

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

Volume 29, No. 7
 August 2016
daytonsbuffdistrictforum.org
 Ve la página 3 para un artículo en español.
 "The Voice of the Community"

Hosted by:
A 104.7fm WEQY

7TH STREET LIVE

13 AUGUST
NOON - 8:00 PM

895 7th St. SAINT PAUL, MN 55106

DJ HUH WHAT · THE ILEAH · LMNOP · STARS · KALEEM THE DREAM · MARIA ISA · NOT GUILTY BAND · SHANNON · INTERNATIONAL REGGAE ALL · CARNAGE THE EXECUTIONER · SAYMOUKDA · DJ CORY CUTZ · DJ VERB X

WEQY.org/7th-street-live
 #7thStreetLive
 @WEQY1047
 Bus Routes 61, 63 & 74

Don't miss the second annual 7th Street LIVE Festival!

Nicole Pressley
 Dayton's Bluff Community Council

A positively East Side Festival for ALL. WEQY 104.7 FM is proud to announce the Second Annual 7th Street LIVE Festival!

Thanks to generous sponsors Metropolitan State University, Guitar Center, Minnesota Music Café, Manana Restaurant, and the Minnesota African American Museum, 7th Street LIVE has grown into a larger and more dynamic event for all ages.

This event marks the anniversary of WEQY's first broadcast and celebrates the community-led radio station by hosting a free event that supports local businesses, artists, and organizations to provide valuable resources and services to our community as Dayton's Bluff community members come out for a family friendly party with their friends

and neighbors. Parking will be limited – we encourage people to walk, bike, or bus to the event. Get to 7th Street LIVE using bus lines 61, 63, and 74. Stop by the WEQY 104.7 FM booth to learn more about the station's mission, programs, and how you can join the effort to amplify community voices! 7th Street LIVE is an alcohol-free, family friendly event.

There will be a youth area with a St. Paul Parks and Rec climbing wall, bounce house, and other activities. Headliners Maria Isa and Carnage the Executioner will light up two stages with WEQY DJs, public affairs personalities will host their shows live and have community conversations with attendees. Come early for an anniversary cake cutting ceremony. New vendors, activities, and prizes are being added daily. Don't forget to pick up a 7th Street LIVE postcard at local businesses and coffee shops for a chance to win \$1000!

Follow WEQY on Twitter at @WEQY1047 or check out the 7th Street LIVE Facebook event for the latest announcements and promotions. See you there!

Celebrate Dayton's Bluff at the 33rd Annual National Night Out!

Karin DuPaul
 Forum Staff

Celebrate Dayton's Bluff neighborhoods on National Night Out (NNO), Tuesday, August 2, with your family and neighbors. Neighborhood groups, block clubs, and neighbors are planning a variety of activities. Some have a barbecue, pot luck, magic show, live bands, kids games, and kids parades, just to name a few.

This is the 33rd Annual National Night Out, which is celebrated nationwide. Most celebrations begin around 6:00 p.m. It's always nice to bring a dish or something to share and join your neighbors.

National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, better places to live. Citizens, law enforcement agencies, community groups, businesses, youth organizations and local, state and federal

officials from 15,728 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories and military bases worldwide joined forces to celebrate the 32nd Annual National Night Out.

Here are some of the Dayton's Bluff celebrations: Bethlehem Lutheran at Margaret and Forest Streets, East 6th Street between Bates Avenue and Hope Street, Mounds Park Neighborhood at Earl Street and Mounds Boulevard, Maple Street between East 4th and East 5th Streets, Upper Swede Hollow Neighbors at Greenbrier and Margaret Streets, Mounds Park United Methodist Church at Earl and Euclid Streets, Saint Paul Federal Credit Union at 1330 Conway Street, Parkway Gardens at Hudson Road and Johnson Parkway (for residents, at 3:00 p.m.), Our Savior's Lutheran Church at 674 Johnson Parkway, and Saint Pascal Baylon Catholic Church at 1757 Conway Street.

Another way to celebrate is to get all of your neighbors to turn on their outside lights from dusk to dawn. For more information or to plan a National Night Out event in your neighborhood call 651-772-2075.

Karin DuPaul can be reached at daytonsbuff@gmail.com.

Dayton's Bluff
 Community Council
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 St. Paul, MN 55106

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Tune in for music from local and national artists, as well as information about what's happening in your community.

Dayton's Bluff Take-a-Hike

The Dayton's Bluff Take-a-Hike tours are canceled until further notice. The hike leaders have a family conflict at this time. Watch for more information in future issues of the Dayton's Bluff District Forum.

Friends of Swede Hollow

Watch over, restore, and celebrate the history of Swede Hollow Park. Join the Swede Hollow community at their monthly meeting on **Wednesday, August 3, at 6:30 p.m.** Email karin@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 on **Monday, August 1, at 1:00 p.m.**, at Swede Hollow Cafe (725 E. 7th Street). Call 651-776-0550 or email editor@daytonsbuff.org for more information.

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, August 17, at 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.** Meetings are intended as a time to listen to and address concerns about crime and other issues on the East Side.

Let's stay connected!

Find out what's happening in your community and at the Dayton's Bluff Community Council. DBCC sends out a monthly newsletter to keep residents informed about current programs and issues that impact our community. It's easy to sign up – just text BLUFF to 22828 to sign up and start getting updates delivered directly to your inbox today!



East Side Enterprise Center

The East Side Enterprise Center (ESEC) along with its partners, is offering technical assistance for new start up business owners or business owners wanting to expand their businesses.

If your business is located on the East Side of St. Paul and you are in Wards 1, 2, 4, and 5, you are eligible to participate. ESEC is seeking motivated, low-income business owners, and people of color. ESEC will provide a business consultant/mentor to maximize your potential and training to help you gain the knowledge and expertise needed to succeed in your field. Contact Brenda Reid, Dayton's Bluff Community Council, at 651 621-2760.

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 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 at 612-746-3500. Our bilingual staff can facilitate the process for you and your family.

Free Summer Meals in Dayton's Bluff

The St. Paul Public School system is serving free meals for all kids ages 18 and under, Monday through Friday, throughout most of the summer.

Visit www.summerlunchmap.2harvest.org, or call or text 612-516-3663 for exact times and more information as well as other locations.

Para información sobre las comidas de verano para niños, visite el sitio de internet www.summerlunchmap.2harvest.org, llame al 612-516-3663 o envíe un mensaje de texto con la dirección de su hogar al 612-516-3663.

Twin Cities Mobile Market

The Twin Cities Mobile Market is a grocery store on wheels that brings affordable, healthy food directly into under-resourced neighborhoods. It stops at Parkway Gardens, 1145 Hudson Road, on Wednesdays, from **2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**



East Side Open Market

The Eastside Open Market is a live music, food, art, and farmers market located at 463 Maria Avenue. Open **Thursdays from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.** Call 651-815-8523 for more information or Eastside Open Market on Facebook.

