Dayton's Bluff Community Council invites all residents to participate in the first of a series of conversations about issues of importance in the neighborhood:

Housing Forum

Tuesday, June 5, 6:00 – 8:00 pm
Dinner Served 6:00 pm
Dayton’s Bluff Rec Center, 800 Conway Street

Call 651-772-2075 and leave a message telling us how many adults and children you plan to bring to supper so we know how much food to order.

We want to hear your thoughts on QUALITY HOUSING FOR ALL.
Help form our community vision and shape housing strategies in Dayton’s Bluff.

Dayton’s Bluff Community Council
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Make it Happen on East 7th Street is a strategic initiative designed to jump-start revitalization and economic growth in the Dayton’s Bluff “main street” business district and create a vibrant neighborhood center and a regional destination on St. Paul’s East side. Through this project, we will:

• Encourage the location of new businesses that serve critical market needs
• Promote investment in the rehabilitation of existing buildings and businesses
• Advocate for pedestrian-friendly streetscape improvements, transportation enhancements and the integration of green space in all developments.

“Establishing and sustaining a healthy commercial corridor that serves the needs of residents and the surrounding region is an important goal of the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council.”
– Deanna Foster, Executive Director, Dayton’s Bluff Community Council

MARCH 2012
Volume 25, No. 4
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June 2012

Dayton’s Bluff Community Council
invites all residents that serve critical market needs

3rd Annual Art in the Hollow

Art in the Hollow is June 2 in Swede Hollow Park, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. The attractions include:

• LIVE ACTION ART: 50 artists (including—and produced by—parrots) demonstrating & selling original work. Featuring Felse Amato, Jerome Foundation Grant recipient, who is currently working on a Swede Hollow project.
• LEARN ABOUT the history of Swede Hollow. City Academy students bring six characters to life in a half-hour video, running continuously.
• EXPERIENCE performers: 10:00 am: Mariachi Band; 11:00 am: Kids’ Sing-Along; 11:30 am: Hawaiian Hula; 12:00 noon: Aztec Dancers; 12:30 pm: Mounds Indian Tag-Tag Dancers; 1:30 pm: Cambodian Orchestra; 2:00 pm: Chasing Clarence (50k/jazz); 3:00 pm: Korean Drum Troupe; 4:00 pm: “Swede Hollow,” the Opera World Premiere, created by acclaimed composer Ann Millikan and directed by Scotty Reynolds, head of Mixed Precipitation, the group that has featured the picnic operettas.

The best way to enter Swede Hollow is through the Dreyer Tunnel, which is one block south of Payne and Mimmehaha Avenue at Beaumont and Dreyer Lane.
Other entrances are the long stairway from Bates Avenue and Maury Street, or walk or ride your bike along the Bruce Vento Regional Trail to Swede Hollow.
Everyone is welcome to this community arts festival. For more information check out Facebook: ArtintheHollow, or call 651-772-0550.

Dayton’s Bluff Community Council applies for $500,000 to upgrade East 7th Business District

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

The Dayton’s Bluff Community Council has applied to the City of St. Paul’s Neighborhood Sales Tax Revitalization (STAR) large loan/grant program to provide monetary incentives for business owners to invest in buildings and capital improvements. A $500,000 STAR investment on East 7th Street will demonstrate the city’s commitment to the area business owners and increase their interest, expectation and engagement. All city funding requires a 1:1 match of private investment dollars, making this a $1,000,000 investment in this important Dayton’s Bluff business district. The availability of such a significant investment in a targeted area will create a flurry of simultaneous and strategically coordinated investments that will decisively impact the economic future of the district.

A March 2012 marketing study shows that Dayton’s Bluff annually has $15 million in unmet demand for food/drink and $11 million in unmet demand for general merchandise. Market research supports our premise that significant demand exists for local business growth, which is currently stifled by severe lack of capital investment. One important tool in successful local economic development strategies is significant and targeted public investment paired with motivated private investors. The result can be transformative – bringing new businesses, with local and regional customers, to strengthen the sense of pride and opportunity on the Eastside.

