

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

Volume 26, No. 9
October 2013
www.daytonsbluff.org

"The Voice of the Community"

One woman's treasure



photo by Karin DuPaul

At every Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Clean Up, someone finds a real treasure in the re-use area. Pictured above, with the "find of the day" from the September 14 event, left to right: Sage Holben, President of the Dayton's Bluff Community Council (and proud new owner of the cement statue); Betsy Leach, Executive Director of the District 1 Community Council; and Dayton's Bluff resident Candi Parker.

Dayton's Bluff Community Council elections October 28

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

The election for the Dayton's Bluff Community Council board of directors will be held on **Monday, October 28**. Polls are open from **9:00 am-5:00 pm** at 798 East 7th Street. Then the voting moves to the Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center at 800 Conway Street, the site of the Annual Meeting and Free Community Dinner, from **5:00-7:00 pm**. That evening, election results will follow a "state of the community" address by City Council President Kathy Lantry.

Dayton's Bluff residents age 18 and over may

vote. Voters may choose two representatives for the subdistrict where they reside, and one for an at-large seat. Write-in candidates are also permitted. The subdistrict map will be available at the voting area.

The board of directors has 18 members, of whom 16 are representatives of the four subdistricts and two are at-large positions. Subdistrict representatives must reside in the subdistrict, while at-large members may be either a resident of Dayton's Bluff, an owner or operator of a Dayton's Bluff business or organization, or a property owner in Dayton's Bluff. Nine of the 18 members are elected each year for two-

year terms. Absentee ballots are available if requests are made at least 10 days prior to the election, in writing, and signed by the voter. Ballots will be mailed out at least seven days before the election and must be received back in the council office by October 28.

Could you serve on the Community Council Board? Although it's too late to file as a candidate, you can still run as a write-in candidate. You and your supporters can simply write in your name on the ballot. Email karin@daytonsbluff.org or call 651-772-2075 with questions.

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Community Council
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Dayton's Bluff is \$1M winner

by Angela DuPaul

When the St. Paul Foundation announced it would award \$1 million to the best idea submitted in its Forever St. Paul Challenge, few dreamed that the winner would be a project right here in Dayton's Bluff. But Dayton's Bluff resident Tracy Sides did, winning the \$1 million prize with her idea for the Urban Oasis.

The purpose of the Urban Oasis project is to use an existing, vacant building located near the entrance to the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary to connect local food with customers, educate people on how to use and preserve fresh food, promote healthy food choices, assist start-up food businesses, and encourage people to choose locally-grown food.

The building would also house an interpretive center for the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary, which would provide information about local history and the intricate natural environment. There would be space in the building for other endeavors as well.



The building was built in 1914 and was originally Standard Oil Company offices. Over the years it has had a number of uses including storage, a 3M store, and a market to buy fruits and vegetables. It has sat vacant for many years and has been eyed by the Lower Phalen Creek Project as a multi-use building.

MSU day of service in the gardens



photo by Karin DuPaul

Gardening volunteers from Metro State, left to right: Kishor Pandey, Cynthia DeVore, Sharon Knowlton, Victor B. Cole, Doug Knowlton, and Nathan Fell.

by Karin DuPaul

In 2009, President Obama extended a call to service, challenging all Americans to help lay a foundation for growth by engaging in sustained, meaningful community service.

This year, Metropolitan State University's Day of Service was September 12. A variety of activities were offered, and some Metro State staff and students chose the Dayton's Bluff Community Council's walking tour & garden manicuring in the Upper

Swede Hollow Neighborhood.

After the tour illustrating the neighborhood's rich history, the Metro volunteers worked on removing unwanted plants (yes, weeds) from gardens, including the Bonnie Luke Memorial garden, named for a Metro State employee known for her gardening.

The gardens outside the Swede Hollow Cafe provide a place for neighborhood residents, as well as the university community, to relax and enjoy an urban green space. Thank you to the Metro staff and students who helped with this project.

Friends of Swede Hollow

The next monthly meeting is on **Wednesday, October 9, at 6:30 pm.** Email swedehollow@gmail.com or call 651-776-0550 for more information and the meeting's location.

Get rid of your junk car; help Dayton's Bluff Community Council

Budget Towing of Minnesota, Minnesota's largest towing company, is owned by Roy Carlson, an active Dayton's Bluff Community Council board member. Budget Towing will remove any junk car or truck – located anywhere in St. Paul – and dispose of it at no charge to the vehicle owner or the property owner where it is located. The vehicle owner will receive paperwork for a tax donation, and Roy will also make a small donation to the Community Council for each car he tows.

Just call Karin at 651-772-2075 to get a junk car out of the way – and help clean up Dayton's Bluff.

Small business classes

The next Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Microentrepreneur Class is starting in the spring of 2014. This program helps start-up and young businesses on the East Side. All East Side entrepreneurs are welcome.

