

# Dayton's Bluff District Forum

Volume 29, No. 3  
April 2016  
daytonsbuffdistrictforum.org

"The Voice of the Community"

## Home tours galore!



Karin DuPaul

This impressive home at 8 Bates Avenue will be featured on the Dayton's Bluff leg of the 2016 Minneapolis and St. Paul Home Tour to be held on April 30 and May 1.

## Dayton's Bluff to be featured on Minneapolis and St. Paul Home Tour

Karin DuPaul  
Forum Staff

The annual Minneapolis and St. Paul Home Tour will be held on Saturday, April 30, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, May 1, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. During the home tour, residents in both Minneapolis and St. Paul open their homes to the public to showcase the great things about city living.

For the past 20 years, Dayton's Bluff has featured five to eight homes on the tour. The tour gives visitors a chance to see the many great features of Dayton's Bluff: our convenient location, proximity to Metro State University, our parks, the growing business community, the views of the city and the Mississippi River, our wonderful residents, and the outstanding housing options in Dayton's Bluff. The tour is hosted by the Minneapolis and St. Paul Home Tour, the cities of Minneapolis and Saint Paul, and the Dayton's Bluff Community Council.

Tour brochures can be picked up at the Dayton's Bluff Library on East 7th Street beginning in mid April. Dayton's Bluff-specific tour brochures can be picked up at any of the featured homes

during the hours of the tour. Many people come here year after year to see the homes in Dayton's Bluff, and some of the visitors over the years like it so well that they have made Dayton's Bluff their home.

The addresses of Dayton's Bluff homes on this year's tour are 8 Bates, 400 Bates, 720 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street, 401 Maple, 833 Margaret, and 1064 Pacific — all are open during tour hours. Two bonus stops which are only open on Saturday during tour hours are 324 Bates and the Historic Mounds Theatre at 1029 Hudson Road.

Dayton's Bluff residents are needed to be volunteer neighborhood ambassadors to help make the Dayton's Bluff leg of the home tour the best it can be. Tasks include greeting people at the door, giving out brochures and information about Dayton's Bluff, and helping the homeowners for a few hours on either day. This is a chance to help positively promote our Dayton's Bluff neighborhoods to visitors.

Neighborhood Ambassadors and families who have their homes on the tour are invited to an 'After the Home Tour' party. If you are interested in helping out, please email [karin@swedehollow.org](mailto:karin@swedehollow.org), or call Karin at 651-776-0550. For more information on the Minneapolis and St. Paul home tour, visit [www.msphometour.com](http://www.msphometour.com), and visit [www.daytonsbuff.org](http://www.daytonsbuff.org) for more information about the Dayton's Bluff tour.

## Dayton's Bluff team in annual Walk Against Weapons

Sage Holben, Wanda Pufpaff, Carla Riehle  
Special to the Forum

On June 4, we will be joining the annual Walk Against Weapons sponsored by Women Against Military Madness (WAMM). It will begin at 10:30 a.m. at I-94 and Riverside Avenue in Minneapolis and end at Cedar and Riverside. The walk is a major yearly fundraiser for WAMM and is aimed at stopping the use

of U.S. military weapons overseas and at home. The goal is to raise \$1,000 per team.

Please consider joining our contingent or supporting us by donating to WAMM. You can make your tax-deductible donation online at [womenagainstmilitarymadness.org](http://womenagainstmilitarymadness.org) or by mailing a check to: WAMM, 4200 Cedar Ave S., Minneapolis, MN 55407 (please designate the purpose of your contribution). You can also contact one of us on Facebook or by email at [appelto@gmail.com](mailto:appelto@gmail.com) (Sage), [carlariehle@gmail.com](mailto:carlariehle@gmail.com), or [wandap58@yahoo.com](mailto:wandap58@yahoo.com).



@TCC4Justice/Twitter

Native Lives Matter protesters gathered at Mounds Park on February 27 to protest the failure of a grand jury to indict St. Paul Police Officer Rick McGuire who shot Phil Quinn, a White Earth Ojibwe man last September. Family members say that Quinn was experiencing a mental health emergency which did not necessitate his killing.

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

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## Dayton's Bluff Vacant Home Tour to highlight city-owned properties available for rehabilitation

Rob Sebo Lubke, Board Member  
Dayton's Bluff Community Council

Six historic properties in the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood are being offered for redevelopment by the City of Saint Paul for a limited time in 2016...a last chance for both potential new owners as well as the historic buildings. The buildings had been slated for demolition, but one more Request for Proposals (RFP) has been issued for this spring. Your chance to see for yourself what these properties have to offer is on April 17, when all six will be open to the public from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Meet at the Community HQ (804 Margaret Street) to get information on the homes. A 1954 Twin Cities Rapid Transit bus will take you to the homes or you can go to them on your own.

All six properties are located in the Dayton's Bluff Historic District. The larg-

er Dayton's Bluff neighborhood has seen significant residential and commercial development in recent years, and its close proximity to downtown offers much to potential developers and property owners.



Karin DuPaul

Visitors to last year's Vacant Home Tour enjoyed transportation in a vintage bus!

For questions about these properties or the city's RFP, contact Karin at [karindupaul@comcast.net](mailto:karindupaul@comcast.net) or at 651-776-0550.

Love your block.  
Win prizes!

See page 3 for details.



## Dayton's Bluff Take A Hike

On **Saturday, April 2, at 10:00 a.m.**, 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 East Side Heritage Park.

For more information email [kar-in@swedehollow.org](mailto:kar-in@swedehollow.org) or call 651-776-0550.

## 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 on **Wednesday, April 6, at 6:30 p.m.** Email [kar-in@swedehollow.org](mailto:kar-in@swedehollow.org) or call 651-776-0550 for more information and the meeting's location.

