

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

Volume 30, No. 1
February 2017
daytonsbluffdistrictforum.org

"The Voice of the Community"



Photos courtesy of Jane Prince

A page from the 2016 Dayton's Bluff Vacant Home Tour guidebook provides visual testimony to the potential of many historic homes in the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood.

Public private partnerships – and sheer will – saved six historic homes

Jane Prince
Ward 7 City Council

When I took office last January, there were six Dayton's Bluff historic buildings on the chopping block. Neighbors referred to it as the "Dayton's Bluff Demolition Derby."

But thanks to the sheer will, hard work, and commitment of many, many of our neighbors, as well as our partners at City Hall and the redevelopers who believed in our vision, work is now underway to save all six buildings in 2017.

In January, the Saint Paul Housing and Redevelopment Authority transferred the last remaining property to Cory Vandenberghe. Cory and his fiancée, Tia, with the help of Otogawa-Anschel Design+Build, will restore the charming old Schorenstein Garage that bears the sign "Railing Shop," to a very unique home in our community. It's really quite a story.

All six buildings had been purchased by the city over the past couple of decades with neighborhood involvement and support. But over the years, including the Great Recession and a crash in the housing market, all had fallen through the cracks of neighborhood redevelopment.

Nonetheless, when word spread that the city could no longer justify maintaining the six vacant and deteriorating properties, Dayton's Bluff neighbors sprung into action.

First, the neighbors stopped the issuance of the demolition permits, by convincing the Saint Paul Heritage Preservation Commission that there was still life in these old homes, all of which were deemed to be "contributing" or "pivotal" to the importance of our historic district. In other words, if they were demolished, the absence of these worker homes, small retail shops, and apartment flats would diminish the integrity of our working class historic district.

Working with the Dayton's Bluff Community Council, I asked the city to give neighbors six months to market the buildings. While the City had marketed them for years through their normal listing service, neighbors believed that they could reach out to friends and neighbors who

would welcome the chance to purchase historic properties and live in our neighborhood.

And they were right. On April 17, 2016, with help from city staff (which included a vintage tour bus), Dayton's Bluff hosted the Dayton's Bluff Vacant Home Tour, which was broadly publicized through broadcast and print media. Neighbors published a full-color booklet, featuring each home, its history and significance.

More than 300 people came to Dayton's Bluff on that beautiful spring day to tour the homes. At the Enterprise Center, visitors learned about the city's requirements to purchase the homes, and the potential funding that might be available. And then visitors took the tour bus to view the homes, where they talked to neighbors and city staff that volunteered to show each home.

We were all thrilled and amazed when

These six vacant buildings were spared the wrecking ball thanks to community efforts:

- The Edward McNammee House (1877), 701 East 4th Street
- The Peterson Burke House (1884), 767 East 4th Street
- The Gotthelf Christoff House at 757 Plum Street
- The Louise Hansen House and Bakery (1884 and 1886), 275 Bates Avenue
- The Schorenstein Garage (1886 and 1912), 216-18 Bates Avenue
- The Schacht Building (1885), 208-210 Bates Avenue

– contrary to conventional wisdom – multiple, viable proposals were received by the city for all six properties by the June deadlines. Not only would all the homes be saved, but also the story itself made headlines for Dayton's Bluff as a welcoming, diverse and distinctive community.

More importantly, the City of Saint Paul discovered – by working with Dayton's Bluff neighbors – that neighborhood residents can be truly valued partners in marketing city-owned real estate. There are no better sales representatives than happy residents who can trumpet the virtues of their communities.

There are so many people to thank: our Dayton's Bluff neighbors and community council who took on lots of work and did it, the staff and leadership of the Department of Planning and Economic Development who welcomed the chance to try a different marketing approach and volunteered on a Sunday to sell houses, my colleagues on the City Council who took a leap of faith to extend the demolition deadline, and the incredible redevelopment partners and purchasers of these homes who are carrying out these labors of love and restoring our historic neighborhood!

Join us to celebrate our success and to thank our partners on **Wednesday, February 8, at 5:00 p.m.** at Flat Earth Brewery. This is a chance to recognize that when we work together, anything is possible!

Home values rising in Dayton's Bluff

Brad Griffith
Special to the Forum

Year-end statistics from the Saint Paul Area Association of Realtors indicate that in 2016, the median sale price in Dayton's Bluff was \$137,500, a 5.8 percent increase from the median sale price of \$130,000 in 2015.

By comparison, the 2016 median sale price in the city of Saint Paul was \$180,000, a 7.1 percent increase from

2015. In the not-too-distant past, October 2011 – to be exact, the median sale price in Dayton's Bluff was a mere \$40,000.

For 2017, predictions are that home values will continue to improve and, at least in the first half of 2017, affordability will continue to remain high with mortgage interest rates at historic lows.

While there is still work to do in improving the housing stock and providing affordable housing for all, the data is showing what most people feel – that Dayton's Bluff is a great place to live and work.

Brad Griffith is an affordable housing advocate and a Realtor, licensed in the State of Minnesota with Edina Realty.



Photo courtesy of Jane Prince

City Academy students in the Youthbuild Program at the January 13 "groundbreaking" for the new business incubator by Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Housing Services and Neighborhood Development Corporation on East Seventh Street.

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Community Council
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Where in Dayton's Bluff?

More chances to win great local prizes!

