

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

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daytonsbuffdistrictforum.org

"The Voice of the Community"

East Side Freedom Library to celebrate Black History Month with Film Series and more

Peter Rachleff
East Side Freedom Library

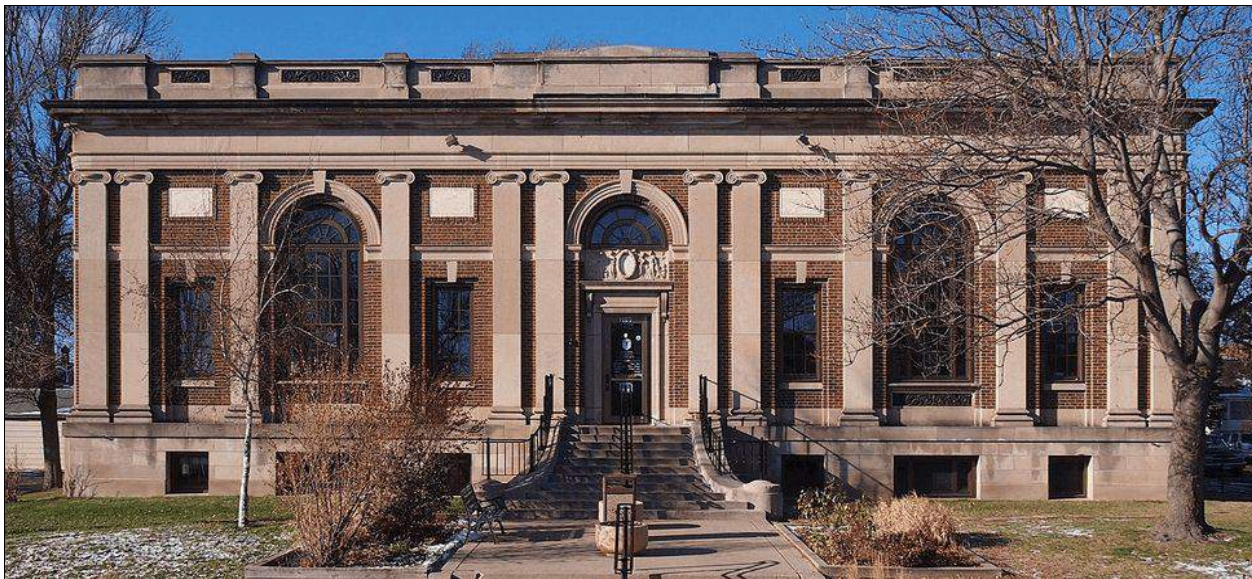
Celebrants of Black History Month have often pointed to the irony that February is the shortest month of the year. But in 2016, February has FIVE Mondays. The East Side Freedom Library will make the most of this anomaly by hosting a black history film every Monday evening. We are also presenting some additional events of interest. All are free and open to all.

Monday, February 1, at 7:00 p.m.: *RIZE* is a lively documentary about new popular dance forms called "clowning," created by young African Americans in South Central Los Angeles in the aftermath of the 1992 Rodney King riots. After the film, Alessandra Williams, a member of the Ananya Dance Theater and a PhD student in World Arts and Cultures at UCLA, will lead our discussion.

Monday, February 8, at 7:00 p.m.: *THE WATERMELON WOMAN*, the protagonist in this 1996 feature film is a young African American woman who works in a video store to pay the bills. She becomes fascinated with the life and career of an African American actress who was cast in stereotypical "Mammy" roles in 1930s films and seeks to make a film about her. Freda Fair, a PhD student in Women's Studies and African American Studies at UCLA, will lead our discussion of this film.

Monday, February 15, at 7:00 p.m.: *BROTHER JOHN*, Sidney Poitier helped to shape and starred in this 1971 dramatic film about a mysterious man who returns to his Alabama hometown for his sister's funeral. He arrives in the midst of a strike, and the local authorities suspect he is an outside agitator. Dr. John Wright, Professor of African American Studies and English at the University of Minnesota, will lead our discussion.

Monday, February 22, at 7:00 p.m.: *GHOSTS OF AMISTAD*, this new, award-winning documentary follows historian Marcus Rediker on a trip to Sierra Leone in search of local memory of the slave ship rebellion which gripped the United States, first in 1839 when it happened, and again in the late 1990s when Stephen Spielberg's movie was enthusiastically received. *GHOSTS OF AMISTAD* revolves around interviews with fishermen, truck



East Side Freedom Library

The East Side Freedom Library is housed in the historic Carnegie Library building at 1105 Greenbrier Street, on Saint Paul's East Side.

drivers, and village residents in the West African country from which the Amistad slaves had been captured and sold. Our post-film discussion will be led by Dwayne Williams, a PhD student in African History at the University of Minnesota.

