

# Dayton's Bluff District Forum

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www.daytonsbluff.org

"The Voice of the Community"



Photo by Sherry Johnson

White ribbons are tied around trees in Dayton's Bluff, in hopeful solidarity to "stop the bloodshed."

## Two more shootings rock the neighborhood

As gunshots once again echoed in two separate incidents in Dayton's Bluff in mid-October, a 20-year-old mother is dead and a man recovers in the hospital.

About 25 neighbors gathered October 16 to distribute white ribbons to tie around trees, to raise awareness in an attempt to stop the bloodshed.

However, at least one neighbor – who wishes to remain anonymous – reports feeling a sense of fatigue about the continued violence in the neighborhood.

What's your reaction? Email [editor@daytonsbluff.org](mailto:editor@daytonsbluff.org).

### Musings from a neighbor

*This week, there have been two shootings about six blocks from my home. One has been declared a homicide, one sent a man to the hospital but he is expected to survive. The night after the first shooting, there was a neighborhood vigil which was shortly followed by the second shooting, just blocks away. There aren't many details yet released about either shooting, so it is unclear right now whether they are connected in any way. Last night, there was a "stop the bloodshed" rally, and white ribbons were distributed for folks to put on trees at their homes in solidarity.*

*You might be wondering, am I afraid for myself or my family? The answer is no. Sadly, after living in inner city neighborhoods for 20 years, I'm used to hearing these news reports and hearing shots fired nearby. (Though I didn't hear the shots for either of these shootings.)*

*Often, the victims of shootings are not random targets, so that is reassuring to me. Shooters here are generally not trained in gun safety so it could be possible to be hit by a stray bullet or caught in crossfire. The thing is, there's nothing I can do to prevent that except be vigilant and avoid situations that might turn violent. Worrying about what "might" happen won't stop a bullet.*

*Do I have a response to these latest shootings? I'm not surprised. It was reported not long ago that gun crimes in my neighborhood have skyrocketed this year. Mostly, I'm so weary of the problems that I can't even figure out how to begin to identify solutions. Gun laws, anti-gang efforts, better education, stronger families, more police, better prosecution, anti-violence training. I'm not sure what the answer is but I'm just too worn out to try to figure it out.*

## Bluff history in the new *Saint Paul Almanac*

by Steve Trimble

Forum history specialist

The 2013 *Saint Paul Almanac* is now hot off the presses. Many of you may not be familiar with this annual publication, so here's some background. The *Almanac* is a datebook with weekly calendar pages, but it is also filled with poetry, reminiscences and other literature – some from well-known writers and others from everyday folks. There are also photos and artwork. All of the contributions are related to our city.

I help research the St. Paul history dates, quotations and birthdays scattered throughout the publication and I try to make sure that our neighborhood is represented. Here are a few of our local items that appear in the 2013 edition:

The Ladies from the Home for the Friendless were active in St. Paul in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. They gave a steamboat excursion on the Mississippi River as a

fundraiser on December 17, 1870, and on June 29, 1882 they held a strawberry festival to raise money. The group later changed their name to the Protestant Home and settled on East 7<sup>th</sup> Street in Dayton's Bluff in the location that, until recently, housed Cerenity. It will reopen soon under a new name—that, it is hoped, will not include the name "friendless."

The 2013 *Almanac* contains selections from well over half a century ago. On February 8, 1951, a massive gas explosion rocked 3M buildings on the East Side, killing 15 workers. On a happier note: June 20, 1955: Parkway Little League had its initial baseball game. About 200 boys on 12 teams took part that season. Do you have any stories about either event?

There are stories from more recent times. On March 3, 1996, there was an East Side Toy Gun Buy Back program at

seven sites, including Dayton's Bluff. Children received admission coupons to local venues for turning in toy weapons. Did you or someone you know abandon your fake firearm? On: June 20, 2005, the first Mexican consulate in Minnesota opened at 797 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street. There are more dates in the book, but you'll have to find them yourselves.

There are also two fairly lengthy articles focused on Dayton's Bluff. The first is a straight history piece. "Fred H. Bigler Potato Chip Company" was written by Eileen R. Hansen, a retired librarian who lived for many years in St. Paul.

Starting in the 1930s, her family ran a potato chip company at 213 Bates Avenue in our neighborhood. Potatoes were bought from local farmers. Her Aunt Ethel did the peeling and cutting, put the spuds in a vat and her uncle fried them. The chips were dried in netting hung from the ceiling, then salted and packed

into tins.

The company eventually sold to the Old Dutch Potato Chip Company. Eileen ends her story thus: "I loved going to the potato chip factory... I always had lots of freshly made potato chips to eat. And, to this day, I still love potato chips. But today's chips can't compare to those I had back in my childhood."

The second piece is a personal essay titled "Back Again" is by Carol Anne Wall, who describes herself as a mom, a writing teacher and multiple-dog owner. She starts out: "they say that when you leave a place, you leave a piece of yourself behind. Sometimes you get to return to those places." She "drew her first breath" at St John's Hospital at Mounds Boulevard and East 7<sup>th</sup> Street, so even though the family lived in the suburbs she considers herself a "native St. Paulite."

See *Almanac*, continued on page 7.

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For a list of "Make it Happen on East 7<sup>th</sup> Street" businesses and other great businesses in Dayton's Bluff, please turn to the back of this issue (page 8).

### Community meeting

The next Dayton's Bluff community meeting is **Thursday, November 1, from 6:30-8:00 pm** at the Dayton's Bluff Community Council office, 798 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street. The object is to work on community-building, as well as criminal and nuisance behavior, code enforcement issues and any other concerns or good things in the Bluff.

Please submit addresses of any problem properties to [karin@daytonsbluff.org](mailto:karin@daytonsbluff.org) or 651-772-2075 before the meeting. All Dayton's Bluff residents are welcome to attend.

