One of the most anticipated events of the year; it’s time again for the annual Dayton’s Bluff Community Council fundraising dinner at the Strip Club Meat and Fish restaurant. On April 8, join your friends and neighbors for an elegant dining experience. On this one special night, the restaurant closes its doors to the rest of the world and becomes a strictly Dayton’s Bluff hangout. As one of the finest dining establishments in the city, The Strip Club Meat and Fish is already a hot spot for neighbors. Because of its reputation for great food and drinks and its gorgeous environment, the restaurant also draws patrons from all over the Twin Cities (and beyond). Since its opening more than five years ago, the Strip Club has received accolades too numerous to count. Recently, it was named by City Pages as one of the most romantic restaurants in the Twin Cities. City Pages also captured its classy and comfortable vibe: “It’s a neighborhood joint that is actually a raucous dinner party full of exquisitely funny flirt.”

Demonstrating its commitment to the neighborhood, the restaurant is hosting a five-course dinner with wine pairings as a fundraiser for the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council. According to Deanna Foster, Executive Director at the Community Council, this event is just one of the ways that the Council builds community spirit. “One of the special things about this event is that it supports a larger community gathering and dinner in October of each year. We are committed to building a more inclusive agenda that welcomes all residents of Dayton’s Bluff. The Strip Club Annual Fundraising Dinner is an important way for some of us to support all of us.”

The restaurant can accommodate a maximum of 60 people, so don’t wait to reserve your place. Advance ticket sales only. Send your payments to Dayton’s Bluff Community Council, 798 East 7th Street, St. Paul, MN 55106 or call 651-772-2075 for more information.

Dine out for Dayton’s Bluff

By Stephanie Harr
Dayton’s Bluff Community Council
Arts and Cultures Committee

Getting to know State Senator Foung Hawj

submitted by Brad Griffith, realtor

Back in December, the Forum published the first part of this community Q-and-A with State Senator Foung Hawj, who was elected in November 2012. The following is part 2.

Foung Hawj has made a commitment to the community that a dialogue with the citizens of the East Side will continue throughout his term. Together, we can make Dayton’s Bluff an even better place to live.

Emily Dayton’s Bluff Resident

How will you work to reduce crime, control gang activity and promote the prevention of both on the East Side?

Senator-elect Foung Hawj

Despite how different we may look or how different our culture may be, everyone wants a safe place to live and raise their family. I like to promote neighborhood friendly officers such as bike and horse patrols in the parks and recreation areas. I will also continue to encourage participation for our citizens to improve the safety of our communities by getting to know their neighbors. As a legislator, I will fight for adequate funding for fire and police departments to make sure we have enough good officers on duty.

Jennifer Marcus Newton
Dayton’s Bluff Resident

What strategies do you have for keeping in touch on a very regular basis (e.g., town halls, newsletters, social media, quick response to email or telephone calls, etc.) with constituents?

Foung Hawj: I plan to shift the content of my website and social media from my campaign message to citizen outreach information in the next couple of months in order to keep people informed of my progress. I will attend community events whenever I can to stay in touch with constituents as well as strengthen the network of diversity that we built during my campaign. This will keep me involved with every corner of our district. One thing that I hope to do outside of session, from June to December, is hosting smaller meetings or activities to engage our citizens. That may be going from restaurant to restaurant for community meetings or holding neighborhood cleanups. I plan to use the different media as well as the word of mouth to inform people about my progress and activities and to listen to your concerns. My goal is to be your voice at the Capitol. I can only do that with your input and your help.

Tabitha DeRango
Dayton’s Bluff Resident

What specifically would you do to support revitalization and growth on the East Side of Saint Paul?

Hawj: Some of the ideas I have include directing economic development money to train and hire local workers to work with local businesses and non-profits to help improve our business climate. I really believe that training and education are vitally important if we want to make progress in revitalizing our community. We also have to work with our cities, not just in St. Paul, to support what they are doing. Mayor Coleman, the City Council and the Port Authority have worked hard to revitalize the Phalen Corridor Area, but they also had to fight deep cuts in Local Government Aid. We have to re-store some of these funds, but also make sure that part of this money goes to local working families. Stay tuned for further information on a Dayton’s Bluff Town Hall with Senator Foung Hawj.

