Neighborhood Home Tour

by Karin DuPaul
Community Organizer,
Dayton's Bluff Community Council

The annual Minneapolis and St. Paul Home Tour and the Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Food Co-op Tour will be held on Saturday, April 28, from 10 am to 5 pm and Sunday, April 29, from 1 pm to 5 pm. During the home tour, residents in both Minneapolis and St. Paul will open their homes to the public to showcase city living. The Dayton's Bluff homes on the tour will include: 336 Maple Street, 326 Maple Street, 705 East 4th Street, 314 Bates, 1163 Reaney, 182 Mounds Blvd. 884 Mound Street, and 720 Wilson. Some of these homes will also be highlighted on the Minneapolis and St. Paul Home Tour. Dayton's Bluff has so many wonderful homes that each year we have six to eight homes on the combined tours. The tour shows off many of Dayton's Bluff great features: the location, Metro State, the parks, the views of the corridor and the outstanding home options in Dayton’s Bluff. Both tours are hosted by the Dayton's Bluff Community Council. Minneapolis/St. Paul housing options will be picked up at any of the homes listed above during the hours of the tour.

Many people come here year after year to see what’s up in Dayton's Bluff. Some of the visitors like it so well that they have made Dayton's Bluff their home. Volunteers are needed for the tour. Tasks include greeting people at the door, giving out brochures and information about Dayton’s Bluff, and helping the homeowners for a few hours either day. If you are interested, please email Karin@DaytonsBluff.org or call Karin at 651-772-2055. For more information on the Minneapolis/St. Paul Home Tour visit www.msphometour.com; go to www.daytonsbluff.org for more information about the Dayton's Bluff tour.

Follow-up on ICE Traing on East 4th Street

by Sage Holben
Special to the Forum

On January 12, an ICE (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement) contingent, identified by a vehicle plate as being from North Dakota, conducted a raid at a county-owned, vacant house on East 4th Street in Dayton's Bluff. Neighbors driving through didn’t know it was a practice, but thought it was an actual raid. That same day, a similar event occurred on East Conway Street. A second "raid" occurred on February 16. A neighbor, witness to both events, questioned a participant in the "raid." The training group identified itself as being from Georgia.

Neighbors began asking more questions of the City of St. Paul, Ramsey County, and ICE. This particular area of East 4th Street is part of two City of St. Paul initiatives: "Invest St. Paul" and the "4th Street Preservation Project." Residents on 4th Street between Maria and Bates Avenues have experienced more than their fill of illegal activity and quality-of-life issues over the years. Roughly half the houses are vacant; some are city-owned and now being rehabilitated for rental. On September 28, 2011, neighbors witnessed a fatal shooting at the intersection of 4th and Bates. Several years ago, two women, in separate incidents, were attacked outside their homes; two residents were robbed at gunpoint in front of or near their homes, one in broad daylight. Residents have witnessed raids on drug houses. These same neighbors have been active in closing the drug houses and those owned by negligent owners; residents have approached and encouraged occupants of vehicles, dealing in drugs, to move along. Residents have stopped the semi-trucks that were detouring from the 3rd Street truck route for prostitute and/or drug pick-ups at 4th and Maria. Long-term renters and home owners work together in raising the quality of life for this lower Dayton’s Bluff neighborhood. With more vacant homes than residents on this block, the residents prove to be a small but mighty group.

The city and area builders have begun re-habbing several of the area’s vacant houses and, with that, hope for more stability has surged. Hope has been expressed that some of the many immigrating families would choose to plant their roots here. This lower Dayton’s Community (See Trainings, page 2)

New Neighborhood Food Co-op?

Are you interested in shopping at a new food co-op on the East Side? Come to an information sharing event on Thursday, April 26, from 7 to 9:30 pm at the Water and Oil Gallery. The gallery is located located at 506 East Kenny Road, two blocks north of 7th Street at Payne Avenue and just north of the Minnesota Music Cafe. Talk with members of the steering committee who have been working on this project since last fall. Hear about the work that has been going on, share opinions about what you’d like to see, and enjoy beautiful artwork and music by local band, The May North. Light refreshments will be available. For more information or to get involved, email eatcoop@gmail.com or look for “St. Paul East Side Co Op” on Facebook.

Inside this Issue

What’s happening — Know what’s going on in Dayton’s Bluff. Pages 2 and 3.
Opportunity — Ways to get involved in the community; chances to connect people with resources. Pages 4, 5 and 6.
People in your neighborhood — Who is making a difference on the East Side? Pages 7 and 8. Contribute your own content at editor@daytonsbluff.org.

