayton's Bluff residents easy access to the ballpark and the parking lots nearby without the traffic backups on Third or Seventh Streets.

From the inside, CHS Field is fantastic. It's open, not crowded, the sightlines are great. There are real seats—not benches, many more bathrooms, and despite long concession lines, everyone seems to be having a great time.

Clyde Boysen and Rose Marie Felsheim have been Saints season ticket holders since the team's beginning in 1993. They have also been residents of Dayton's Bluff for over 35 years. On this beautiful June evening they are nestled in their seats in section 109 behind home plate, exchanging pleasantries with fellow Saints fans and enjoying the game.

Boysen explains that though he was a big advocate for moving the Saints to Lowertown, he was a little worried that the Saints experience would lose some of its character when the team left Midway Stadium. His fears were alleviated the minute he walked into CHS Field. "I love, love, love the new ballpark," proclaimed Boysen. Clearly, he's not the only one.

But what impact will the new ballpark have on Dayton's Bluff? Though there is a lot of optimism from the meat raffle-ees at the Mounds Park Sports Bar, to the brewery owner at Flat Earth, to the season ticket holders, the consensus seems to be that it's still too soon to tell.

Robert Frost once wrote "good fences make good neighbors," and though he may not have been referring to left field fences at minor league ballparks, a lot of us up here on the Bluff are hoping CHS Field will blossom into a very good neighbor.



Forum Staff

Pictured are Rose Marie Felsheim and Clyde Boysen, Dayton's Bluff residents and longtime St. Paul Saints season ticket holders.

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

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Next issue: August 2015. Deadline for material: July 10, 2015.

See Jane run!



Fong Hawj endorses Jane Prince for City Council!

"Jane will join me as a responsive advocate for the East Side."

Senator Fong Hawj
STATE SENATOR, DISTRICT 67

Jane wants to meet with you this summer!
Contact Jane at JanePrinceW7@gmail.com to let her know what is important to you!

Jane FOR Saint Paul **PRINCE** FOR **Ward 7**

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Paid for by Jane Prince for Saint Paul's Ward 7 City Council, JanePrinceW7@gmail.com, 651/308-4984, Sam Murphy, Treasurer.

Continued from page 1:

East Side Optimist Club

While Polachek was envisioning a way to bring baseball to the East Side, she also met a member of a Twin Cities Optimist Club who inspired her to develop a club serving St. Paul's East Side. The club was chartered on November 13, 2014. Polachek ignited her passion for baseball in the club's new members and they went right to work on the Sandlot Baseball Day, offering baseball activities to neighborhood youth.

Polachek and Anderson met with Alex Glass, the Program Director for the East Side's new Arlington Hills Community Center. Glass immediately saw the value in the program. A partnership evolved in that first meeting. Saturday, May 2, was chosen for the inaugural Sandlot Baseball Day.

During the winter months several sign-ups were conducted at the rec center and Dayton's Bluff American Indian Magnet School. A week prior to the event over 2,000 fliers were printed, rolled and delivered to doors in the neighborhood. 87-year-old Kitty Anderson baked and decorated 500 baseball cookies for the event.

From 10:00 a.m. to noon, baseball clinics were conducted by Steve Winfield (brother of legendary baseball player Dave Winfield). 1:00 p.m. brought a mini parade featuring Farnsworth Aerospace School's 300-member band and Harding High School's Navy ROTC color guard. Polachek, on an adult tricycle as Joanie Baseball Seed, led the parade in a Minnesota Twins uniform.

Polachek and City Council member Dan Bostrom spoke briefly before the movie *Sandlot* was shown courtesy of the Arlington Hills Public Library in the center's large meeting room.

The scoreboard for the day was 35 kids signed up, 180 hot dogs served, 300 bags of chips eaten and 410 juice packs sipped.

"We were pleased with the turnout as it was our first event and we were competing with some other community events," said Polachek. "We are looking forward to organizing a baseball game between our neighborhood youth and the St. Paul Police Department."

Urban Woods is a partnership between the Saint Paul East Side Optimist Club and the MN Department of Natural Resources. The site is sandwiched between the county compost site and the Case -Duluth Playground. Events are held in the solitude of the place which is ideal for youth to study and appreciate nature.

On May 22, a play was held there for daycare children. The brief production was *The Jungle Book*, utilizing actors from the City Academy. Being held in the hollow added to the specialness of the event.

The club is working with a group of new immigrant youth, the Karen, an ethnic refugee minority from Myanmar (formerly Burma). St Paul has the largest and fastest growing population of Karen in the country. The youth are ages 4-8 and have been playing "near ball."