Family Food Box Distribution

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

the Dayton's Bluff Rec Center.

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

Enjoy Skidmore Berry Patch and Neighbor Plots

Harvesting has begun and Skidmore Park Community Gardens invites neighbors to enjoy produce from the Berry Patch and Neighbor Plots in the community garden. You will find the berry patch right behind the drinking fountain and the neighbor plots are clearly marked with a large sign. Please do not pick from other plots as they have been rented and tended by families who have plans for using the produce they have grown. Skidmore Park Community Gardens is located at 1085 4th Street East.

August at the Mounds Theatre

August is a quiet month at the Mounds Theatre so that you can enjoy the dog days of summer, the Minnesota State Fair, and all those exciting back to school preparations. Check our website for any late-breaking events.

Visit moundstheatre.org for more information on these 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.

August at the Dayton's Bluff Library

Join the Dayton's Bluff Library for the following events taking place in August: *Summer Movies @ the Library* sponsored by the Metro State and Dayton's Bluff Libraries will take place from **7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Mondays**, and **1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Fridays**. Films will be shown in the Library Student Lounge on the first floor. The screenings are FREE and open to the public!

Metro Movie Mondays (films suitable for ages 13 and up): August 1, *Fried Green Tomatoes*; August 8, *Rent*; August 15, *The Help*.

Summer Movie Fridays (films suitable for all ages): August 5, August 12, and August 19; films to be announced soon. Visit <http://www.sppl.org/events-and-classes> for movie titles as they become available. For information about these and other events check sppl.org or call 651-793-1699. The Dayton's Bluff Library shares its home with Metropolitan State University at 645 East 7th Street.

August at the East Side Freedom Library

Mondays, beginning July 25, and ending August 22, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Summer Book Club: *The Teacher Wars* and *For White Folks that Teach in the Hood...and the Rest of Y'all Too*.

Join teachers and community members for a lively discussion of race, economics, education, and the intersection of all three in our schools and communi-

ty. Visit <http://eastsidefreedomlibrary.org/events/> for details and to register for these and other free events. This event is cosponsored by the Saint Paul Federation of Teachers and the East Side Freedom Library.

Wednesday, August 17, at 7:00 p.m., ESFL will present *Colonization and the Dakota Language*, a presentation by Chantemaza and Neil McKay, which explores what it means to a people to lose their language. Chantemaza, who teaches in the American Indian Studies Department at the University of Minnesota, will speak about the devastating effects of federal policies of colonization and genocide, and current efforts to rediscover and use the Dakota language in everyday life.

The East Side Freedom Library is located at 1150 Greenbrier Street. Call 651-230-3294, email info@eastsidefreedomlibrary.org, or visit eastsidefreedomlibrary.org for details on these and other upcoming events.

Mounds Park United Methodist Church

A multicultural, neighborhood congregation located at 1049 Euclid Street; 651-774-8736 or Mounds Park United Methodist on Facebook.

Tuesday, August 2, National Night Out celebration, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

There will be food and sno-cones to share out on the sidewalk in front of the church. Visits by local police, fire, and community leaders. Invite your friends and neighbors! In case of rain, event will happen in the church fellowship hall.

Sunday, August 28, free community breakfast and worship, 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., a summertime worship service will follow, featuring the contemporary music group, Amy & Adams. All are invited!

Wednesday, August 31, at noon, Community friendship gathering with hot lunch of BBQ chicken, roasted veggies, rolls, and dessert, followed by a program featuring Janet Egge playing her violin and Nancy Shellcross singing.

All are invited to come; the focus of this event is on persons age 55 and over. A donation of \$8.00 is suggested.

St. Pascal Baylon All-School Reunion

Come and join the fun on **Saturday, August 13!**

Featuring craft-beer, wine, and food trucks, the St. Pascal Baylon all-school reunion kicks off with mass beginning at **4:30 p.m.**, followed by an all-school reunion from **5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**

Please RSVP to Mary Worley at 651-757-1585 ext. 134, or mary.worley@stpascals.org. St. Pascal Baylon is located at 1757 Conway Street, St. Paul.

Correction

The July issue of the *Forum* carried an article by Rafael Espinoza, who was identified as a member of the Board of Directors of the Dayton's Bluff Community Council. The attribution should also have stated that he was writing as an individual, and not on behalf of the Dayton's Bluff Community Council. We apologize for any misunderstanding that this may have caused.

¿Está usted en una lista de espera para la Visa U y tiene un DUI?

Marisela E. Cantú, abogada



Marisela E. Cantú, abogada.

Especial para el Forum

Usted puede estar en una lista de espera para la Visa U y se le otorgó una aprobación condicional de dicha visa dado que al parecer su petición ha cumplido con los requisitos. La Visa U está condicionada a su capacidad de permanecer admisible y calificado para el estatus de la Visa U.

DUI (conducir bajo la influencia de alcohol o drogas) no es un delito excluible en sí mismo, sin embargo, en algunos ca-

sos puede ser considerado un delito que implica baja moral o una condición relacionada que pueda cancelar su elegibilidad para una Visa U. En un caso de inmigración llamado López-Meza, 22 I & N diciembre de 1188 (BIA 1999), el Tribunal señaló que históricamente, un delito menor como DUI no implica baja moral porque la conducta no tiene que ser deliberada y a menudo es accidental o negligente. Sin embargo, una ley estatal que penaliza conducir bajo la influencia de alcohol o drogas y con la intención específica de conducir con una licencia suspendida o revocada ha creado la intención mental requerida para considerarse un delito contra la moral que puede hacer no idónea a una persona para obtener la Visa U.

También su DUI podría catalogarse como una condición de salud si un médico constata que usted corre un riesgo físico o mental debido al alcohol. Por lo tanto, para averiguar si su DUI afectará su aprobación condicional de la Visa U usted debe consultar a un abogado para analizar la ley del estado en el que fue encontrado culpable o buscar precedentes judiciales generales para determinar si usted podría ser clasificado con una condición relacionada de salud.

Marisela E. Cantú es un abogado de ley familiar e inmigración en el estado de Minnesota.

Ella se puede encontrar www.cantuattorney.com o al 651-239-8195.

Getting to Know Your Community Council

Deanna Abbott-Foster, Executive Director
Dayton's Bluff Community Council

How would you complete this sentence? "Dayton's Bluff is a(n) _____ place." This is an important question for a community that in many ways is a microcosm of the world. So much diversity, talent, history, loss, pride, hate, trauma and love is here; yet we still suffer from a deepening identity crisis brought on by rapid change and excessive exposure to polarizing rhetoric. Challenged and privileged in so many ways, the Dayton's Bluff community is deeply connected to the violent tragedies here and around the world and community identity is formed in this context.