Tell us where in Dayton's Bluff the photo on page 4 was taken. Email your guess to editor@daytonsbluff.org. The first correct entry will win a great prize from a local business!

Dayton's Bluff Take-a-Hike

Now on the **second Saturday** of most months, the Dayton's Bluff Take-a-Hike will begin at Indian Mounds Park, located at Earl Street and Mounds Boulevard, at **10:30 a.m.**

The next hikes will be on **Saturday, February 11**. The hike is approximately one and a half to two hours long and will end at Swede Hollow Park or East Side Heritage Park, depending on the desire of the hikers. Share and learn a little history along the way! Email karindupaul@comcast.net or call 651-776-0550 for more information.

Friends of Swede Hollow

Watch over, restore, and celebrate the history of Swede Hollow Park. Join the Swede Hollow community at their monthly meetings on **Wednesday, February 1, 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 **Thursday, February 2, 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, February 15, 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!



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.

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. The Mobile Market stops at Parkway Gardens Apartments, located at 1145 Hudson Road, on **Wednesdays, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**



Saturday, February 4: Independent Wrestling International (IWI). Doors open at **6:45 p.m.** Bell is at 7:30 p.m. Come early to get the best seats!

Saturday, February 11: Luchas and Music. Check the website for more information.

February 10 – February 25: Fearless Five: Harbingers. Five talented playwrights partner up with five skilled directors for the first *Fearless Five* production. With the inspiration to tell a story of harbingers, this show gives you five stories in one! Tickets are \$10 online, \$15 at the door, or \$12 at the door with appropriate cred (in the form of Fringe Button, CONvergence Badge, FCP Badge Backer, or GPS Registered Geek Card).

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.

February at the Dayton's Bluff Library

Join the Dayton's Bluff Library for the following events taking place in February: *English Conversation Circle*; **Saturdays in February, from 3:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.** This is an opportunity for non-English speakers to practice their English speaking skills in casual conversation.

Join the *Dayton's Bluff Book Club* to read and discuss multicultural and local authors' books. This neighborhood club meets **the first Wednesday of the month** to share thoughts about selected books. Books and a light dinner are provided at no charge.

Email daytonsbuffbookclub@gmail.com for more information, or call 651-793-1699.

Read! Vote! Bookmark Making Party;

Saturday, February 25, from noon to 2:00 p.m. This event is part of the Read! Vote! program where children vote for their favorite books of the past year and have the chance to make a bookmark to enter into a contest. Visit sppl.org/kidvote for more information about the Read! Vote! program.

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.

February at the East Side Freedom Library

Saturdays in February, from 10:00 a.m. to noon, the East Side Freedom Library (ESFL) will offer History Day Learning Workshops. A team of experienced teachers will be on-hand to help students sharpen their History Day projects and find resources among the ESFL's 15,000 books.

Saturday, February 4, and Saturday, February 18, from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., the ESFL presents *Kids Rising Story Hour*, led by two experienced East Side educators.

Monday nights in February, ESFL's Peter Rachleff and Brian McMahon, author of *The Ford Century in Minnesota*, will teach a course co-sponsored by Saint Paul Public Schools Adult and Community Education program, also titled "The Ford Century in Minnesota."

The ESFL course will pay particular attention to the experiences and activities of Ford workers. The class will meet from **6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.**

To register call 651-744-3072 or visit www.commedspss.org.

Thursday, February 2, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., the ESFL is proud to host *SHHH! Sing Harmony, Hungry Hearts*. There's no need to be a trained singer. All that's needed is energy, interest, and voice.

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.

Business Classes

The Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Microentrepreneur Class helps start-up and young businesses on the East Side. Classes last eight weeks and include operations management, marketing, financial management, one-on-one assistance with creating 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.

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. Class size is limited. Call Emma Spillman at 651-379-8432 to apply.

Waniyetu/Winter Walk: Dakota Culture

FREE! Indigenous educator Jim Rock will give an interactive presentation and tour at the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctu-

ary on **Saturday, February 25, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**

Using visuals, Star wheels, objects, and more, Jim will guide the group through Dakota culture as it is rooted in the sanctuary, stars, and Mother Earth. Included is a unique focus on the winter season and constellations.

All ages welcome, but space is limited. Please register at lowerphalencreek.org/events to save your spot.

East Side Elders presents Elder Cafe: Native American Drumming

Thursday, February 9, from noon to 2:00 p.m. at First Lutheran Church, 463 Maria Avenue, St. Paul. East Side Elders presents *Elder Cafe: Native American Drumming*.

The Southside Ramblers/AIFC Men's Group Elders Lodge will perform. Come and learn about the many different traditions of the drum and its meaning and significance in Native American ceremonies.

Call 651-683-2326 to make a reservation or to request a ride. Elder Cafe cannot guarantee a meal without a reservation.

Admission is free for seniors age 60 and over; all other guests are invited to make a suggested donation of \$10.00. This event is presented in partnership between East Side Elders and First Lutheran Church of Dayton's Bluff.

Become a Lifeguard!

Ramsey County Parks & Recreation is currently hiring lifeguards for the 2017 beach and water park season. Positions available at Battle Creek Waterworks water park and the county's five guarded swimming beaches. All positions are full-time throughout the aquatics season, beginning Saturday, June 10. Submit a Lifeguard Interest Form online at <https://www.ramseycounty.us/your-government/departments/economic-growth-and-community-investment/parks-recreation/lifeguard-interest-form>. Recreation staff will then follow up on the next steps. Interest forms should be submitted by April 15.