The Million will Make it Happen on East 7th Street Program, funded through Neighborhood STAR, will promote change in a strategic and meaningful way that improves the bottom line of local businesses and creates a very visible positive change for the entire community. The goals of the loan/grant program are to:

1) Support local business ownership of properties
2) Enhance visual appeal of building facades
3) Upgrade interiors to ensure retention of current businesses and attraction of new businesses
4) Improve business signage for visibility and esthetics

(See MILLION on page 3)
Upcoming Events and Opportunities

Monthly community meeting

The next Dayton’s Bluff community meeting is Thursday, June 1, from 6:30-8:00 pm at the Dayton's Bluff Community Council office, 798 East 7th Street. The council holds a community meeting on the first Thursday of most months. The object is to work on community-building, as well as problem properties, criminal and nuisance behavior, code enforcement issues and any other issues, concerns or good things going on in the Bluff.

When you attend the June and July meetings, you can register for a 4 CH DVR Camera Surveillance System drawing that will occur in July.

If addresses of problem properties are submitted before the meeting, they will be sent to police and code enforcement officers who will research the properties and bring relevant information to the meeting. All Dayton’s Bluff residents are welcome to attend. Contact karin@daytonsbluff.org or 651-772-2075.

Donate your junk car

Budget Towing of Minnesota will remove your junker and dispose of it at no charge to you. The vehicle owner receives a tax deduction, and the vehicle owner/guardian will make a variety of beads! Class begins Tuesday, June 19 at 6:30 pm.
The KEYS Project is coming to Dayton's Bluff
by Raccaun Rath

The KEYS Summer Program at the Historic Mounds Theatre is a five-week theatrical extravaganza for youth in grades six through 11 that offers experience in all aspects of theatrical production. Students will learn the basics of scene creation, costume, make-up, and sound and light engineering. Sessions run Monday through Thursday from 8:30 am-1:00 pm.

For $60, your child will be led on an enchanted journey through everything “Theatre” including improv and dance. Scholarships are available. Free breakfast and lunch will be served daily.

The program begins July 9 and runs Monday-Thursday until August 9, with a community performance on Saturday, August 11 at 6:00 pm.

Application deadline is Friday, June 22. To register for summer camp, go to the KEYS website: www.mounds theatreh.org/YouthTheatre.html. Or call for a registration form at 651-772-8674.

Neighborhood News

What’s happening in our neighborhood? Submit your own news at editor@dayton bluff.org

Dayton’s Bluff Community Forums

The Dayton's Bluff Community Council is planning a series of community conversations around issues that impact everyone who lives, works and does business in Dayton’s Bluff. As a community, together we can define the core values that will shape our future. The differences among us add to the creative quality of ideas and strategies; the shared values we hold motivate our common action. Together we can continue to enrich the quality of life for everyone in Dayton’s Bluff.

The first of the series’ topics will be Housing, followed by such conversations as Transportation; Commercial Opportunity; Green Space Amenities; Healthy Living, etc. The Council will sponsor the Forums around issues that are determined to be high-interest and -impact for the neighborhood’s future.

Housing is a very important issue for Dayton’s Bluff. It is hard to ignore the regular news stories about housing challenges all across our country. But what’s the truth about the housing situation here in Dayton’s Bluff? How are housing issues affecting our schools, our neighbors, and our community? How can we create a strategic housing plan that ensures a strong, vibrant future for Dayton’s Bluff?

Help us begin a community conversation around housing. Get an update on the current status of housing in Dayton’s Bluff. Hear personal stories about the impact of housing issues on our schools and neighbors.

Join us at the Housing Forum Tuesday, June 5, 6:00-8:00 pm at the Dayton’s Bluff Rec Center, 800 Conway Street.

A free dinner will be served at 6:00 pm; please call 651-772-2075 to reserve your spot. Then join the conversation by sharing the core values which you think should help shape future housing strategies for Dayton’s Bluff.

Spaghetti and music for senior benefit

On April 21, the Dayton’s Bluff Seniors raised funds with a spaghetti dinner and the band, The May North, entertaining at First Lutheran Church.