The role of each district council is to identify and advocate for the aspirations and necessities that serve a common good. The duty of the district council is to stay in touch with the needs and ambitions of residents, businesses, community organizations, and government, religious and educational institutions. This myriad of stakeholders present a complex matrix of self interest made evident by a range of ideas and plans. Our identity grows out of multiple levels of fear and dissatisfaction on one hand and hopes and ideas for a better future on the other. Priorities are not easily agreed upon and the most difficult questions for the Dayton's Bluff Community Council are always about "Whose agenda do we serve?"

Many times a week DBCC leaders and staff hear people say "we" or "the community" wants XXX, or DBCC "should" do this or that – an instruction impossible to satisfy. So, every day we disappoint many. We recognize that criticism is fear's first defense; therefore the strategy for the past five years has been to focus on things that can be cherished – distinct improvements and experiences that touch many of our stakeholders in positive ways. Some say we have done a good job.

We were asked by the Forum to provide an update on the 2016 work plan, which can be found on the DBCC website, www.daytonsbuff.org

The following summary highlights the priority work of staff in the first half of 2016. This list does not include the ongoing administrative and fund development efforts needed to sustain the organization.

Summary of DBCC Work – January to June 2016: The DBCC increased local economic benefits through business outreach by providing technical assistance to ten inquiries, four clients, and three referrals, two loans closed, two new projects on 7th Street, eight partner organizations, and three employers.

The DBCC initiated cross-cultural celebrations and improved public spaces through massive planning, communications, and recruitment for 7th Street LIVE festival – now an annual event, National Night Out promotion and event support, partnered with Edible Streetscape project, and worked to facilitate changes on 7th and Margaret Streets to improve pedestrian safety and improve public space.

The DBCC increased community leadership and engagement by conducting six listening sessions, 15 meetings, 50 interviews, and 200 surveys focused on providing better bus stops for the East Side. The council also organized an election resulting in seven people of color being elected in District 5. A Board Governance Consultant was funded and hired during this time.

WEQY Community Radio was launched, with the DBCC providing technical, legal, and operations management as well as program recruitment, training, monitoring, and support. The station is now live streaming and broadcasting 24/7. Branding, outreach, and communications are under development, and the station currently has 46 members providing financial support.

Please send comments and suggestions related to this article to any of the following: deanna@daytonsbuff.org ; DBCC website www.daytonsbuff.org ; Facebook www.facebook.com/daytonsbuff.

Join the celebration: CLUES is turning 35!

Mark your calendars: CLUES (Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio) celebrates its 35th anniversary and kicks off Hispanic Heritage Month with Fiesta Latina, a free outdoor celebration of family, community, and Latino culture, on **Saturday, September 10, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** at CLUES headquarters on the East Side of Saint Paul!

The day will be overflowing with fun activities, such as:

- Arts & Science Village: a community mural & arts-mobile.
- Health & Wellness Village: free health screenings & wellness resources.
- Fitness & Sports Village: soccer, basketball, Zumba, Karate, fitness programs, & much more!

There will be live music, a DJ, and folkloric dance performances, as well as delicious Latino food! Play games, win prizes, and explore the richness of the East Side of Saint Paul while celebrating the diversity and beauty of the Latino Culture! Follow us on Facebook: "CLUES Fiesta Latina" and share with your family and friends!

Interested in volunteering or more information? Contact volunteer@clues.org or call 651-379-4237.

Racial Equity on Johnson Parkway and Ames Avenue East

Carla Riehle
Forum Staff


A group of young East Siders is taking action to address a potentially dangerous situation that exists at the principal exit from Hmong Village onto Johnson Parkway where it intersects with Ames Avenue.

At the moment, although it is a major crossing for patrons of the market, there is nothing to indicate that that cars must yield to pedestrians even though state law requires such stops at all crosswalks,

marked or unmarked. The group formed in 2015, after the friends and family experienced near misses at the intersection. They felt that government inaction was indicative of the lack of attention paid to low-income, minority neighborhoods on the East Side. They decided to take the name "Racial Equity on Johnson Pkwy and Ames Avenue East," and set up a Facebook page with that name.

The group has presented a petition to Mayor Chris Coleman and Ramsey County Jim McDonough, but so far no one in authority has made a decision on how to address the problem. The group is looking for volunteers to join future strategy meetings and can be reached on their Facebook page or via the hashtag #RacialEquityonJohnsonPkwyandAmesAve.

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City business licenses and permits

Carla Riehle and Sage Holben
Forum Staff

The following are a selection of recent activities related to licenses and permits in Dayton's Bluff:

Beacon Bluff has asked for a permit for interior remodeling at 777 Forest Street, the remaining building in the former 3M complex. Known as the Kahn Building, it will be the new location of the St. Paul Archdioceses offices. The remodeling is valued at \$3,300,000.

A&M Bar and Grill, LLC and St. Paul Saloon have requested new liquor licenses for a bar and grill to be operated by Alex Rivero at the site of the former St. Paul Saloon at 1045 Hudson Road. Rivero appeared at the Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Development Committee in July to seek its approval and told the committee that the new business would have no connection with the former owners and operators of the St. Paul Saloon, although one of them still owns a minority interest in the building. The

committee voted to send a letter recommending approval to the city.

Pat Nseumen has been granted a non-conforming use permit to open a coffee shop at 805 Hudson Road. Built in 1930, the site was first used as a gas station, and later as a dog grooming facility.

Hmong Village has been granted a rezoning application to expand its parking lot into the adjacent city-owned right of way on Johnson Parkway.



805 Hudson Road, the proposed site of a new coffee shop. Google

Questions regarding these projects may be directed to the City of St. Paul's Planning and Economic Development Department at 651-266-6565.

Carla Riehle and Sage Holben can be reached at daytonsbuff@gmail.com.

News from Ward 6 — (Food & Drink, that is)

Bob Parker
Ward 6 Food & Drink

If it's been a while since you've dropped by Ward 6 Food & Drink on Payne Avenue, you may find some new things to enjoy. There are several new summer cocktails, wines, great beers (as always) and some very nice menu items for summer.

The latest menu items are from new chef, Kendall Kail. Kendall has actually been a cook at "The Ward" for more than two years, and he has shown himself to be strong in his skills and dedication, but also brilliant in his ability to come up with especially delicious recipes. His desire to grow professionally made him a natural choice to lead the kitchen. He has recently been joined by Brian Titus, as his associate chef. Titus has been the pastry chef for some time and brings his own skills, as well as an inspired curiosity and imagination. The two chefs have a bond that is strengthened by Titus' fluency in American Sign Language (ASL) as Kendall is deaf. Many of the rest of the staff have been developing their ASL skills to improve and increase their connection and communication with Kendall.

To celebrate these guys, Ward 6 is planning to hold a special, one-night only dinner soon, having them create a multi-course dinner, paired with beer and

wine. This event will accommodate only 55 people, so be sure to check the Ward 6 Facebook page for details. These events have sold out quickly in the past.