### Dayton's Bluff Beat Phone

The Police Beat Phone, 651-341-7637, is available for residents' calls. It is not answered on officers' days off, when they are having special training, or on vacations. Call about ongoing neighborhood problems; concerns about people in vacant buildings after 10:00 pm; police-related questions, etc. **If you need police right away or see a crime in progress, call 911 or 651-291-1111.**

### Take-a-Hike November 3

Take-a-Hike occurs on the first Saturday of most months. The next hike will be **Saturday, November 3**. Hikers meet at **10:30 am** in Mounds Park at Earl Street and Mounds Boulevard, and walk to East Side Heritage Park. The hike is about two hours (four miles) with some moderately rough terrain. Share stories about recent and distant history of Dayton's Bluff. Transportation to Indian Mounds Park is available, if required. All are welcome.

### 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 Dayton's Bluff Community Council will receive a donation. Call 651-772-2075 or email [june@daytonsbluff.org](mailto:june@daytonsbluff.org).

### Friends of Swede Hollow

Meetings are on the second Wednesday of the month. Please call to confirm the location. The next monthly meeting is on **Wednesday, November 14 at 6:30 pm** at 622 Beaumont Street. For more information, email [swedehollow@gmail.com](mailto:swedehollow@gmail.com) or call 651-776-0550.

### Meet the police

The Eastern District Police hosts its monthly meeting for community members at 722 Payne Avenue, at the corner of Minnehaha Avenue. The next meetings are **Friday, November 16, at 9:30 am, and Wednesday, November 21, at 6:30 pm**. The meetings are intended to listen to and address concerns about crime and other issues on the East Side.

### Dayton's Bluff Seniors Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Dayton's Bluff Living at Home/Block Nurse will be held on **November 19 at 10:00 am** in the library of 1<sup>st</sup> Lutheran Church at 464 Maria. A light brunch will be served. Come and learn more about the program and how it helps Dayton's Bluff seniors stay in their own homes.

## Tutoring makes a difference

by Victoria Perkins

Coordinator of Volunteers, East Side Learning Center

Since its inception in 2001, the East Side Learning Center has tutored over 1,000 students at schools across the East Side of St. Paul. We believe that every child has the capacity to learn to read – and to love reading!

Our mission is “unlocking each child's potential through the foundation of reading.” We live this mission by providing free tutoring to children struggling to read at grade level who are unable to get help elsewhere. Children receive personalized lesson plans and are tutored four times a week during 30-to-50-minute sessions with volunteer and professional tutors. ESLC currently serves in four schools: Community of Peace Academy, HOPE Community Academy, John A. Johnson Elementary, and St. Paul Music Academy.

The difference you can make in the life of a child is immeasurable – join ESLC and see for yourself. The commitment is small: if you can share one hour a week for a semester (October through December or January through May), then you can be a tutor. Proficiency in English is a must, and loving to work with kids is a plus. For more information, please contact Victoria Perkins at 651-793-7364 or email [victoria.perkins@spps.org](mailto:victoria.perkins@spps.org).

## Make an impact as a literacy volunteer

by Nathan Patrash

Minnesota Reading Corps Volunteer Coordinator

Nearly one in four third-graders in Minnesota is failing to reach basic levels of literacy. Minnesota Reading Corps, one of the largest AmeriCorps programs in the country, is meeting this need and is taking literacy volunteers in Dayton's Bluff. Reading Corps is accepting volunteers to help ensure that all kids are successful readers by the end of third grade.

American Indian Magnet School is looking for volunteer reading tutors and special event volunteers for kindergarten through third grade classes. No experience necessary. Volunteer tutors can serve for just one hour a week and make a big difference in a child's life.

**Volunteer Literacy Tutors** are trained to provide literacy activities and reading interventions to children in small groups and one-on-one. A weekly commitment for the school year is desired.

**Special Event Volunteers** participate in literacy-related activities at American Indian Magnet. Activities vary but may include events such as before-school reading partners and after-school reading fun nights.

For more information contact Nathan Patrash at 651-744-6226 or email him at [npatrash@minnesotareadingcorps.org](mailto:npatrash@minnesotareadingcorps.org).

## Upcoming opportunities at... **Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center**

- **Our teen room is being remodeled!**  
Teens will be repainting the walls and adding a mural. Thank you to the Dayton's Bluff Community Council.
- **High School open gym**  
Every Tuesday, 6:00-8:00 pm
- **Open Gym for age 13 and under**  
Mondays & Wednesdays, 6:00-7:45 pm
- **Girls' Group**, ages 12-17, every Thursday, 6:00-7:00 pm
- **Free Zumba class** on Thursday nights from 6:00-7:00 pm in the Dayton's Bluff Rec Center dance room
- **Basketball Basic Skills** for ages 6-14, every Thursday from 6:00-7:30 pm



- Basketball season is starting! Registration is open and continues until all teams fill.
- **FREE ARTS** every Thursday evening from 6:00-7:00 pm.
- **Rec Check** FREE after-school program, Monday through Friday, 3:00-6:00 pm. Limited space available
- **Judo Class** every Monday, 6:00-8:00 pm, \$12 per month
- **Cheer America** every Monday, 6:00-7:00 pm, \$6 per class
- **Karate class** every Wednesday, 6:00-8:00 pm, \$6 per class
- **Parent & Tot time** every Wednesday and Friday in the gym, 10:00 am - 12:00 noon
- **Messy Fingers Art** for kids 5 & under every Friday, 10:00-11:00 am, \$38 for 6-week session
- We also have a studio and a host of other activities for kids.

- Check out our “Dinner with Santa” in December!