Dayton’s Bluff Community Council
798 East 7th Street
St. Paul, MN 55106

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Designing the “Better Block” on East 7th Street

Community input meeting March 16

by Tabitha Benci deRango

We have been selected to be a Better Block site this spring! Better Block is a tool to rapidly revitalize neighborhood blocks by listening to community and business input to structure a temporary, walkable, livable area that reveals the potential for the area in terms of traffic calming and attracting people to the street. You can see the results of past projects by checking out the website at www.betterblock.org. Set the date to come out and join us to review the area and gather input on March 16. All are welcome. The project will be slated to happen around an event planned for June of this year. Stay tuned to the Forum for more information.

This is part of the St. Paul Complete Streets Initiative. Complete Streets means that our streets are planned to be safe and accessible for pedestrians, transit riders, bicyclists, and drivers—all users, regardless of age or ability.

Volume 26, No. 2
March 2013
www.daytonsbluff.org

“The Voice of the Community”

See page 4 for an item regarding the Housing and Refugee community.
Community meeting

The next Dayton's Bluff community meeting is Thursday, March 7, from 6:30-8:00 pm at the Dayton's Bluff Community Council office, 798 E. 7th 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 going on in the Bluff.

Confidential complaints about specific properties can be made at 651-286-8989 or discoveryplaints@ci.stpaul.mn.us.

Take-a-Hike March 2

Take-a-Hike occurs on the first Saturday of most months. The next hike will be Saturday, March 2. Hikers meet at 10:30 am in Indian 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. Enjoy lively conversation including stories about the history of the area. Return transportation is available, if required. All are welcome.

Join STOMP

STewards Of Margaret Park

This brand new group is open to anyone committed to taking an active role in ensuring that Margaret Park remains a safe and beautiful green space with recreational activities for everyone. Visit us on Facebook for the latest updates on big changes taking place at Margaret: announcements of upcoming STOMP meetings; to ask questions or share thoughts about the new Margaret Park! www.facebook.com/stompmn

Dayton's Bluff heat phone

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

The Forum needs YOU!

The District Forum newspaper needs your help! We are a nonprofit operation that mails out a free valuable community resource to every address in Dayton's Bluff. Please contribute to the paper at www.givemn.org. The Forum's nonprofit name is Hopewell Communications. http://givemn.razoo.com/story/Hopewell-Communications-Incorporated

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 Friday, March 15, at 9:30 am, and Wednesday, March 20, at 6:30 pm. The meetings are intended to listen to and address concerns about crime and other issues on the east side.

Community council

The Dayton's Bluff Community Council Board of directors meets at 7:00 pm, Monday, March 18, at the council office, 798 East 7th Street. The public is encouraged to attend.

Small business classes

The Dayton’s Bluff Neighborhood Microentrepreneur Program's spring class has filled and will start in March. 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 hosting microentrepreneur classes each year since 1993. Classroom training lasts eight weeks and includes topics such as operations management, marketing, financial management, how to create a successful business, and how to prepare a business plan. Those who successfully complete the course and locate individual business concepts. Those who successfully 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. For an application for the fall session, contact karin@daytonsbluff.org or 651-772-2075.

Dayton’s Bluff Rec Center

Upcoming opportunities at

- Our music production studio is now available! Hours and times may vary.
- Teen room now open!
- YJC Jobs will be available February 18-March 15. www.stpaul.gov/jobs
- Parent & tot open gym play time: Wednesdays & Fridays, 10:00 am-12:00 noon.
- Open gym; times may vary.
- Free Zumba! on Thursday evenings, 5:30-6:30 pm at Dayton's Bluff Rec Center dance room.
- Girls group: Thursdays 6:15-7:15 pm for ages 12-16.
- Messy Fingers & Toes (for parents and tots) 6-week session Friday mornings starting in April. $38; registration opens soon.
- Seniors card playing, every Friday 12:00 noon-4:00 pm.
- Dance studio available! Fees and times may vary.
- Adolescent pregnancy prevention group (girls only) every Thursday 4:30-6:30 pm.
- Kidventure program for children during no-school days over spring break: Call 651-487-7383 to register your child.

Stop by and check us out!
How to best use the land?

by Sage Holben
Dayton’s Bluff Community Council

Let’s be honest: “land use” sounds pretty mundane. But consider:

Will a school’s new rolling information/message sign, possibly with bright lights, extreme size, or traffic distraction, be helpful to those who use the school or negate the quality of life for neighboring residents?

If the local convenience store receives a license to sell lottery tickets or alcohol, how will it impact neighbors? Will it create more litter, encourage more people to hang out on the sidewalk, or increase traffic?