Monday, February 29, at 7:00 p.m.: *THEIR EYES WERE WATCHING GOD*, this film and discussion are part of *The Big Read*, a program sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts, and led locally by Metro State University's Institute for Community Engagement and Scholarship. More than 1,000 community residents are reading and discussing Zora Neale Hurston's classic 1937 novel, and are also engaging the text through performances by the Black Storytellers Alliance and screenings of this 2005 film, based on a script adapted by Suzan-Lori Parks and starring Halle Berry.

Additional Black History Month Events include Saturday, January 30, at 3:00 p.m.: OK, we're jump-starting Black History Month two days early with *AFRICAN AMERICAN PULP*, a presentation by University of Minnesota English professor and author Paula Rabinowitz.

As Dr. Rabinowitz retires from the University, she is donating thousands of books to the East Side Freedom Library. These include a treasure trove of pulp novels from the 1930s-1950s, including a rich collection written by African American authors. She drew on these resources for her recent award-winning book, *American Pulp: How Paperbacks Brought Modernism to Main Street*, and she will not only discuss them but will also show them to us. Please join us for what will be a great start to our celebration of Black History Month.

Saturday, February 13, at 1:00 p.m.: Black Storytellers Alliance provides a performance suitable for parents and children alike. Storytelling has been an important part of African American culture since the arrival of slaves in the 1600s and 1700s. The Minneapolis-based Black Storytellers Alliance has kept these traditions and performance practices alive, and they will share them with us.

Friday, February 19, at 7:00 p.m.: Twin Cities Labor Film Night comes to the East Side Freedom Library with a screening of the award-winning documentary, *From Selma to Soweto*. This film is part of a longer, multi-part series, *Have You Heard from Johannesburg?*, which placed the struggle against the apartheid regime in South Africa in the context of international solidarity.

From Selma to Soweto follows the activism of a coalition of civil rights movement veterans and young people as they seek to change U.S. foreign policy as practiced in the late 1970s and 1980s.

The East Side Freedom Library is located in the historic Carnegie Library building at 1105 Greenbrier Street, on Saint Paul's East Side. It is easily accessible by bus, and the building has an elevator and is fully accessible.

All of these events are free and open to all. We have a rich collection of African American history books and resources, including novels, poetry, drama, music, and visual art, which we invite you to use. We do not yet have regular "open" hours for the public, but we are happy to set up appointments. You can also visit us in cyberspace at eastsidefreedomlibrary.org and on Facebook. You can email us at info@eastsidefreedomlibrary.org or call us at 651-774-8687.

Dayton's Bluff
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***Solve our Black History Month Quiz for
a chance to win \$50!***

"Like" *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* on Facebook and test your knowledge of the many influential African Americans who have shaped the history of Saint Paul.

Winner will be announced on our Facebook page and in the *March Forum*. Visit *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* on Facebook for more details.

Community Calendar

Thursday, February 4

Time: 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Home Composting Class

Learn how to create compost in your own backyard, saving you money and reducing waste going into landfills. Join master gardener Frank Dolejsi as you learn how to prepare and maintain your compost site.

For more information about the event you can 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.

Saturday, February 6

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Dayton's Bluff Take A Hike

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

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

For more information email karin@swedehollow.org or call 651-776-0550.

February events and shows at the Mounds Theatre



THE HISTORIC
MOUNDS
THEATRE

Saturday, February 6: Collectivus Dance is presenting a performance at **7:00 p.m.** Collectivus is a dance studio for advanced dancers 18+ who want to dance, but have full time jobs and busy schedules. Tickets to the show are \$8 online or \$10 at the door.

Saturday, February 13: IWI Wrestling brings their monthly wrestling show to the Mounds with *Broken Hearts and Broken Backs*. Tickets are available online; children (\$6), adults (\$10), and special VIP table seating (\$20) which includes one complimentary concession item. **Doors open at 6:45 p.m. with bell time at 7:30 p.m.** This is a family-friendly pro wrestling event. Don't miss out on the fun!