**The Dayton's Bluff Rec Center is located at 800 Conway Street.**

**We are open Monday through Thursday, 3:00-8:00 pm; Friday 3:00-6:00 pm.**

**Questions?**

**Call us at 651-793-3885**

**Stop by and check us out!**

## Upcoming events at the Historic Mounds Theatre

by Raeann Ruth, Executive Director, Mounds Theatre

### “A Christmas Carol” returns

“A Christmas Carol – Radio Broadcast Show” – live on stage – is back for its second year at the Historic Mounds Theatre.

Back before television, a holiday season tradition in America was listening to “A Christmas Carol” by Charles Dickens as performed on radio by Lionel Barrymore and narrated by Orson Welles with the Mercury Theatre group. The music was composed and conducted by the legendary Bernard Herrmann.

Few actors ever gave more meaning to the character of miserly Ebenezer Scrooge than Lionel Barrymore, who first took on the radio role in 1934.

Originally aired live on Christmas Eve, December 24, 1939, this radio broadcast will live for a lifetime in the memories of those that heard it. If you remember listening, and want to recapture those magical days of your childhood Christmas, or have never heard it, but want to experience the magic of live radio theatre and create new memories for you and your family, don't miss this production. It will become a treasured part of your holiday listening enjoyment for years to come.

Dates: December 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22 - 7:00 pm and December 9, 16, 23 - 2:00 pm

Tickets: \$15 - Adults; \$10 - Students & Seniors; and \$6 - Children under 12.

Tickets will be on sale soon on our website at [www.moundstheatre.org](http://www.moundstheatre.org). Purchase your tickets early, as they sell out fast and also consider purchasing tickets for those “hard to please” folks on your Christmas list.

The Historic Mounds Theatre is located at 1029 Hudson Road, St. Paul, MN 55106; 651-772-2253; [www.moundstheatre.org](http://www.moundstheatre.org)

## MARISOL from Metropolitan State

MARISOL, written by Jose Rivera, runs at the Historic Mounds Theatre at 1029 Hudson Road, from **November 8-10 and 15-17 at 7:00 pm and November 18 at 2:00 pm**. The show is produced by Theater Underground, Student Activities and the Theater Program of Metropolitan State University.

In MARISOL, the world becomes unrecognizable. The moon is missing; coffee extinct; cows produce salty milk; and going over credit card limits can land you in a secret Government prison.

MARISOL chronicles the story of Marisol Perez, a Puerto Rican woman living in the Bronx. A college graduate and editor for a textbook publisher, she leads an undistinguished life, plodding from home to her office and back each day. Routine existence changes abruptly when Marisol's guardian angel informs her the angels are planning a rebellion against God. With heaven in an uproar, social stability and natural order rapidly deteriorate on Earth. Like other poor mortals suffering without assistance from on high, Marisol does her best to make sense of a world gone mad.

Theater faculty Reggie Phoenix was drawn to direct MARISOL for a myriad of reasons.

“Jose Rivera's language is beautiful, rich and very specific. As an actor, I'm aware how good it feels to have wonderful words to speak. In MARISOL, there is a banquet of bitter and sweet poetry. I was also drawn by the strong female characters at the center of the play that encompass the whole range of humanity. Women say Rivera writes women's voices so true his plays could be written by a woman. Finally, it is the epic theatricality of Rivera's script that is so appealing. The world of this play, its themes and magical realism are so excited, inviting and terrifying for a director and designers to work on, I knew I had to direct it.” Rivera earned a 1993 Obie Award.

MARISOL's poetic language, theatricality and transcendent message are universal and extremely relevant in 2012.

Set design is by Kirby Moore, costumes by Elin Anderson and lighting by Mike Wangen.

For more information or reservations, contact the box office at 612-659-7222. Tickets are also available at the door. General admission is \$5. No charge to students with a school ID. Persons with disabilities who need reasonable accommodations should contact Disability Services two weeks in advance at 651-793-1549 or [disability.services@metrostate.edu](mailto:disability.services@metrostate.edu).

Metropolitan State University, a member of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system, is a premier university for working adults, providing extraordinary and affordable academic and professional degree programs at the bachelor's, master's and doctoral levels.

## Dakota remembrance events

by Carla Riehle  
Forum Staff

This year has seen a series of events commemorating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1862 U.S.-Dakota War. Three more are scheduled for November in the Dayton's Bluff area. Admission is free to all events.

The Gordon Parks Gallery at Metropolitan State University is presenting an exhibit entitled “Mah-piyaho K'a Maka: Dakota Earth-Sky Relationships at Wakan Tipi” that will run through November 9. The exhibit consists of paintings, quilts, photos and other works by Dakota artists and scholars as well as images of petroglyphs, the gravesites in Indian Mounds Park and the sculpture, “Nine Moons of Sacred Dish Woman,” that was added to the park a few years ago. The exhibit has special significance to Dayton's Bluff given the location of the gallery on the bluffs above Wakan Tipi, a sacred cave site.

The caption accompanying a picture of the site now known as “Carver's Cave” is particularly evocative of a historical view not often heard in the dominant culture: “This sacred site was desecrated by the one named Carver who did actually carve his English coat of arms, followed by

the railroad who used dynamite to blow up the cave and its petroglyphs, followed by the alcohol poisoning by Minnesota's first brewery built here that stored beer in these sacred caves. . .”

The exhibit is moving and instructive; not to be

first in a projected series by Sheldon P. Wolfchild about the history of the Dakota people in Minnesota. This segment is about the Indian System and deals with the causes of the Dakota-US War of 1862. The filmmaker and author and historian Mark Diedrich will

lead a discussion following the film. The location is Founders Hall, 700 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street.

Monday, November 5, at 7:00 pm, the St. Paul Interfaith Network will present the fourth in a series of programs highlighting Dakota Minnesota stories. This final event will be at the American Indian Magnet School, 1075 East 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, and will feature American Indian students telling their stories and hopes.