Baseball diamond #5 is dedicating its use to the Optimists from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. each Tuesday and Wednesday evening. This will involve older youth in the future. Club member Tom Russ is the volunteer caretaker of this special site. He and club members pick up trash on a weekly basis.

The Saint Paul East Side Optimist Club welcomes new members. It meets at Polly's Coffee Cove, 1382 Payne Avenue (at Cottage), twice each month on the second Thursday at 1:00 p.m. and the fourth Thursday at 6:00 p.m. Ann Polachek, Club President and owner of Polly's, can be reached at 651-206-6767 for more information.



Fred Kaphingst

Ann Polachek, president of the Saint Paul East Side Optimist Club and owner of Polly's Coffee Cove, could be seen as Joanie Baseball Seed on May 2 at the Sandlot Baseball Day mini parade.



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Letter to the editor: This isn't my Saint Paul

G.B. LeRoy
Forum Reader

A week ago, I found an 88-page magazine insert from 2014 called *This is my Saint Paul*. I couldn't believe what I saw. It seems that our East Side doesn't rate as a part of the city—at least according to Visit Saint Paul, the official convention & visitors bureau that published it. I hope they didn't use any tax money to publish it! Even though we make up at least a third of the city, we were almost invisible in the slick booklet. There was a tiny mention and teensy photo of what they called Mounds Park, instead of its official name of Indian Mounds Park. They said that

the burial mounds were “reminders of the Hopewell, the first of many Native American people to form settlements.” However, no one really knows who constructed the mounds or who were the “many” groups they assume came through.

On page 30 they mention the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary that they say is in Lowertown and that above it is Dayton's Bluff, the only time our neighborhood's name is noted. Five pages later in a “Brew Tour” spot they use one sentence to say the Flat Earth Brewing Company was in the “historic brewing complex on the East Side.” There are forty or so words and a small photo of the Dragon Festival in “Lake Phalen Park,”

wherever that is. Phalen Golf Course was part of a list of golf courses.

On page 60 there is a two word mention of Flat Earth as part of a small insert called “Craft Beer Tap Rooms.” The end of the booklet has a list of a hundred or so members of the group that published it.

The only East Side place mentioned is the Minnesota Humanities Commission building on Ivy Street. Apparently all the places on the pages were members of the group who put out the booklet. Then again, why would any East Side groups belong to an organization that, in the words of youngsters, “disses” our neighborhoods?

Other areas of the city highlighted

included Grand Avenue, Highland Park and other prosperous locations, although they did give a nod to the West Side. There was no mention of Payne Avenue, which was recently voted the best “eat street” in St. Paul. No mention of any of the diverse restaurants in the community.

Once again the powers-that-be ignored the existence of the East Side. The booklet is titled “This is my Saint Paul.” It's not the St. Paul that reflects my area. How could this happen? Is anyone one else angry at such things? Feel free to clip this article and send it to various local city leaders.

Construction continues at Metropolitan State University Parking Ramp and Student Center

Construction of the parking ramp has progressed significantly since the start of excavation and construction this time nearly a year ago. The parking ramp structure was completed this spring. Exterior finishes are well-over 75% complete including brick masonry, precast, exterior railing and decorative metal panels. Interior to the parking ramp equipment and finishes are also in place, which include entry/exit gates, parking accessories, and striping. The pedestrian stair and elevator tower has peaked to its final height; framing work is progressing and upon completion of framing the glass &

glazing work shall follow. Wood trim and rough carpentry work a-top the tower are visible in the short-term; the final roofing, flashing, and finish materials will be completed in the next several weeks. In general, the parking ramp will be completed on schedule by July 2015.

Despite some early winter challenges to maintain a planned schedule of construction, the student center building continues to progress and is on schedule for completion in late summer/early fall 2015. The contractor has made great effort in 2015 to complete the building structure including founda-

tions, masonry walls, and steel. The structure of the student center is completed with exterior work presently more than 85% completed. Rough openings in the building remain as the contractor is utilizing this as a means to get large materials and large volumes of materials in the building. As you pass by the building along Seventh Street, you can see interior framing of walls, along with mechanical duct work and plumbing risers. Interior walls will proceed once the exterior frame and glass is completed in June and July. Finishes and furnishings for the student center shall start late summer.

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Photo courtesy of Metropolitan State University

Metropolitan State University Parking Ramp, view from Maria Avenue.

Municipal consent for the sound wall

Eric P. Zidlicky
Forum Reader

Councilman Finney,

Few words can accurately describe the level of disappointment I have for your actions at the council meeting on Wednesday, but I will try my best to make my feelings clear.