Friday, February 19: Friends of Swede Hollow will host their fourth annual fundraiser, *CABARET!* This show promises to be a great display of the performing arts talents of the East Side! Tickets are \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door. **Doors open at 6:30 p.m. with the show starting at 7:30 p.m.**

Opening Friday, February 26 and running nightly through March 6: Green T Productions presents *Tales of Rashomon*, a murder-mystery that draws on traditional Japanese theater forms: kabuki, noh, and bunraku puppetry. It promises to be an excellent show.

Visit our website at moundstheatre.org for 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; historic-moundstheatre@gmail.com.

Wednesday, February 10

Time: 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

BIG READ Film Screening

Join the Dayton's Bluff library for a free screening of the film *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, based on the book by Zora Neale Hurston. This event is sponsored by *the BIG READ*, a series of cultural events and discussions on issues of race, class, and gender.

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

Wednesday, February 10

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Friends of Swede Hollow

Watch over, restore, and celebrate the history of Swede Hollow Park. Come join the Swede Hollow community at their monthly meeting. Email karin@swedehollow.org or call 651-776-0550 for more information and the meeting's location.

Saturday, February 13

Time: 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Chocolate Tasting & Gift Fair

Mississippi Market will host their annual sampling and educational event focused on local and artisan chocolates and gifts to celebrate the upcoming Valentine's Day holiday. Don't miss your chance to taste some of their favorite chocolates, shop for Valentine's Day gifts, enjoy beautiful harp music, craft valentines with your kids, win prizes, and enjoy a number of limited-time-only sales at all three Mississippi Market locations! 622 Selby Avenue; 1500 West 7th Street; 740 East 7th Street.

February 17- 20

Metropolitan State University premieres

Six Degrees of Separation

Metropolitan State's theater program, Stagedoor Theater, and Minneapolis Community and Technical College (MCTC) are hosting a performance of *Six Degrees of Separation*. Inspired by a true story, *Six Degrees of Separation*, by John Guare, delves into human connection and identity, and drives the audience to consider personal and public boundaries.

Performances run **February 17-20, at 7:00 p.m. with an additional 1:00 p.m. matinee on February 20**, at the Whit-

ney Fine Arts Center Main Stage at Metropolitan State University Minneapolis Campus and MCTC, 1424 Yale Place, Minneapolis. No reservations are necessary. General admission is free to all performances. Attendees are asked to bring nonperishable food items to be donated to the MCTC Resource Center Food Pantry.

Wednesday, February 17

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

Police Community Meetings

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

Friday, February 26

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Pop-up Dinner

Urban Oasis Catering will host a zero-waste, pop-up dinner at COOK St. Paul. The evening features local ingredients in five different hearty soups, Eddie Wu's house-made Korean hot sauce, and drawings for food-related prizes. Come get your soup on! COOK restaurant is located in St. Paul at 1124 Payne Avenue, Saint Paul.

Neighborhood Announcements

Business classes

Spring 2016

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

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

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

Get rid of your junk car

Help Dayton's Bluff
Community Council

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

Dayton's Bluff Library Ongoing events and services

The Library will have *Snack in the Zone* Mondays-Thursdays: **4:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.** and *Homework Help in the Zone* Sundays: **1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.** and Mondays-Wednesdays: **4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

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

Volunteer to help seniors

Dayton's Bluff Seniors Needs Volunteers

Volunteers are key to the mission and success of the Dayton's Bluff Living at Home Program. Dayton's Bluff Seniors is a community of neighbors helping neighbors, supporting seniors to live independently in their homes.

For more information, contact Michele Streitz at 651-400-1650 or email volunteer@daytonsbuffseniors.org.

The following volunteers are needed:

- Drivers
- Errand Runners
- Friendly Visitors/Callers
- Chore Persons
- Special Projects
- Governance
- Administrative

Volunteer Opportunity Child Care Assistant or Driver

Mothers First is seeking a Child Care Assistant volunteer to help agency staff in providing supervision and care for the children with our Mothers First program while mom is attending counseling sessions. Volunteer Drivers are also needed to provide transportation to mothers in recovery groups with our Mothers First program. Reimbursement for mileage is provided.

The Mothers First program provides prevention and intervention services for pregnant women who are abusing chemicals. The project has been in existence since 1990 and has had a success rate of 85-87 percent.

Contact Ramsey County Health & Wellness Service Team — Volunteer Services at 651-266-4090 for additional information or email humanservicesvolunteer@co.ramsey.mn.us.