All Ramsey County lifeguards must be certified prior to employment. Parks & Recreation is offering a three-day certification course this winter for applicants who do not hold a current certification. Courses run **from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. during the following sessions: March 17-19, March 31-April 2, April 21-23**. Class fee is \$100. Completion of the course does not guarantee employment with Ramsey County.

Public Meeting

Thursday, February 9, from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. at Cerenity Senior Care, Parkview Room (use 200 Earl Street entrance). All are welcome.

Indian Mounds Regional Park will be adding a splash pad to the park, adjacent to the new children's play area. Join the City of Saint Paul Parks and Recreation staff and City Councilmember Jane Prince to learn more about the project, review proposed designs and give your input on the final selections.

Mounds Park United Methodist Church

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

Mounds Park United Methodist Church is a multicultural neighborhood congregation in Dayton's Bluff. Sunday worship starts at **10:30 a.m.** Each Sunday during February, we will celebrate the life and witness of an African American who helped shape our world today. Come and hear about these courageous and passionate persons who gave much so that our lives would be more whole.

Weekly in February: After-School Program for area youth, sponsored by McVay Youth Partnership of Hamline University. This is an after-school program for all community youth grades 5-12 at Mounds Park Church from **3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Monday, Wednesday, and Friday** of each week offering cooking classes, games, homework help, field trips, and help learning English. Contact Jane Krentz at (612) 581-6978 for more information.

Wednesday, February 22: Beginning at noon, Community Friendship gathering with hot lunch. Enjoy a hot lunch of smoked pork chops with apples and cranberries, Scalloped potatoes, vegetable, salad, rolls, and dessert. The program this month will be music by local talent. This is a community gathering – ALL are invited to come; the focus is on persons age 55 and over. A donation of \$8.00 is suggested.

Mounds Park Church is launching a new faith-based community non-profit called Dayton's Bluff Community Services. This new non-profit corporation will engage in activities to further the service of Mounds Park United Methodist Church within the Dayton's Bluff community and other communities of East Saint Paul. It will also collaborate and coordinate with area organizations that have the similar purpose of serving the community. Some of the services include Urban Cross, programs supporting area children and youth, community gatherings, support of area public schools, cross-cultural events, food and housing support, and service to seniors.

Action needed: Clear Steps for Seniors!

Janet Golden

Executive Director, East Side Elders

Winter and all that it brings is on its way to Minnesota. Ice. Bitter winds. Slippery sidewalks and steps. And snow, lots of snow.

According to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, The Meteorological Winter (December-February) of 2015-2016 for Minnesota wound up being warmer than normal, but the Twin Cities still saw 25.7 inches of snow! Over the course of the winter, that's a lot of the white stuff to shovel, scoop, dig, and heap. And this year the outlook is even whiter. Minnesota Public Radio meteorologist Paul Huttner predicts there will be "between 50 and 60 inches of snowfall overall in the Twin Cities."

With the prospect of weeks of clearing snow, one senior commented, "I think it's time to hang up my snow shovel and pick up the phone!" She called East Side Elders and asked if the local non-profit agency could help clear her pathway and steps so that she and her neighbors could walk safely without risk of falling on snow or ice. The City of St. Paul encourages neighbors to keep sidewalks clear of snow but as we all know, the city ordinance requires snow and ice to be removed from sidewalks within 24 hours after the snowfall has ended – and those who fail to do so may encounter heavy

fines along with the heavy snow!

East Side Elders is taking steps to help seniors stay safe – and clear of snow and ice during the winter. We try to match volunteers, neighbors, and local organizations who can lend a helping hand by clearing snow for those who are unable to do so.

For homes with larger areas to clear, such as driveways and alleys, we contact local companies that plow snow to ask if they would be able to add a senior to their winter route. While many are willing to do so, the cost of services exceeds the amount that the seniors are able to afford, sometimes as much as \$200 a month for guaranteed snow removal.

We are asking the community to help with our *Clear Steps for Seniors* campaign. If you are interested in joining the team of volunteers helping neighbors, please call us. We'd love to match you and your shovel with a senior! Or if shoveling isn't your thing, perhaps you could help raise funds to help cover the cost for a senior to have snow-free walkways and paths. Donations are fully tax-deductible and can be made online at EastSideElders.org, by clicking SUPPORT/ DONATE, or visit our fundraising campaign site at GoFundMe.com/EastSideElders. You can also send a donation to East Side Elders at 463 Maria Avenue, Suite 201, St. Paul, MN 55106. Staff can be reached at (651) 683-2326 or at info@EastSideElders.

Help support *Clear Steps for Seniors* today!



Metropolitan State University

INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Metropolitan State University | Saint Paul Campus
 Library and Learning Center | Third Floor Room LIB 312

Dates:
 Saturday, Feb. 4
 Saturday, Feb. 11
 Tuesday, March 7
 Thursday, March 9

Time:
 8 a.m.–3 p.m.
 8 a.m.–3 p.m.
 5–7 p.m.
 5–7 p.m.

Free
 Walk-in Service.
 By not filing, you may lose earned income credits!