Who will care? Who will speak up? If a property owner of a four-plex wants to obtain a variance and create a six-plex or a duplex, do you want a say in it? Are you interested in having a literal seat at the table when discussing and voting for or against zoning for a sober house, a change of business, or parking issues?

Are you a person who can listen to the situation and consider not only your personal view and desires, but consider the larger, long term picture? Or are you set aside your personal attitudes and consider the effect on the larger community? Consider applying to serve on the Dayton’s Bluff Community Land Use Committee.

What does the committee offer you?

As a Land Use committee member, you will have the opportunity to positively affect the quality of life in our community; transform your own life with new information, knowledge and abilities; gain a widened perspective, and have a vote that makes a difference as it makes its way to the Dayton’s Bluff Community Board and to the St. Paul City Council.

What’s happening at the Historic Mounds Theatre

1029 Hudson Road, St. Paul, MN

My Mighty Mississippi

In this film, performing artist Steve Marking takes the audience for a ride on the Mississippi River, from the backwaters and tributaries to the sandbars and towns up and down the river. Born and raised on the backwaters of the Upper Mississippi, Steve has an in-nate knowledge of the twists and turns of the river and its ever-changing character.

As a videographer and photographer, Steve captures images that are entertaining and breathtaking. He uses his artistic eye and ear to weave those images into songs as he creates an exquis-itely tapestry of the river.

A world-class vocalist, Steve’s classical training is apparent in songs like Of Man River and River Chanty, and his down-home, fun-loving spirit comes out in originals like Take Me Back To The River, or the curmudgeonly Gone Fishin’.

My Mighty Mississippi is loved by sportmen, concertgoers, and any one who appreciates the river. Popular songs like Moon River, Bridge Over Troubled Water, Black Water and Proud Mary round out this stunning film.

March 8 and 9 at 7:00 pm, and March 10 at 2:00 pm. Tickets available at www.moundsparkumc.org, $15 Adults; $10 Seniors; $5 Children.

Urban C.R.O.S.S.

(Christians Reaching Out in Service in St. Paul)

A ministry of Mounds Park United Methodist Church

The organizers of Urban CROSS are looking for residents and non-profit organizations who could use a hand. If you have a project that you need help with such as: painting, yardwork, landscaping, cleanup, simple construction or repair, please contact us. We invite other youth from churches all over to join us for a week of an “Urban Makeover.” During the second week of June, teams of youth, demonstrate the love of God through serving the people of St. Paul’s residential East Side. Please go to our website and fill out a form, if you would like our help.

Deadline for requests is May 15, 2013.

If you would like to donate to Urban CROSS, we are always in need of: tools, supplies, paint, painting equipment, printing, staff t-shirts; food for the teams/staff; or even scholarships for youth. To make a financial donation, please send a check or money order written out to “Mounds Park UMC.” (Please be sure to write “Urban CROSS” in the Memo line of the check or money order.)

All gifts are tax deductible. Please ask for a receipt if needed. Contact Eric Buck, Youth Director, at 651-559-2369 urbancross.stpaul@gmail.com www.moundsparkumc.org/urbancross.html
### 2012 Honor Roll Honorees

**Carlos Stewart**

Carlos is a volunteer at Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center and started the Regime Basketball Program for 13- and 14-year-olds. This program is geared to help youth have fun while learning teamwork and how to make positive life choices. He spends 20-25 hours a week with his Regime Basketball kids, giving them something positive to do together. In September of 2012, he received an Eleven Who Care award from KARE 11 TV, which included a $1,100 donation to the Dayton's Bluff Youth in Transition program.

**Steve Randell**

Six years ago, this trio started the Youth In Transition (YIT) program at Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center. YIT has helped get kids out of the gangs, learn new skills, find jobs and make positive contributions to the community. Dayton's Bluff Community Council received a grant that brought a group of musicians to work with YIT members to create a recording studio of their own. There are plans to release a CD and to perform at festivals.

**Paul Broderson**

Paul has lived in Dayton's Bluff for over 30 years; for the last 16 years he has been on the Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Housing Services Board of directors. He has been an active block club leader, helping neighbors to clean up the neighborhood from trash, code issues and criminal issues, Paul also served on the Dayton's Bluff Community Council board in the 1980s and 1990s.