As for new cocktails, the bar staff was asked to come up with some new drinks last spring, and they have done well. The inventiveness of these drinks is impressive, and all are delicious and intriguing. Several are spicy and almost savory, while many are more familiarly tart, and all of them are delicious and fresh. Owner Bob Parker has a couple in the mix as well. As always, drinks are delightful and affordable.

One of the great new seasonal brews is Summit's 30th anniversary beer, Keller Pils. Owner Eric Foster loves this beer, as do most people. It is delicious and refreshing, but also shows exactly how good Summit is at brewing beers that present their personality and skill. Also on tap are a traditional Hefeweizen from Schell's of New Ulm, and several more to come as the season progresses.

Free live music is still happening twice each week, on Friday and Saturday nights at 9:00 p.m. Many favorites including Lonnie Knight, Cooker John, Jim Pelling, and Lonesome Dan Kase are there, as well as interesting new performers like Cathy and Abel (beautiful singing of nostalgic songs) and Julian Manzara (jazz).

There isn't another small cabaret style venue on the East Side like this, and having a warm and inviting place like Ward 6 is a special asset to our neighborhood.

Edible Streetscape growth cultivates August events

Miah Ulysse
Urban Oasis

This month, Urban Oasis will host a variety of events centered on their latest community project, Edible Streetscape. This project features 10 planters along East 7th Street, each highlighting a delicious food tradition significant to the East Side. The project is made possible through collaboration with Urban Roots, Dayton's Bluff Community Council, City of Saint Paul Parks and Recreation & Public Works Departments, and funding provided by the Center for Prevention at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota.

In May, Urban Oasis and Urban Roots hosted a Community Planting Day. At this event, fellow East Siders (and several outside of the community) gathered outside Swede Hollow Café to commemorate the start of the growing season and Edible Streetscape project by planting more than 60 unique plants in 10 container gardens along East 7th Street.

The northern-most planter, located in front of the East Side Enterprise Center on Margaret and East 7th Street, is situated on a temporary curb bump out installed by the Saint Paul Public Works Department. Urban Oasis turned the bump out into a patio. This patio is open to all as a welcoming space to enjoy con-

versation and the many and varied plants growing nearby.

On Saturday, August 6, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Urban Oasis will host 100 diners at the Edible Streetscape Community Meal. The meal takes place on Margaret Street, outside the East Side Enterprise Center. Prepared by Urban Oasis Head Chef Malcolm Kaplan and Appetite for Change Executive Chef Lachelle Cunningham, the sit-down family-style meal celebrates the diverse food traditions of the East Side featured in the Edible Streetscape planters. The event begins with the launch of an art exhibit in the Enterprise Center featuring artist



An Edible Streetscape along East 7th Street. Urban Oasis

Lebohang Moore's photography installation, "Food's Eye View," depicting images and stories of urban food growing on the East Side. A special one-day gallery in the exhibit features food-inspired art produced by youth from East Side summer programs.

On Saturday, August 20, a special immigration history walking tour will take place which features Edible Streetscape planters beginning and ending at Flat Earth Brewery, 688 Minnehaha Avenue. The walking tour runs from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. Together, Urban Oasis and the East Side Freedom Library invite you to explore neighborhood stories of immigration through the lens of food and place along the Edible Streetscape.

For registration or more information about any of these events, visit www.UrbanOasisMN.org.

A victory for Dayton's Bluff

Karin DuPaul
Forum Staff

At the Housing Redevelopment Authority (HRA) meeting on July 13, our City Councilmember Jane Prince moved approval of the resolution before the HRA to fund the restoration of 700 East 4th Street, 767 East 4th Street, 737 Plum Street, and 275 Bates Avenue in the Dayton's Bluff Historic District, as well as 987 Wilson, which passed unanimously. Two council members were absent. A number of community members attended the meeting.

After the meeting, in an email to residents who have been working on saving the houses for months, Jane wrote "You, my undaunted neighbors and friends, were an endless source of inspiration and energy in your drive to preserve these properties so vital to our historic district and to our supply of affordable homes in Dayton's Bluff. You all knew that we were sitting on a highly mar-

ketable commodity of vacant buildings; and again, you proved that NEIGHBORS KNOW BEST."

Jane went on to say "You stopped the so-called 'Dayton's Bluff Demolition Derby,' and we're a stronger, better, more beautiful and historic neighborhood for your hard work!"

Earlier this year, the city recommended that the homes, which are owned by the city, be torn down. Neighborhood residents worked with the city to find a way to have the four homes in the Dayton's Bluff Historic District rehabbed and sold to new home owners. Joe Mulsolf and other Planning and Economic Development staff, the Heritage Preservation Commission, Dayton's Bluff residents, and Dayton's Bluff Community Council, hosted a Vacant Home Tour during the open bid period and viable bids for all the houses were submitted. Now there are buyers for all the homes, who will rehab the homes and sell them to new home owners.

Karin DuPaul can be reached at daytonsbuff@gmail.com.



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Asian grocery to occupy former Lunds & Byerlys location

Steve Trimble
Forum Staff

The former Lunds & Byerlys on Suburban Avenue has been bought by the owners of Ha Tien Market and will become an Asian grocery.

They plan to offer non-Asian merchandise such as personal care products and household goods, in addition to a sizable selection of prepared foods and Vietnamese sandwiches. The renovated store is slated to open in the fall of this year.

Saint Paul is leading the way

Jane Prince
Ward 7 – City Council

On Mother's Day, I was invited by Pastor Marea Perry to join a group of mothers to march against gun violence after the tragic shooting of a teenage boy in Mounds Park. Marching up Earl Street from Mounds Boulevard to East Seventh, we were joined by Commander John Lozoya, and East Team Officers Heather Grulkowski and Rachel Miller – not as police escorts (which were also present) but as members of our community.



Facebook/Jane Prince

I realized then that beyond being enforcers and protectors, the Saint Paul Police are our partners in building community – sharing in our losses – and celebrating in our successes

This summer, there is a tremendous amount of distress, confusion and emotion related to law enforcement. I write today because I want you to know just a few of the things our Saint Paul Police are doing to serve young people and to engage all of us as community partners.

Our new chief, Todd Axtell, has spent his entire career as a Saint Paul cop, getting to know each and every diverse neighborhood in our city. Upon his appointment, Todd announced his top three priorities: 1) to get guns off the street, 2) to hire diverse police officers so that our department reflects the diversity of our city, and 3) community engagement.

Two years ago, Todd initiated Safe Summer Nights, with the goal of building trust in our police department. Working with business and community sponsors, the police have served

more than 35,000 meals and have helped neighbors and police officers get acquainted as friends. Remarkably, on the nights when Safe Summer Nights are held, crimes simply don't happen in those neighborhoods. These events show that community fellowship affords safety and peace for all.