If you are interested in further exploration, there is an abundance of information at the following website: [www.usdakotawar.org](http://www.usdakotawar.org) and at the Seven Fires Summit website ([www.sevenfiresummit.org](http://www.sevenfiresummit.org)). The Minnesota History Center's exhibit on the war will be on display through next September. Admission to the history center is free on Tuesdays from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm.



Photo by Carla Riehle

Photo from the informational postcard about the exhibit at the Gordon Parks Gallery.

missed.

The Gordon Parks Gallery is located on the third floor of the Library and Learning Center, 645 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street. It is open from 11:00 am to 7:00 pm on Monday through Thursday, and 11:00 am to 4:00 pm on Friday and Saturday.

Thursday, November 1, at 6:00 pm, the documentary *Star Dreamers* will screen at Metropolitan State University. It's the

## Home Tour in Dayton's Bluff

Forum staff

We are looking for six to eight homes to be on the Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Home Tour. This tour partners with the Minneapolis-St. Paul Home Tour that will take place on Saturday and Sunday, April 27 and 28, 2013. This is the seventeenth year that the Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Home Tour has been part of the larger tour.

The tour has been successful in getting visitors to the Bluff. Many come and like what they see here, and some wind up

moving to Dayton's Bluff.

“I would recommend to others that they open their homes,” said one of last year's participating homeowners. “It's an amazing ego boost.” Others said they enjoyed the push to get their home improvement projects done in time for the tour.

You can nominate your own home or talk to your friends and neighbors about having their homes on the tour. For more information email [Karin@Daytons-Bluff.org](mailto:Karin@Daytons-Bluff.org) or call Karin at 651-772-2075.

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November issue.

The deadline is October 10.

### Bakery and crafts at St. John's Catholic Church

by Greg Cosimini  
Trustee, St. John's Catholic Church

St. John's Catholic Church is having another "Save St. John's" fundraising event in November. A combined Bake Sale and Holiday Craft Boutique will be held in the church hall in the basement of the church on **Saturday and Sunday,**

**November 10 and 11.** Times will be posted in front of the church and on our website.

St. John's would like to thank everyone who helped make our Bargains Galore rummage sale, pancake breakfast, and si-

lent auction such huge successes. St. John's Catholic Church is located at 977 E. 5th St., St. Paul, MN 55106. Phone: 651-771-3690; Email: stjohns@stjstp.org; Website: www.stjstp.org

## MINNESOTA VOTER'S BILL OF RIGHTS

For all persons residing in this state who meet federal voting eligibility requirements:

- You have the right to be absent from work for the purpose of voting without reduction to your pay, personal leave, or vacation time on election day for the time necessary to appear at your polling place, cast a ballot, and return to work.
- If you are in line at your polling place any time before 8:00 p.m., you have the right to vote.
- If you can provide the required proof of residence, you have the right to register to vote and to vote on election day.
- If you are unable to sign your name, you have the right to orally confirm your identity with an election judge and to direct another person to sign your name for you.
- You have the right to request special assistance when voting.
- If you need assistance, you may be accompanied into the voting booth by a person of your choice, except by an agent of your employer or union or a candidate.
- You have the right to bring your minor children into the polling place and into the voting booth with you.
- If you have been convicted of a felony but your felony sentence has expired (been completed) or you have been discharged from your sentence, you have the right to vote.
- If you are under a guardianship, you have the right to vote, unless the court order revokes your right to vote.
- You have the right to vote without anyone in the polling place trying to influence your vote.
- If you make a mistake or spoil your ballot before it is submitted, you have the right to receive a replacement ballot and vote.
- You have the right to file a written complaint at your polling place if you are dissatisfied with the way an election is being run.
- You have the right to take a sample ballot into the voting booth with you.
- You have the right to take a copy of this Voter's Bill of Rights into the voting booth with you.



### A Message from State Representative **SHELDON JOHNSON**



217 State Office Building, Saint Paul, MN 55155  
(651) 296-4201 • rep.sheldon.johnson@house.mn  
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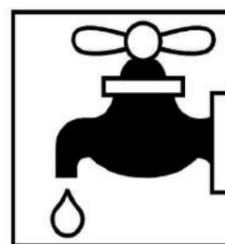
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www.dbnhs.org



## Trust for Public Land celebrates 40 years

by Karin DuPaul, Forum staff

Trust for Public Land celebrated their fortieth year helping communities increase their public land. They are committed to creating parks where people, especially young people, can experience nature. Trust for Public Land (TPL) held their celebration in Indian Mounds Park on September 29 with a picnic and speakers including Mayor Chris Coleman. Visitors were invited to tour the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary, one of the parks that has benefited from the work of TPL. TPL helped with the purchase of land from the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad, land which was developed into the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary.

The celebration continued with art and tours in the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary in the afternoon. Decorative flags with Kinship of Rivers, an arts initiative connecting communities along the Mississippi and Yangtze Rivers, were on display. Children and artists worked on art projects as well.

The Lower Phalen Creek Project steering committee members told visitors about their effects to convert the vacant Standard Oil building into a cultural interpretive center highlighting the river and surrounding area.

## September clean-up a success; Two clean-ups to be offered in 2013



Photo by Deanna Foster

Some of our Neighborhood Clean Up volunteers. Sitting: Joyce Catchings and June Bennett. Standing left to right: Kelly Lundeen, Angela DuPaul, Jacob Dorer, Karin DuPaul, and Jean Comstock.

Tons of junk and trash were removed from Dayton's Bluff on September 8 during the Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Clean Up. It was a nice day with the sun shining and the weather warm. Two long trains passed by during the cleanup, which was a treat for visitors and the volunteers to watch. After all the work was done, the volunteers had lunch, which was donated by Culver's, Cub, Rainbow, Byerlys, M & H, and Holiday. Thank you to Ramsey County Sentence to Service and all of our volunteers who made this a successful event.