My First Year

by Deanna Foster, Executive Director, Dayton’s Bluff Community Council

I have a few reflections to share upon completion of my first year working in Dayton’s Bluff. This being an “April Fool’s” edition of the District Forum, I’d like to assure you that I’ve been the fool numerous times in the past year. I had so much to learn about this relationship to residents. The people and politics of the East Side, the geography of Dayton’s Bluff (you really can’t get there from here), the rich history and pride of the lifelong East Siders, and the remarkable diversity of the new residents (those who have lived here less than how many years? 300? 400?). Historically speaking, some foolishness is a real asset. Right here on the East Side, a 3M researcher said “If I had thought about it, I wouldn’t have done the experiment. The literature was full of examples that said you can’t do this.” That researcher was Spencer Silver, discussing the work that led to the unique adhesives for 3M Post-It Notepads.

So I’m thinking there’s a lot more to believe in, a lot more things to try that everyone knows “can’t be done.” It’s too soon to tell what will come of some of our ideas, but the Council is working hard to open up to change. We’ve established an Equity Committee that seeks to create a neighborhood free of systemic and institutional inequities. We do this by ensuring that equity be made a priority consideration in all decisions, work plans and actions of the Council and its partners. One of the goals for 2012 is to provide an equity framework for the review and evaluation of the impact of Council programs and decisions on ethnic minorities and other underrepresented communities in Dayton’s Bluff. This idea was unthinkable back in 1962, the same time the Beatles got this rejection from the Decca Recording Co.: “We don’t like their sound, and guitar music is on the way out.” Let’s hope we don’t close the door to the talent right here, just because we don’t like the music. The Council is also rethinking our relationship to residents. We want to expand the leadership and voice of the community to include renters and others we don’t often see at the table. This effort is not easy, especially for a historically homogenous group, but we’re willing to try. The main approach we’re taking is to be open and welcoming to differences and unexpec ted talents and gifts that exist among us. Dayton’s Bluff CAN (Community Asset Network) is an effort to talk with residents about their values, ideas and talents, rather than the inadequacies we see in them. The wisdom of that approach is well documented in a now-famous exchange: “We went to Hewlett-Packard, and they said, ‘Hey, we don’t need you. You haven’t got through college yet!’” ~Apple Computer Inc. co-founder Jobs on his attempts to get HP interested in his and Steve Wozniak’s personal computer.

In my first year I realized, we may have the next Steve Jobs in our neighbor-
What’s happening?

Stay up-to-date on events in Dayton’s Bluff each month with the Forum’s “What’s happening” section. Report news to editor@daytonsbuff.org.

Dayton’s Bluff District Forum – What’s happening

April 2012

TRAINDINGS (cont’d from page 1):
Bluff neighborhood is a pocket of diversity in income, education, and cultures. Besides white and African-American residents and owners, this area is also home to a dense immigrant population of Karen, Latino, Hmong, and Somali families, many of whom have left war-torn countries to build new lives in safety and security. ICE trainings strike more fear into already-vulnerable residents. Each training creates more formidable barriers in driving families out, destroying the possibility of rehabbed home sales, and most of all, in sending the message that people who live in this area hold no value; that they are a formidable barrier in driving families out, destroying the possibility of safety and security. ICE trainings strike more fear into families, many of whom have left war-torn countries to build new lives in safety and security.

Agents were practicing a terrorism response protocol, not an immigration raid or actual emergency situation. However, the County instructed ICE to utilize this property in the Dayton’s Bluff neighborhood as training—a decision that local residents felt was without community consultation. County and federal agencies to use tax-forfeited properties

At the March Forum, Dayton’s Bluff resident Dr. Mary Ann Heidemann contacted City Council President Kathy Lantry and Ramsey County Manager Julie Kleinschmidt. The exchange follows:

While reading the Dayton’s Bluff District Forum newsletter, I was shocked to see the photo and article about recent Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) “Practice Raids” held in Dayton’s Bluff during January and February. One of the “raids” was held on Conway, just a block away from my home.