## Dayton's Bluff District Forum Board Meeting

The *Forum* is seeking help with writing, online content, idea generation, and ad sales. Join us at our next meeting at **9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, April 6**, at the Stutzman Building, 725 E. 7<sup>th</sup> Street (above Swede Hollow Cafe). Call 651-776-0550 or email [editor@daytons-bluff.org](mailto:editor@daytons-bluff.org) for more information.

## Preparación de Impuestos Gratis

CLUES Saint Paul, 797 East 7th Street, St. Paul, MN 55106.

**1 - 14 de Abril, 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**, llame 651-379-4200 para hacer su cita. Limites de ingreso: \$30,000 individual/ \$54,000 familiar.

## SNAP Food Program at CLUES - Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio

¿Necesita más comida saludable para la familia? El programa SNAP le puede ayudar. SNAP proporciona fondos para alimentos que benefician a familias de escasos recursos. Aún si no es ciudadano, si tiene hijos nacidos en este país ellos podrían calificar. Participar en el programa SNAP no afectará su estatus migratorio. ¡Llame a CLUES para saber si califica! 612-746-3500. Nuestro personal bilingüe puede facilitar el proceso para usted y su familia.

Need more healthy food for your family? The SNAP program can help you. SNAP provides funds for low-income families to buy food. Even if you are not a citizen, your children born in this country could qualify. Participation in the SNAP program won't affect their immigration status. Call CLUES to find out if you qualify! 612-746-3500. Our bilingual staff can facilitate the process for you and your family.

## April events at the East Side Freedom Library

On **Friday, April 15, at 7:00 p.m.**, The American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AF-SCME) presents Labor Movie Night – a screening of the film *Northern Lights*, an exploration of the internal life of the North Dakota Non-Partisan League, a political and social movement which became the foundation of the Farmer-Labor party in Minnesota. This event is free and open to all. For details: [info@eastsidefreedomlibrary.org](mailto:info@eastsidefreedomlibrary.org), or AF-SCME3800@gmail.com.

In celebration of National Poetry Month, the East Side Freedom Library will hold a workshop titled: *Writing the Political Poem* on **Sunday, April 17, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

This three-hour, generative workshop will grapple with what constitutes the political poem and sub-genre "Poetry of Witness." How can we respond to injustice, environmental degradation, sexism, racism, and genocide through the poem's lyric, and not resort to polemical language? Utilizing poetry from masters of this genre including Adrienne Rich, Denise Levertov, Martin Espada, Brian Turner, and Carolyn Forché to guide us in this process.

Fee: \$60 (but no one will be turned away). To register, email [info@eastsidefreedomlibrary.org](mailto:info@eastsidefreedomlibrary.org) or call 651-774-8687.

Also on **Sunday, April 17, at 7:30 p.m.**, Willa Schneberg, a Portland, Oregon poet, will read from *Rending the Garment*, a narrative tapestry encompassing persona poems, prose poems, flash fiction, imagined meetings with historical figures, ancestral appearances, and ephemera. It is a series of linked poems exploring the life and times of one Jewish family. The reading is free and open to the public.

On **Saturday, April 30, from noon to 4:00 p.m.**, the East Side Freedom Library will host contributors to the new book *The People Make the Peace*, for a conversation between the past and the present.

Forty years after the Vietnam War, many in the United States still struggle to come to terms with this tumultuous period of U.S. history. In *The People Make the Peace*, nine U.S. activists discuss the parts they played in opposing the War at home. This event is free and open to all.

Discover your path to a union career at the Union Job and Resource Fair at the East Side Freedom Library on **Thursday, April 14, from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.** Earn while you learn and rise above the minimum wage. Information about union jobs, labor history, and record expungement will be available.

The East Side Freedom Library is located at 1150 Greenbrier Street. Call 651-230-3294 or visit [eastsidefreedomlibrary.org](http://eastsidefreedomlibrary.org) for details on these and other upcoming events as they become available.

## Family Food Box Distribution at the Dayton's Bluff Rec Center

Family Food Box distribution takes place **every third Thursday of the month from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

Call 651-793-3885 for more information and to register. The Dayton's Bluff Rec Center is located at 800 Conway Street, Saint Paul.

## April events and shows at the Mounds Theatre



**Saturday, April 9:** Independent Wrestling International (IWI) presents *Suplex into Spring*. Check out the new family four pack option of two adult and two kid tickets for \$30, which saves a few bucks! **Bell is at 7:30 p.m., but be there at 6:45 p.m.** when the door opens to get the best seats!

**Thursday, April 14:** The Old St Paul Facebook Group is hosting a presentation by Dr Greg Brick titled *The Subterranean Caves of Old St Paul*, at **6:00 p.m.** This event is free and open to the public. Dr Brick is a renowned expert on the caves in the area.

**Friday, April 22:** *I am Human Trash*, a postmodern dance performance produced and choreographed by emerging artist Michael Lynch. Look for more details at [moundstheatre.org](http://moundstheatre.org).

**Saturday, April 30:** The Mounds Theatre will be open for the Minneapolis-St. Paul Home Tour. The concession stand will be open and there will be something up on the big screen for people who need some time to recharge. Mini-tours will also be available.

Visit [moundstheatre.org](http://moundstheatre.org) for more information and other events not listed here, and to purchase tickets as they become available. The Historic Mounds Theatre is located at 1029 Hudson Road, St. Paul, MN 55106; 651-772-2253; [historicmoundstheatre@gmail.com](mailto:historicmoundstheatre@gmail.com).

## April at the Dayton's Bluff Library

Join the Dayton's Bluff Library for the following events taking place in April: *Spring Break: Games & More Galore!* **Wednesday, April 6, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**, come to the FunZone for Minecraft, board games, LEGOs, and more!

*Dayton's Bluff Book Club: Wednesday, April 6, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.* at the Metro State Library, 3rd floor. The group reads multicultural books by local authors.

*Spring Break Painting with Xai: Thursday, April 7, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.* Pick up a paintbrush with Xai Lor! He'll teach some painting techniques and you can leave with your own work of art.