Starting next year, Dayton's Bluff and District 1 will be working together on the neighborhood cleanup so that residents from both districts can take advantage of cleanups in both the spring and fall. Watch the *Forum* for more information about this in future issues.

## Silver Sneakers; silver tongues



Photo by Karin DuPaul

East Side Y Seniors perform at the Silver Sneakers' Annual Gathering at Nicollet Island in Minneapolis. A bus load of East Side Y seniors left the East Side to spend an afternoon with other Silver Sneakers from all over the Metro area for a silent auction, health fair, and lunch.

## A beautiful day for opera in the park



Photo by Karin DuPaul

The Italian opera *Idomeneo, re di Creta (King of Crete)* presented by Mixed Precipitation in Swede Hollow Park on September 22. The audience sat on the hillside and enjoyed the delightful performance. The weather was perfect.

## East Side local food resource hub

by Carla Riehle, Forum staff

What is a local food resource hub?

Over 20 people interested in the answer to that question gathered on October 15 at the Community Design Center (CDC). The event was organized by the CDC and the Dayton's Bluff and Payne-Phalen community councils. The CDC, located next to Swede Hollow Cafe on East 7<sup>th</sup> Street, is a neighborhood organization established over 40 years ago and promotes healthy food, conservation and youth development. The CDC has been working with partners at the East Side Prosperity Campaign to plan for a local food resource hub.

With all the existing neighborhood organizations, and with a new neighborhood co-op grocery in the planning stages, it can be a little confusing to figure out the differences between all of

these groups and decide whether a new one is actually needed. But participants in this meeting gave a resounding confirmation to the local food resource hub concept. Participants discussed how the hub would fill a need that is not being addressed anywhere else: an East Side resource network that would bring together people interested in healthy, locally produced food, farmers markets, community gardens and growing their own food.

One potential model is the Gardening Matters network ([gardeningmatters.org](http://gardeningmatters.org)) that includes food resource hubs in Minneapolis and St. Paul's Midway. Besides coordinating and gathering information about local activities, Gardening Matters provides information on how to start a community garden, supplies low-cost seeds and plants, and helps with grant applications to get the garden going.

Members of the Payne-Phalen and Dayton's Bluff neighborhoods were particularly enthusiastic about the idea of more community gardens. A number of them already exist in both neighborhoods – some under the auspices of the community councils; others, focused on youth, are run by the CDC. Several years ago, the Dayton's Bluff Community Council took the plunge with the formation of Skidmore Community Garden on 4<sup>th</sup> Street near Earl. And recently, the council's Greenspace Committee, which operates Skidmore, took a tour of city-owned properties that might qualify as new community gardens. The committee subsequently went door-knocking to gauge community interest and found that the block club in the vicinity of the vacant space at 1148 Bush Avenue was eager to jump in and get started.

Besides the Bush Street garden possibility, other plans include a food hub resource survey by the East Side Prosperity Campaign, contacting local churches and other institutions with existing meeting and cooking space about being resource locations, and preparing for the Gardening Matters resource fair to be held in March on the East Side of St. Paul.

The group's next meeting will be at **6:00 pm on Monday, November 26**, at the First Covenant Church Fellowship Hall, 1280 Arcade Street, St. Paul. Anyone interested is invited to attend. For more information or to be added to the list of people who want to be kept informed about the project, call Tamara Downs Schwei at 651-228-7073 or email at [tdowns.schwei@comdesignctrmn.org](mailto:tdowns.schwei@comdesignctrmn.org).

# RE-ELECT SHELDON JOHNSON ON NOV. 6!

## *Fighting for the Middle Class*

- Supported restoring the Homestead Credit to provide property tax relief to homeowners, renters, seniors and small businesses
- Supported assistance to homeowners hit by the foreclosure crisis
- Fought against deep cuts to the Renters' Credit that would hurt seniors and renters with disabilities
- Supported repaying \$2.4 billion owed to K-12 schools by closing corporate tax loopholes
- Supported \$496 million bonding bill to improve the state's infrastructure and create thousands of jobs in the construction trades
- Supported jobs initiatives like tax credits for businesses that hire unemployed Minnesotans, veterans, or recent graduates and expanding training to fill Minnesota's skill gap
- Authored bill for St. Paul youth jobs corps program
- Advocated for Local Government Aid to prevent cuts to public safety

### ENDORSEMENTS:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| • DFL   | • St. Paul Building & Construction Trades Council |
| • Teamsters DRIVE (Democrat Republican Independent Voter Education) | • AFSCME Minnesota Council 5                      |
| • Minnesota AFL-CIO   | • Minnesota Police and Peace Officers             |
| • Sierra Club   | • Outfront Minnesota Action                       |
| • Education Minnesota   | • Clean Water Action                              |
| • Minnesota Nurses Association                                      | • St. Paul Firefighters, Local 21                 |

## State Representative SHELDON JOHNSON



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(651) 296-4201  
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2031 Howard St. S., St Paul, MN 55119

## Jane Prince — A working woman

Brockton, Massachusetts, is the birthplace of Rocky Marciano, the only undefeated heavyweight champion of the world—a very big deal to the city of Brockton. It is also the birthplace of Jane Prince, a practicing attorney in downtown St. Paul. Jane has three St. Paul offices: one in Kellogg Square where she works for Weinblatt and Gaylord PLC, one at Hamline University Law School, and her “office away from her offices” at Swede Hollow Cafe.

After Jane and her husband Dave moved into Dayton's Bluff in 1984, got settled, and found Swede Hollow Cafe, they have tried to support it as often as they can. As Jane says, “I like to tell people that there are places to have breakfast in the neighborhood, but there isn't a coffee shop to go to and just have a latte. So when Dave and I felt like getting a cup of coffee, we would meet friends over on Grand Ave.”