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by Raeacun Rath

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“Joe Hill” premiers at the Mounds Theatre

The Rosemount Players, in collaboration with the Historic Mounds Theater, presents a Rosemount Area Arts Council production of “The Murdered Minstrel of Toil: The Joe Hill Story,” written and directed by Keith Reed. This is the world premiere of an original play: a dramatization of the life of Joe Hill, an early 20th-century labor activist, who reached the laborers through song. Framed for murder, he was executed in Utah in 1915.

When: June 15, 16, 22 and 23rd at 7:30 pm

June 17 and 24 at 2:00 pm

Tickets: $14.00

*Saturday, June 23 is a “pay-as-you-are-able” performance.

Where:
The Historic Mounds Theatre, 1029 Hudson Road, St. Paul, MN 55106

One very basic right we have always enjoyed in this country has been the right to work. Unemployment is high; while progress is being made, this extended period of high joblessness is accompanied by a very tenuous political situation, both at the state and the national level. No one wants to take responsibility; everyone wants to lay blame. Suffering the brunt of this is the unemployed worker.

Forgotten, indeed in many cases considered a pariah, is the labor movement. Terms such as “inflated union wages,” “protected employment,” and “obscene union benefits” are used as taglines by some to describe why the state of the economy is where it is today. Forgotten, of course, are the contributions unions have made over the past 150 years, which have led to safer working conditions, institution of child labor laws, fewer hours a person must work to maintain a living standard, and higher wages for all.

Sometimes, people need to be reminded of the sacrifices and contributions made by those who helped bring these changes about. That is the purpose of this project.
Turning lives 180 Degrees
by Sherry Johnson, special to the Forum
180 Degrees, a company that assists adults and youth to transition out of the justice system, moved into the old Martin Lumber building on 7th Street and Johnson Parkway last November with leadership planning to develop the site to better accommodate and expand their many programs.

The 180 Degrees main building largely houses counseling and employment programs for offenders and their families, according to their guiding principle: “Turning lives around to ensure safer communities.” Case managers, job trainers, counselors, and mentors from the community come alongside ex-offenders—as well as those at risk for entering the juvenile justice system—to help them make healthy lifestyle changes and find success. Their Juvenile Delinquency Unit seeks to reduce the number and the length of out-of-home placements, ensuring their continuing connection to family and community supports, and encouraging adaptation to healthy lifestyles within their contexts. Their juvenile recidivism rate in 2005 indicated that 80% of program participants did not re-offend.

“I will be involved in the community we serve, as I have been all my life, leading by example in building a safer society by helping offenders rebuild successful lives,” CEO Richard Gardell wrote when he joined the organization in 2006, after retiring from his position as Assistant Chief of the St. Paul Police Department. 180 Degrees chose its East Side location with an eye on serving the community, as well as connecting more easily with its East Side clients. According to Sarah Walker, Chief Operating Officer, there seemed to be a dearth of transitional services for clients in the justice system on the East Side.

Walker described many “community members stopping by” in welcome.

Gardell said that 180 Degrees “plans on being here for the next 100 years.” Dayton’s Bluff will see major improvements to the former Martin site. Plans call for a local eyesore—Building 1—to be razed to make way for newly constructed office and program space. On their wish list for the new building is a youth crisis center, which Walker cited as a huge need in Ramsey County.

Gardell was proud to say that “We’re raising funds as we go,” explaining the importance of sustainable growth. When funds allow, a parking access would be built between the two main buildings, and perhaps a greenspace on what is now the “dustbowl” of English Street—currently a gravelly mess that serves as an alley. The old Martin office would house a wood shop for teaching building trades to ex-offenders. An urban raised garden would engage juvenile ex-offenders in gardening and healthy eating, while an indoor recreation area will provide continuing opportunities to play year-round sports, which is good news for their championship basketball team. Other spaces will potentially house retail storage for the public.

Already, nearby resident Heidi Graff has seen positive change in the neighborhood. Before 180 Degrees moved in, the vacant site drew “a lot of traffic, violence, a lot of bad things…Now there’s less traffic; kids can play outside without a problem.” Dayton’s Bluff residents can get involved with 180 Degrees by applying for training if they’d like to join their volunteer mentorship program. Neighbors can support their effort to green up English Street by signing an upcoming petition.