### Dayton’s Bluff Neighborhood Honor Roll

**Ali Artoli**  
Denise Erler  
Eugene Piccolo

**John Barbie**  
Chris Geurts  
Jane Prince

**Julie Benick**  
Charlie Golden  
Steve Randell

**June Bennett**  
Amy Handford  
Joan Rodriguez

**Glenn Bogmmern**  
Stephanie Harr  
Raeann Ruth

**Paul Broderson**  
Rob Huberty  
Roger Schawer

**Eric & Amy Buck**  
Beth Hyser  
John Seidel

**Alice Burdick**  
Bette Johnson  
Margaret Stieland

**Carol Carey**  
Keller  
Marge Smith

**Cliff Carey**  
Ed Krahmer  
Maxine Smith

**Maryann Chuenen**  
Deanna Layer  
Carlos Stewart

**Al Clausen**  
Diane May  
Ed Szalaapski

**Mary Ann Cogeol**  
Matt Mazanec  
Dick Taylor

**Jean Comstok**  
Sharon McCrea  
Susan Tijeljen

**Greg Cosinim**  
Wayne Moen  
Steve Trimble

**Donovan Cummings**  
Colin Moore*  
Lorraine Venass

**Carrie Dimmick**  
Mary Moore*  
Mike Voss

**Margaret Doren**  
Dave Murphy  
Wilfred Weber

**Steve Duorre**  
Ruth Murphy  
Juanita Westman

**Jacob Dorecher**  
Christine Nelson  
Wayne Wiltmann

**Angela DuPaul**  
Susan Omo  
Lisa Young

**Karim DuPaul**  
Catherine Piccolo  
Sandi Younkin

This space prepared and paid for by the Lantry for Council Volunteer Committee, 25 E. Sandra Lane, St. Paul MN 55110

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### Catching up with Ellen Biales

Ellen Biales, a legislative aide for St. Paul City Council member Kathy Lantry, answered a few questions concerning her position and involvement with Dayton’s Bluff community and how some of the Capital Improvement Budget funding directly affects Dayton’s Bluff and/or the East Side.

**Were you appointed or elected?**  
I’m appointed. I work for Kathy, and she hired me nine years ago. Each City Council member in St. Paul has one legislative aide they appoint, and the person works for that Council member.

**What do you do in that position?**  
I work very closely with Kathy and each of the two main district councils in her ward (Ward 7): the Dayton’s Bluff District Council and the District 1 Community Council. I do a variety of things, sometimes planning-related, sometimes business development-related.

**What is the Capital Improvement Budget?**  
The Capital Improvement Budget (CIB) is a city budget that deals with all of our capital projects on public property. Every two years the City of St. Paul goes through a process where basically anybody can recommend what they think are important capital projects within the city. It can be anything from street projects, to work in our parks, to various buildings within our parks -- any kind of park improvements we need to make. We have three different project categories: community facility; streets and utilities; and residential development.

**What does the CIB do to help the Dayton’s Bluff neighborhood?**  
This year the Dayton’s Bluff District Council is proposing to use some CIB funds for pedestrian beautification projects along East 7th Street. They’re also looking at making improvements to the Hamm’s Park area on East 7th Street. Our Public Works Department is submitting a proposal for some CIB processes to get matching funds for a grant that we received to do street improvements in the Arcade and 7th Street area, and I think our Parks Department has submitted a proposal to make some improvements in Mounds Park.

Part of the Dayton’s Bluff proposal is to improve some of the sidewalk panels along East 7th. But they also want to do some things like decorative benches and permanent planters, trying to improve the walking experience along East 7th Street for businesses and people in the neighborhood.

The chart below is from the last CIB process.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recipient</th>
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<th>2013</th>
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<tr>
<td>Indian Mounds</td>
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<td>$23,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>North East Neighborhood Corp</td>
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<td>200,000</td>
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<td>Economic Development Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commercial Facade Improvement Program</td>
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<td>25,000</td>
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### New HAP matched-savings program to combat poverty, promote economic independence

from a Hmong American Partnership (HAP) press release

HAP is pleased to announce the creation of its Individual Development Accounts (IDA) Program, aimed at promoting economic independence in low- to moderate-income families and individuals. HAP’s primary target audience for this program includes Southeast Asian refugees such as the Karen, Burmese, Bhutanese, and Hmong.

The IDA program provides matching dollars to deposits that participants make into an approved savings account. Participants can use the money to buy a home or car, to start or expand a business, to pay educational or training costs to improve work skill or post-secondary education for themselves or their dependents.

Bao Vang, President/CEO of HAP, stated “HAP is excited and honored to be able to provide financial support and training so that our participants can become successful members of their new communities.”

Program participants will attend workshops and trainings about financial literacy, savings planning, and money management. Successful completion of this program will lead to long-term success, development of good consumer habits and financial independence.