*Digital Photography: Saturday, April 9, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.*, join us in the FunZone to learn the basics of photography.

*Teens Know Best: Tuesday, April 12, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.*, teens write reviews of the books they read, which are submitted to the publishers to help guide their decisions! An application and proof of age is required to access the books. Call 651-632-3873 for more information.

*Third Saturday Social: Saturday, April 16, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.*, Explore a different part of the world by learning about its local customs, crafts, and cuisine.

For specific times and information about these and other events check [spl.org](http://spl.org) or call 651-793-1699. The Dayton's Bluff Library shares its home with Metropolitan State University at 645 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street.

## Police Community Meetings

The Eastern District Police will host their monthly meetings for community members at the Eastern District Police Office at 722 Payne Avenue, on the corner of Payne and Minnehaha Avenues. The next meetings are on **Wednesday, April 20, at 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.** Meetings are intended as a time to learn about, listen to, and address concerns about crime and other issues on the East Side.

The Saint Paul Police Eastern District is committed to maintaining and growing the quality of life for all residents. Bring your neighbors – it is a great time to talk about all neighborhood related issues.

## Nellie Stone Johnson Scholarship Now Accepting Applications

The Nellie Stone Johnson Scholarship is accepting applications until June 1. Eligible students must be a racial minority and a union member, or be the child, grandchild, or spouse of a union member. Scholarships are awarded to both full-time and part-time students who will be attending a MnSCU tech, community college, or state university in the fall of 2016. Scholarship amounts are \$1,200 for full-time students and \$500 for part-time students.

Applications and additional information about the scholarship are available online at [nelliestone.org](http://nelliestone.org) or by calling 651-738-1404 or toll free 866-738-5238.

## Dayton's Bluff Seniors International Elders Day

On **Monday, April 25, from noon to 3:00 p.m.**, enjoy snacks and entertainment from around the world as Dayton's Bluff Seniors celebrates International Elders Day. This event is free and takes place at First Lutheran Church, 463 Maria Avenue, St. Paul. For more information and to register, call 651-683-2326.

## Little League Baseball

Parkway Little League's opening day is scheduled for **Saturday, April 30**. Located at 1130 East 3rd Street, just east of Earl, the organization will inaugurate its 61st season with the opening of a fourth field, testimony to its growing popularity as the only official Little League organization in St. Paul. Admission to games is free and the site hosts a concession stand with drinks, snacks and hot food available.

Player spots may still be available for boys and girls this year, and volunteers are needed. Check the website at [parkwaylittleleague.com](http://parkwaylittleleague.com), find them on Facebook or call 651-774-8113.

## Dayton's Bluff Gardeners!

Garden plots are available at Skidmore Park Community Garden! Plots come in two sizes: 40 and 64 square feet for a fee of \$25/year. Applications and rules are available online at <http://bit.ly/bDQR17> or at the District 4 Community Council office. Applications are due by April 8. To receive a garden plot, attend orientation on **April 11 at 6:00 p.m.**, at Skidmore Park Community Garden, 1085 E. 4th Street. Call 651-772-2075; [johnbarbie@hotmail.com](mailto:johnbarbie@hotmail.com) or [jennifer.herman7@gmail.com](mailto:jennifer.herman7@gmail.com).



## Debbie's Doghouse Owned and Operated by Debbie Diaz

Mark Gallagher  
Associate Editor

A love of dogs, a passion for people and dogs, and the desire to form relationships with people inspired Debbie Diaz to start a dog-grooming business in 2001. She moved Debbie's Dog House to 367 Earl Street in 2015 — right across from Leo's Chow Mein. "My husband and I installed a brand new tub with a shower," Debbie said. "We had to put in a new floor and make everything new — it's really nice."

"I started out as a dog trainer and have been one longer than I have been a dog groomer," Debbie said. "I have a two-year degree in veterinary science and became a veterinary technician. As I was doing an internship, I saw a groomer in back grooming a dog and thought that was pretty cool. I'm kind of an artist and grooming is somewhat artistic — I was really intrigued."

Debbie decided to become a dog groomer and went to pet-grooming school at Anoka Hennepin Technical College. "I got paid better as a groomer than I did as a veterinary technician," Debbie said. "I just enjoy seeing a dog come in that's not been groomed in a while and then making the dog look really nice."

In her business, Debbie grooms dogs and cats. "I have done cats for many years; 80 percent of groomers do not do cats, but I do," she said. "Cats are a feline not a canine, and you have to groom them differently. When I schedule a cat, I make sure there is no other dog around, and the owner comes in with the cat. We do the grooming straight through, so it is quiet and the cat really trusts the owner."

Debbie's parents had dogs throughout her childhood. "I remember we had huskies and malamutes," she said. "When I was about two or three, I used to climb inside the doghouse, sit with the dogs, and take them for walks. I was always outside with the dogs; I just hung out with them."

Currently, Deb has a 13 year-old fawn Doberman Pinscher, and she's

had six Dobermans and shown three of them. "My dog is a retired show dog," Debbie said. "Most people don't know there are four colors of Doberman — black, red, blue, and fawn, which is a light brown."

Debbie believes that most dogs are pretty easy to work with. "It doesn't matter so much about breed as it depends on temperament," she said. "Temperament is most important; most dogs are really good, but you want to make sure your dog is socialized and trained."

A meet and greet open house is planned for Sunday, April 10, from noon until 4:00 p.m. "I want to offer



Greg Cosimini  
Diane May (left) and her dog, Luke Skywalker, visit with Debbie and her cat, Ursula, at the new Debbie's Doghouse at 367 Earl Street.

free bones for dogs," Debbie said. "People can come in and have coffee, refreshments, cookies, and see my place of business. Five years earlier, I looked at this place. I could see the potential in it and said, 'I can work with this; it's really interesting.'"