“Demolition Derby” of historic houses halted - for now

Carla Riehle
Forum Staff

Four historic houses in Dayton's Bluff have been saved from the wrecking ball after a group of concerned neighbors became aware that the properties had been slated for destruction. Dubbed the “Demolition Derby” by the group, the tear-downs were halted at the last minute when city officials and neighbors were able to work collaboratively to give the structures another chance for redevelopment. The homes and several commercial properties are owned by St. Paul's Housing and Redevelopment Authority and will be coming up for sale sometime this spring. Qualified contractors and developers will be able to submit rehabilitation bids for the properties at that time.

As of last month, Dayton's Bluff has 48 registered vacant buildings, some of which are also possible candidates for renovation. The Dayton's Bluff Vacant Building Committee, which formerly tracked these properties, was disbanded a couple of years ago. The new, informally organized preservation group calling itself Dayton's Bluff Heritage Action is working with city officials to improve community involvement in issues relating

to the Historic District and Dayton's Bluff.

Carol Carey, Executive Director of Historic Saint Paul, who has spent time over the past several weeks working on preliminary reuse scenarios, said “The approach we have taken is not 'preservation for preservation's sake' but reflects an interest in finding creative ways to repurpose city-owned structures that reflect the history and character of the community while offering a range of housing options that will be marketed to, and fill needs for, diverse audiences. They include a contemporary live/work space that will appeal to the millennial and/or maker market, an owner-occupied duplex that will fill affordable housing and rental needs, and single family homes that can fit the needs of traditional and extended families.”

A similar approach is successfully being employed by Preserve Frogtown, LLC (a partnership of the Frogtown Neighborhood Association and Historic Saint Paul), which is beginning to purchase run-down Frogtown homes and, after rehabilitation, sell them to new home owners at affordable prices. The group's goal is to “honor and promote the cultural and architectural heritage of this resilient working class community.”

If you are interested in becoming involved in Dayton's Bluff affordable housing preservation activities, please contact dbheritageaction@gmail.com to be added to the Dayton's Bluff Heritage Action email list.

700 Fourth Street East

Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) of the City of Saint Paul

Editor's note: This house is one of the properties described in the article to the left. The rest of the properties will be featured on our website. Visit daytonsbuffdistrictforum.org for more information as it becomes available.

The Edward McNamnee House at 700 Fourth Street East is a two-story, Classicized Queen Anne style frame house with Greek Revival massing constructed in 1879.

The residence has a rectangular, plastered limestone foundation and a hip-roofed front porch supported by Doric columns that have been stuccoed. The porch appears to date from a later renovation, as it covers the glass transom over the front door (visible from the interior). Fenestration consists of individual and paired one-over-one, three-over-one, and two-over-two double-hung windows throughout.

There is a one-story projecting bay window on the west elevation. The permit index card lists permits for repairs, alterations and plaster (the exterior was stuccoed) in 1931.

The house is categorized as contributing to the Dayton's Bluff Heritage Preservation District; the



Photos courtesy of the HRA

700 East Fourth Street, the Edward McNamnee home.

garage is non-contributing.

According to a WPA mortgage file, Edward McNamnee, the first owner, purchased the lot through a mortgage with Maria Dayton in 1877, then took out a \$1,300 mortgage with the People's Building Society in late 1878, completing the house in 1879. It may have been converted to a duplex residence in May, 1931 when three permits were issued totaling \$610.

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Saying Goodbye to Sage

Metro State Library Staff, January 4, 2016

The following article about Sage Holben (edited for length) was posted on the Metro State Library's blog. Sage also completed her final term last month as a director of the Dayton's Bluff Community Council where she was past president and chair of the Land Use Committee. Sage is also a frequent contributor to the Dayton's Bluff District Forum and a member of its board.

Today Sage Holben will be leaving the library for the last time as a member of the Metro State Library staff. As she retires after 17 years at Metro State, we look forward to seeing her again as a patron but will miss her insight, friendly and caring demeanor, and community mindedness.

Sage's first day at Metropolitan State University was January 6, 1999. In one of those wonderful convergences of opportunity and timing came our Sage, who, if I remember correctly, had only recently packed up her car (much of it with lots and lots of books, which I'm sure comes as no surprise to anyone) and moved cross country, doing so based pretty much on faith alone — an early harbinger that already marked Sage as someone primed to ride the waves of our 'grand adventure,' always with the great bearing, wry humor, and deep commitment to the greater good that we all now know are signature traits.

There was no one better suited to take on the 'chief cook and bottle washer' role the Library Technician position then represented. Little ruffled her, and her commitment to service and community evidenced itself early on, only growing over time as she became a strong community advocate and nurturer in our home, the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood.