Eligibility:

- Families making less than \$54,000 in 2016
- People with disabilities
- Senior citizens
- Students

What to Bring:

- Health insurance information including form 1095
- Social Security cards for yourself, your spouse and each of your children
- Any 2016 tax forms or "tax label" postcards received in the mail
- W-2 wage and earnings statements from each employer for the year 2016
- A copy of your 2015 tax return
- Any other information about your 2016 earnings including 1099-G forms starting unemployment
- Insurance or interest (form 1099-INT) or dividend (form 1099-DIV) as applicable
- Information on child care expenses
- Information on other expenses that may reduce your taxes: mortgage interest, union dues, car registration fees, medical expenses, or school expenses
- Certificate of Rent Paid (CRP) forms from your landlord if you are a renter
- Statement of property taxes if you are a homeowner

For more information, contact Robert Sausen at robert.sausen@metrostate.edu.

If you need disability-related accommodations, including parking, to make these events accessible, please contact the Center for Accessibility Resources, 651-793-1549 or accessibility.resources@metrostate.edu.

Dayton's Bluff Public Library Offers "Blind Dates" with Books

Emily Ganzel

Saint Paul Public Library

The Dayton's Bluff branch of the Saint Paul Public Library invites patrons to check out an unknown gift-wrapped book as part of *Winter Reads: Winter Reading for Adults*, sponsored by the Metropolitan Library Service Agency (MELSA). This annual event offers opportunities to read down fines, earn prizes, and discover new books. The "blind date" with a wrapped book runs from **January 17 to February 28, 2017**, at the Dayton's Bluff Library, located at 645 East Seventh Street, Saint Paul.

To further intrigue patrons, the outside of the wrapped book will include the first line from the book's text. Patrons will be asked to check out the book before removing the wrapping.

Winter Reads participants can also receive book lights for completing bingo cards with specific library-related activities. For every 15 minutes spent reading at the library, \$1 will be taken off a patron's fines.

The Dayton's Bluff Library is one of 12 neighborhood branches of the Saint Paul Public Library, which also includes the George Latimer Central Library and the Bookmobile. The Saint Paul Public Library connects people in Saint Paul with the imperative and the joy of learning through a lifetime. Saint Paul residents can enjoy free access to technology, books, movies, music, classes, and more. Visit us in the neighborhood or online at sppl.org.



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SRE SECRETARÍA DE SEGURIDAD EXTERNA

Dayton's Bluff Public Library hosts English Conversation Circles

Emily Ganzel
Saint Paul Public Library

The Dayton's Bluff branch of the Saint Paul Public Library is hosting free English conversation classes for all who want to practice speaking the English language. The Conversation Circles are held **every Saturday** at the Dayton's Bluff library, located at 645 East Seventh Street, from **3:30 to 4:30 pm**.

The Conversation Circles are facilitated by the Karen Organization of

Minnesota, but all who do not speak English as their first language are welcome.

Volunteers help to lead discussions and encourage participants to engage in relaxed, casual conversations that help to build vocabulary and fluency in the English language.

The Dayton's Bluff Library is one of 12 neighborhood branches of the Saint Paul Public Library, which also includes the George Latimer Central Library and the Bookmobile. The Saint Paul Public Library connects people in Saint Paul with the imperative and the joy of learning through a lifetime. Saint Paul residents can enjoy free access to technology, books, movies, music, classes, and more. Visit us in the neighborhood or online at sppl.org.

Showcase your Dayton's Bluff home!

Karin DuPaul
Forum Staff

The 2017 Minneapolis and Saint Paul Home Tour will be here soon and Dayton's Bluff homes are needed to be featured on the tour. The tour will run from **Saturday, April 29, and Sunday, April 30, 2017**.

This tour is of occupied homes to show visitors our wonderful Dayton's Bluff homes and community. Visitors from all over the metro area come each year to see the lovely homes and meet the great people living in Dayton's Bluff.

Six to eight Dayton's Bluff homes are needed to be on the tour. Homes can be

large or small, Victorians or ramblers, or anything in between. Homes may be works-in-progress or finished products. It's a fantastic opportunity for us to show off our neighborhood and all the good things about Dayton's Bluff. Each year, some visitors like Dayton's Bluff so much that they buy a home here. The tour is a great way to get new ideas on remodeling and updating your home. You may nominate your own home, or talk to a friend or neighbor about getting their home on the tour.

In addition to homes to be on the tour, we are also looking for neighborhood people to volunteer to help out during the tour. After the tour is over on Sunday evening, an "after the tour" supper party will be held for the home tour host families and all home tour volunteers. To sign up or for more information, please email karindupaul@comcast.net, or call 651-776-0550.



Karin DuPaul

Quintin Koger Kidd explains to visitors on the Minneapolis and Saint Paul Home Tour, how he and wife Robyn Koger Kidd lovingly restored their beautiful Dayton's Bluff home.

Contest: Where in Dayton's Bluff?

Email editor@daytonsbluff.org with the location of the neighborhood curiosity pictured below for a chance to win some great prizes from local businesses. The reader who submits the first correct entry will be notified and the winner will be announced in the March *Forum*.

Congratulations to Paul Shanafelt, winner of December's contest with his correct guess of the location in the photo: the Dayton's Bluff Rec Center.



Coming Soon: CABARET!