Alternatively, 180 Degrees takes an activist role in affiliating with the Minnesota Second Chance Coalition. According to their website, the coalition advocates “for fair and responsible laws, policies, and practices that allow those who have committed crimes to redeem themselves, fully support themselves and their families, and contribute to their communities to their full potential.”
**Vacant Home Tour a Success**

On Sunday, May 6, visitors flooded into the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council meeting room at 1:00 pm, anxious to see the vacant homes on the tour. The bus was full and off they went to see the homes. Just as they were on the Minneapolis/St. Paul tour, the three Marpe Development homes at 868 Fremont, 336 Maple, and 314 Bates were favorites. Because of the beautiful job of restoration on them, 868 Fremont and 336 Maple have sold, and 314 Bates has a pending offer on it. At last report, two other homes featured on the tour have very interested parties looking at them.

The Dayton’s Bluff Vacant Building Committee’s vacant home tours have been very helpful in getting new families into the homes. The committee will be evaluating the tour to look at the possibility of holding another one in the fall or next spring. Thank you to everyone who helped make the Vacant Home Tour a wonderful success. The Vacant Building Committee is looking for new members. If you are interested email Karin at kartin@dayton bluff.org.
Alex Bajwa – Champion of Dayton’s Bluff

Dayton’s Bluff is a cornerstone for the city of St. Paul. It takes great people to run and live in this community to make it successful. Alex Bajwa, a member of Dayton’s Bluff Community Council, loves this community and is glad that he is a member of this historic area.

Alex is passionate about his community and likes “the unique and local businesses and the diverse area. It is beautiful, and easy to get to downtown, and it is the hidden jewel of St. Paul.”

He went on to talk about how he came to live in the community he loves so much. “I met my wife, and she already lived over there. We got married, and she owned a house. So we moved there.”

Next Alex discussed what he would like to work on as a board member of the DBCC. “I am excited about... Make It Happen on 7th Street.” He also wants to bring small businesses back to the East Side. “I want to help with marketing and other improvements; I really desire to work on things that really make a community look good.”

Finally, Alex talked about what he would like Dayton’s Bluff to be like in the coming years. “I would like it to retain the character is has. I would like it to be known that it is a great place to live, to do business, and to play.”

Whether you do business in Dayton’s Bluff or live there, you will realize that it is a great place to be, and Alex Bajwa knows this well.

Raising up Dayton’s Bluff: Tabitha DeRango

Dayton’s Bluff is a community filled with history and culture. People of many different ethnicities inhabit this great neighborhood. There are numerous diverse places that are open for business including churches, schools, restaurants, and many more. Also in Dayton’s Bluff are members of the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council who love this area of St. Paul and desire to make a difference here. One of those council members is Tabitha DeRango, who adores Dayton’s Bluff.

When asked what she liked most about Dayton’s Bluff and why she moved her, Tabitha declared, “I chose to move to Dayton’s Bluff because it’s close to the city. It has a great art culture. I picked St. Paul because of the old world style and the history of the neighborhood. I love the community feel. There are dedicated people who want to make the community better. It is a big city but doesn’t feel like a big city.”

Tabitha also discussed how she opened a daycare in her house entitled Bluffside Daycare. She opened her business in 2004 and was able to stay at home and still raise her children. Tabitha said, “I decided to close the business because I decided to switch careers to community organizing and development.”

Later Tabitha talked about why she wanted to be on the community council and what things she would like to work on as a board member of the DBCC. She stated, “I feel invested in my community and make good decisions in my community. I had already worked with several areas of the council and wanted to get more involved. I am involved with the marketing and communications committee, arts and culture committee, and I keep informed about what all the committees are doing. I tend to get involved with event planning for the community.”

Tabitha discussed what she would like to see Dayton’s Bluff be like in the next several years. “We are working on the Make it Happen on East 7th initiative. I would like to grow and revitalize this business district. In addition I would like to have pedestrians using it. I also desire for Dayton’s Bluff citizens to have access to services locally. There should also be beautification before 2015,” she said.