When asked what she enjoys most about working at the Metro library, Sage replied, "Working with the patrons and living in the community has allowed for many enriching connections." One of the connections Sage speaks of is her work with Jim Goff, a community patron of the Metro State Library and active DFL-er. "Jim Goff taught me the Wellstone way. Meaning we campaigned door-to-door in the neighborhood." Sage has lived on the same block in Dayton's Bluff since 2000 and has been a voice for equality and neighborhood improvement in that time.

Sage's ability to bring the library and community together are exemplified by this quote from Adela Peskorz, "For Sage, the principles of dedication to the betterment of all fluidly translated from work to home and back again. Her position here at Metro was far more than a job; it provided an extension of her deepest passion for making a positive difference in the world and making it a better place for everyone. Whether it was establishing her home 'Little Free Library' for neighborhood young people or speaking publicly and proudly for



BBC News

Sage Holben was featured on the BBC international website, December 24, 2015, at a Black Lives Matter protest at the Mall of America.

both the University and local community members, she forged a path uniquely her own and left an indelible mark on the Library's legacy — and I ought to know, since I was there from her beginning here, watching her ascend and fly in a place that truly became home to her; one for which her door always remained open and welcoming, wherever she was."

What will Sage miss about working at the Metro Library? Laughing, she replies, "Having a place to bring baked goods that didn't turn out quite right." But mostly she will miss the people. Jennifer DeJonghe recounts a story of Sage's love of people, "Once, I saw a woman walk up to Sage in the library and give her a greeting and a hug. Sage smiled and hugged the woman back, and they chatted briefly like old friends. Later I remarked to Sage, oh, I didn't know you two knew each other. Sage said, 'We don't! That just happens to me all the time.'"

Sage is looking forward to spending her time working with Peter Rachleff and Carla Riehle to promote programs at the East Side Freedom Library; creating a working group of neighborhood landlords, property owners, and tenants; completing art work and other creative projects; writing for the Dayton's Bluff District Forum; proofreading greeting cards, "...and there are always protests and rallies to attend."

Sage's parting words of wisdom for us, "Don't miss opportunities to connect with someone as a real human being. The connection may be as simple as making eye contact with a stranger as you are walking down the stairs. But in that moment, there's a spark, and you truly 'see each other.'"

A Century Ago in Dayton's Bluff: Toboggans and Costumes

Steve Trimble
Forum Historian

It's the start of a new year, so perchance (a word that a neighbor of mine likes to use) it's time to see what was happening in Dayton's Bluff a century ago. I went to the Minnesota Historical Society and looked at the microfilm of the *East Side Star* newspaper of January and February of 1916.

The Winter Carnival is one of the great traditions of Saint Paul, started to counter the quip by one Eastern newspaper that the Capital City was an American Siberia. The local leaders decided to celebrate rather than mope about the weather. So, in 1886 they began a series of winter events that featured ice palaces, but after 1899 they stopped.

The Winter Carnival was revived in 1916 by Louis W. Hill, the son of railroad magnate James J. Hill. He once said "Men who cannot forget their business and get out and take part in the Winter Carnival are not the kind of men we want in St. Paul."

He wanted to have large downtown toboggan slide as well as several others in neighborhoods. One of the groups he approached was the Dayton's Bluff Commercial Club, located at East 7th just east of Eichenwald. Hill talked with Club members "to enthuse our members" to take the lead and spearhead a move to construct the one for



Minnesota Historical Society

Daredevils braved the toboggan slide at the 1916 Saint Paul Winter Carnival.

the East Side.

He added that "as a former resident of Dayton's Bluff" he was writing a personal check for \$100.00 to help finance the project. Yes, the famous Hill family lived in our neighborhood for a time while one of their homes was being built. The Club officers then voted to be the sponsor of a Margaret Street toboggan during the Outdoor Sports Carnival, as it was once known.

The new structure was enjoyed before its official opening. As is sometimes the case today, young boys find a way to get around barricades. According to the *Star*, a group of youngsters broke the lock to a gate protecting the slide "and used its lumber for sleds." They "made merry there, coasting on blocks of ice, pieces old lumber, and sheets of tin."

The grand opening slide was on Jan-

uary 26, 1916. According to the *Star*, the event included "a medley of carnival costumes, fireworks, colored lights, and crowds." Louis Hill was the first down the icy chute. I looked at several different newspapers and unfortunately could not find exactly where the toboggan was located. My guess is that it was on or near the grounds of the Margaret Recreation Center, then located at Earl. Maybe the current Stewards of Margaret Park (STOMP) should consider having a toboggan event there next year.