I cannot imagine what [sic] several community members were thinking to allow this type of armed invasion of a residential neighborhood, with no warning to residents or the community. I brought my home in Dayton’s Bluff 15 months ago, and put a great deal of time and elbow grease into repairing, improving and landscaping. I have been fortunate to have friendly police raids around the corner from my house is not my idea of a thank you or welcome from the city or county. I can’t help but wonder what resident reaction [St. Paul and Ramsey County] would have received if an armed ICE practice raid had occurred in Cathedral Hill instead of Dayton’s Bluff.

The whole affair is a demonstration of extreme poor judgment by those involved. Please help the city and county show more respect for the east side in the future. Thanks for your efforts to avoid a repeat performance.

Sincerely,
Dr. Mary Ann Heidemann

Lantry, Ramsey County respond to citizens’ reactions to ICE trainings

After reading about the ICE raids in the March Forum, Dayton’s Bluff resident Dr. Mary Ann Heidemann contacted City Council President Kathy Lantry and Ramsey County Manager Julie Kleinschmidt. The exchange follows:

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Sincerely,
Dr. Mary Ann Heidemann

Dr. Heidemann, I share all of your same concerns and I can tell you that my office knew nothing about this activity. The property where the exercise occurred is owned by Ramsey County (although St. Paul is just about to purchase it for redevelopment) and someone in their Property Records Division gave permission to ICE to use it. The St. Paul Police Department was given about 2 hours’ notice that this exercise was going to ocurred. I have asked the Police Chief to insist that this sort of thing not take place in Ward 7. The 4th District Council has conferred with the St. Paul Human Rights Commission and they will be writing a joint letter to the Ramsey County Administrator, Julie Kleinschmidt, to ask Ramsey County to cease and desist these types of activities in St. Paul. I have informed the Ramsey County Manager that this is a sensitive situation, and my displeasure with it, to the point of not being able to read the postcards by not necessarily be notified, as the cards would go to property owners and not renters/residents. On March 6, a 4th Street resident presented the ICE activities to the City of St. Paul Human Rights and EEO Commission. The HREEO heard the plea from the struggling neighborhood and promised its support of a “cease and desist” demand to stop ICE trainings in residential areas of St. Paul.

On March 7, Ramsey County Homeland Security Director Judson Freed notified Sage Holben, East 4th Street resident and Community Council board member, that the county has stopped allowing the use of its property until and unless we can work out a process to guarantee that incidents like this don’t happen again.” Mr. Freed made very clear that the Ramsey County made only a piece of property available. This was in no way county approval or, as one Dayton’s Bluff resident termed it, “sanctioning” of ICE activity. Neighbors and Community Council have been assured that Property Records and Revenue Department will stop allowing use of these properties until and unless a workable new process has been put into place.

In the meantime, Dayton’s Bluff Community Council, in conjunction with the City of St. Paul Human Rights Commission, is writing a letter to appropriate departments demanding an unqualified “cease and desist” of ICE trainings in residential areas.

Lantry, Ramsey County respond to citizens’ reactions to ICE trainings

Response from Ramsey County:

In February 2012, the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) held a training at a tax-forfeited property in the Dayton’s Bluff neighborhood.

The property in this case is owned by the State of Minnesota as a tax forfeit property. Ramsey County is the agent for this property in the past, Ramsey County has allowed other local, state and federal agencies to use tax-forfeited properties throughout the County for training purposes without incident. This training can be important to law enforcement and fire agencies because it presents the opportunity for their officers to develop skills and practice tactical exercises, such as serving warrants, hostage negotiation, or confined space

Ramsey County: “...we will not be allowing any agency to utilize tax-forfeited properties for training purposes.”

Letter to the editor

Help, not hinder, authorities

“What’s happening?” could not be more accurate for the article that I can not believe I just read! What’s happening IDEEY I have been a resident on the East Side/Dayton’s Bluff area for the majority of my 48 years. Up until December 2012, I was a homeowner. I worked for St. Paul Schools for nearly 27 of those years. Are we now publishing helpful hints on how to evate the law? The Arts and Culturess Committee is now providing a how-to list on withholding information from law enforcement, how is this going to make our community better? Isn’t it our civic duty to cooperate and assist our police and law enforcement officers in order to make our community more safe and crime-free?

How can you now be encouraging racism and withholding information? In, more or less, hide in their homes, to “stay silent”? I am appalled. If, and I quote, “many Dayton’s Bluff residents are frightened and intimidated by what appears to be a large-scale enforcement action...,” what are they “frightened and intimidated” about? That they may be caught being “illegal”?