From running a daycare to being a member of the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council, she is making a difference in this great community. Besides raising her children, she is also raising the neighborhood of Dayton’s Bluff.
Remembering Walter “Moose” Moryn

The Minnesota Twins are obviously not having a memorable start this year. It makes a person want to look back in the past to find some better baseball times. That’s what I’ve done. While researching the story of Henry Gehring in the last issue of the Forum, I ran across yet another great athlete who once lived in Dayton’s Bluff and hoped for the best.

His name was Walter Joseph Moryn and he was born on April 12, 1926. Walter’s father, Edward, the son of Russian immigrants, was born in St. Paul and earned a living working for the Omaha Railroad Company. Walter’s mother, Sophie Dwuznik, was also born in St. Paul to parents who had emigrated from Poland. She was working in a meat packing plant when she met and married Edward Moryn.

By the time Walter was around five years old, they family moved from the West Side to 1058 Hastings (today’s Old Hudson Road) where the family lived for many years above the Johnson Grocery store. One author mentioned that he played baseball on a St John’s baseball team, but there is both a Catholic and a Lutheran church with that name in Dayton’s Bluff.

I turned to Greg Cosimini, unofficial historian of St. John’s Catholic Church, to check out their archives. He found records showing that the first communion of Walter and his sister Mary Jane occurred on May 26, 1935 and that they were definitely members of the congregation.

Mary Jane said in an interview that as Walt grew up “baseball was his love” and “he’d sneak out of the house to play.” She added that “even I would even play with them when they needed players.” While she concentrated on her homework, Walter wasn’t really interested in academics.

I thought that Walter may have gone to Harding High School, formerly at the nearby corner of 5th and Earl Streets. So I was off to the school’s present location to see what I could find. I knew that he had gone into the Navy at the end of World War II and there, in the 1944 school yearbook, was Moryn’s senior portrait.

The annual included a bit of information about the Dayton’s Bluff resident. The Brooklyn Dodgers, then in Minneapolis, signed him as a 16 year old. His nickname was “pole,” his favorite food was T-bone steak; a frequently-quoted phrase of his was “that’s the way.” His hobbies were sports; he “likes to dance, skate,ike and swim,” and “enjoys listening to Red Skelton.”

The 1944 Harding student newspaper The Beacon, archived at the Minnesota Historical Society, was helpful. In February, it showed that Walter was also skillful at basketball: “Wally Moryn, rangy pivot man, leads the Minneapolis Maroons in individual scoring, his value to the team was unquestionable.”

Besides being an outfielder and powerful hitter, “Sonny” (as he was sometimes called) was an accomplished pitcher. He threw right-handed and batted left. In 1944, The Beacon said he “burned up the conference with his spectacular, sturdy arm of ball.”

That year he made St. Paul’s City All Star Team.

A March, 1944 issue had a lengthy laudatory poem, affectionately called “Sonny.” Here are a few stanzas: “You are an athlete with muscles galore/Greeted with cheers as you come through the door/…You are a star in everything you do/…you love the sound of the roaring crowds; as you swat that baseball up through the clouds.”

Still, the paper said in another issue, that in spite of his fame, “he’s rather easy going.”

Walter enlisted in the U.S. Navy even before he had received his 1944 high school diploma. He trained as a gunner’s mate and served more than two years on a World War II ammunition ship in the South Pacific.

When he returned home, Moryn was barely 20 and wasn’t sure what to do. He began taking courses to learn the tool and die trade. He was playing some amateur baseball with the St. John’s church team in an industrial league.

But then he went for a tryout with the Brooklyn Dodgers in St. Paul, where they had their minor league affiliate. He impressed them and they signed him up in their system. Moryn played in the minors and advanced to the point that he was playing full-time with the St. Paul Saints.

One year he had 18 home runs and 50 RBIs with a .301 average in 71 games for the Saints. One writer suggested that “perhaps it was the home cooking; Moryn’s folks had purchased a house on the east side of St. Paul in the Five Corners area, and Walt lived at home during his time there.”

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 earned his only selection to the All-Star team. He finished his career with St. Louis and Pittsburgh and retired in 1961. In eight major league seasons, Moryn played 785 games and hit 101 home runs.