Karin DuPaul
Forum Staff

The 5th Annual CABARET will be on **Friday, March 3**, at the Historic Mounds Theatre, located at 1029 Hudson Road, from **7:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.** East Side talent is needed – singers, musicians, comedians, and dancers. This is a celebration of talent with East Side roots. If you or someone you know would like to entertain at the CABARET, call Romi at 763-913-4382, or email romislowiak@gmail.com.

The evening will also include a silent auction of original art and other items. CABARET tickets are just \$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. Get your

tickets today by contacting Karin DuPaul at 651-776-0550 or karin@swedehollow.org. Don't miss this!

The CABARET is a fundraiser for the 8th annual Art in the Hollow, the art festival in Swede Hollow Park happening on Saturday, June 3, 2017. The CABARET and Art in the Hollow are hosted by 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.

Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center is having a Youth CABARET! on **February 23, at 6:30 p.m.** in the theater at 800 Conway. Winner will be featured at the CABARET! at the Historic Mounds Theatre on **March 3**. Auditions for first-time and youth CABARET! talent will be on **February 9, starting at 6:30 p.m.** at the Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center. Call Karin at 651-776-0550 for more information.

Karin DuPaul can be reached at karindupaul@comcast.net.



Karin DuPaul

The Historic Mounds Theatre saw a full house for the 2016 CABARET.

Saint Paul to launch Annual Business Awards

Stephanie Harr
Legislative Aide, St. Paul City Council

The Saint Paul City Council announced a program to recognize and celebrate businesses in Saint Paul. The newly launched annual Saint Paul Business Awards will honor businesses in seven categories, and winners will be based on nominations from the community. "Locally-owned, independent businesses are the economic engine that create good jobs and grow our tax base," said Ward 7 Councilmember Jane Prince. "We're taking this opportunity to recognize and celebrate the great businesses that make Saint Paul, Saint Paul – and to shout their praises from the rooftops!"

As part of the Open for Business initiative that began in 2016, this is another step in making Saint Paul an even better place to do business. "We believe that our success as a city depends on building our infrastructure to support the strongest possible business climate," said Ward 2 Councilmember Rebecca Noecker.

"We know that new businesses are looking to operate within our city every day, including businesses operated by women and minorities," said Ward 1 Councilmember Dai Thao. "We must recognize their success stories to support them."

Six of the winners will be selected by a committee of fellow business owners and one award, the People's Choice Award, will be selected by the community at large. Nominations are currently being accepted and the deadline for nominations is January 31. Anyone can nominate a business, including a customer, neighbor, employee or owner. Awards will be presented on March 22 at the City Council meeting.

Award Categories are as follows:
Traditions Award - Honoring a business that has been active in Saint Paul for at least twenty years.

New Kid on the Block Award - Honoring a business that has opened in Saint Paul within the last five years.

Large Business Excellence Award - Honoring a business with at least 50 employees in Saint Paul that cares for its employees and the community.

Small Business Excellence Award - Honoring a business with fewer than 50 employees in Saint Paul that cares for its employees and the community.

Alice O'Brien Award - Honoring a woman-owned business that is committed to equity and empowerment.

Reflecting St. Paul Award - Honoring a business owned by a person of color that is committed to equity and empowerment.

People's Choice Award - Honoring a business that is recognized for its excellence by St. Paul residents. Find more information and nominate a business today at www.stpaul.gov/bizawards.



**A public conversation:
Daniel Alexander Jones**

*Peter Rachleff
East Side Freedom Library*

On Friday, February 10, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., the East Side Freedom Library is pleased to present a public conversation with acclaimed theater artist, Daniel Alexander Jones.

Daniel, now an Associate Professor of Theatre at Fordham University in New York City, is in town to bring his radiant solo performance piece, *Black Light*, to Penumbra Theatre, where he was once a company member.

Daniel has performed as his alter-ego, Jomama Jones, to wild acclaim across the country, most recently in the *Under the Radar Festival* in New York City.

Daniel has released four albums and has received significant recognition in the theater community. He was named a Doris Duke Artist in 2015, a USA Artist Fellow in 2016, and an inaugural Mellon Foundation Creative Research Fellow at the University of Washington in Seattle for 2017-2019.

The East Side Freedom Library is excited to have the opportunity to engage Daniel in a public conversation, exploring his artistic development, the issues and aesthetics which have concerned him, and his vision for the ways that art is central to our practices of citizenship. Please see his show and engage him in conversation.

Black Light will be presented at Penumbra Theatre **Thursday, February 2, through Sunday, February 12.**

For more information and to purchase tickets, please visit www.penumbra-theatre.org or call 651-224-3180.



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**Opinion: Ramsey
County Commissioner
Jim McDonough unfit
for political seat**

*Yingya Vang
Racial Equity on Johnson and Ames
Committee*

Seniors and children risk their lives crossing Johnson Parkway and Ames Avenue East every day. Also known as County Road 64, this intersection is concerning, as fast-approaching motorists disregard the crosswalk. Community members presented petitions to Ramsey County Commissioner Jim McDonough for a traffic light, but for an entire year, no changes have been made.

The intersection is located in a

neighborhood highly populated with people of color, immigrants, and refugees. Commissioner McDonough invested \$12 million in the SouthWest Light Rail in Hopkins, an affluent, predominantly white area which he does not serve. He raised his salary of roughly \$88,000 to \$90,000, yet he dismisses the 1500+ petition signatures, large volumes of phone calls, and community forums supporting a traffic signal. Commissioner McDonough is out of touch with the constituents of color he swore to publicly serve, therefore he should not seek a future political seat.