If you would like more information, please call Lisa Xiong at (651) 495-1511.
Tim Simmons: Youth work soup maker
by Diane Michele May, special to the Forum

Tim Simmons, who has been leading our Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center since July of last year, still considers himself a "Youth Worker." It even says that on his business card, right after "Assistant Director.

But don't think for a moment that Tim is a newbie around our neighborhood. He was hired on at Dayton's Bluff Rec Center just as they were "finishing it up" back in 1997. Over the years, he has worked at various rec centers in the Twin Cities, including the recently-levied Margaret Rec Center. But he came back to the Dayton's Bluff Rec Center on Conway Way, and was already working as a "Rec Leader" before being promoted to Assistant Director.

"I'm not going to say that I know it all," Tim told me when we sat down in the recently-transformed Teen Room. "It's always a learning experience. You learn something from the kids every single day."

Early on, Tim learned the value of being flexible in his job. Over one summer, Tim noticed that kids weren't showing up for the rec center's programs. "It's hard to program [the kids]. Being an effective youth worker doesn't really work that way." He also noticed a lot of younger kids hanging out on the playground, but not coming into the building to use the indoor spaces. He decided to schedule an open gym time on the basketball courts for youth who are 10 and under. That really got the gym time on the basketball courts for youth age 13 and under got their turn in the only ages 10 and under. That really got the kids into the building to use the in-door spaces. He decided to schedule an open gym time on the basketball courts for youth who are 10 and under. That really got the kids into the building to use the indoor spaces.

The kids really started to use the gym time on the basketball courts for youth who are 10 and under and more vocal.

"Youth work is always challenging. You have to be aware that you're different. Be you!" He also truly be believe that you're different. Be you!" He also truly believe that "Youth work is always challenging. You have to be aware that you're different. Be you!" He also truly believe that his diversity in this neighborhood empowers his staff to keep them there. "There's a place for everyone here at the Rec Center. It's not all about sports. Do you want to play games? You want to draw? We have rooms available. I just tell my staff to open up a room.

Safety is a top priority. Tim tells parents, "These are my kids, too. Their safety is my safety. I want to make sure they have a safe environment where they can come hang out and play." Tim is quick to point out that he has been seeing successful activities such as "Summer Movie Mondays" scheduled around 5:00 or 5:30 pm. He encourages parents to keep them there. The summer brochure in the office, affectionately titled "The Happening Book," will be available to the public soon. The printed copies can be picked up from the display rack in the rec center's atrium. There is something for everyone of every age, race, and background going on at the Dayton's Bluff Rec Center.

Tim feels the diversity in this neighborhood is "amazing." He wants the kids to know that they should always just be themselves. "It's not that you're different. Be you!" He also truly believes that kids are a lot smarter these days, and more vocal.

"Youth work is always challenging. You take the good with the bad and the bad with the good. But we always want good results. Put it all together, and hey! One good pot of youth work soup."

TCA: a Twin Cities achievement
by Danny Evans, special to the Forum

Since its foundation, Twin Cities Academy has been committed to constructing an education system for its middle school and high school students. Located in the heart of Dayton’s Bluff, TCA serves a diverse array of students from many different ethnicities and backgrounds. TCA is a charter school, supported with the help of St. Thomas University. The new principal of the middle and high schools of TCA is Betty Lueth, who began her journey at TCA in July, 2012. She wanted to work for the school, she says, because her "mission focused on solid leadership and connection with community. The vision of the school and my vision of school matched."

School founder and co-director of the school, Andrew Minck, who leads with Lueth, had a fire to continue his educational career with Twin Cities Academy because he "likes the vision of engaged citizens, and making students members of community and college-ready."

Lueth and Minck are very vocal about what makes TCA different from other schools in the surrounding area. TCA, they say, is about making the student the central mission of this educational system. The staff gives students more individualized attention, to ensure that no child falls through the cracks. Parents of TCA students are extremely engaged in their children’s roles as students. When parents choose to enroll their kids, they agree to volunteer at least 50 hours each school year to help make the school a more student- and family-centered environment. Parents receive volunteer credits when they attend their child’s band concert or go to a parent-teacher conference.

Lueth and Minck say they look to construct solid community relationships with nearby businesses in Dayton’s Bluff. The high school students volunteer in the community; TCA is always looking for more opportunities for their high school students.

"We do book tours for TCA,” Principal Betty Lueth and Mr. Minck want "more partnerships with the community, and growth in the enrollment in our high school. We also desire growing extracurricular activities for the school. Finally, we want to grow with the retiring founder’s vision of the school and to expand that vision.