All new customers will receive a free spa, which is a \$14.00 value, when they get their dog or cat groomed. Debbie is available to groom your dog or cat by appointment Wednesday through Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. On Monday and Tuesday she is on call at a veterinary hospital but will still be open for business.

Debbie Diaz lives in Dayton's Bluff and thinks the area is great; she has been living there for twenty years. Her contact information is: phone: 651-242-2318 and e-mail address: debdiaz70@yahoo.com.

Debbie would like to give a special mention to Rita Mealey for all her help. She was also Debbie's first customer and a neighbor of hers.

Mark Gallagher is the associate editor of the Dayton's Bluff District Forum and a graduate of Metropolitan State University. Mark can be reached at [refiEditorial@gmail.com](mailto:refiEditorial@gmail.com).

## IS YOUR SCHOOL WORKING FOR YOU?

ST. PASCAL BAYLON CATHOLIC SCHOOL is a private Catholic school featuring preschool through 8th grade in East St. Paul.

TRANSFER TUITION GRANT now available for any private, non-Catholic, or public school student transferring to St. Pascal Baylon School.

YEAR 1 // \$1,000 tuition grant

YEAR 2 // \$500 tuition grant

### OPEN HOUSE

SATURDAY APRIL 23

10:00AM-12:00PM

1757 CONWAY ST, ST PAUL, MN 55106



## NEED HOME IMPROVEMENTS AND DON'T KNOW WHERE TO START?

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Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Housing Services  
823 East Seventh Street  
Saint Paul, MN 55106  
651.774.6995  
[www.dbnhs.org](http://www.dbnhs.org)



## Love your block. Win prizes!

Forum Staff

Friday, April 22, is Earth Day, when people around the world show their concern and love for the earth. The *Forum* says let's spiff up our own Dayton's Bluff blocks and be ready for the big day.

Between April 1 and 12, round up some neighbors or go out and inspire them with your example. If you're on Facebook, think about calling a flash mob cleanup and see who shows up. All you need is one or two trash bags and a pair of gloves.

Walk around your block and pick up the stuff that's not supposed to be there. A lot of it can be recycled and put out for pick-up on Tuesday, the Dayton's Bluff recycling day. If you don't have a bin, pick one up for free at the Dayton's Bluff Community Council, 804 Mar-

garet Street.

Be sure to bring a camera or your smart phone because the best pictures will win gift certificates from local merchants. Swede Hollow Café, Carbone's Pizzeria, Obb's Restaurant and Sports Bar, the St. Paul Saloon, Kendall's Ace Hardware, Mañana Pupusería, and the Minnesota History Center have all donated gift certificates and there's also one from Mickey's Diner.

What makes a good picture? Before and after are one possibility, especially if the before is really ugly. Also consider snapping the most interesting piece of trash or the cutest kid or oldest neighbor pitching in. Or take a selfie of you and your neighbors.

Prize winners will be announced on Earth Day, April 22. Names of the winners and their pictures will be posted on the *Forum's* Facebook page, the [daytonsbuffdistrictforum.org](http://daytonsbuffdistrictforum.org) website and the *May Forum*. To be eligible for a prize you must submit your entry by April 12 to [editor@daytonsbuff.org](mailto:editor@daytonsbuff.org). Enter as often as you'd like!

## Dayton's Bluff District Forum

804 Margaret Street, St. Paul, MN 55106  
Phone: 651-776-0550 E-mail: [editor@daytonsbuff.org](mailto:editor@daytonsbuff.org)

Monthly circulation: 7,000; also available online at [daytonsbuffdistrictforum.org](http://daytonsbuffdistrictforum.org). This publication of Hopewell Communications, Inc. is intended to provide a forum for the ideas and opinions of its readers and to be an instrument for developing community awareness and pride. No material contained in this paper may be reprinted without consent of the editor. Articles and letters to the editor are welcome and may be emailed to [editor@daytonsbuff.org](mailto:editor@daytonsbuff.org). The *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* is delivered to every home and business in the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood. Outside this area, subscriptions cost \$15 per year and may be arranged by calling 651-776-0550.

Board of Directors:

Greg Cosimini, Nick Duncan, Karin DuPaul, Jennifer Herman, Sage Holben, Carla Riehle, Steve Trimble

Editor/Layout: Jennifer Gascoigne

Associate Editor: Mark Gallagher

Next issue: May 2016. Deadline for material: April 10, 2016.

## 30th Annual Citywide Spring Cleanup

City of Saint Paul

All are invited to participate in the beautification of Saint Paul's parks and neighborhoods at the 30th Annual Citywide Spring Cleanup on Saturday, April 23, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Community members and groups interested in volunteering may register at [www.stpaul.gov/citywidecleanup](http://www.stpaul.gov/citywidecleanup). Pre-registration is encouraged but not required.

Seven meet-up sites hosted by various local organizations will be stationed throughout the city. Volunteers can drop by anytime between 9:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to register and pick up their equipment and refreshments. The sites and site hosts closest to Dayton's Bluff are as follows:

- Harriet Island Regional Park – Conservation Corps of Minnesota
- Swede Hollow Park – Northern Tier Family of Companies

Visit [www.stpaul.gov/citywidecleanup](http://www.stpaul.gov/citywidecleanup) for additional meet-up sites and hosts around Saint Paul.



# Metropolitan State University Science Education Center Grand Opening Celebration



## Community Open House Friday, April 22, 2016 3–6 p.m.

The opening of the new Science Education Center at Metropolitan State University provides metro area students with an opportunity for extraordinary science education at an affordable cost.

Join us for our Community Open House—everyone is welcome!

- Tours
- Meet faculty, staff and students
- Refreshments
- Park free in the Maria Avenue ramp



**Metropolitan**  
State University 



## Coming up with a mission statement

Jane Prince, Ward 7 – City Council

When I was campaigning for office last year, I had the pleasure of meeting many of you to find out your priorities for Saint Paul. I heard your concerns about speeding traffic, potholes, trash and debris, and about issues like redesigning the Margaret playground, improving East Seventh Street, and making our neighborhoods safer.