Before Swede Hollow Cafe became a vibrant part of the Dayton's Bluff community, it was just an old run-down building. It opened up serving great coffee and incredible bakery goods. “It was a miracle to have the best coffee shop in the Twin Cities open in our neighborhood,” Jane said. “From there we got to know so many more neighbors just by hanging out at Swede Hollow Cafe.”

Jane balances three careers vigilantly: she is an attorney; she is employed at Hamline University as their Alumni Relations Director; and she is the interim president of the Metro Independent Business Alliance (MetroIBA).

As an attorney, Jane specializes in municipal law. “I really enjoy land use and zoning,” she says. “I represent people in employment cases and other general practice issues. This past year I had the opportunity to expand my work in law and become my law school Alumni Relations Director.”

The Hamline University Alumni Relations Director is a position Jane began in 2012. Jane says, “Alumni are important to every school, but they are of particular importance to a law school. By serving our alumni with continuing legal education courses and networking events, I am also helping to connect our current students to their future colleagues. I love being back at Hamline Law School and working with the staff and faculty who played such an important role in my legal education.”

Jane learned about MetroIBA back when people in the Twin Cities literary community were trying to save Ruminator Books (formerly the Hungry Mind) from closing. Later she served on the organization's board. She has also served as its interim president since June.

Jane says, “What makes a city unique are its locally-owned independent stores that you can't find anywhere else in the world—Swede Hollow Cafe is just such a place. I have spent time in Austin, Texas, which has subscribed to the notion that its best economic development investments are in the unique enterprises of its local community. We need to encourage policy makers to invest in local communities and the vitality that they give our neighborhoods.”

“The work that's being done on East 7<sup>th</sup> Street is similar to the work being done in Austin. Make It Happen on East 7<sup>th</sup> Street, held on August 17, was a celebration of our local businesses, our neighbors, and this amazing neighborhood,” Jane says. “Everybody was there! We were every color, age, and ethnic background, and it was a totally delightful and fun evening. I feel that Dayton's Bluff is doing things that communities could only hope they could do. We are really making it happen here in Dayton's Bluff.”

*Mark Gallagher is a professional writer and editor. He can be reached at refineEditorial@gmail.com*



Photo courtesy of Jane Prince

## Dale Harbor receives 2012 Roger Tetu Award

Dale Harbor was presented with the 2012 Roger Tetu Award at the Dayton's Bluff Community Council Community Annual Meeting and Dinner on October 22. For many years, Dale has worked tirelessly to make the community a better place to live. Thank you, Dale, for all your work.

The *Forum* ran a profile on Dale in our October issue. All our issues, from 2000 to the present, are archived on our website, at the bottom of the [www.daytonsbuff.org](http://www.daytonsbuff.org) home page.

# PLEASE DONATE



The *District Forum* newspaper is mailed free of charge to every address in Dayton's Bluff. The paper does not make a profit and is staffed by volunteers, but we still must pay printing, mailing and editorial costs. If you appreciate the value of a real neighborhood newspaper, please consider contributing. You can make a tax-deductible donation to “Hopewell Communications Incorporated” at [www.givemn.org](http://www.givemn.org) or you can mail your check to Dayton's Bluff District Forum, 798 East 7th Street, St. Paul, MN 55106.

## Finding Grandpa

by Greg Cosimini  
Third generation Dayton's Bluff resident

All four of my grandparents came to the United States from Italy in the early 1900s. I'm sure they had many reasons for doing so, but I like to think that one of them was that they wanted to live in Dayton's Bluff, which they did.



Original photo by Camera Shop, displayed at Festa Italiana 2012 by Phyllis Delisi.

**Top: Panoramic photo in front of the St. Paul Cathedral in 1931. Bottom: Leonello Cosimini (back right) holding the hand of his son Joe Cosimini (front left).**

My paternal grandparents, Leonello and Palmira Cosimini, owned a house at 696 East 8<sup>th</sup> Street, which is now part of the First Lutheran Church parking lot. Leonello owned Twin City Statuary, located in what is now the Savoy Pizza parking lot on East 7<sup>th</sup> Street near downtown. Once again, make that twice again, they paved paradise and... you know the rest.

Leonello died when I was a baby but I've seen old photographs of him so I know what he looked like. Recently something strange began happening. Previously unknown photographs of Grandpa Cosimini started surfacing.

My nephew Michael discovered the first photo in an online newspaper article from Barga, Italy, my grandfather's hometown, concerning the number of people from Barga who ended up working at Daprato Statuary in Chicago. An accompanying photo of Daprato employees from 1903 included both Grandpa Leonello and his father Antonio Cosimini. No one in our family knew they had worked there.

Two more Leonello sightings came at this year's Festa Italiana. The first one was in a history display about the Giuliani (later St. Paul) Statuary Co. It included a photo of employees from 1912. Once again, there were Leonello and Antonio. We knew Leonello had worked there previous to starting his own company but not when, or that Antonio had too.

Next, my cousin Cherie and I discovered two photos from the dedication of the Christopher Columbus statue that stands in front of the State Capitol building. This occurred on October 12, 1931. One photo was taken at the State Capitol, the other at the St. Paul Cathedral after the dedication Mass. Both photos were of the panoramic variety, being approximately 30 inches wide by 8 inches tall.

I joked that we should see if we could recognize anyone. I started with the Cathedral photo because

there were merely hundreds of people in that one compared to thousands in the other one. The joke was on me. In less than a minute I spotted Grandpa Leonello on the right side of the photo. And that wasn't all. He was holding the hand of his 8-year old son Joe, my father.

I asked my dad if he remembered that day. He definitely remembers going to the Capitol with his father and that a band was playing in front of the Columbus statue, but not being at the Cathedral. Well, it was 81 years ago.

There was also a nice display about Joe Russo at Festa Italiana. Russo was a longtime Dayton's Bluff resident who died earlier this year.