Regards,

Racial Equity on Johnson and Ames
Committee

*We are the Racial Equity on Johnson
and Ames Committee, a community-led
campaign advocating for social justice.*



Photo courtesy of Jane Prince

At the East Side Martin Luther King Jr. Luncheon held on January 16, at Eastside Pizzeria, Anne DeJoy describes how much more Saint Paul can do to support business owners who want to locate and expand in Saint Paul, like Rich and Yolanda of Eastside Pizzeria, who grew their take-out business at Maryland and Earl to include the new sit-down restaurant at 1050 Payne Avenue.

Rep. Sheldon Johnson wants you to know about:

Visiting the State Capitol

**Monday - Friday from 8:30 am to 5 pm
Saturday from 10 am to 3:00 pm
and Sunday from 1 to 4 pm**

The Capitol restoration is nearly complete and the building is open to the public again! The State Capitol was built in 1905 and serves as the home of the Minnesota House and the Minnesota Senate.

Guided tours are offered every hour, on the hour, with a suggested donation of five dollars.

Where: State Capitol - 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

Guided Tours: Meet every hour, on the hour, in Room 126

For more information, visit www.mnhs.org/capitol or call the Capitol at 651-296-2881



State Representative

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Chester Sheehan receives Roger Tetu Award

Steve Trimble
Forum Staff

Chester Sheehan received the award that is given each year by the Dayton's Bluff Community Council to a neighborhood resident. It is named after Roger Tetu, who was killed by a hit and run driver in 2011 while picking up trash at the corner of Earl and Margaret. He was the kind of person who offered kindness without hesitation on a frequent basis.

So is Chester. He had no idea he had been nominated until he was invited to attend a meeting at the Council office. He grew up on a farm in Wisconsin where he learned the

need to work with people. He was in the armed forces and was overseas from 1968 to 1974 and then moved into St. Paul where he worked at various bakeries.

For the last 10 years, Sheehan and his two dogs have lived in the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood and helped people in various ways – snow shoveling, pushing cars stuck in the snow, helping folks trim trees, and keeping a watch over the neighborhood.

Chester, now 74 years old and a community elder, is definitely an unsung hero who doesn't ask for credit but just does things out of a sense of human decency. The *Forum* had to talk him into letting our staff take his picture. When asked what he thinks neighbors should do, he responded "don't expect medals but do things out of the kindness of a person's heart."

Steve Trimble can be reached at editor@daytonsbluff.org.



Steve Trimble

Local do-good-er Chester Sheehan is the recent recipient of the Roger Tetu Award.

Death Notice: Emmett Yanez

Emmett Yanez, a former Dayton's Bluff resident and long-time St. Paul boxing instructor, passed away on December 3, 2016, at the age of 96.

In the May, 2015 issue of the *Forum*, on page seven, was a long article about this Latino legend. You can read it by visiting daytonsbluffdistrictforum.org and clicking on the "Past Issues" tab.

Dayton's Bluff Hall of Fame revisited

Steve Trimble
Forum Historian

If you read the *Forum* in December 2007, you may remember that I wrote a piece about a virtual Hall of Fame for Dayton's Bluff. If you never read it or can't remember, you can look it up on the newspaper website by visiting daytonsbluffdistrictforum.org and scanning the 44 names that were included.

I've been running across people from the past who should be added to the "Hall," and a few folks who are still living and have made important contributions to our neighborhood.

So far, there are 12 new entries to make, but there's only room to list six here. Stay tuned for the March issue to see the rest. And, if any readers want to suggest someone to honor, send an email.

Solving "Song" Kong; Song Kong was a military policeman of the C.I.A. Secret Army in Laos that was led by Hmong General Vang Pao during the Viet Nam War.

When the conflict ended in 1975, Song and his wife, Lee Her, fled into the jungle where they lived for two years, and then walked to Thailand, where they had to stay in the Ban Vinai refugee camp. They arrived in Minnesota in 1980. The couple rented on Maria Avenue with their five children and then bought a house on Hope Street. He was a leader of the Kong clan. He may have been the first Hmong elected to a community council and was appointed to the St. Paul City Planning Commission.

During his time as Postmaster for the Minnesota House of Representatives from 1987 to 2011, he became a U. S. citizen and marked the occasion by changing his first name to Soliving.

Walter "Moose" Moryn; Walter Joseph Moryn was born on April 12, 1926, into a family headed by Russian-Polish immigrant parents. He was around five years old when the family moved to 1058 Hudson Road (which was Hasting Avenue, at that time). Moryn was a star athlete at Harding High School and after serving in WWII, was a standout for the St. Paul Saints.

The family later purchased a house at 266 Clarence



Minnesota Historical Society

Walter "Moose" Moryn suited up and ready to play for the St. Paul Saints in 1955.

Street in the Five Corners area, and Walt lived there while playing for the Saints. He was called up by the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1954 and had two lackluster years before being traded in 1956 to the Chicago Cubs, where he flourished. In 1958, Moryn hit a career-best 26 home runs and was voted onto the All-Star team. He finished his career with St. Louis and Pittsburg and retired in 1961.