The Dayton's Bluff Commercial Club had another connection with Hill. They had a hundred man marching club that appeared in his Winter Carnival Parade. Speaking of the Club — a little while after the Carnival, they had a costume ball at their headquarters. After a mixer and an unmasking event, the

hundred couples went into the dining room where they were treated to a "Dutch Lunch," which meant servings of sliced cold meats and cheeses.

A number of the costumes that showed up that night included several cowboys and cowgirls, a court jester, a colonial woman, a fairy, a Turkish girl and, unfortunately, "a Jew." Some names were attached to ethnic or racial costume attempts. Dr. Conway was a Mexican, Mrs. Olson a Japanese girl, and Mrs. Olsen portrayed a Dutch girl. The worst costume in my opinion had to be that of Dr. Foote, who somehow decided to go as "a Negro woman."

There were also several folks who went as "Yama Yama." I had to go internet surfing and found that "Yama Yama Man" was a song from a 1908 Broadway show that featured a sort of comical boogeyman who was "ready to spring out at you, unaware." I saw a few photos showing Yama Yama people with baggy costumes that had ruffled collars and pointy hats.

I hope that before you read this article, you had a good time going to some of this year's Winter Carnival activities. I don't believe that any of them occurred in Dayton's Bluff. Maybe if the residents of this area were interested, the newly constituted Community Council could spearhead an event or two to be held here during the 2017 Winter Carnival. Let them know you are interested in helping. Maybe have a group march in the downtown parade or have our own down East Seventh. However, it might be wise to forget about a costume ball.

Fourth Annual CABARET!

The fourth annual CABARET! will be held from 7:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. on Friday, February 19, at the Historic Mounds Theatre, located at 1029 Hudson Road. There will be a wonderful mix of dancing, singing, music, comedy, and poetry. It is a celebration of talent with East Side roots.

The Mounds Theatre will come alive with an amazing variety of acts. Entertainment will include singers Paul Garding, James Taylor, Kirk Larson, and John Knowles, the Kamala Belly Dancers, East Side Thrive Youth, the Great Brodini Magic Show, plus many more entertaining acts. Space is still available for talented entertainers. Contact Karin DuPaul at the

information below for your chance in the spotlight!

The evening will also include a silent auction of original art and other items. CABARET! tickets are only \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. Buy your tickets now and get the CABARET! on your calendar! To buy your tickets on line, visit www.moundstheatre.org or contact Karin DuPaul at 651-776-0550 or karin@swedehollow.org. Don't miss this fantastic evening!

The CABARET! is a fundraiser for the coming year's seventh annual Art in the Hollow, the art festival in Swede Hollow Park (Saturday, June 4, 2016). The CABARET! and Art in the Hollow are programs of Friends of Swede Hollow, a nonprofit organization that works to restore and protect the park, celebrate Swede Hollow history, and host events honoring Swede Hollow Park and the neighborhood.



Karin DuPaul

Christine Baeumler reading Eco-Oracle cards to visitors at last year's CABARET!

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Judy Lee

Rep. Sheldon Johnson invites to you to:

THE FOURTH ANNUAL CABARET!

Friday, February 19th - 7:30 p.m. to 11 p.m.

The location: The Historic Mounds Theatre - 1029 Hudson Road.

Fundraiser: The CABARET is a fundraiser for this coming year's 7th annual Art in the Hollow, the art festival in Swede Hollow Park (Saturday, June 4, 2016). The CABARET! and Art in the Hollow are programs of Friends of Swede Hollow, a nonprofit organization that works on restoring and protecting the park, celebrating Swede Hollow history, and hosting events honoring Swede Hollow Park and the neighborhood.

About the Event: The 4th Annual CABARET! Will be held on Friday, February 19th in the Historic Mounds Theatre located at 1029 Hudson Road from 7:30 pm to 11 pm. There will be a wonderful mix of dancing, singing, music, comedy and poetry. It is a celebration of talent with East Side roots.

The entertainment will include singers Paul Garding, James Taylor, Kirk Larson and John Knowles. The Kamala Belly Dancers, East Side Thrive Youth, the Great Brodini Magic Show plus more entertaining acts. We still have room for talented entertainers. See contact below.