You were chosen to represent the interests of Ward 7. In reference to this sound wall, you heard from multiple sources who are against the wall. Dayton's Bluff Community Council voted unanimously against the sound wall. The HPC voted unanimously against the sound wall. The President of the D4 Community Council came before the City Council and spoke against the wall. Diane May, Board Member of Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Housing Services came and spoke against the wall, twice. And I spoke against the wall, twice. Exactly how many residents of the ward you represent did you hear from that spoke in favor of the wall? How many residents of the ward you represent spoke in favor of the auxiliary lane? No one came to either Council meeting to speak in favor of the lane or the wall. The only person who seemed to

think the lane and wall was a good idea was C.M. Bostrom, who should have little influence over this project which is not in his ward.

I am not sure that you understand the whole scope of the project. Before Wednesday's meeting, I was briefed that the entire project, including the resurfacing of Interstate 94, may be scrapped if the auxiliary lane/sound wall was not given consent. However, the gentleman from MNDOT said that the resurfacing project would go on with or without the auxiliary lane/sound wall. He was crystal clear about that at the last meeting, and reiterated it at Wednesday's meeting. Yet, even with that information, you moved to grant municipal consent. You delayed voting from the last meeting to allow HPC time to give their input. They came back against the wall, and you pushed it forward anyway.

Your actions were a blatant slap in the face to the people like me who attended meeting after meeting, giving input to the project, thinking their input would be utilized. I took time off work to attend these meetings because I passionately believed my input would make a difference—clearly, not as much as I thought. That was a huge waste of my time.

This auxiliary lane will likely do little to help the people in your ward. It will certainly help the people who are leaving the city at night to drive to the suburbs and to Wisconsin get home faster. I'm glad I can sacrifice my quality of life to improve theirs, since I am a homeowner in, and a taxpayer of, the City of St. Paul. How many more sacrifices will I be asked to give to others before the people who are chosen to represent our best interests actually stand up for those constituents? You won't even be in office when this whole project begins and the people of Ward 7 will be left to deal with the results of this poor decision.

The motion led by you and approved by the full Council to grant municipal consent to the auxiliary lane/sound wall was wrong. You chose the traffic on the freeway over the people of your ward. I hope that you listen more closely to the residents you represent in the future. We would like the opportunity to come meet with you either in your office or in the neighborhood itself, sometime in the next four weeks, to discuss how we can help make the best of the situation.

Respectfully,

Eric P. Zidlicky

History Corner

The Fish Hatchery—yesterday and today

Steve Trimble
Forum Historian

In early May I received a call from Tori J. McCormick, a free lance writer who wanted to have a story about the St. Paul Fish Hatchery ready for the opening of walleye fishing season. He had talked to Department of Natural Resources (DNR) employees about current activities and asked me to add historical information. I was quoted a few times in his May 2015 *Minneapolis Star Tribune* article. I already wrote an article for the *Forum* some years ago, but there are a lot of new people in the neighborhood, so it seemed all right to once again tell the story of the development of our own Fish Hatchery.

The State Fish Hatchery was established in 1877 underneath the bluffs of our neighborhood. It was initially called the Willow Brook Hatchery and later the Mounds Park Hatchery. The location was ideal since several artesian wells provided plenty of the cool water that was needed. The hatchery was given a state mandate to raise fish to stock Minnesota's streams and lakes. It was such a prestigious institution that Minneapolis unsuccessfully tried to steal it for themselves a few years later.

The hatchery was meant to be a place for holding and rearing fish due to its shipping station and location near the local rail yards. The water was diverted into channels and several hatchery ponds. A variety of fish species, from brook trout to walleye, were raised and transported statewide by railroad box cars. In the early days, milk cans were used for shipping containers.

People and families walked or rode in carriages to the hatchery from Indian Mounds Park, often spending the day. It was a great place to walk, look

at the fish, have a picnic, and take in the views of the Mississippi, which were, and still are, very scenic. At one time, there was even a small zoo there with Minnesota animals.

The hatchery grounds had grown to twenty two acres in the early 1900s, and the site became a major tourist attraction. The St. Paul Association of Commerce said this in a pamphlet: "There is no more beautiful spot around Saint Paul on a summer's day than this pretty little valley, far from the sounds of the great city—the wooded hills carpeted with emerald grass...the many-colored trout jumping in little ponds, and the great river sliding lazily in the sunlight." By the 1930s, increased automobile use allowed recreation seekers to travel outside of St. Paul and the metro area. Interest in the hatchery as an attraction started to decline.