From a new principal in Betty Lueth and co-director Andrew Minck, Twin Cities Academy is ready to begin a new phase in its educational system. With the need for parent involvement and to ensure that the students are learning and growing while at the charter school, Twin Cities Academy is truly a Twin Cities achievement.

Engage with youth as allies to create good citizens
by Brian Hubbard, local youth worker

In previous Forums, several articles discussed how the shootings in the neighborhood can be prevented. I believe there are two ways the news media can make a difference in this. The first is about where young people go and hang out in their communities. Recreation centers, libraries, and schools are community spaces for most youth. Yet in news stories about shooting, they are presented (factually) as the site where the shooting or other violent incident occurred. This makes it easy for readers to make a connection between an incident and a gathering place. This is not a safe environment where they can come hang out and play.

Safety is a top priority. Tim tells parents, "These are my kids, too. Their safety is my safety. I want to make sure they have a safe environment where they can come hang out and play.” Tim is quick to point out that he has been seeing successful activities such as “Summer Movie Mondays” scheduled around 5:00 or 5:30 pm. He encourages parents to hang out at the rec center. The summer brochure in the office, affectionately titled “The Happening Book,” will be available to the public soon. The printed copies can be picked up from the display rack in the rec center’s atrium. There is something for everyone of every age, race, and background going on at the Dayton’s Bluff Rec Center.

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“Youth work is always challenging. You take the good with the bad and the bad with the good. But we always want good results. Put it all together, and hey! One good pot of youth work soup.”
Emma Dieter: A women’s history month story
by Steve Trimble, Forum historian

In case you didn’t remember, March is women’s history month. It’s usually so cold to have the women’s history walking tour I developed, so this will have to do. (By the way, if anyone out there is willing to take over the job of hosting the Dayton’s Buff women’s history walks, I will gladly give them all of my information and take you on a training walk.)

This month, I am featuring Emma Dieter. She is not one of the prominent “women worthies” who are usually written about, but she deserves to be remembered. She was a tireless person who cared for her family and church and made an effort to make this a better community.

Almost everything we know about her can be found in In Remembrance of Emma P. Dieter, written by her grandson Richard Dieter. Richard’s mother, Emma Dieter, and his younger sister were bothjust bitches. The two were brought to Emma’s St. Paul house at 331 Maple Street. Even though she and her husband were in their late 50s and had adult children, they welcomed the two infants into their home, raising them in the 10-room house that still stands.

What follows is some information, often in Richard’s words, about his grandmother’s character and life. Emma was thrifty, putting to shame current efforts at recycling and self-sufficiency. They never had an automobile. She saved newspapers, rags and metal to sell to the rag man. She used a Singer treadle sewing machine, “making our first suits and dresses.” She baked only one small one layer cake a week, so sweets were not a daily matter.

“She read the grocery ads and bought from the large downtown stores because they were cheaper than the corner grocers…. Mother baked bread, cakes, pies and doughnuts… In season, she canned beans, corn, leeks, tomatoes, apples, peaches, pears, plums, grapes and gooseberries” and made sauerkraut.

“Every payday, Grandfather gave her $40 to buy groceries, pay the light and telephone bills and buy whatever clothing we needed,” her grandson wrote. She saved money from her house allowance, banked it and sometimes invested in bonds, feeling that stocks were too risky. But she did “not gloat over her financial acumen,” and often said “I’m just an average old woman who never went beyond the third grade.”

Emma was quite religious. The family attended the German Methodist Episcopal Church at 4th and Maple Streets where, at the time, the sermons there were in German. The family always tithed ten percent of their income. She read from the Bible to children every day and sermons there were in German. The family always tithed ten percent of their income. She read from the Bible to children every day and

"To think of our home on Dayton’s Buff seems like a dream. The outstanding feature…was the little pilot house, cupola on the roof. The view into the distance was superb; the river with green shores; above, the blue sky, a delightful white cloud-formation moving.”

These words, and more, were written by Martha Claussen, the daughter of Ferdinand Willius, an early Paul banker, alderman, community booster and German immigrant. The note was written for her granddaughter, Betty Hermann Cowie, who has become the family historian and archivist. The home so affectionately described was located at the intersection of 5th Street and Hoffman Avenue (now Mounds Blvd.) just below the present site of Metropolitan State University. In 1853, St. Paul’s population of 4,700 people congregated primarily around Lower town and the riverfront where hundreds of new residents were then arriving by steamboat. Willius was one such passenger, arriving on the lower levee in 1855. Within a year he established a succession of early banks, eventually becoming the National German American Bank. (It eventually merged with the Merchant’s National Bank which later joined with the iconic First National Bank.)