Jim Rock; Jim Rock is a teacher and writer of Dakota and German heritage, and as a result, speaks three languages. He was born at the old Mounds Park Hospital and grew up in the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood.

Rock graduated from Harding School and taught science at Waziyata (Wayzata) High School for three decades. Jim combines conventional education and training with years spent living and working with indigenous people in Minnesota, Central, and South America. He was trained in academic modern astronomy and combined it with ancient Dakota beliefs of the land's relationship with the sky. This perspective has shaped his understanding and teaching. Rock, a Dakota scholar and educator specializing in ethnoastronomy,

has served as a consultant for NASA and as Program Director at the Planetarium at the University of Minnesota-Duluth. He is co-author of D(L)akota Star Map Constellation Guide.

Emily Borth; Emily Borth was a long-time Girl Scout Troop Leader and supporter of her Dayton's Bluff neighborhood.

Living at 1109 Burns Avenue, she became the leader of Girl Scout Troop #5 at Mounds Park Elementary in 1932. She and her husband Arthur had no children of their own, but Emily set out to nurture as many children as possible. She had a gift for being there for the girls. She organized field trips to businesses, fire stations, and a police department, where troop members were fingerprinted. They took train trips, made place-mats for hospitalized patients, and helped to collect dolls for less fortunate children. There were also trips to overnight cabins in Forest Lake.

For 32 years, Borth devoted much of her life to the ideals of Girl Scouting.

Éamon a Búrc; Éamon a Búrc, a seanchaí (an Irish storyteller), was born into an Irish-speaking household in Carna, County Galway, Ireland. The family emigrated to Graceville, Minnesota, with the help of Archbishop John Ireland.

After a brutal winter and an eviction in 1880, they resettled in "Connemara Patch," a section of the city so named because many Irish immigrants lived along Phalen Creek south of East Seventh Street. Éamon and his father went to work for J. J. Hill's Great Northern Railway. After losing a leg in a work related accident, Éamon returned to Ireland and became a tailor.

In 1935, the Irish Folklore Commission recorded his repertoire of legends and folk poetry and the transcription filled more than 2,000 pages. According to one source, Búrc "Was perhaps the finest storyteller collected from in the Twentieth Century."

Antoinette (Nana) Carbone; Alfonso and Antoinette Carbone, who came to St. Paul from Italy, started a small grocery/confection shop with "near beer" during Prohibition. When her husband died in 1954 Antoinette, living at 698 East Fourth Street, gathered traditional recipes from the south of Italy and with the help of her children, opened what is considered to be St. Paul's first pizzeria at 680 East Seventh Street.

Nana died in 1974, but her children took over and the business prospered and expanded. Carbone's is still in family hands and remains a chain with thirty locations in Minnesota and a few in Wisconsin and Montana.

Steve Trimble can be reached at editor@daytonsbluff.org.

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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Next issue: March 2017. **Deadline for material: February 10, 2017.**

MOUNDS PARK BARBER STYLISTS



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Judy Lee

Welcome to STEP Academy

Mark Gallagher
Associate Editor

For the past six months, STEP Academy has been establishing itself as one of the newest members of the Dayton's Bluff community. For five years before coming to Dayton's Bluff, STEP Academy called Inver Grove Heights its home. Now that it is settling into a new community, STEP Academy is still trying to give students a better chance at education, which will give those students a better chance to succeed at life.

The acronym STEP refers to Science, Technology, Engineering Preparatory. "STEP Academy is a charter school — we focus on STEM skills," said Traci Moore, the Academic Dean at STEP Academy. "It was started by a group of educators and some parents who had a vision for making a difference in education. Our student body is primarily first-generation East African students, and we really embrace the community that comes into our school.

"This is a very safe place for them. Many of the families are poverty level, so our vision is to get our students to a point where they can go to Post Secondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) classes and college classes as juniors and seniors. It saves families college education costs because we have compulsory education through 12th grade, so the families don't have to pay for education costs during the 11th and 12th grade years. Students get half of their four-year degree done in two years, so they only have to pay two years out of pocket."

STEP Academy was started as a charter school for grades six through 12, and it was logical to have just one building. "The group was originally in Inver Grove Heights leasing a school building," Moore said. "We were running out of space and wanted to expand, so we started looking for another option for building space. We found this space open because Twin Cities Academy was moving to a new building, and this space matched what our needs were — it just worked out."

The school has a total of 31 teachers and educational assistants, and in the middle school and high school there are 280 students but could grow to 500. "We have about 110 sixth, seventh, and eighth graders," Moore said, "and as we get into the higher grades, we have 39 and 34 students for 11th and 12th grades respectively. We have smaller classes in 11th and 12th grades because a lot of our students do PSEO, and most of those students are not on site with us, but they're still counted as students as they are off going to college."

STEP Academy offers two primary things that other middle schools, high schools, or even other charter schools don't offer: One of them is a STEM focus. "We do not have actual art classes like drawing and painting or things like that," Moore said. "All of our art electives are taught through STEM. We have a teacher who teaches digital design and a lot of it is engineering based. Students learn how to design things that



Mark Gallagher

STEP Academy, located at 835 5th Street East in St. Paul.

take engineering skills, and they also do a lot of things online. Our new 3D printer arrived a few weeks ago; that adds another dimension to our STEM offerings.