Our law enforcement has difficulty enough doing their job, trying to protect and serve, I’m sure they too will be pleased to now have more people providing no information when they ask, questions, more people, (legal immigrants or not), closing doors in their faces, “staying silent,” and possibly allowing more crimes to be committed.

What kind of message is this sending to our children? To our community as a whole? That it is all right to alienate (no pun intended) your morals and values if you are an immigrant in St. Paul? Don’t concern yourself with what is right and just; don’t make any effort to improve our community; let our city and state continue to be bowing down by the community. Over-population, poverty, higher crime rates, joblessness, housing foreclosures, inadequate or nonexistent housing, and our overcrowded classrooms?

“If you are confronted by authority...,” what are they “frightened and intimidated” about? That they may be caught being “illegal”?

We allowed Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to utilize this property for a training exercise based on our previous understanding with them. The County did not sponsor or “sanction” this training exercise — it was conducted by ICE, a Federal law enforcement agency. Specifically, the County instructed ICE to notify neighbors of the training prior to the activity. Unfortunately, ICE did not notify neighbors.

As a result, we are reviewing our policies to better understand how to avoid a situation like this in the future while still ensuring that these agencies have access to real-world training opportunities that ensure public safety. In the interim, we will not be allowing any agency to utilize tax-forfeited properties for training purposes.

Down S. Keller

The destruction of Dayton’s Bluff continues as this house at 1002 Conway was razed in early March. This same house sold for $250,000 just 2 years ago and has now been reduced to rubble, as have a number of others in our neighborhood.
The Historic Mounds Theatre is located at 1029 Hudson Road, St. Paul, MN 55106. 651-772-2253, www.moundstheatre.org.

The Actor's Nightmare
The plays share a common premise: We receive scripts at birth, and then
As the weather warms and the days get longer, peace activists are starting to emerge from winter's hibernation. On Tuesdays, April 3, 10, 17 and 24, at 5 pm, Eastside Neighbors for Peace will release their peace vigils at the corner of East 6th Street and Mounds Boulevard. The group will focus on the new threats to peace from Washington's saber-rattling aimed at Iran.

The historic Mounds Theatre is located at 1029 Hudson Road, St. Paul, MN 55106, 651-772-2253, www.moundstheatre.org.

For more information about the Dayton's Bluff Seniors Living at Home/Block Nurse program, call 651-793-1542 for more information.

Peace vigils to resume in April
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You can find Eastside Neighbors for Peace on Facebook.

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You can find Eastside Neighbors for Peace on Facebook.
Marcha por los derechos de los inmigrantes
1ro de mayo

El Comité de Artes y Culturas del Consejo Comunitario de Dayton’s Bluff está respaldando la Marcha por los derechos de los inmigrantes este año. Es una organización de varias en una amplia coalición que apoya los derechos de los inmigrantes y todos los trabajadores. La marcha se llevará a cabo el martes, 1ro de mayo, Día Internacional del Trabajador. La Coalición Primero de Mayo también incluye el Comité por los Derechos de los Inmigrantes (MIRAc), Centro por la Tierra, Energía y Democracia (CEED), Centro de Trabajadores Unidos en la Lucha (CTUL), Comité Salvadoreño de Minnesota, y Mujeres en Liderazgo. La marcha empezará en Lake Street y Nicollet Avenue en el sur de Minneapolis a las 3:30 pm. Si quiere ir juntos con vecinos del barrio, llámale a Kelly Lundeen en 715-933-1941.

Más información aquí: www.mirac1.wordpress.com

March for Immigrant Rights May 1

The Arts and Cultures Committee of Dayton’s Bluff Community Council is endorseing the March for Immigrant Rights this year. It is one of several organizations in a broad coalition that supports immigrants and all workers’ rights which will take place on Tuesday, May 1st, International Worker’s Day. The May 1st Coalition includes Minnesota Immigrant Rights Action Committee (MIRAc), Center for Earth, Energy and Democracy (CEED), Center of Workers United in Struggle (CTUL), Comité Salvadoreño de Minnesota, and Mujeres en Liderazgo. The march will start on Lake Street and Nicollet Avenue in South Minneapolis at 3:30 pm. If you would like to accompany neighbors from the East side, call Kelly Lundeen at (715) 933-1941.