One of the most memorable conversations I had was with one of my Somali neighbors. When I asked, "What is most important to the Somali community in Saint Paul?" he answered without hesitation, "I think it's the same thing that is important to *everyone* in Saint Paul: the success of our children."

I have thought about that conversation every day since I arrived at City Hall. If we can build a city where all our children can be successful, then it is naturally going to be a city that is safe and healthy; where neighborhoods are clean and well maintained; where businesses are successful; where parks, recreation centers, community and cultural resources develop our bodies and minds, and where good schools and libraries prepare lifelong learners for good jobs.

The more I thought about it, I realized it is a great mission statement for those of us who work at City Hall. "Our Mission is to Build a City Where All Our Children Can Succeed." It is a tall order, but it is one that focuses our work. When we are deciding between competing priorities, we can ask, "Which one gets us closer to being a city that helps all of our children succeed?"

This question has galvanized a couple of the tough decisions I've had to make as your city councilmember. And the one that has probably gotten the most attention is my vote *against* the development of a Major League Soccer Stadium for Minnesota United at I-94 and Snelling Avenue.

I don't think the MLS stadium is nearly as

bad a deal as most of the sports palaces we've built with public funds in Minnesota. Minnesota United will spend \$120-plus million to build and maintain the stadium and will donate it to the City. The City will immediately commit \$18.4 million to cover the hard and soft costs of building streets and sidewalks around the stadium.

The kicker for me is that Minnesota United would only do the deal if the City agreed to give them a *permanent* property tax exemption. That public subsidy is estimated by the local media to be conservatively about \$2 million per year, or \$100 million dollars over the 50-year term of the team's agreement.

Property tax dollars are what we use to hire police officers, firefighters, city inspectors, public works engineers, recreation directors, parks workers and librarians, and all the equipment, vehicles, books and computers they all need to provide city services... You get the idea. Without property taxes from this beautiful new soccer stadium, the City doesn't get one dollar closer to helping our children be successful. Over the past eight years, Ward 7 has lost FOUR recreation centers: Margaret Recreation Center, Eastview Recreation Center was leased to a gym, which is closed to the public, Conway Recreation Center was leased to the Sanneh Foundation, which offers wonderful youth programming, but discontinued important senior citizen programs; and Highwood Hills Recreation Center was closed.

Our kids have told our police officers that adults obviously don't care about them, because we've closed the places they used to play. And police officers tell us that when we close a rec center, you can set your watch to the moment when kids without a place to play and let off steam will be drawn into unsafe and unhealthy activities.

City leaders who support the soccer stadium believe that it will have a positive impact on property values in the Midway. By their estimate, in five to 10 to 20 years, the property tax base should grow enough to invest in our children's success.

This type of speculative use of public dollars is what some might call "trickle-down economics." And by my estimation, it's just not a good, mission-driven investment.

**Cerenity**  
SENIOR CARE

*Marian of Saint Paul*



## Living Fully. Living Well.

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**OPEN HOUSE: Sun., April 24 from 1-3 p.m.**

200 Earl Street | St. Paul, MN 55106  
651-793-2100 | [CerenitySeniorCare.org](http://CerenitySeniorCare.org)

## MOUNDS PARK BARBER STYLISTS



651-771-6980

APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE  
TUESDAY THRU SATURDAY

1043 HUDSON ROAD  
SAINT PAUL, MN 55106

*Judy Lee*

Rep. Sheldon Johnson wants you to know about:

## INTERNATIONAL ELDERS' DAY

*Dayton's Bluff Senior Services and I would like to invite you to be a part of the first International Elders' Day. At the event, seniors and elders from the community will gather to share and to learn about their neighbors, resources and services available in the community.*

Join us for:

**An informational booth or table:** Share information about your organization and the people it serves. This is a great opportunity to increase awareness of your work, your culture and your community.

**Food and snacks:** Share your culture's unique cuisine with a donation of items representing the food and refreshments that best represent your roots.

**Sponsorship:** Show your commitment to the community by becoming a sponsor supporting this year's event. If you are interested in a sponsorship, please contact Janet Golden at (651) 237-7633 for more information.

**Spread the word:** All seniors, family and caregivers are invited to attend. Include event information in your newsletters and bulletins.

**Provide a ride:** Volunteer to drive a senior to the event or arrange for your organization's van to pick up and drop off participants.

**What: International Elders' Day**

**Where: First Lutheran Church (463 Maria Ave, Saint Paul)**

**When: Monday, April 25, 2016 from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

*Sheldon Johnson*

Rep. Sheldon Johnson



State Representative

**SHELDON  
JOHNSON**

259 State Office Building  
100 Martin Luther King Jr.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

(651) 296-4201

[rep.sheldon.johnson@house.mn](mailto:rep.sheldon.johnson@house.mn)

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## Batter Up! A Bit of Bluff Baseball

Steve Trimble, Forum Historian

Play Ball! It's April and baseball season is just around the corner. I thought this might be a good time to take a look back at some history of the game in our neighborhood. To begin with, Parkway Little League is celebrating its 61st anniversary and the addition of a new fourth field at their current location at 1130 East Third Street. There have also been generations of baseballers playing for schools, churches, recreation centers, and adult leagues usually sponsored by area businesses. Here are some of our local sports memories.

A young batter stepped up to the first ball ever pitched in a Parkway Little League game at a temporary location on June 6, 1955. A group, led by Howard Dahlquist soon bought several lots in a deep gully that was once part of Rifle Lake for their permanent ballfield. Play there started on June 5, 1956, with four major and 14 farm teams in Little League and four major and two farm teams in Pony League. The rest is history.

The organization is still going strong with baseball for all ages as well as softball teams and several generations of players have participated. They have never received support (that I know of) from the city. Check out some of their games this spring and summer and buy some food from the concession stand to help support their efforts. Visit ParkwayLittleLeague.com for details.