Willius was an alderman from 1869 to 1876 and had a street named after him (now through the area where for the new ballpark and light rail maintenance facility will reside.) He initiated the idea for an improved connection between Lowertown and Dayton’s Buff and pushed for the removal of an old rickety

Willius is more than a street
Dan McGuiness, special to the Forum

“Ferdinand Willius, pictured at his desk as the Vice-President of the State Savings Bank in the early 1890s. The “revolving book case” in the photograph remains a valuable family heirloom.”

In case you didn’t remember, March is women’s history month. It’s usually so cold to have the women’s history walking tour I developed, so this will have to do. (By the way, if anyone out there is willing to take over the job of hosting the Dayton’s Buff women’s history walks, I will gladly give them all of my information and take you on a training walk.)

This month, I am featuring Emma Dieter. She is not one of the prominent “women worthies” who are usually written about, but she deserves to be remembered. She was a tireless person who cared for her family and church and made an effort to make this a better community.

Almost everything we know about her can be found in In Remembrance of Emma P. Dieter, written by her grandson Richard Dieter. Richard’s mother, Emma Dieter, and his younger sister were both just bitches. The two were brought to Emma’s St. Paul house at 331 Maple Street. Even though she and her husband were in their late 50s and had adult children, they welcomed the two infants into their home, raising them in the 10-room house that still stands.

What follows is some information, often in Richard’s words, about his grandmother’s character and life. Emma was thrifty, putting to shame current efforts at recycling and self-sufficiency. They never had an automobile. She saved newspapers, rags and metal to sell to the rag man. She used a Singer treadle sewing machine, “making our first suits and dresses.” She baked only one small one layer cake a week, so sweets were not a daily matter.

“She read the grocery ads and bought from the large downtown stores because they were cheaper than the corner grocers…. Mother baked bread, cakes, pies and doughnuts… In season, she canned beans, corn, leeks, tomatoes, apples, peaches, pears, plums, grapes and gooseberries” and made sauerkraut.

“Every payday, Grandfather gave her $40 to buy groceries, pay the light and telephone bills and buy whatever clothing we needed,” her grandson wrote. She saved money from her house allowance, banked it and sometimes invested in bonds, feeling that stocks were too risky. But she did “not gloat over her financial acumen,” and often said “I’m just an average old woman who never went beyond the third grade.”

Emma was quite religious. The family attended the German Methodist Episcopal Church at 4th and Maple Streets where, at the time, the sermons there were in German. The family always tithed ten percent of their income. She read from the Bible to children every day and

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Most of you know me from the Make it Happen on East 7th Street initiative to organize and revitalize our local business area. I now have the great fortune of a larger scope of work with the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council. But I am mainly writing this as a resident of Dayton’s Bluff and the East Side of St. Paul, bringing my experience and opinions living in this community.

It is my opinion that these important East Side transportation issues need to be explored further, through collective decision-making by all of the stakeholders. This area: everyone involved with the East Side of St. Paul.

When I first heard of the Gateway Corridor, I felt afraid for the unknown of what that change might look like. What would it mean to change that street and the neighborhoods of the East Side of St. Paul. As I learned more about the Gateway Corridor and its purpose, I found myself getting involved. I wanted to make sure that the East Side had a strong voice in this decision-making process – just as strong as the suburban communities that already have an active voice in their communities. I tried to understand the larger picture – how this fits in to the rest of the metropolitan area, how it affects jobs and the interaction of us with things that happen around our area that we want to take part in.

How will we, as East Siders, utilize the Union Depot downtown? How do you envision yourself using that transit line? How do you get there?

It is my understanding that there are two purposes for this transit line: One is to create an efficient transit option for people living outside of the Twin Cities (Hudson, Wisconsin and Burnaby) to reach the Union Depot and take advantage of the light rail system. The second is an equity piece, which federal dollars are tied to, and which also states that this transit line must impact neighborhood socio-economic and transit dependency. Those are also largely neighborhood issues.

During our community, we need to explore opportunities for economic growth for our region. What does that look like? This community needs to have into that. What is perception, and what is reality? The Dayton’s Bluff Community Council, in partnership with the Office of Economic Prosperity Campaign and Engage East Side, are working towards to a plan that has several community engagement sessions. I urge all of you to take part in this process.