For more information: www.mirac1.wordpress.com

A boisterous buffet of beetle burgers

by Treve Cymbal – Special to the Forum

Remember the swarm of Japanese Beetles that devastated a lot of St. Paul plants last summer? As may of you already know, this swarm of the invasive species has a voracious appetite. At first they were focusing in on roses, but showed that they were just as apt to feast on grape vines and eventually even trees. If your yards have been hit by these hungry insects, it’s your chance to fight—or perhaps the word should be “bite” – back.

An anthropologist from Metropolitan State University has discovered that these pests have been used as food by at least one indigenous group in Asia. “The Ainu of Japan consider the insects as a delicacy and they ap pear in much of their cuisine.”

Metro State is also currently researching the culinary possibilities of Emerald Ash Borers.

A taste test has been held at the local college using several historic recipes and it has been determined that while this kind of food seems unusual to western tongues, the Japanese Beetles are quite edible. “When prepared properly they are a crunchy, tangy and really tasty,” one student said.

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Wind generator design finalized

by Craig Go Simminy – Special to the Forum

April 1, 2012 – After a series of contentious discussions, a design for the new Metro State University wind generator to be built in Dayton’s Bluff has been finalized.

“Getting a design acceptable to all the groups involved wasn’t easy,” said a spokesperson for the city of Saint Paul.”what with environmentalists, historic preservationists, code inspectors, engineers, members of Occupy Dayton’s Bluff, and even some real people all putting in their two cents worth.”

That may be the understatement of the century, as anyone who has viewed the YouTube videos from some of the meetings can attest.

What they came up with was a tried and true design of European origin. The wind generator will blend in with the architecture of the neighborhood, is relatively quiet, bird-friendly, and could become a major tourist attraction if anyone decides to build a miniature golf course around it.

An engineer on the project stated, “This is what happens when something is designed by committee. Let’s put it this way. It will barely generate enough electricity to operate a flashlight but it does position Dayton’s Bluff to meet the demands of the 18th century should there ever be a need around here to pump water or grind corn. You’ve got to see this thing to believe it.”

The readers are asked to do just that. Please look at the photo accompanying this article and ask yourself, “Would I want a thing like that in my backyard?” Call or email one of your elected officials and tell them what you think about it before construction begins on April 1.
Dayton's Bluff Spring Dinner

Want to get to know folks and connect with people in our area? It’s our annual neighborhood party that moves from location to location! We are looking for participants, including hosts and homes to be our buffet dining sites. Typically, the evening is divided into three events: appetizers, deserts, plus one home for the all-participant presentation that is the finale. The first dinner was held about 18 years ago with about a dozen people attending and since then, this event has become very popular! Now we have about 50+ people participate.

Whether you are a long-time resident or a newcomer to Dayton’s Bluff, your participation is necessary for the event to take shape and make it the vibrant affair that it has become. It’s a great way to meet, greet and mingle with your neighbors!

The Dayton’s Bluff Spring Dinner will be held on Saturday, May 19. Participants should be 21 years and up and a resident of the Dayton’s Bluff neighborhood. Interested? Contact Marjorie Smith, event coordinator, at 651-778-1075.

Small business classes
The Dayton’s Bluff Neighborhood Microentrepreneur Program is taking applications for the spring 2012 class, which will start in May. The program helps start-up and young businesses; all East Side entrepreneurs are welcome. The Dayton’s Bluff Community Council and the Neighborhood Development Center have been two such hosting microentrepreneur classes each year since 1993.

Classroom training lasts ten weeks and includes topics such as operations management, marketing, financial management, how to create a successful business and how to prepare a business plan. In addition, each student will have eight hours of one-on-one time with the instructor to work on individual business concepts. Throughout the process, the class complete the course and locate their businesses in target neighborhoods are eligible for ongoing business support services.

The registration fee is based on a sliding scale. Class size is limited, so don’t wait to apply. For an application, email karin@daytonsbuffl.org or call her at 651-772-2075.

Meet the police
The Eastern District Police hosts its monthly meetings for community members at 722 Payne Avenue at the corner of Minnehaha Avenue.

The next meetings are on Friday, April 20, at 9:30 am, and Wednesdays, April 18, at 6:30 pm. The meetings are intended to listen to and address concerns about crime and other issues on the east side.

Swedehollow@gmail.com or call 651-276-1579 or mchandler@gmcc.org. Questions? Visit www.paintathon.gmcc.org. For a flyer and application, please download at http://www.parks.org/parks/environment (registration is required, but is preferred). Each spring, approximately 1,000 volunteer community volunteers unite to remove tons of trash from St. Paul’s parks, natural areas, recreation centers, and neighborhoods. This important event helps ensure the beauty, safety and environmental health of St. Paul.