The hatchery has been remodeled several times and starting in the 1960s, operations were downsized. Only two of the seven original spring-fed ponds are now in use, and the amount of water in some of them has diminished because of urban development around the hatchery. In 1994, the hatchery's cold-water portion was closed. Today the hatchery and the buildings serve as the headquarters of the DNR's central region. They are open to visitors, but be sure to call first. They are also having some programs this summer for area youth at 1200 Warner Road.

The hatchery now produces pure-strain walleyes and some hybrids. Donn Schrader, who has been fascinated by fish since childhood, earned a fisheries management degree from the University of Minnesota. He now manages the St. Paul Fish Hatchery. Each spring, Schrader, often called "Papa

Walleye," receives 20 million to 30 million fertilized walleye eggs from DNR crews who extract them in several locations in Minnesota. They come in water-filled plastic bags. Schrader and his helpers hatch them and keep them for a time until they are fry (2 to 4 days old walleyes) or fingerlings, which are around four to eight inches long.

They are sent all over the state to stock bodies of water. Some will have a short life span, often eaten by other fish, but others will survive for years and grow to a large size. While the DNR stresses the importance of protecting and improving natural fish habitat and water quality, some lakes are not suitable habitat for natural breeding. Stocking continues to be an important activity that supports Minnesota sport fishing.

In addition to the St. Paul site, the DNR operates 15 other fish hatcheries across the state—five for cold-water species such as trout and 11 for walleyes, muskies, northern pike and some catfish. But our local institution is the main place where walleyes begin their life. So if you are one of our readers, next time you reel in a walleye and decide to keep rather than release, you may well be bringing it back home.

To read a full account of the *Minneapolis Star Tribune* article written by Tori J. McCormick, you can look it up on line by entering "Hatchery is a chapter in Minnesota walleye story" into a search engine. If you want to read a longer article I wrote on the *Fish Hatchery*, put "DBDF October 2007 articles" in a keyword search and then scroll down to "Something Fishy in Dayton's Bluff Or Down the Fish Hatchery Road."

Mounds Park: Then & Now

Nick Duncan
Forum Contributor

The early spring provided an opportunity to better appreciate the rich history of Mounds Park. With no snow cover and little to no foliage to obscure the view, a walk through the back country of Mounds Park reveals a long history of human habitation of the area. Thanks to the Minnesota Historical Society, the *Forum* has found some photos of Mounds Park from bygone days and matched them up with some current photos of the same locations. **Each month we'll take a look at two new locations, past and present.**



Nick Duncan



Minnesota Historical Society

This shot from the end of Earl Street, circa 1910 looks southeast along the river with the mounds in the foreground.



Nick Duncan



Minnesota Historical Society

100 Earl Street was the address of the Burlington Hotel. Here is a shot of the site in 1900. Little remains but a forgotten stairwell leading down to the train tracks below the bluff.

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**East Side Eating –
Trimble's Taste Trek**

Forum contributor Steve Trimble is attempting to eat at every locally-owned, sit-down restaurant on the East Side in 2015. He hopes to get the word out to the Dayton's Bluff community about the eating options here on our side of town. There are more restaurants than there is room for in the monthly paper; but at least 22 may now be found online at daytonsbuffdistrictforum.org: click on "East Side Eating" on the top of the home page.



Steve Trimble

Romolo's Restaurant, located at 1409 Arcade Street, has been an East Side landmark since the 1960s.

Romolo's Restaurant

1409 Arcade Street
(651) 776-3882
Monday-Thursday: 11:00 am-9:00 pm
Friday & Saturday: 11:00 am-10:00 pm
Sunday: 11:00 am-9:00 pm
romolosrestaurant.com

June 8, 2015: Sadly, by the time you reads this, Romolo's will exist only in customers' fond memories. Romolo Monda opened this East Side landmark in the late 1960s. He retired in 2007 and his son Jay ran the restaurant until 2011, when he sold it to Fred Richie, one of his father's oldest friends. Fred kept many of the old recipes and added others. One of the most notable, the "Fred Special," was a meatball sandwich with red sauce and mozzarella cheese. In fact, Richie's childhood nickname was "Meatball Man."

After the word of Romolo's closing on June 14, scads of people streamed to the place for a last visit. I had to hurry to add it to the Taste Trek. I arrived around 7:00 p.m.. There were a few open tables in the two dining rooms with their walls filled with his-

toric photos of area families and sports teams.