There are at least two Dayton's Bluff residents who made it as professional baseball players. Probably the most famous was Walter "Moose" Moryn, who was born on April 12, 1926, to a Russian immigrant family. They lived in an apartment above Johnson's Grocery Store (at the corner of Earl Street and Hudson Road) and later at 266 Clarence Street, a large house next to Obb's Bar. Walt became a star athlete at Harding High School in baseball and basketball.

Walter served in the Navy in the Pacific during WWII and then started his baseball career in 1948. Standing 6 feet 2 inches and weighing over 200 pounds, Walter played for the St. Paul Saints and started in the Majors with the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1954. Two years later, he was traded to the Chicago Cubs, where he flourished as a power hitter in the outfield. He was selected in 1958 to the All-Star Team.

The other local legend is Henry Gehring, born into a large family of Swiss immigrants in St. Paul on January 24, 1881. "Hank," as he was known, developed his skills on local amateur clubs. When Gehring married, he and his wife lived at 852 East 7th Street in 1906. The next year found them at 394 Eichenwald, and for several years after, they dwelt at

739 Conway Street.

After playing for a St. Paul clothier's team, Gehrig joined the local Saints of the Western League in 1901. He was known as a "junk-balling spitball pitcher" who was also a fine batter. He also played for teams in Winnipeg, Duluth, Des Moines, Wichita, and for the Minneapolis Millers. His big break came when he was called up to the majors by the struggling Washington Senators and was on their roster in 1907 and 1908. When Hank was released, he was picked up by the Kansas City Blues. In April 1912, Gehring fell ill in a Kansas City hotel. He was suffering uremic poisoning caused by kidney problems and died at the hospital at 1:30 a.m. on April 18, 1912.

Hank's body was brought back to St. Paul where services were held at the German Reformed Church at Reaney and Forest. A few weeks later, the St. Paul Saints and the visiting Kansas City Blues agreed to schedule a "Henry Gehring Benefit Game" and dedicated the entire Lexington Park gate proceeds to his widow and daughter. Two thousand people – the largest gate that year – showed up and raised \$1,500 (around \$30,000 today) for the family. Years later in 1952, he earned a spot on the Minor League Roll of Honor.

The story isn't over yet. Henry's remains are resting on a hillside in Forest Lawn Cemetery. The grave site has a flower pot marked Gehring, but there is no headstone with his name, dates, or information about this talented baseball player. Some of us are planning to see if today's St. Paul Saints might have a game dedicated to Henry Gehring with some of that night's gate donated to give him a fitting headstone.



American Association Almanac

Henry "Hank" Gehring in his St. Paul Saints uniform, circa 1908-1911.

## New York, I love you!

Francisco Balderrama  
Special to the Forum

*Editor's note: Francisco, a senior at Harding High School, had the opportunity to travel to New York City with Forum board member, Sage Holben. The following is his account of this memorable trip.*

When I arrived at the Minneapolis-St. Paul airport, excitement ran through my veins, knowing within a few hours I'd be in one of America's biggest and most diverse cities.

Arriving at LaGuardia airport, I saw a large plane with the word "TRUMP" on it. I'll admit that my mood was a little shattered at the sight of this. We arrived at around 4:20 p.m. and got in line to get a cab that would take us into upper Manhattan, Washington Heights. When we arrived at Sage's son's home, I settled my bags in Sam's comforting apartment.

On my second day in New York, Sage and I decided to go to the Metropolitan Museum of Art. On our way there, we went through the northeast side of Central Park.

Central Park is incomparable to any park in Minnesota (don't get me wrong, we have beautiful parks here!) It's a park filled with life, and beautiful gardens within. We walked south and met a woman who took pictures of very small things. That conversation inspired me to take in everything I did in the city with appreciation.

When we got to the MET, we saw that the many exhibits inside the museum represent events that have shaped our daily lives and the material we learn. Sage then took me to Fifth Avenue, and many other museums including the Guggenheim, Jewish Museum, and the Cooper Hewitt. We also went to Grand Central Station that same day. I expected to see a building full of people and trains. However, Grand Central had many shops and restaurants. That was very unexpected and amazing. *Tip: When you go to Grand Central Station, don't forget to look up! In the ceiling, there's beautiful constellations lined with gold and lights.*

The next day, Sage and I went to watch the Macy's parade on Columbus Circle. We managed to see some balloons, but they're not as big as they appear on television. We then went home on the A train.

The rest of the day was quiet and I decided to check out more of Washington Heights. I walked along the sidewalks of the Hudson River Greenways. I saw a large rat (a first for me!) and the famous George Washington Bridge. Then I walked over to Dunkin Donuts and got myself a French cruller. I re-

turned to Sam's apartment and worked on my college applications. The evening passed quickly.

On Friday, Sage and I took a trip to Mother Cabrini's Shrine. Mother Cabrini was a prominent figure within the immigrant and impoverished communities in New York City. It was a spiritual experience for me knowing she had helped communities to which my family belongs.

Sam took Sage and me to the Museum of Modern Art. This was an absolute dream of mine. It felt surreal seeing art pieces that had meaningful messages. It is a huge miscalculation if you plan to go through the entire museum within a day. There is so much to see and take in! I saw Claude Monet and Frida Kahlo's paintings. Seeing these art pieces in person is an out-of-this-world experience. Growing up watching Kahlo's movies and seeing Monet's paintings on postage stamps -- to finally see the pieces in person? It's truly nostalgic!

That evening, we went to Times Square again. Besides the neon spectrum, Times Square is not fun. It is a place full of millions of people. I think it is definitely worth seeing once. The *Matilda* musical was another highlight. The musical took place at the Shubert Theater located off-Broadway. The musical was very engaging and comical which made it a favorite of mine.