Volunteers pick up their supplies at one of four Kickoff Celebrations across the city or email karin@daytonsbuffl.org or call 651-772-2075 before April 10 and she will pick up the supplies for you.

Gardening Workshop
“The Dos and Don’ts of Buying Plants and Seeds On Line” Learn how to make the right choices when purchasing plants and seeds on line. Tuesday April 10 at 6:30 pm at 798 East 7th Street. Email karin@daytonsbuffl.org or call Karin at 651-772-2075 to register.

Metro Paint-A-Thon
Is your house screaming for a new paint job? The Metro Paint-A-Thon is here again to help senior citizens and people with physical disabilities in order to continue to live independently in their own homes. No matter what the challenges, they are committed to providing the same superior-quality service, FREE of charge to eligible homeowners in Metro area. The Metro Paint-A-Thon scraped, primed and painted around 150 houses each year.

To get an application for yourself or for a neighbor, please download at www.paintathon.gmcc.org. Questions? Please contact Misty Chandler, 612-276-1579 or michardien@gmcc.org.

Monthly Community Meeting
The next Dayton’s Bluff council meeting is on Tuesday, April 5, from 6:30 - 8 pm at the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council office, 798 E. 7th Street.

The council meeting is open to the public. Dinner and business meeting are starting at 6:30 pm. We look forward to seeing you.

Do you blog about Dayton’s Bluff?
When: Saturday, April 7, at 2 pm Where: Indian Mounds Park; Egg Hunt will be at the pavilion located at the end of Earl Street. Who: One area for children six years of age and younger and separate area for 7- to 12-year-olds. Sponsored by Mounds Park UMC Venture Crew and Youth Group.

Please also join us for worship on Easter Sunday, April 8, at 10:30 am at Mounds Park United Methodist Church, 1049 Euclid Street. Children will carry eggs up to the altar at the beginning of the service. All are welcome.
**Call for artists**
by Karin DuPaul, DBCC Community Organizer

Art in the Hollow will be June 2, starting at 10 am in Swede Hollow Park. Enter from Payne and Beaumont east to Drewry Lane. Artists and performing artists are welcome to apply at www.artinthehollow.org and find us at www.facebook.com/artinthehollow.

Swede Hollow Park – just a mile from downtown St. Paul – feels 100 years away.

This, the first neighborhood in St. Paul’s immigrant history, lies languorously all spring waiting to bloom in June with open air artists and performers. Our tradition of nurturing and showcasing local talent continues with the honor of premiering award-winning composer Ann Millikan’s (www.annmillikan.com) 40-minute opera. Weaving back and forth through time in sound and song, “SWEDE HOLLOW” unfolds an original musical perspective of Mexican, Italian and Swedish lives on the land that holds their memories.

Free and open to all artists and audience alike, this event – guided by Friends of Swede Hollow and its Advisory Panel – showcases emerging and established artists living in and representing past and current cultural communities. Visual artists continue a rich Swede Hollow tradition of painting Plein Air – in the open air – alongside a panoply of media ranging from sculptors and weavers to glassblowers and photographers. On-site creation is our goal: Artists in Action! The result. Throughout the day on stage, Hmong and Native Dancers, Italian accordionists, Mexican Mariachis, and Swedish fiddlers are joined by African-American R & B, American Bluegrass music, and Hmong spoken-word poets. Audiences have come down to discover a deeper beauty, finding art at its roots.

Art in the Hollow is sponsored by: Friends of Swede Hollow, University Bank, Metropolitan Regional Arts Council though the Arts and Legacy Grant Fund, local business and individuals. All ages are welcome; it is FREE and handicapped-accessible. For more information contact Romi Slowiak, Project Manager at Romi@artinthehollow.org or 763-913-4382.

**Vacant Home Tour**

Are you concerned about vacant homes on your block, on your street and in your neighborhood? A group of neighbors are too and are doing something about it! On Sunday, May 6, from 1 - 5 pm, the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council’s Vacant Building Committee is hosting the 2012 Dayton’s Bluff Vacant Home Tour.