Continued from page 1:

## Almanac: Highlights of Dayton's Bluff submissions

They often shopped downtown, and her mother inevitably pointed out the hospital building on the top of the bluff and said "that's where you two were born." At the age of eight, Carol returned to the hospital for a few days with a case of pneumonia.

"I would lie awake at night in the children's and maternity ward on the hospital's third floor, listening to traffic in the neighborhood," she remembered. It was the last time she visited the site while it was still a hospital.

In the 1990s, Carol worked downtown and she witnessed the building's transformation into Metro State. During the

construction, she wrote, "I would frequently lift my eyes to the bluff where I was born and marvel at how I had managed to remain so close to it."

A few years later, she decided

of the third floor this had been," she wrote. "Was it the nursery? ... mostly it just felt familiar, as if I had physically occupied that space before."

She had similar feelings at classes, and some semesters "I would stand by a third floor window, look out at the parking lot, and for a moment feel like that eight-year-old, waiting for someone familiar to step out of a parked car." Carol now teaches some classes at the University.

Her conclusion: "7<sup>th</sup> and Maria is my place of origin. There will always be a part of me up on that bluff, waiting for my return."



Postcard from Steve Trimble's collection

**An old postcard shows a photo of the original St. John's hospital building at Maria and 7th Streets.**

to get a graduate degree at Metro State and was being interviewed on the third floor of St. John's Hall. "Gazing around the office, I wondered what part



## My Bloody Accident

by Jude DeRango, age 10

I walked down to recess with the rest of the class. It was a wet and rainy day; it had rained earlier in the morning. I walked into the playground and watched as the other kids took turns on the zipline. I decided to try.

I hopped up on the platform and when it was my turn I grabbed hold of the handle. I felt a pair of hands pushing me and it was too late to say no or to drop down. Maybe I'll land in the woodchips, I thought, but I did not. I flew across the platform on my bottom. I rammed my head into the railing; my head flipped back and hit the platform. I screamed, clutching my head. People came rushing over. I stood up and heard, "Oh my gosh, she's bleeding everywhere." I cried, but it wasn't because I was in pain, it was because I was in shock.

A teacher took me to the nurse, who tried to get an idea of how big the cut was. The nurse said my head looked like something out of a horror movie. "Am I going to have to get stitches?" I asked. "Well, it depends," she said, "Some doctors will do stitches there, and some won't."

I bit my lip. I did not know what I found scary about getting stitches. I knew they wouldn't hurt me or anything, and I certainly wasn't afraid of a scar. I guess it was just the idea of someone sewing or stapling my head. Sewing is to mend holes in clothes, not gashes.

The nurse called my mom, who drove me to the emergency room. We sat in the room waiting for the nurse to come. She arrived and started to ask questions: did I black out, or see stars? Then the nurse-in-training came and asked the same exact questions. Finally the doctor came and announced that they were going to put staples in the back of my head and that the numbing gel would take about 20 minutes to set in.

As they left the room, I began to cry, all the pain and scarieness of the event came out in my tears. They came back in to put the gel on and I got to watch part of the Harry Potter 4 movie as the numbness set in. Dad works at the hospital as an engineer, so he dropped in for a visit. They came back to unstick my hair with warm water. I couldn't feel it, but it still hurt. They took a look at the cut again and said I could not get staples because there was too much swelling. "There will probably be a big scar there," I was told, "but it's in a really convenient place because it's likely you won't have a bald head, and if you do, you'll probably want to look like a pirate anyway." They wrapped my head in bandages to help with bleeding and swelling, and then mom and I drove back home. When my sister came home from school, her first words were, "You split your head open?!"

Other than being uncomfortable and sleepy, my life has been pretty normal since then.

The 2013 *Saint Paul Almanac* would make great birthday or Christmas gifts at only \$14.95. I should probably make a disclaimer here: yes, I do a lot of work for the *Saint Paul Almanac*, but I don't get any royalties when they are

sold. The *Almanac* can be found in bookstores and many coffee houses, including Polly's Coffee Cove at 1382 Payne Avenue. Or you can order a book online at <http://saintpaulalmanac.org>.

# Support Small Business Saturday

An American shopping holiday on the Saturday after Thanksgiving

**Make it Happen** Businesses on East 7<sup>th</sup> Street

Services	Restaurants	Retail
Testa's Barber Shop <i>Fine haircuts</i>	Assisted Healing <i>Massage therapy</i>	La Cabana <i>Mexican food</i>
Claudia's Salon <i>Hair care and products</i>	Keyra's Salon <i>Hair styling and products</i>	El Guanaco <i>Bakery and café</i>
Storchak Cleaners <i>Dry cleaning and laundry</i>	Accurate Tax <i>Financial services</i>	Manana <i>El Salvadorian restaurant</i>
Balsimo Chiropractic	Midwest Karate	Swede Hollow Café
Nail Spot	Farmers Insurance	Burger King
Tower TV <i>Repair shop</i>	Tramites and Mas <i>Copy, photo services</i>	Taqueria Las Paisanos <i>Mexican restaurant</i>
Bud and Al's <i>Brakes and tire shop</i>	Hope Laundromat	Animal Ark <i>Thrift store and adoption center</i>
Arcade Medical Clinic	Roger's Printing Services	Bazaar Fetish Boutique <i>Stylish clothing and shoes</i>
		Cristy's Bridal <i>Beautiful event products</i>
		Sun Beauty Supply
		Metro Liquor Warehouse
		Mercado Centromex <i>Grocer and butcher</i>
		Joyeria la Perfumeria <i>Jewelry, Perfume, Products</i>
		SwiftMart groceries
		Dollar Store
		Novedades la Michoacana <i>Beautiful clothes, shoes, products</i>
		Variedades Mely <i>Clothing</i>
		O'Reilly Auto Parts