During the police chief selection process, I attended a community forum where Mayor Coleman took written questions from the audience of about 200 and addressed them to the chief finalists. Four of these candidates had come up through the ranks of our police department: Assistant Chief Matt Toupal, Commander Tina McNamara, Assistant Chief Colleen Luna and Todd Axtell.

Given the rhetoric of this year's Presidential campaign, one might have expected a lot of "get-tough," law and order responses. But instead, our Saint Paul candidates – all seasoned and tested police leaders – focused their responses on the need for meaningful community engagement – and on the need to build trust, transparency and access for all of our diverse communities, including undocumented workers.

At the forum, I learned how Saint Paul has reduced its use of force by initiating a process to review and analyze each use of force to discuss how each incident could have been handled differently. This has resulted in a 62 percent drop in external complaints related to use of force in Saint Paul.

Saint Paul has significantly reduced juvenile arrests through the community ambassadors program, through which community elders work with young people to stop violence before it begins. In its first year of operation, 2015, juvenile arrests were down 60 percent from the previous year (in the same times and locations).

Saint Paul Police Chief Todd Axtell and his team are focused on the very improvements that can reform our law enforcement system nationally. It will take all of us working together – with open hearts and minds – but I am confident that we can lead the way in tackling these community issues.

We will seek justice for Philando Castile

Jennifer Orr
Senate Majority Media

Senator Founq Hawj (DFL – St. Paul) released a statement following the police shooting and death of 32-year-old Philando Castile during a traffic stop in Falcon Heights. Castile was shot in his vehicle by a St. Anthony police officer in front of his girlfriend and young child Wednesday, July 6.

"Today I join Minnesotans in mourning the police shooting death of Philando Castile. Philando – as I was told by my first cousin – was a good man, a friendly and a hard-working person. As I heard the news last night, I was reminded how many of my constituents on the Eastside are like Philando – people

just trying to better their communities and provide for their families. He was a good human being who did not deserve this end, which is why I join communities of color, and all Minnesotans, in calling for answers, justice, change and new accountability.

I applaud Governor Dayton and Lieutenant Governor Smith in their call for a federal investigation by the Department of Justice – and we should all rightfully expect justice. As the state senator representing Eastside St. Paul, I will do everything I can to make sure that the police value people's lives.

I want to once again express my deepest sympathy for Philando Castile's daughter, family, friends, and Ms. Diamond Reynolds. You are in our thoughts and prayers – and I promise you that I will work to turn our thoughts into action."



Cook St. Paul

Cook St. Paul, 1124 Payne Avenue, memorializes the death of Philando Castile on its marquee.

Rep. Sheldon Johnson wants you to join him for:

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

TUESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2016

National Night Out, held on the 1st Tuesday of every August, is a nationwide event designed to build partnerships, strengthen relationships between neighbors and law enforcement, and raise crime prevention awareness across the nation.

On National Night Out, homeowners, renters, retail, and all businesses come together in our neighborhoods to show that Saint Paul is truly "the most livable place in America!" National Night Out has proven time and again to help people work together to improve safety in their neighborhoods.

You can find more information on registering, requesting visits from the Saint Paul Fire Department, the Saint Paul Police Department, special units such as K-9 units and more on National Night Out at: www.stpaul.gov/departments/police/national-night-out

Please come join me and your neighbors for an evening of food, fun, and a celebration of our community!

What: National Night Out
When: Tuesday, August 2, 2016
Where: A Neighborhood Near You

Rep. Sheldon Johnson



State Representative

SHELDON JOHNSON

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

(651) 296-4201
rep.sheldon.johnson@house.mn
www.house.mn/67B
www.sheldonjohnson.com

Outhouse treasures

Greg Cosimini
Forum Staff

Most of us know about outhouses only from old movies and cartoons. Aside from their obvious function they also became a storehouse of any city's history. Outhouses in and around St. Paul were no different. All sorts of things went into outhouse holes and objects like bottles survived quite well in their unusual resting place for over a century where they still can be found by those who look for them.

Mark Youngblood and his partner Brian Mann are two of those people who like to dig up old outhouses to unearth the treasures that lay beneath. On June 30 they gave an entertaining talk at the Mounds Theatre about their adventures titled "Outhouse Archeology and St. Paul Bottles." It was sponsored by the Old St. Paul Facebook group, a group started by Mark Youngblood that exists to remember and preserve the history of St. Paul. Old bottles provide an important part of that process, one that is often overlooked by historians. A small sampling of their bottles were on display that evening.

From the 1870s into the 1920s when bottles with labels were introduced,

custom-made glass bottles with embossed lettering were used by breweries, pharmacies and general stores to deliver their products and advertise their businesses. Dayton's Bluff had its fair share of these businesses and many bottles from this neighborhood have been unearthed by Mark and Brian. Hamm's Brewery was the largest source of local bottles but bottles from Dayton's Bluff Pharmacy, Sever Westby Druggist at 3rd & Maria, and other local businesses have also been found.

Mark and Brian usually go where professional archeologists fear to tread. Their tools are definitely low-tech. Armed with nothing more than old maps, a long metal probing tool and years of experience reading the lay of the land, they choose an outhouse target area, grab their shovels and start digging. Sometimes they are lucky and only need to dig down three or four feet. Their deepest dig was over twenty feet. They believe their work is worth the effort and have thousands of bottles in their collections to prove it.

About 50 people attended the recent Mounds Theatre lecture. Due to the 4th of July weekend many others could not make it so another Outhouse Archeology event will be scheduled during the winter.

Greg Cosimini can be reached at daytonsbuff@gmail.com.



Greg Cosimini

Brian Mann (left) demonstrates his low-tech ground probing tool while Mark Youngblood looks on during their "Outhouse Archeology and St. Paul Bottles" lecture at the Mounds Theatre. A small sampling of the thousands of bottles they've unearthed can be seen on the table. This free event was sponsored by the Old St. Paul Facebook group.

Are you receiving your copy of the *Forum* each month?

If you live in the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood, you should receive your copy of the *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* within the first two weeks of each month.

If you live within the neighborhood and feel you have missed delivery, please email editor@daytonsbuff.org along with

your name and mailing address. We will contact the US Postal Service on your behalf.

If you do not live within the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood but enjoy reading the *Forum*, you can pick up a copy at many neighborhood locations, including the Dayton's Bluff Community Council offices at 804 Margaret Street, or email editor@daytonsbuff.org to have the *Forum* mailed to you for a yearly fee of \$15.

Change and continuity: A quarter century ago in Dayton's Bluff

Steve Trimble
Forum Historian

It's no secret that the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood has been undergoing many alterations. That's what happens in cities – change, in terms of demographics, economics, and landscape is the rule. I'd planned to look at our community a century ago but I couldn't find enough in the newspapers. I switched to our area 25 years ago, since I could research issues of the *Forum*. The following are some stories I found from the summer of 1991.