On Saturday, Sage, Sam, and I went to the NYU Washington Square campus to take a short tour from Sam's friend, Alicia. Unfortunately, most of the campus was closed for Thanksgiving weekend, but I did manage to see the Bobst Library. That day, we also visited the famous Strand bookstore located at 828 Broadway. The store, filled with anything you can imagine, was cool; they had collections of the *Oxford Very Short Introductions*, *The Vice Photo Book*, and Kim Kardashian's *Selfish* -- all favorites of mine. We left the bookstore and went to Economy Candy on the Lower East Side. Economy Candy is a MUST see. It is a store filled with any candy you can imagine.

Finally, on Sunday, Sage and I went to the Flatiron District to see the Flatiron Building and some other attractions in the area. Then, we went on the Staten Island Ferry. It felt surreal seeing the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. The sight reminded me of the time I'd arrived in Minnesota back in January 2005.

When I left New York the next day, I thought of how different it was from Minnesota. I had thought New York was a place full of rude people, but New Yorkers were the nicest people on the planet regardless of all the stress they go through on a daily basis. That "Minnesota nice" thing isn't really a thing I've admired. However, "New York nice" is underrated. One day, I hope to call New York City my home.



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# What's in a name?

Andrew Koetz  
Special to the Forum

What's the meaning behind the signs along the railroad tracks throughout St. Paul's East Side, from down by North Star Steel up to the St. Paul Union Depot and on other railroads and locations? There is history behind the names on those "station signs" as the railroads call them. Starting right below Dayton's Bluff by the Bruce Vento Trail and Sanctuary, there is a station sign reading "DIVISION STREET." There is no Division Street in St. Paul in that immediate area. The main reason this location was so named is that St. Paul was the beginning or ending of "divisions" of the many railroads that ran into St. Paul.

Heading down river (railroad "eastbound" toward Chicago) there are three more station signs: West Hoffman Ave., Hoffman Ave., and a third by the twin Warner



Andrew Koetz

The electrical boxes on the platform control the electric motors on the switches so the dispatcher in Fort Worth, Texas, can throw the switch(es) for another route if required (if the Maintenance of Way (M.O.W.) crews are welding, doing a repair, or signal repairmen are working on equipment.)

Road bridges — East Hoffman Ave. Back in the 1800s, what we all know as Mounds Boulevard today was once known as Hoffman Avenue. The railroad carried over the "Hoffman Ave." name and it stayed, as all railroad time tables showed Hoffman Ave. Another station sign and tower was located down at "Oakland."

Oakland was so named for the grove of oak trees that used to occupy the location where the Milwaukee Road (now Canadian Pacific) built their "new" yard back in

1955. There were "Armstrong Towers" at these locations; the railroad switches were thrown by hand via a lever machine inside the towers by a tower operator. In railroad parlance years ago, you worked "First Trick," "Second Trick," or "Third Trick," this indicated your shift. The levers inside these towers were tied to the switches via steel rods and linkages (some of these linkages to switches were over one mile in length.) After the advent of Centralized Train Control (also known as CTC) these towers were deemed surplus as the railroads installed electric motors at the switches themselves.

You still see "hand throw" switches in yards and for industries. The railroads actually made a separate neighborhood when they built their rights of way (also known as a R.O.W.) The tracks as they go west toward Minneapolis through the East Side between Kittson Avenue and Payne Avenue (Seventh Street) were the original Great Northern and Northern Pacific tracks. The Great Northern tracks were right up the middle and the Northern Pacific tracks were on either side of the Great Northern hill.

Also tying into the Great Northern tracks at Westminster Junction (this can be seen from the Phalen Parkway bridge) is the former Chicago & Northwestern line to Chicago. This line, as it goes east past the Hamm's Brewery is the "Altoona Subdivision" as a whole, but I have heard on my scanner crews calling out where they are by the neighborhood(s) they are going through.

The train crews would break down the line as the section from Westminster Junction to White Bear Avenue as the "East St. Paul sub," and from the other side of White Bear Avenue to Century Avenue as the "Hazel Park Sub," and when they got to the other side of Century Avenue it was the "Lake Elmo Sub" all the way to the St. Croix River bridge where it crossed into Wisconsin at "SONO Junction" which is another historical name for "Soo Line-Northern Pacific Junction," as the Northern Pacific served the city of Stillwater years ago when logging in northern Minnesota was a booming business. This was also where the Soo Line and Northern Pacific crossed each other.

The rails that have been long pulled up by the Burlington Northern through Swede Hollow were the Northern Pacific's tracks to Duluth. This was the faster run to Duluth versus using the Great Northern's "Hinckley Sub" which starts out in Coon Rapids at "Coon Creek," which is close to the station sign. The two tunnels that are under the East Seventh Street Bridge are built at an angle and a lot of math was involved with the cutting of each individual brick and on how the bricks were laid.

Did you know that East St. Paul, South St. Paul, West St. Paul, and North St. Paul are actually named after how the river boat captains see them from the river as they



Andrew Koetz

This is where Hoffman Tower once stood. Those are wooden bridge beams the Burlington Northern left intact after the Hoffman Ave. tower's rods were destroyed by a derailed coal train back in the early 1980s. All that remains to mark Hoffman Avenue is several bungalows along Warner Road.

came north — and are not all directionally correct when looking at a map with a compass? Fascinating stuff. I gained the railroad knowledge that I have from several people in the "Rail Fan Community," but my primary outlet was my father and his extensive 35MM slide collection on nearly every railroad you can name that once ran through Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota, and a few other states — including both freight and passenger train operations (yes, before AMTRAK, all of the nation's railroads had their own passenger trains.) AMTRAK still uses the Great Northern's signature name for their passenger train "The Empire Builder."