When asked where she is from, Dah Poh sometimes responds, “I’m from the Thailand Refugee Camp.” That’s because, before moving to Dayton’s Bluff two years ago, she spent 10 to 15 years living in the camp. In fact, Dah Poh can’t recall exactly how long she had lived there after escaping her native Burma. “I couldn’t live in Burma because the Burmese soldiers shot the girls,” said Dah Poh. She said she didn’t know any of the girls who were shot, but her family feared enough to make the four-day walk to the Thai border carrying nothing but food for the journey.

Burma has been in the news a lot recently. In December, Secretary of State Hilary Clinton met with the President of Burma (also called Myanmar) to discuss improved relations with the West if democratic reforms continue. Then last month Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Su Kyi’s opposition political party swept parliamentary elections. But in between these landmark events came a smaller headline of great relevance to many new St. Paulites like Dah Poh. “Burma Signs Ceasefire with Karen Rebels.”

The Karen ethnic group (pronounced Kah-rem) has been seeking self-rule in Burma since the country’s independence from Great Britain in 1948. And while the decades-long conflict between the military-ruled government and the Karen may finally be over, the future for many Karen people, like Dah Poh and her family, is in St. Paul. The Karen Organization of Minnesota estimates there are more than 6,000 Karen people now living in Minnesota and says St. Paul has the largest and fastest-growing Karen population in the U.S. (The BBC estimates that around 100,000 Karens are still in refugee camps in Thailand.)

When Dah Poh, her husband Doh Htoo, and their one-year-old daughter settled into a small apartment on Birmingham Street two years ago, they were the only Karen family in the neighborhood. “I felt sad because I did not see people to come visit our family,” said Dah Poh. Their refugee resettlement worker from the International Institute of Minnesota tried to be helpful. Dah Poh remembers, “We didn’t have any food. Case worker brought English food: sugar, salt, rice, oranges, broccoli and other food I never ate. I didn’t know how to cook it.”

In preparation for coming to the U.S., she and her husband received helpful information such as how to buy food and find a job in their new home as well as practical cultural tips. “We learned if you take [too much] pizza and hamburger, you will get fat,” laughs Doh Htoo.

Today, Birmingham Street is full of Karen families. Dah Poh and many of her neighbors spend their days in intensive English classes at the Minnesota Literacy Council. “I want to learn more English. I want to speak very good English. Then I want to get a GED and get a job.”

Her husband has already made the transition from full-time student to full-time employee. Doh Htoo works as a Personal Care Attendant, helping elderly and disabled clients wash clothes, prepare food and bathe. “If we speak English it is easy to go to work,” he notes. “I like this job because it is not too heavy. If we work in pork, beef, or chicken [processing], the work is very heavy.” Some of his neighbors have found work in meat processing facilities like the one in Austin, Minnesota, and spend their work week there, driving home only on the weekends to spend time with their families.

Although Dah Poh and Doh Htoo have accomplished a lot in two years—welcoming new neighbors, finding jobs, and the birth of their second daughter—they still have a lot to learn in order to reach their goal of owning a small transportation company to carry immigrants, like themselves, to important appointments. “I need to learn more about the United States, like manager rules and renter rules,” Dah Htoo emphasized. “And I want to know how to find a cheap car!”
St. John’s former pastor Leo Dolan dies
by Greg Cosimini, Forum staff

Father Leo A. Dolan, pastor of St. John’s Catholic Church from 1986 through 1993, died on March 22, 2012 at the age of 85. As one of many St. John’s pastors of Irish descent, he was proud of his heritage.

Father Dolan had been a priest for nearly 60 years at the time of his death. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1952 and earned a Master’s Degree in Guidance and Counseling in 1964. He was a former Chair- man of the Governor’s Inter-Faith Task Force on Chemical Health, and while at St. John’s also served as Chairman of the Archdiocesan Commission on Chemical Health. Previously he had been a consultant on chemical dependency treatment, the Holy See in Rome.

In keeping with his interest in chemical dependency treatment, Father Dolan established a shrine to Venerable Matt Talbot at St. John’s. It is still there today. Talbot was an Irishman from Dublin who died in 1925. He struggled with alcoholism for many years before finally swearing off alcohol completely and committing himself to a life of sobriety. Although not yet a certified saint of the Catholic Church, Talbot is often thought of as the unofficial patron saint of alcoholics.