After a long debate, the old Harding High/Mounds Park Junior High at Third and Earl Streets (which the School Board wanted to tear down) was going to be a St. Paul magnet school, the home of an American Indian school and a World Culture and Language school. USHNA (Upper Swede Hollow Neighborhood Association) celebrated its tenth anniversary. Parkway Manor, at 324 Johnson Parkway, changed its name to Dayton's Bluff Community Care Center and its corporate owner Heath Dimensions pledged to involve the community. The newly named center was dedicated at a barbecue.

The Community Council asked the city for plastic recycling bins. Crime Watch signs were being given out to block clubs. There was a community cleanup in September, where residents could bring trash, old appliances, etc., for a small fee. Parkway Elementary School students staged an operetta that included nine songs students had written. The Community Council voted for a 35E alignment for any East Side light rail line, a fight that is still brewing today.

Eleven Council seats were up for grabs in the October election. The Council president at the time was John Showalter. Some of the board members you might recognize were Jane Prince, Hal Freshley, D. A. "Clyde" Boysen, Karin DuPaul, and Song Kong, who was perhaps the first Hmong elected to serve on a community council.

The third annual Historic Dayton's Bluff House Tour was coming. One of the units shown was a rental because they were "trying to demonstrate that preservation is for everyone." The Community Council was having its annual fall garden contest featuring a tour and prizes. President Tobin Barrozo presented Metropolitan State University's plans for the future. Area kids toured the Metropolitan Wastewater Treatment Facility at Pigs Eye and saw where "it" goes after they flush.

The "Bluff Bombers," a local girls basketball team, did well at the Gus Macker tournament downtown. There was an ad

in the *Forum* for Choua Lee for school board. Ms. Lee became the first Hmong to ever be elected to an office in the United States.

Photos of the Bluff Awards Picnic filled the inside of the *Forum*. The event was led by Dayton's Bluff Booster Club president Marilyn Cantu. There was a notice for a public information meeting to discuss forming a Heritage Preservation District in Dayton's Bluff at the First Lutheran Church. There were "Take a Hike" gatherings in the neighborhood and Dayton's Bluff NHS (Neighborhood Housing Services) was having a ten year anniversary and handed out "A Decade of Progress" booklet.

The 1990 U. S. Census contained interesting data. The area had 15,442 people. 13, 204 of them (85.5%) were white with 732 African Americans (4.7%). There were 1,080 Asians, with Hmong totaling 814 residents, and 629 people of Hispanic origin (496 Mexican and 29 Cubans). The European "ancestry records" in the 1990 census for the neighborhood showed 4,874 Germans, 1,163 Irish, 742 Swedes, 685 Norwegians, 586 English, 491 Polish, and 149 Danes and "others."

The 1991 City Directory revealed some interesting patterns. While neighborhood retail has been quite transient, the institutional landscape has been more constant. Many of the churches – Sacred Heart, First Lutheran, Mounds Park United Methodist, Our Savior's Lutheran, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, and the Eastside Seventh-day Adventist Church are still in operation.

Institutions such as Metropolitan State University, the Eagle's Club, Dayton's Bluff NHS, the Marian Center, and Dayton's Bluff Community Council (at a different address today) have stood the test of time.

A few restaurants of 1991 remain: Carbone's, Obb's (called The Kickoff at the time), The Darlette Drive-in, the Earl Street Dairy Queen, and Leo's Chow Mein. The Bee Hive Tavern at 937 E. Third Street is still serving customers and is the last 3.2 beer bar in St. Paul. Other businesses include Midwest Karate, Springer Collections, Roger's Print Shop, Le Painter, Roy's 66 (now run by his son Mike), Dave Murphy's Bluebird Landscaping and Peterson and Nelson Law Firm, although Dan Nelson passed away a few years ago.

Please let me know if I've left anything out. There's been lot of change in Dayton's Bluff in the last quarter of a century, but some continuity as well. It's interesting to look at the neighborhood in 1991 and see what is gone, what remains, and what has emerged. Many of our readers remember the community as it was in 1991. Will you share some memories with the *Forum*?

Steve Trimble can be reached at daytonsbuff@gmail.com.

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

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

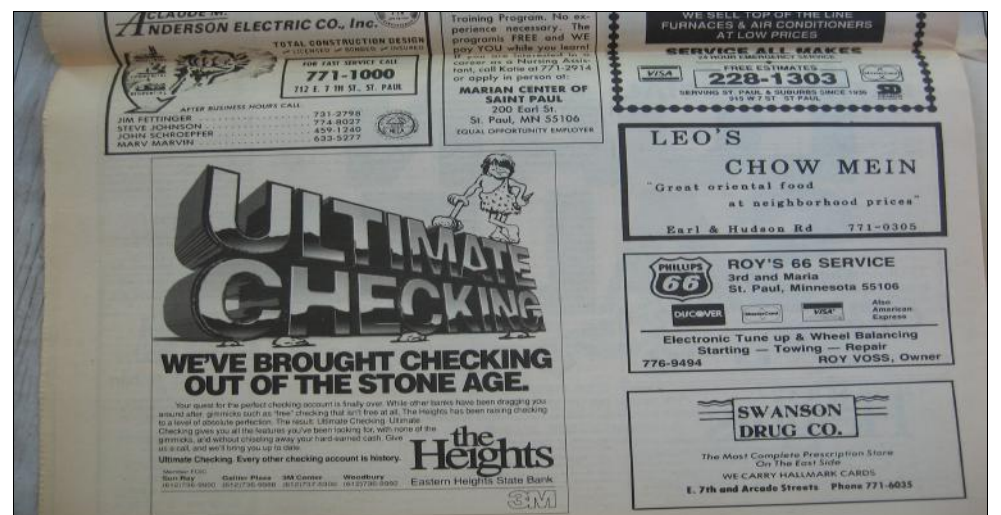
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Next issue: September 2016. Deadline for material: August 10, 2016.



Steve Trimble

A section of advertisements featuring neighborhood businesses from a 1991 issue of the *Dayton's Bluff District Forum*.

Current and Aspiring Teachers of Color and American Indian Teachers Conference

Stephanie New-Johnson
Metropolitan State University

The Coalition to Increase Teachers of Color and American Indian Teachers in Minnesota is hosting their

summer 2016 conference at Metropolitan State University. The conference begins at 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, August 10, at the Saint Paul Campus, and continues from 8:30 a.m. until 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 11, ending on August 12, with panel discussions from 8:30 a.m. until noon.

This conference honors the lived experiences and local knowledge of teachers of color and American Indian teachers by creating a safe and welcoming space in which current and future teachers are the primary participants. A core group of diverse coalition educators are planning the conference to include a series of gen-

eral sessions and breakout sessions that seek to inspire, affirm, inform, and energize. Participants are able to build power networks, develop legislative proposals, and create action plans that remove barriers and transform state policy and local institutions to retain and increase teachers of color and American Indian teachers in Minnesota.