We know that when we create an environment, it affects the way people interact in a neighborhood, and some of that is very needed on the East Side. We have had talks about the idea of creating an updated infrastructure for the area. If a transit corridor is built, it could create an environment to create an environment and demand that will help the economy. If we create an environment awareness and consumers for businesses and invite people to open spaces on the East Side. It is our role to create a feeling of safety. Many of the citizens have been very outspoken about this being a need in our community. I also know from reading many studies about other rail lines that, typically, doing a transit system in a neighborhood creates stability in housing. This is something that is also very much needed on the East Side of St. Paul. Our current system of housing vacancy and transition affects all sorts of systems, including education. We do have a great opportunity, at this juncture, to learn from other Transit and other neighborhoods in metropolitan area and to be better equipped to know what we need to support businesses and residents.

I would hope that our politicians would take these lessons and, in the next 10 years, do vision for those needs on the East Side. Examples are common parking areas, good lighting, and social gathering waiting spots. Our neighborhoods have vibrant businesses that offer desirable services, and we want to attract more even to fill up currently vacant spaces. Having a transit line would encourage developers to come in to create a walkable, BRT, knowing that their work does have reliable transit to and from their jobs. This is in turn creating an opportunity for local people to have jobs in this neighborhood, which is sorely needed.

I invite you to think about what you would envision for this neighborhood in 10 years. What do we look like then? Will a transit corridor be there today or 10 years from now? Will the population of the area. Think about how your life would be different if you were transit-dependent. I strongly believe that you'd have the ability to get to your job or your daily care or your school. What changes are that are tied to our communities around the growth of our community, and our community building.

I value the people who make up the neighborhoods of the East Side and I think we deserve better transit systems? We do not have a large transit system. People need to be able to be able to get to the next steps planning for the corridor. This does not mean that the discussion is over – there is still opportunity for public involvement as the DEIS takes place.

I encourage neighbors to visit the Gateway Corridor website (www.thegatewaycorridor.com) to learn more about the corridor. I also encourage you to keep your eyes open for additional public meetings, information meetings, or a meeting for your neighborhood group.

If you need assistance, you are welcome to contact my office at 651-266-8670 or ward7@ci.stpaul.mn.us.

Phase 2

People, get ready; there’s a change coming

by Tabitha DeRango, Dayton’s Bluff Community Council

March 2013

Dayton’s Bluff District Forum Page 7

Transit decisions: The Gateway Corridor

Facing the facts

by Kathy Lantry, St. Paul City Council Member, Ward 7

In recent issues of the Dayton’s Bluff District Forum, I have read opinion pieces related to the Gateway Corridor. As a member of the Gateway Corridor Commission, I thought it might be time to share some factual information about the corridor.

The Gateway Corridor area overlays interstate 94 from the St. Croix River Bridge to downtown St. Paul. The Gateway Corridor Commission, comprised of City and County elected officials representing communities along the corridor, was established to plan for this corridor. The first step in this planning process is an Alternative Analysis.

The Commission began the analysis of alternatives in the fall of 2010. We first developed criteria against which each of the alternatives would be judged. These criteria included providing for increased mobility, cost-effectiveness, support for economic development, protecting the existing natural environment, community quality of life, and improving safety. Data collection included the estimated daily ridership, the capital costs for construction, economic development opportunities, the number of property acquisitions required, impacts on transit, and transit travel times. Eight different alternatives were examined.

Early on in the process, the Hudson Road alignment rose to the top because it ranked high in each of the criteria. This alignment runs from Union Depot in downtown St. Paul east along Kellogg Boulevard, southeast along Montana Street to Hudson Road east to Manning Avenue. At the request of the Commission, the data from the initial review was “optimized.” Optimal operation examined the data to reduce the impacts and costs and increase the benefits associated with each alternative. Following this second round of data, the Hudson Road alignment again emerged as the highest-ranked option.

In October, the Commission unanimously recommended that two alternatives, Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and Light Rail Transit (LRT) – also known as the Hudson Road alignment – advance into the next phase of study: a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

Some believe that an alignment which travels down East 7th Street and the next steps planning for the neighborhood along East 7th/White Bear are goals that I share with the community. I am supportive of other transit options including the St. Paul Streetcar Study and East 7th Rapid Bus study. Because these two transit alternatives look like they could fill up currently vacant spaces, provide for economic growth, in our communities around the corridor, was established to plan for this corridor. The first step in this planning process is an Alternative Analysis.

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Chilli Lor, spoken word community organizer, and audience holding up their “E for East Side” hands.

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