Auction and Tickets: The evening will also include a silent auction of original art and other items. CABARET! tickets are only \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. Get your tickets now and get the CABARET! on your calendar! The theatre will come alive with an amazing variety of acts. To buy your tickets on line go to www.moundstheatre.org or contact Karin DuPaul at 651-776-0550 or karin@swedehollow.org Don't miss this!



State Representative SHELDON JOHNSON

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

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We dig Dayton's Bluff!

With winter now very much upon us, let's take a look back at the residents and visitors who got outside to enjoy our parks, gardens, and neighborhood streets during the warmer months.



Mona Rath

Henry Misenor, age 6, and Everett Misenor, age 8, pull weeds and plant mums at the Maria Dayton Park garden at the intersection of Maria and McLean Avenues. The traffic triangle garden is cared for by neighborhood volunteers, most notably 2012 Roger Tetu award recipient, Dale Harbor. Since Harbor's passing in 2013, neighbors have pitched in to maintain the garden in his honor.



Steve Trimble

A young businesswoman selling lemonade and cookies at "Tierney's Cafe" on the afternoon of July 3. We can't think of a more adorable reason to buy local.



Alan Johnston

A group of kids turned a popular sculpture at Indian Mounds Park into interactive art on June 29.

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Dayton's Bluff District Forum

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

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

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

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Karin DuPaul

University of Minnesota graduate students Stefanie Kowalcayk and Kelly Wolf are the researchers of the Swede hollow Archaeological project. They found a number of interesting items in Swede Hollow during their research. Swede Hollow was home to many people from the 1860s to 1956.

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 the Dayton's Bluff community about the eating options here on our side of town. There are more restaurants than there is room for in the monthly paper, but at least 22 may now be found online at daytonsbuffdistrictforum.org: click on "East Side Eating" on the top of the home page.

The Goat Coffeehouse

699 E 7th Street
 (651) 200-4370
 Open daily: 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
www.goatcoffeehouse.com

The Goat Coffeehouse building was constructed in 1909 by John Doeren for his cigar factory. The name of the coffeehouse comes from a legend about an Ethiopian shepherd who noticed the way his goats were jumping around after eating the fruit of a bush. It was the discovery of coffee.

I was at a meeting there and decided to stay for lunch. Although it is a coffeehouse, it offers a modest menu of food. Inside, there are seven tables, a sofa, and two easy chairs. There are a few seats at the counter, behind which is the menu on the wall. You order and pay for the food at that time. There is free Wi-Fi, a large patio, and a second story conference room, but there is no elevator.

Of course there is a lot of coffee – ten hot drinks



Jennifer Gascoigne

Chris Young, General Manager of The Goat Coffeehouse, expertly prepared a Gray Duck Chai latte.

and five iced drinks. Drinks other than coffee include hot chocolate, soy or almond milk "kid-dy cocoa," and a large number of smoothie flavors.

"Early Bird Specials" include 20% off of all beverages and \$1.00 off many sandwiches before the lunch rush. There is a Happy Hour from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. with 20% off of all coffee beverages.

Some of their sandwich offerings include: "The Bluff," a turkey sandwich topped with, zucchini, tomato, and provolone, and the "Veggie Vento" with hummus, cucumber, zucchini, tomato, spring mix – a fancy name for a combo of lettuce, spinach, and provolone. They have a number of "bagelwiches" and "B-Fast wraps," as well as salads and soups. Craving something sweet? There are cookies, brownies, bars, banana bread, biscotti, and parfait to cater to your sweet tooth.

I decided to have an "East Sider," a sandwich comprised of roast beef, onion, cheddar cheese, spring mix, and a horse radish sauce. I added a banana strawberry smoothie. Too early for beer plus they don't even have any. While I was there, Tom O'Connell walked in and we enjoyed chatting about the old days of teaching together at Minneapolis Community College and Metro State as well and discussed some of our current shared ventures.

A Complaint is a Gift

Jane Prince

Ward 7, City Council



Facebook/Jane Prince for Saint Paul's Ward 7

A Complaint is a Gift. This is the name of a business book by Janelle Barlow based on the premise that complaints are not negative feedback to avoid, but gifts of constructive feedback to be heeded.

All of you – whether you rent or own your home, whether you work here or own a business here, whether you come here to worship or to go to school – are stakeholders in our community. It is the greatest honor of my life to have been elected to represent you at Saint Paul City Hall.

As I complete my second week as your Ward 7 City Councilmember, I write to ask you do to something that a lot of us on the East Side don't like to do: COMPLAIN.