The purpose of the tour is to let potential home owners know about the opportunities that exist to acquire and restore a home in the community of Dayton’s Bluff. The Vacant Building Committee is working with the City of St. Paul, the St. Paul Area Association of Realtors, area housing advocates and Dayton’s Bluff Neighborhood Ambassadors. However, to ensure a successful 2012 Dayton’s Bluff Vacant Home Tour, we need your help:

- Identify a vacant home on your block that could be restored and would be appropriate for the 2012 Dayton’s Bluff Vacant Home Tour.
- Represent the Dayton’s Bluff Neighborhood at the 2012 Dayton’s Bluff Vacant Home Tour.

**Art Open fundraiser**

by Tabitha Benci DeRango

Every once in a while an idea forms itself into sheer brilliance! Whether in art or in life!

Come and explore with us and help send Emma Wunrow to her dream art school, The Rhode Island School of Design (RISD).

Emma is my neighbor. She has lived in the Dayton’s Bluff area all her life. She has been a wonderful presence for us since we moved into the community over eight years ago. Please join us and explore Emma’s and other youth artists’ works. Have a mocktail and purchase some art for yourself and for gifts for others. You will be promoting the dream of this young girl and you’ll have a treasured piece of art.

April 13 is the day, and 5 to 9 pm is the time.

Emma is special to us because she has formed lasting bonds with many children in our community, including my own. She has volunteered her time and used her skills to paint a mural at a home for battered women and children. She has also recently completed a mural of a whomeping willow in my daughter’s room that will be on display at the sale.

She attended the Perpich Center for Arts Education in her last two years of high school. Her art career started there. Perpich pushed Emma to develop a diverse portfolio of works in mediums including acrylic, oil, graphite, and charcoal. That portfolio earned her an acceptance letter from RISD, one of the country’s top art schools. Her studies include portraits and self-portraits. She has also produced landscapes, still lifes, and surrealism.

The sale will be held at the DeRango residence (la art gallery for the evening), located directly across from St. John’s Catholic Church on 5th Street East.

We look forward to seeing you.

**Instead of watching TV, make TV!**

If you have the desire to produce television to express yourself, to get your point across, to help your neighbors, or to change your community for the better, we can help!

**Mounds Park Barber Stylists**

Appointments available

1043 Hudson Road Saint Paul, MN 55106

(651) 771-0980

Kerry Lee
One of the first things I discovered in the April 1912 issues of the Daily News is that things that groups today think are new ideas have been around for a long time. Take the page that Bluff’s Own Garden Club. They were a charitable group that promoted the growing plants in backyards, schools and plots around the city. Their focus was on “practical vegetable gardens” and they already had found “a number of lots” in Dayton’s Bluff and other areas and had raised money to give out free seeds. Some of the groups getting the seeds included the Old People’s Home, the Detention Home for Boys and the local Home for the Friendless—I still am amazed at that last name was ever used. They also wanted to help out what they called “the worthy poor.”

There was a difference back then. They limited their search for gardening sites to vacant lots and unlike some of the groups today, did not press the St. Paul Parks Department to allow “privatizing” of city parks for personal use of public land. It might be interesting to jump forward to the paper and see how the program worked out.

At least one community was developed in the Spring of 1912. The paper reported that a new “temporary detention” home for girls at 665 East 7th Street was getting ready for its opening. The Juvenile Court Committee of The Guild of Catholic Women was keeping a close look at the institution.

They wanted to get a teacher and school equipment just like the boys’ home had. Looks like there was some gender discrimination at the time. The Guild committed some of its efforts to sewing circles for the Catholic girls who lived there. I did mention, however, that there was a Protestant and Jewish organization they would look after the needs of others. I wonder if similar groups tend to the need of incarcerated girls today?

Two weeks later it was announced that Mack had been freed since no one had disputed the fifty dollar fine. He pitched for them for two years, but at the time the 31-year-old died in April.

A third event in early April, which the paper referred to as “a neighborhood crime” was gone, the car turned up abandoned in front of the Viceroy Café at 7 downtown streets and many times faced what appeared to be four or five Darth Vader's who appeared ready to lunge at me given the slightest threat. It’ll probably happen again in my lifetime. However, at our last class session was an officer who showed us why he chose this profession. Like so many, though certainly, not all, he wears the blue because he wanted to make a positive difference in people’s lives. I am glad to say I have met many, many St. Paul police who make a positive difference in people’s lives. I also didn’t want to ignore them as a source of historical information, in this case on rental property. Here’s an example of local ads in the April 13, 1912 issue of the Daily News. “Flat—upper duplex; just re-modeled; modern except heat; walking distance. Key at 361 Maria,” one of them.