The Northern Pacific railroad ran the North Coast Limited, the Milwaukee Road ran the Hiawatha to Chicago, the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy, aka the "CB & Q" ran the Zephyrs to Chicago. I started shooting railroad photos back when I was about 10 years old with my first camera, a KODAK 110 Instamatic. Those cameras have not been made for at least 15 years, maybe longer. In 1989, I upgraded to a true 35MM camera — a Pentax K1000, which is like the TIMEX of 35 MM cameras; I have accidentally dropped it a couple of times and was able to keep on shooting.

There are factual stories behind the station signs I mention in this article and the towns on both sides the Mississippi River between St. Paul and LaCrosse that can easily be Googled. The hobby of "chasing trains" for some people is just that — I delve into the history of areas the railroads run through.

## Superheroes move into our super neighborhood

Nick Duncan  
Forum Staff

Anyone who's spent ten minutes in Dayton's Bluff knows what a super neighborhood we have — now we have the super heroes to go with it. This spring marked the grand opening of High Class Comics on Earl Street near the corner of Hudson.

After many years in South Minneapolis, Bjorn Brodahl, owner and proprietor of High Class Comics, moved his operation to Dayton's Bluff. Brodahl, a Minneapolis native, knew little about our neighborhood before relocating.

In Brodahl's words, "I knew it

was one of the oldest neighborhoods in the cities and the rent was very reasonable."

Since moving in, he has been pleasantly surprised by his new neigh-

bors. "I've meet quite a few local comic enthusiasts in the neighborhood and some very talented local artists," said Brodahl.

High Class Comics has over 15,000 comic books. The selection is very, very impressive. Titles include everything from the well-known Marvel super heroes, to self-published, local independent artists. The shop also includes a large number of action figures and a selection of comic related books.



Nick Duncan

Bjorn Brodahl, behind the counter of his shop's new location at 371 Earl Street.

High Class Comics, located at 371 Earl Street, is open daily from noon to 8:00 p.m. Visit [highclasscomics.com](http://highclasscomics.com) for more information and "like" them at [facebook.com/highclasscomics](https://www.facebook.com/highclasscomics).

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### 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@daytonsbuff.org.

**The Johnston brothers, Central High School graduates, packed the Forum for their visit to the Grand-Place Brussels in Belgium.**

### St. Pascal boys basketball team wins championship

Meg Gronau  
Special to the Forum

The St. Pascal boys seventh and eighth grade basketball team won the Catholic Athletic Association — Twin Cities Class D championship on March 6. The St. Pascal Knights defeated St. Anne's of Somerset, Wisconsin, 36-29 in the final game.

Though the St. Pascal boys had won only one regular-season game, they worked hard all season, staying positive and encouraging each other, according to coach Joe Hommes. The team gained some confidence at the SEAS Tournament in Hastings, where eighth-grader Matt Ray received a trophy and made the All Tournament Team. Their momentum continued at the St. Peter Tournament the following weekend, where the Knights won the consolation championship, losing only to the eventual champions.

"I really believe that chemistry was essential to the team's success," Hommes said. "The forwards worked hard in practice on their drop step technique, while the guards worked hard on shooting and good passing."

According to Hommes, the team demonstrated excellent cohesion, particularly during their defensive press. "They were all in the correct positions, understanding their roles to put pressure on the other team to create turnovers," Hommes said.

The team is a well-rounded group of young men.

Many of the players are active in theater, music ministry, band, volunteering, Science Fair, and many other activities at St. Pascal's and in the community. When some athletes struggled with grades early in the year, Hommes instituted a 30-minute pre-practice study period, allowing older and younger players to work together on homework.

And with spring arriving, the St. Pascal athletes are picking up momentum for their next season. "They have a real passion for baseball," Hommes said. "They can hardly wait to get outside and start hitting the ball."

The St. Pascal boys basketball team includes eighth-graders Peter Hommes, Matthew Ray, Dillon Schweitzer, and Joe Tschida, and seventh-graders Greg Goedker, Sam Malec, Patrick Wanschura, Max Weber, and Aiden Wolfard. The Knights are coached by Joe Hommes and Rob Malec.

St. Pascal's is a Catholic School and Church commu-

nity located at 1757 Conway Street, at White Bear Avenue and 3rd Street on the East Side of St. Paul. See [stpascals.org](http://stpascals.org) for more information.

**Many thanks to our 2015-2016 donors:**  
Rev. Dennis Alexander - Kayla Brinkman - Jean Comstock  
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Chris & Linda LaBarre - Mona Rath - Mounds Park United Methodist Church - Dr. Stephen & Rev. Lee Ann Pomrenke  
Peter Reyes - Jonathan Sherman - Meridel Trimble - Steve Trimble - Tom Trimble - Ward 6 Food & Drink - Anonymous

### Margaret Street Bikeway Spring Ride

Brad Griffith, Special to the Forum

On Saturday, May 14, the Stewards of Margaret Park (STOMP) will be sponsoring a spring ride on the Margaret Street Bikeway.

There will be two ride opportunities: one from Mendota Street to Johnson Parkway and back, and another from Mendota Street to McKnight Road and back.

At press time, the details of the ride were still being finalized, but preliminary plans are for a bike maintenance and safety clinic. The ride will begin and end at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, located at 655 Forest Street. A celebration picnic will follow.

"Like" STOMP on Facebook to be updated on the Spring Ride on the Margaret Street Bikeway by visiting [facebook.com/stompmn](http://facebook.com/stompmn) or contact Brad Griffith at 651-263-2830 or [bradgriffith@edinarealty.com](mailto:bradgriffith@edinarealty.com).



Meg Gronau

The St. Pascal's boys 7th and 8th grade basketball team — CAA champions!

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For more information, contact 651-776-0550 or [editor@daytonsbuff.org](mailto:editor@daytonsbuff.org).

**Thank you for your support!**

### 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 three 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 2016.

**Our goal for the year is \$2,000; as of this printing we have raised \$765. Will you help us?**

Sincerely,  
The *Dayton's Bluff District Forum*

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

Editor: Jennifer Gascoigne  
Associate Editor: Mark Gallagher