"The students also do a lot of coding, so they will program and build things similar to electronic breadboards. The next quarter will be based on electronic storytelling and video games, so they will be looking at how programming plays a role in the actual design process."

Students can receive one-on-one help if they are having trouble with a subject, and there are a couple of different options to access that help. "We have a very robust intervention program," Moore said, "We look at student's assessments, and students receive extra help based on their individual needs.

"After school we have a partnership with Above and Beyond Tutoring, and they have academic coaches who work with students and families. They will talk to the family, go to conferences with the family, and also build relationships with our teachers, so they can talk to the teacher about how the student is doing to open up that communication."

STEP Academy has a "Reflection Room" and also a Dean of Students who is in charge of discipline and works with the students to handle their behavior issues. The school uses a Positive Behavior Intervention and Support model, which is similar to a restorative justice program where they talk to the kids. "It's all about teaching students what the behavior expectation is," Moore said, "and having them practice that expectation to have procedures in place for the way they need to behave."

There is a sports program at STEP Academy that currently has intramural basketball for boys and girls, but they are in the process of putting together a competitive sports program for next year. "We are actually looking at basketball and volleyball just because we have space constraints," Moore said. "We don't have a football or soccer field outside to put our kids on, so we are going to have to be logical about what we can implement."

Next year the school is expanding to house kindergarten through twelfth grade by adding one class of each elementary grade. This expansion has been a goal of the school almost since its inception due to parent requests to have all of their children in one school.

STEP Academy's address is 835 5th St. E. in St. Paul, and their phone number is 651-289-6120. "We are very proud of the program that we are building," Moore said, "and we have a great hope for the future with our expansion."

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.

East Side Eating – Trimble's Taste Trek

Forum contributor Steve Trimble has set out to eat at every locally-owned, sit-down restaurant on the East Side. 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 daytonsbuffdistrictforum.org: click on "East Side Eating" at the top of the home page. Steve Trimble can be reached at editor@daytonsbuff.org.

Red Wok Sushi

1626 White Bear Avenue North
(651) 797-4251

Sunday-Thursday (lunch): 11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Sunday-Thursday (dinner): 4:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Friday-Saturday: 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m.

www.redwoksushi.com

Described as sort of an Asian fusion of Chinese, Japanese, Thai, and sushi bar, Red Wok Sushi is one of the newer dining spots in the neighborhood.

I got to the large space (formerly a Mongolian buffet) around 6:00 p.m. I found red walls and some Asian wall art in the space containing six tables seating four people, three booths, and eight tables for groups of eight. It was clean and nicely lighted. I was a little surprised when I heard music from KDWB radio, but later there were

some Asian tunes.

If you want to start with something green, you might try the seaweed salad. There are also lots of hot dishes made in a wok such as fried rice, pad see (Thai wide noodles) and Gang Ku Wan chicken (with green curry and vegetables). There is also sensai (squid and vegetables). Given the two owners' Hmong background, there was at least an offering of laab, either chicken or beef.

Some of the drinks are sodas, tea, juice, milk, and Ramne — a Japanese soda. There is beer; Karin, Ashai, and others, as well as a full liquor bar in the back with, among other items, samurai gin, red sushi apple martinis, and seven different sakes.

There are some desserts such as mochi ice cream, rice cake, and green tea ice cream. There is a kid's menu with mac and cheese, crab sticks, and pho.

I decided to have sweet and sour chicken which came with salad, miso soup, and rice. Given the name of the place, I thought I should have some sushi so I chose some kanikama (crab sticks). It took extra time, but that's because it's made from scratch and is quite fresh.

I had never heard of Lucky Buddha Beer, so I ordered one. It came in a green bottle with a raised figure of its namesake. I was able to talk with Futchy (Fuji) Ly, who, along with his Hmong brother Teng (Tim), started the restaurant. They were both born in France and learned about sushi at the Japanese steak house Ichiban and elsewhere.

Steve Trimble can be reached at editor@daytonsbuff.org.



Steve Trimble

A sampling of raw fish to be expertly prepared into sushi and other seafood fare at Red Wok Sushi.

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Happenings at home



Photo courtesy of Michelle Kaye

Recording artist and Dayton's Bluff resident Michelle Kaye, performed a sampling of her original music at the Mounds Park United Methodist Church Community Friendship Gathering, held on November 16, 2016.



Meg Gronau

Members of the Eastside Storm Volleyball Club sell concessions at Dayton's Bluff Rec Center during youth basketball games on January 7. The Storm is a community-based, competitive volleyball program offered to girls ages 10-18. They practice at Harding High School.

... and away!



Gary Brown catches up on the neighborhood news before boarding a flight from Kuwait home to Dayton's Bluff.

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.



"Oh, the colors!" exclaimed Gary Brown, who took his copy of the Forum along while visiting the Alafoss wool shop in Iceland. The black and white of newsprint doesn't do this photo justice. Check it out in color at daytonsbuffdistrictforum.org.

Many thanks to our 2017 donors:

- Carol Carey - Jean Comstock - John Davidsen - Eric Foster
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If 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 office at 804 Margaret Street, or email editor@daytonsbuff.org to have the Forum mailed to you for a yearly fee of \$15.

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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 2017.

Our goal for the year is \$2,000; as of this printing we have raised \$410.00 – Will you help us?

Sincerely,
The Dayton's Bluff District Forum

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