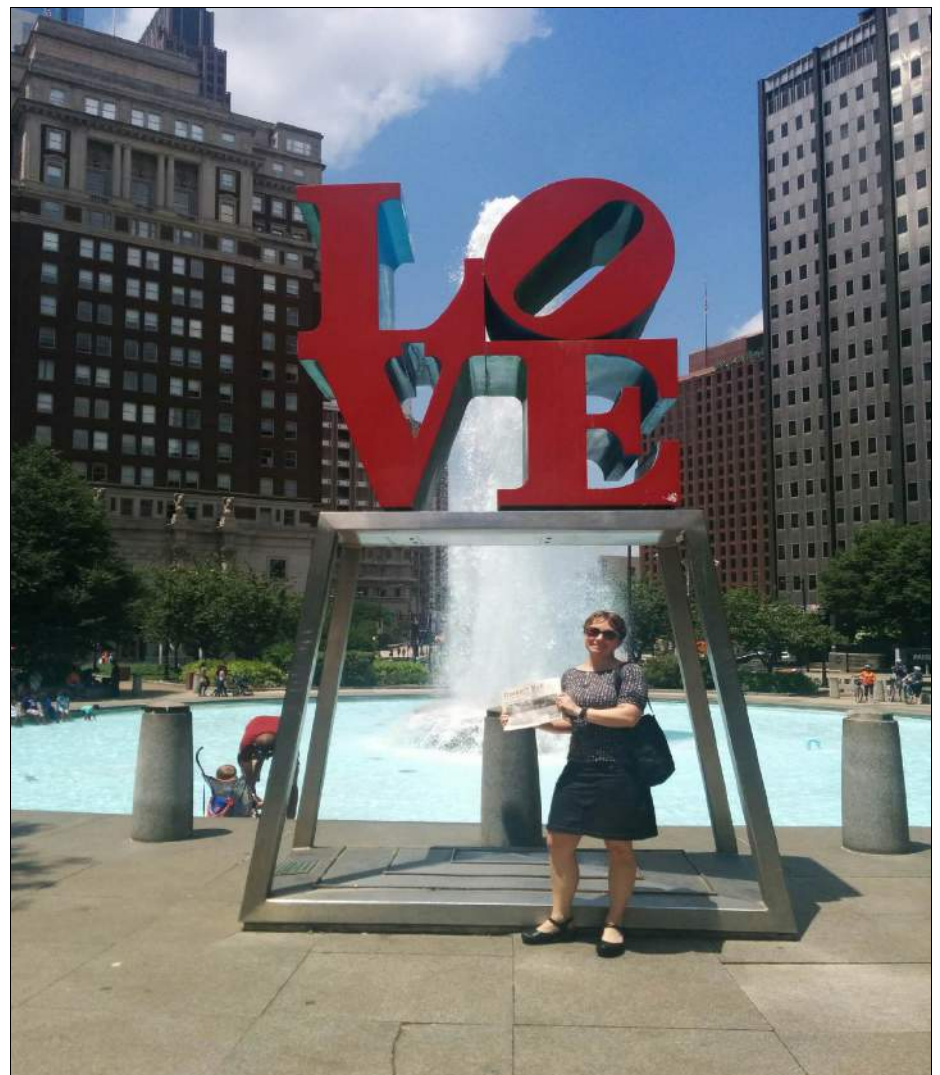
The restaurant featured many Italian favorites, such as mostaccoli, but also "American" sandwiches, burgers and "American" dinners such as broasted chicken and chopped sirloin. Here is a sampling of the menu: Appetizers, including pizza fries and Italian sausage with green peppers and onions. Antipasto salad, Caesar salad. A plethora of pizza, wings, and spumoni ice cream. Italian sandwiches included "hot dagos" and "saucy hot dagos," a sausage patty smothered in red sauce.

I chose baked lasagna with bread and, since it was an Italian restaurant, I had a Peroni beer. They did have wine and locally brewed Flat Earth beer.

I decided to order-in take-out a "Fred Special" for the next day's lunch. When Fred died a little over a year ago one of his five children took over, but after a family vote, they decided to sell the business and while there are no details it may become an Asian restaurant.

"I'll leave you with a slogan Fred printed on his menu: "Amilizie e maccheroni, sono meglio caldi," which translates to "friendship and macaroni are best when warm."


The Forum gets out of town!



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@daytonsbuff.org.

Above: Linda LaBarre shows some L.O.V.E. for the Forum while visiting Philadelphia.

MOUNDS PARK BARBER STYLISTS



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Dear Reader,

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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 \$926. Won't you help us?

Sincerely,
The Dayton's Bluff District Forum

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