Several other locations were a little outside “walking distance.” “A nice bright front room, upstairs flat, modern except heat, walking distance. Key at 361 Maria,” one of them.

Two other locations were a little outside “walking distance.” “A nice bright front bedroom, everything modern, use of telephone, $8 per month; also small front bedroom, same as above $6 per month. 964 Hastings.” The other stated “Four rooms, upstairs flat, modern except heat, walking distance. Key at 361 Maria.”

Once again the “modern” except for heat. I’m not sure what that meant. Any ideas, readers?

Like today, obituaries were a part of local newspaper. Unless you were “important” the notices were short. One caught my eye and I did a little extra research. It concerned Henry Gehring’s death from uraemic poisoning. I looked that up and it was defined as an illness accompanying kidney failure. A baseball almanac revealed that Gehring was 26 years old when he broke into the big leagues on July 16, 1907 with the Washington Senators.

The other death of note was that of Andrew Stolpestad of 406 Maple. The prominent real estate agent died of pneumonia on April 9, 1912. As was traditional a concerned Henry Gehring’s death from uraemic poisoning. I looked that up and it was defined as an illness accompanying kidney failure. A baseball almanac revealed that Gehring was 26 years old when he broke into the big leagues on July 16, 1907 with the Washington Senators.

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Meet the Editor: Meg Gronau

"I have always loved to write," says Meg Gronau, Editor of the Dayton’s Bluff District Forum. "I even try to have fun writing the grocery list!"

Writing is how Meg became involved with the Forum. Back in 2008, she was attending and volunteering at ECFE at Dayton’s Bluff, and wrote a Forum article about retiring ECFE parent educator Mary Ann Cogelow.

“It sort of snowballed from there,” Meg said. “Beloved teachers kept retiring, and I kept writing about them for the Forum. When I saw the opening for an editor, I thought it might be something I could do.”

Meg wrote and edited for her high school and college newspapers. She grew up in a suburb of Chicago and attended Winona State University, where she graduated with a degree in Mass Communications and met her husband, Joel. After graduation Meg wrote marketing copy for the Spiegel catalog. Consumers Digest, and Liberty Check Printing Company, while also working at project management and editing.

In 2000 Meg got a job coaching the Spring Lake Park High School dance line and she and Joel moved from Chicagoland to St. Paul. In 2001 they bought their house on the East Side. Meg loves to dance and has a lot of experience teaching it. She choreographs and teaches ballet, tap, jazz, and hip hop; musical theatre and show choir; and swing, Latin and ballroom dancing. She currently teaches for Mayer Arts and Ashland Productions. She and Joel also have two young children.

But that is not all – last year Meg decided to try out for the Minnesota RollerGirls’ roller derby. And, yes, she made it. She loves the exercise and the competition.

She has been with the Forum now for a full year, and we are very pleased to have her. So let’s keep her busy with the ads and stories of Dayton’s Bluff!

Dayton’s Bluff District Forum

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Greg Cosimini, Karin DuPaul, Carla Riehle and Steve Trimble
Editor and Layout: Meg Gronau
Interns: Mark Gallagher and Danny Evans


First and 50 on the Bluff

Jim Rasmussen of Bates Avenue writes:
I was cleaning my attic when I came across an old picture of when I played Pee Wee football for Bluff playground. I think the picture is from around 1961 or 1962. People just love the picture, if for nothing else than the gas station in the background with the 27-cents-a-gallon sign. I am unable to remember everyone’s name in the picture, but it would be fun to have a campaign to name everyone in it.

Here’s who Jim remembers: front row, left to right: Don Henderson, Chopper Black, Jim Rasmussen, Randy Yanis, Jim Humphry, Dave ?, ?, Klaus Kruchek; back row: ?, Joe Magnuson, Junior Stack, Bob Connolly, Gordie ?, and the last four are unidentified. Readers, do you recognize any faces? A larger image is posted on the Forum facebook page.
Email Jim at lesjames@comcast.net; perhaps a reunion is in order.

Where in Dayton’s Bluff?

The photo at left must’ve been quite a stumper; it remained unidentified by Forum readers. It’s at 971 4th Street.

So let’s try this again! Can you identify the photo at right? The Forum regrets our lack of color or capability, but we assure you that, in real life, the image is bright with primary colors.

Can you find it in Dayton’s Bluff? Submit your answer to editor@daytonsbluff.org by midnight on April 10 for the chance to win a pack of postcards.