**BUY LOCAL**  
**Support Dayton's Bluff businesses!**

### Other great Dayton's Bluff businesses:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| Downtowner Car Wash, 520 E. 7 <sup>th</sup> Street                      | O'Reilly Auto Parts, 754 E. 7 <sup>th</sup> Street   |
| East Side Service (Mobil), 1390 3 <sup>rd</sup> Street                  | Holiday Station Store, 500 E. 7 <sup>th</sup> Street |
| Holiday Station Store, 1444 E. Minnehaha Avenue                         | M & H Gas and Store, 721 Arcade Street               |
| O'Reilly Auto Parts, 754 E. 7 <sup>th</sup> Street                      | Tom's Gas and Store, 976 E. 7 <sup>th</sup> Street   |
| Toast to Bread/St Paul Incubator Kitchen, 703 E. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Street | Arlene's Hair Fashions, 1075 Hudson Road             |
| Mounds Park Barber Stylist, 1043 Hudson Road                            | Mounds Park Lounge, 1067 Hudson Road                 |
| Mounds Theatre, 1029 Hudson Road  | Beehive Tavern, 937 E. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Street        |
| Dairy Queen, 565 Earl Street  | Dari-Ette Drive-in, 1440 E. Minnehaha Ave.           |
| Pastor Hamilton's Barbeque Ribs, 1154 E. 7 <sup>th</sup> Street         | Leo's Chow Mein, 1059 Hudson Road                    |
| Moonshine Saloon, 1179 E. 7 <sup>th</sup> Street                        | Obb's Bar & Restaurant, 1347 Burns Avenue            |
| St. Paul Saloon, 1045 Hudson Road                                       | Peking Restaurant, 475 Etna Street                   |
| Savoy Red's Pizza, 421 E. 7 <sup>th</sup> Street                        | Strip Club 378 Maria Ave.                            |
| Subway Sandwiches & Salad Shop, 449 E. 7 <sup>th</sup> Street           | Little Blue Store, 879 Fremont Avenue                |
| M & A Market, 361 Earl Street   | Mound Park Market, 241 Earl Street                   |
| Phoenix Market, 685 E. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Street                           | Twins Meat Market, 1055 E. 4 <sup>th</sup> Street    |
| Mounds Park Laundromat, 999 Hudson Road                                 | Mounds Liquor, 1047 Hudson Rd                        |
| Best Pawn, 525 E. 7 <sup>th</sup> Street                                | Hmong Village, 1001 Johnson Parkway                  |
| It's A Big Deal Antique and Thrift Store, 367 Earl Street               | Keys of Paradise, 713 E. Minnehaha Avenue #111       |

## What a shame

*Apple tree fiasco alienates a neighborhood resource*

by Ben Greiling  
Student, Metropolitan State University

I have witnessed a great potential resource to our neighborhood leave out of frustration and misunderstandings. His name is August Hoffman and is a professor of community psychology at Metro State. A little over a year ago, he received a grant to plant an urban apple orchard. He worked with members of the community, faculty from Metro, and an Upward Bound youth group to plant over a dozen apple trees in a vacant spot near Mounds Park and I-94.

This was a great endeavor; it allowed the area to connect, learn, and work together to create something potentially long-lasting for the neighborhood. It also had the potential to provide a local food source to a neighborhood greatly lacking available produce. Unfortunately, some people were not happy with the project, and they made sure no one would be happy with the project. August received a call last fall warning him that people were removing his recently planted trees. The spot near I-94 is basically vacant again, with only a couple basically useless crab apple trees occupying it. Most likely, this spot will sit empty for years to come, like many spots around Dayton's Bluff.

As someone who lives in the neighborhood and also attends Metropolitan State University, I am shocked by the lack of interconnections between the two. I was hopeful to see someone as excited about community and gardening as Dr. Hoffman is to work with the neighborhood that clearly needs help. He brought passion, knowledge, grant connections, and plenty of students who were willing to volunteer for class credit.

Dr. Hoffman now does his community gardening projects, grant writing, and volunteer labor through Inver Hills Community College, for the benefit of Inver Grove Heights. This is the shame I speak of. He wants to work in our neighborhood, but said that the recent apple tree debacle was too much for him. I do feel, though, that as long as Dr. Hoffman is still working at Metro State, there is still opportunity to lure him back to work within our community to connect it, grow it, and beautify it.

I hope that people planning any sort of community gardening or green space project consider re-approaching Dr. Hoffman for help. He can, and hopefully will be, a great resource for our neighborhood.

## Dayton's Bluff Memories

Submit your thoughts – great or small – to [editor@daytonsbluff.org](mailto:editor@daytonsbluff.org)

Does anybody remember pulling into the gas station and the bell would ring and an attendant would come out, put gas in your car, clean your windows, check tires, check oil, etc., all for about 68 cents a gallon?

I used to work at the old Price Skelly

at 847 Hudson Road when I was in junior high school. What ever happened to service stations like that? I knew all the regular customers by name. I think I made about five or six dollars a week. I loved that job. I think it closed in 1977 or '78.

Does anybody remember or have any memorabilia pictures of any of the old service stations on Hudson Road?

Richard VanGuilder,  
via his daughter, Holly

### Dayton's Bluff District Forum

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Board of Directors: Greg Cosimini, Karin DuPaul, Carla Riehle, Steve Trimble

Editor and Layout: Meg Gronau

Interns: Mark Gallagher and Danny Evans

Next issue: December 2012. Deadline for material: November 10, 2012.

### Maria Street artist May on display



Photo by Ellen Biales

Neighborhood artist Diane May shows her painting, of Euclid Flats at 234 -8 Bates Avenue, to Tom Cook. A reception for May's art was held on Wednesday, October 10 in the offices of City Council President Kathy Lantry.