Does that surprise you? Well, here's why it's important. The City of Saint Paul operates on what is known as a "complaint-based" system. That means that while the City provides basic services of snow plowing, street cleaning, public safety, and code enforcement, the City asks all of YOU to be its eyes and ears in reporting those things that need extra care, repair, or

attention.

A lot of neighborhoods in Saint Paul know how to make this system work for them. When I worked in the Ward 4 office from 1998 to 2007, I would swear that every neighbor had the City on speed dial! They called to have the city re-plow a snowy intersection, to clear debris from the right of way, to remove graffiti, to deal with barking dogs, abandoned vehicles, trash, loud noise, speeding traffic, burned out street lights, damaged sidewalks, tall weeds, and so on and so on.

East Siders are good people – *but they are not good complainers!* Repeatedly when I was out campaigning, Ward 7 neighbors would point to a pothole, graffiti, or illegal dumping that was getting in the way of the peaceful enjoyment of their neighborhood. When I asked if they had called it into the City, they said, "Oh no, I don't want to be a complainer!"

Believe me when I say that under its complaint-based system, the City responds *quickly and effectively* by dispatching the appropriate city staff to fix the problem. And usually, it doesn't even take a second call!

Think of it this way: **A complaint is a gift.** By complaining, you are demonstrating that you care enough about Dayton's Bluff to make sure it's a place that all of us can enjoy and be proud of. Your complaint is a gift to city officials that enables us to make Saint Paul more beautiful and livable.

So how do you do it? There are a variety of ways. First, you can call the City's Complaint Line at 651-266-8989 anytime of the day or night and leave a recorded message. Describe the problem and be specific about the address and intersection that you are talking about. Your complaint will be anonymous – even if you leave your name and phone number, the City is required by law to keep the complainant's name private. You can also go to the City's website, www.stpaul.gov, and type: "City Information &

Complaints" into the Search Box. There is a wealth of helpful information there.

Police calls are a whole different story. If you see something suspicious or feel unsafe, call 911 right away. Don't try to determine if it is an emergency, call 911 and the Police dispatcher will figure it out.

To make a complaint, you can also call my office at 651-266-8670 or email us at ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us, where you can talk to me and Legislative Aide Stephanie Harr. Many of you know Stephanie as a former Dayton's Bluff Community Council Board member and as a community activist in Mounds Park.

Again, your complaint will be confidential, and you can share any and all details that will help us solve your problem. We will work with City staff

to address your complaint. And in the meantime, Dayton's Bluff will keep getting better.

This is a great time for our neighborhood. At our Dayton's Bluff Community Council annual meeting in December, we elected a board of directors reflecting the broad diversity of our community. East Seventh Street is a hub of new economic development, that includes Mississippi Market, Cambic Senior Apartments, the opening of a new student center and science building at Metro State University, the expansion of CLUES (Comunidades Latinas Unidas en Servicio), initiatives launched with the help of the East Side Enterprise Center, and Beacon Bluff.

Working together – and with your complaints – we can make our neighborhood the best it can be.

2015 Honor Roll Celebration

On Friday, January 29, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., Mayor Christopher Coleman and City Council President Russ Stark will recognize 2015 Neighborhood Honor Roll recipients at Anderson Student Center, University of Saint Thomas, 2115 Summit Avenue. Tickets are \$15 and may be purchased at the door. Email summithill@visi.com for more information.

The Neighborhood Honor Roll is a citywide award to honor people who improve the quality of life in Saint Paul. Recipients can be either an individual or a group who you feel has made a difference. The Neighborhood Honor Roll Awards Night has become an annual tradition to recognize those neighbors who go above and beyond to help make our neighborhoods a better place in which to live and work.

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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.

Henry Johnston, now a student in Paris, holding the Forum in front of a Metro station. With him are Bluff residents Chris and Linda LaBarre, who were visiting.

Many thanks to our December 2015 donors:

- Kayla Brinkman
- Jean Comstock
- Karin DuPaul
- Mark Gallagher
- Jeff Jones
- Chris & Linda LaBarre
- Mona Rath
- Peter Reyes
- Meridel Trimble
- Steve Trimble
- Tom Trimble
- Anonymous

Thank you to all of our 2015 donors for helping us to reach our goal of \$2,000!

Congratulations to our newest Dayton's Bluff Community Council board members!



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.



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 2015.

Our goal for the year is \$2,000; as of this printing we have raised \$365. Won't you help us?

Sincerely,
The *Dayton's Bluff District Forum*

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you for your support!