There is no registration fee but registration is required as space is limited. Grant funding is available to support lodging and mileage expenses for those traveling from greater Minnesota. Learn more about the conference at <http://www.tocaimn.com>

Islamophobia panel August 16

Carla Riehle
Forum Staff

First Lutheran Church at 463 Maria, will host what may well be the East Side's first public discussion of the issue of Islamophobia. St. Paul City Council Member Jane Prince will introduce the panel whose preliminary line-up includes Pastor Chris Berthelsen, First Lutheran Church, Reies Romero, social worker and hip-hop activist, and Hafsa Abdullahi, Darul Uloom Islamic Center.

The discussion will center on how fear of Islam is driving wedges between segments of our population and leads to profiling and discrimination that harms us all. The forum is intended to be an interchange between the

panelists and audience members who are welcome to field their questions and comments.

The panel is scheduled for 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, August 16, in the First Lutheran Church library. It is free and open to the public; light refreshments will be served. More information is available on the Facebook event page, "Islamophobia: Challenging a False Fear" or by calling 612-564-3733. It is sponsored by Minnesotans against Islamophobia, First Lutheran Church and the East Side Freedom Library.

Carla Riehle can be reached at carlariehle@gmail.com.



Mixed Precipitation Theater presents: A Picnic Operetta

Amy Danielson and Scotty Reynolds
Mixed Precipitation Theater

An '80s pop retelling of the 1787 Mozart opera, *Don Giovanni*, performed throughout Minnesota in August and September.

An edible opera adventure for the whole family, *A Picnic Operetta* marks an eight-year tradition of celebrating the harvest with a unique blend of music, horticulture, food, and storytelling.

A Picnic Operetta will take place on **Sunday, September 18, at 2:00 p.m.**, at Skidmore Park Community Garden, located at 1085 4th Street East, St. Paul.

Call 1-800-838-3006 or visit mixedprecipitation.org for reservations. Seating is limited and reservations are highly recommended.

Donations are a critical source of funding for *The Picnic Operetta* and can be made with your reservation or collected at the end of the performance. The suggested donation is \$10-\$20 per person; no one will be turned away for lack of funds.

Patrons are encouraged to bring their own blankets and lawn chairs. Some blankets are provided.

Getting in Shape with Endurance United

Mark Gallagher
Forum Staff

Endurance United was formed in 2009, but its roots and values go back to a ski club associated with Avho Taipale and the Finn Sisu Ski Shop he started in 1978. The ski club separated from the ski shop in 2008 and was turned into a nonprofit business, called the Sisu Foundation, so it could operate as its own entity. Confusion generated by the Finn Sisu Ski Shop and the Sisu Foundation prompted the Sisu Foundation to change its name to Endurance United.

In May of 2015, Endurance United named Andrew Poffenberger as Executive Director. Previously, Poffenberger spent two years working for the Central Region Cross-Country Ski Association (CXC), an Olympic and Paralympic program. He took over as Paralympic coach at CXC working with athletes with disabilities. He had competed at a high level in cross-country skiing at Gustavus Adolphus College after skiing for Stillwater High School.

"My degree from Gustavus was in Health and Fitness/Exercise Physiology," Poffenberger says. "We provide the coaching, whether it's one session or if you sign up to come to all the sessions. We do a little bit of physiological testing when you come in."

Endurance United recently moved its office into a building that was part of the old Hamm's Brewery. The building's other name is the Everest LLC building; Everest is the one who owns the building now. Endurance United's Web site is www.enduranceunited.org and their e-mail is info@enduranceunited.org. A phone number will be available soon.

The mission of Endurance United is to encourage the community to live an active and healthy lifestyle in the outdoors. "It's interesting because we operate in individual sports, running and cross-country skiing," Poffenberger says. "Especially with skiing, it still is really a technical sport, and a lot of our people will see a big difference between year one and two, if those people are training in the summer.

"We have a really good coaching staff and a lot of times with cross-country skiing, what you think you are doing and what you actually are doing are not the same!" Poffenberger maintains. "Having someone work with you and critique your technique is great because getting the right technique is really difficult — it takes a while."

It is hard for most people to take up cross-country skiing on their own and try to figure out the technique, so it's a sport where having an expert to guide and train

you is a very important element.

"Even though it's an individual sport, the other piece that makes it interesting is the community of skiers," Poffenberger says. "I have a Wednesday morning group I work with and everyone is there at 9 a.m. It is mainly a group of retired guys who have been skiing together since the 70s, and afterward they always go out for coffee. Yes, it's an individual sport, but it's helping build that community aspect by being out there with friends who enjoy similar things as you, and we are helping to facilitate that."

The people Endurance United serves runs the gamut from people who have never skied before and who attend their learn-to-ski sessions to skiers who finish in the top 500 of the American Birkebeiner, which is the largest race in North America with 10,000 skiers, so the top 500 are really accomplished skiers.

There are three levels of training and competition for the clients that use Endurance United. The youth team, which is for young people between the ages 8 to 13, the junior team is for ages 13 to 20, and the adult team is made up of anyone over the age of 20.

"With the youth teams, it's all about developing a



Andrew Poffenberger

Andrew Poffenberger (center) and young skiers.

base level of strength and coordination," Poffenberger says. "It's about developing an athlete, somebody who understands their body and is in good shape, but it is not about skiing until a certain age. With the youth, we try not to use the word 'training' because if you're doing drills right away, you will lose the kids — they want to play. We want them to play!"

The junior programming is where Endurance United gets to a higher level of training because they are working with high school athletes. "In the winter, each of the juniors is skiing for their high school team, but they're

training all spring, summer, and fall with us to enhance their skills," says Poffenberger. "When they go back to their high school teams, they are considerably faster and stronger. Our emphasis on the club level is to get kids racing at the highest level, which is Junior Nationals in the U.S. — a week long event."

The adult programming is geared to creating a success, even if it is not skiing because the mission of Endurance United is about developing a healthy person who knows how to be outside and enjoy athletics in whatever form that is. "I talk about that to those retired guys on Wednesdays; they're doing great things by pushing the limits of their balance every day," Poffenberger says with pride. "You know, a lot of people their age are not doing anything for their balance and that becomes more and more of a problem. They are a model of fitness to strive for as we age!"

"We have the St. Paul Urban Trail Series," Poffenberger says. "That is a series of four races: the Go Spring race, which we had on May 7 of this year at Battle Creek; the second one is the St. Paul Trail Marathon, which goes from Battle Creek all the way up to Swede Hollow and finishes up at the brewery this year; it is a full marathon, and a half marathon with a 10K run as well. Then there is the Night Light, which is a half marathon and happens after it gets dark in Battle Creek on the trails. Our last one is our Turkey Day Trail Trot, which is a Thanksgiving trail race. Trail running is becoming a bigger thing; a lot of people have noticed over the years that they love running, but it is really hard on their knees."