He was coming to St. John’s in 1986, Father Dolan had been pastor at two other parishes and taught at schools from elementary through college level, eventually spending eight years at St. Thomas College (now University). He served in rural, suburban, and inner city areas.

One of Father Dolan’s major projects during his time at St. John’s was the renovation of the church sanctuary. During the 1960s, a “temporary” wooden altar table had been installed. Dolan had that removed, and moved the front portion of the original altar forward about six feet, which was not an easy task considering it weighed about 800 pounds. This allowed for the priest saying Mass to face the people and yet preserved the original look of the altar. He also had a temporary lectern re-placed with a more traditional oak pulpit and simplified the sanctuary with new furniture.

Father Dolan was a “friendly” person who always greeted people with a smile and kind words, whether at church, at parish council meetings, on the street, during one of his “Evening with Father” gatherings, at parish potlucks and senior luncheons, or at the local Byerly’s, one of his favorite restaurants.

Archbishop John Neistadt presided over a Mass of Christian burial for Father Dolan at St. John’s on March 27.

The church was filled with dozens of other priests and many friends, relatives, and former parishioners. Father George Weltbach, a former pastor at St. John’s, said a eulogy recalling amusing anecdotes.

Nancy Bagshaw-Reasoner
Never say “can’t”!

by Mark Gallagher, Forum intern

The director of facilities at Metropolitan State University is responsible for all of the mechanical, electrical, heating, and cooling systems at the main university campus—and also coordinates engineers, technicians, and staff to keep those systems running at peak efficiency. No, it is not a job for the faint of heart.

Nancy Bagshaw-Reasoner is the Director of Facilities at Metropolitan State University, St. Paul campus. She was born in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. She went to Syracuse University to get a Journalism degree but ended up with a degree in theater. “I ended up in the theater because the country was fighting the Vietnam War at the time and many people were demonstrating,” Nancy says. “All the political stories were in the street. That’s where the drama was; it became a fusion. I got drawn into the theater, not because I was my high school star—I wasn’t—but because I was so interested in the stories they were telling and the emotion that was being conveyed. So I became an actress; it was a form of activism.”

Nancy came to Minneapolis in 1975 because it was becoming a mecca for small theater. “There was the Cracked Theater, Jungle Theater, and the Mixed Blood Theater—all these American contemporary theaters. I came out for the Guthrie, but I ended up falling in love with the small theater movement here,” Nancy says effusively. “There were actors coming from all over the country and Canada, so I would get into production and meet people from Colorado and Seattle, and make lifelong friendships. It was so vibrant, so wonderful.” She and a friend started a small professional theater here in town called Stage One: Collaboration. It lasted three years.

Nancy did 57 shows in seven years, got married, had two kids, and got burned out! She was doing a lot of commercial voice-overs in addition to producing, directing, and performing, but she wanted to get back to her first love: writing. She ended up writing seven plays that have all been professionally produced; she also wrote for American Public Radio.

Letter to the editor

Last month, the Forum received a lovely note from Harriet H., “a long-time resident of St. Paul’s Lower East Side.” Harriet wrote: “I really enjoy the variety and informa- tional articles regarding the ‘new’ settlery as well as the old. Thanks to all who partici-pate in the publishing of the Forum—long may it continue!”

Thank you, Harriet, for your note and your generous donation to the Forum.

The Forum is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that relies on donations to sustain its operations. Won’t you consider a contribution? Write us at 798 East 7th Street, St. Paul, MN 55106, or email editor@daytonsbluff.org for more information.

Dayton’s Bluff District Forum

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Board of Directors: Greg Cosimini, Karin DaPaul, Carla Riehle, Steve Trimble
Editor and Layout: Meg Gronau
Interns: Mark Gallagher and Danny Evans

New bane on the block
Kincad Boutow welcomed his new brother, Louden, into the world in March. Happy birthday, little brother! 

Photo courtesy of Melanie Boutow.

BLOG ROLL
Quinn Kidd writes about the work he’s doing on his Montana farm at pacific1902.blogspot.com. Do you blog about Dayton’s Bluff? Let us know at editor@daytonsbluff.org.

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