Endurance United funds itself mainly through the fees for coaching and events. They try to make the events world class, and the fees help with that and their operating costs for the year.

Right now, advertising doesn't fit in Endurance United's budget, but it's something they are continually talking about. Cross-country skiing is a sport with limited participation, so other media out there like www.skinnyski.com are kind of a hub for Twin City ski news. The other places that advertise are ski shops.

Andrew Poffenberger doesn't live in Dayton's Bluff; he is moving soon from the Uptown area to West St. Paul, but he enjoys the restaurants in Dayton's Bluff and is learning about the area, which is exciting to him.

"I think so much of the endurance community is focused on Minneapolis," Poffenberger says thoughtfully. "St. Paul is ready to develop, as far as running races are concerned. I think St. Paul has just as many people who would enjoy running races and would get into it, but it just hasn't developed yet. That is something we are interested in doing and investing in because St. Paul is our home."

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 refineEditorial@gmail.com.

Dayton's Bluff travels



Jeanelle Foster, Dayton's Bluff resident and vice president of the Dayton's Bluff Community Council, poses for a quick photo while visiting the town of Asilah, Morocco.

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

East Side Eating – Trimble's Taste Trek

Forum contributor Steve Trimble ate at every locally-owned, sit-down restaurant on the East Side in 2015. He hopes to get the word out to Dayton's Bluff 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 59 may now be found online at daytonsbluffdistrictforum.org: click on "East Side Eating" at the top of the home page. Steve Trimble can be reached at daytonsbluff@gmail.com.

Obb's Sports Bar & Grill

1347 Burns Avenue
(651) 776-7010
Monday-Friday: 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Saturday: 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Sunday: 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Weekend breakfast: 8:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.
obbsbar.com

A Monday afternoon text from a friend suggested we meet for dinner at the nearby restaurant, so I jumped in my car for another adventure.

The area after the entrance features a dozen tables. There is a rectangular full bar in the middle of the room with 27 different beers, and a recent addition with around 15 tables. On the east side of Obb's is the original dining area. If there are any teams playing sports they are on one of the 19 high-definition flat screen TVs.

The featured appetizer is steak tips, and there are home made soups and Rosie's homemade chili. Sandwiches include

Opinion: Youth Farm

*Rojo – age 13
Special to the Forum*

Hello, my name is Rojo. I am 13 years old and have lived in the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood for all of my life. I am writing this article to show some of the problems we have in this area.

This summer I am attending Youth Farm, a program on the West side for youth to learn how to care for and grow plants and interact with other youth that share the same hobby. I have had many experiences and gained many friendships throughout my three year experience at Youth Farm. Yet I have not had that same experience in my own neighborhood.

Here are some things that I have learned throughout my Youth Farm experience: how to weed correctly, how to tell which fruit/vegetable is ready to be harvested, which plants are native to Minnesota and which are not, which plant fares better in one environment and which does not. I have met people who share the same interests as me, and much more. Not only is this camp about plants, but also respect for others' be-

longings, yourself, and wildlife. This is useful knowledge that should be shared with all youth who care to know. I strongly believe that everyone should have a chance to have fun and find their interests, favorite past-times, and be able to feel safe to share them with others. I am by no means saying that Youth Farm is for everyone – which is why our community council should be supporting multiple programs for youth instead of just for businesses.

I am only able to attend this wonderful program because I happen go to school on the West Side. This program is only available because of the work and assistance from the West Side Community Council. This organization also works with the schools on the West Side. They find ways to reach out to their youth to help provide a stable support system that we do not have due to the lack of priorities for youth programming from our council as well as their extreme focus on business. While they claim to receive money to fund programs specifically for youth, I have yet to see a stable and thriving one. Wouldn't it be nice to have a steady program that "keeps kids off of the streets," something truly engaging for everyone to enjoy, not just the businesses? It can be viewed as an investment in the future.

Obb's "Famous Cuban." There is a BLT, a Clubhouse, and others like traditional hot turkey or meat loaf open-faced sandwiches with mashed potatoes. Hot Dagos? Obb's has two. The basic on grilled French bread and a "Sicilian Dago" that has added sautéed onions, peppers, and melted mozzarella on a ciabatta bun.

There are many entrees including steak, walleye, deep fried fish, baby back ribs, and country fried steak (which I fondly remember from Kansas.) There are also a few surprises, such as a Mexican omelet with taco meat, jalapenos, and hash browns, or a Belgian waffle topped with strawberry sauce. There is even a kid's menu with mac-and-cheese and mini corn dogs. Dessert choices could be turtle cheese cake or key lime pie. Friday evenings always feature a fish fry and the weekend specials are popular – prime rib and pot roast.

It was a Monday, so I had one of the two the specials – a shrimp basket accompanied by French fries, coleslaw, Texas toast, and a draft beer. Since it calls itself a sports bar, I felt I had to at least glance at the Twins game.

Albert "Obb" Johnsen started the restaurant as a grocery and grain emporium in 1919 and was one of the first bars in St. Paul to be licensed after Prohibition. Albert's sons Bob and Glenn eventually took over. Bob's wife Rosie has worked there for over fifty years and, now in her nineties, is still a server at lunchtime. Her son, Jim Johnsen, currently owns Obb's, but insists that Rosie "Is still the boss."

**Circus Juventas presents:
Alice's Adventures in Wonderland**

*Circus Juventas
Special to the Forum*

Circus Juventas is extending the world's many celebrations and mad tea parties thrown to honor the 150th anniversary of Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by taking audiences on the trippiest of trips under its gilded Big Top.

The world-renowned youth circus – once dubbed "where Cirque du Soleil meets the Children's Theater" will present *Wonderland* as its annual summer production, running July 28, to August 14. This is the 22nd year of the youth circus program – the largest in North America.

Don't miss Dayton's Bluff resident, Mariana Thompson, as she flies through the air with the greatest of ease!

Tickets available through Ticketworks by visiting www.ticketworks.com, or 612-343-3390, or by calling the Circus Juventas Box Office at 651-699-8229.

Circus Juventas is located at 1270 Montreal Avenue, St. Paul. Visit www.CircusJuventas.org for more information.

Tickets regularly sell out: To quote the White Rabbit, "Don't be late!"

Many thanks to our 2016 donors:

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- Anonymous



Dan Norman

Circus Juventas appealed to Mariana (pictured above) because it is not your stereotypical animal circus. "It's a cool thing that you can show your friends, and it's special because not very many kids do it," she says.

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 \$1,037.00 -- will you help us?

Sincerely,
The Dayton's Bluff District Forum

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

\$100 \$50 \$25 Another amount _____
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Thank you for your support!