Class training lasts eight weeks and includes topics such as operations management, marketing, financial management, one-on-one assistance with creating a successful business, and preparing a business plan, plus eight hours of one-on-one time with the instructor. Those who successfully complete the

course and locate their businesses in target neighborhoods are eligible for ongoing business support services.

Some examples of businesses started by people who have previously taken this course include graphics, landscaping, photography, food service, restoration of wood furniture and works of art, custom floral design for weddings and events, and exterior and interior painting.

The course is sponsored by the Dayton's Bluff Community Council and the Neighborhood Development Center. There is a small registration fee based on a sliding fee scale. The next session will be starting soon and class size is limited. Please call Karin at 651-772-2075 or email karin@daytontbluff.org for an application.

Meet the police

The Eastern District Police hosts monthly community meetings at 722 Payne Avenue, at the corner of Minnehaha Avenue. The next meetings are **Wednesday, October 16, at 6:30 pm, and Friday, October 18, at 9:30 am.** The meetings are intended to address and listen to concerns about crime and other issues on the East Side.

Join STOMP: STewards Of Margaret Park

This 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 at facebook.com/stompmn for the latest updates and announcements, or to ask questions or share your thoughts.

Community meeting

The next Dayton's Bluff Community Meeting is **Thursday, October 3.** The meeting is from **6:30-8:00 pm** in the meeting room at the Dayton's Bluff Community Council, 798 East 7th Street at the corner of 7th and Margaret Streets. The Dayton's Bluff Community Council holds its Community Meeting on the first Thursday of each month. The purpose of the meeting is to work with block clubs and neighborhood residents on problem properties, criminal and nuisance behavior, code enforcement issues and any other neighborhood issues, concerns, and/or new ideas for improvement in Dayton's Bluff.

If you can get me the addresses of problems ahead of time, I can get them to the police and code enforcement. Then they can bring information about the problems to the meeting. All Dayton's Bluff residents are welcome to attend. If you need more information, email karin@daytontbluff.org or call Karin at 651-772-2075.

The Forum needs YOU for a Friend

The *District Forum* newspaper is a nonprofit operation that mails out a free valuable community resource to every address in Dayton's Bluff. Please contribute to the paper at givemn.razoo.com under "Hopewell Communications."

Become a *Friend of the Forum* today by donating any amount online, or use the form on page 8 of this paper. Need more information? Email editor@daytontbluff.org.

To get an idea of how much an issue of the *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* costs, each issue requires many volunteer hours put in by neighbors writing,

taking photos, and editing. The cost of printing each issue is around \$960.00 per black and white issue, and \$250.00 for editing and layout. Our ad base has fallen off over the years.

Because the *Forum* is a registered 501(c)(3) organization, your donation also gives you the opportunity for a tax deduction. See page 8 to become a *Friend of the Forum* today!

The *Forum* is also still actively seeking paid advertisements for every issue. Consider taking out a one-time ad, or commit to a monthly contribution.

Take-a-Hike October 5

Take-a-Hike occurs on the first Saturday of most months. The next hike will be **Saturday, October 5.** 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.

Friends of Mounds Park

Friends of Mounds Park is holding their annual meeting on **Tuesday, October 15, from 6:30-8:00 pm** at the Cerenity Senior Care – Marian Center. Please use the Frank Street (voting) entrance. Topics will include an update on the new play area design and implementation. Everyone is welcome, including current and prospective FOMP members. Visit our web site, www.friendsofmoundspark.org, or find us at facebook.com/moundsparkfriends for more details.

Upcoming opportunities at Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center



● **Judo:** Mondays, 6:00-7:30 pm.

● **Free Zumba!** Tuesdays, 5:30-6:30 pm in the dance room.

● **Seniors "500" card playing,** every Friday, 12:00 noon-4:00 pm.

● **Free Rec Check program,** 1st-5th grades; registration is open to the public.

● **High school open volleyball:** Wednesdays, 6:00-7:30 pm.

● **East Side Pride and Youth Day:** Saturday, September 21, 11:00am-4:00pm

● Open gyms:

- Mondays & Wednesdays, 6:00-7:30 pm, Pre K-8th grade.
- Thursdays, 6:00-7:30 pm, high school only.

● **Girls group:** Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 pm, ages 10-13.

● **Parent & Tot Time:** ongoing, Wednesdays and Fridays, 10:00 am-12:00 noon.

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

Stop by and check us out!

October events at Mounds Park United Methodist Church

from a MPUMC release

Sunday Schedule

Adult Sunday School: 9:15-

10:15 am

Pastor's Class: 9:15-10:15 am

Kids' and Youth Sunday

School: 9:15-10:15 am

Worship Service: 10:30-11:30

am

Fellowship: 11:30 am-12:30

pm

McVay Youth VOICE program at Mounds Park UMC

Every week through May

2014, college students from

Hamline University will be on

hand to help participants with

after school homework and

small- and large-group activities.

The Hamline students will be

at MPUMC every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 3:30-

6:00 pm through the school year.

Registration is required, but participation is FREE. This program is designed for middle and high school students, grades 5-12.

NO transportation is provided, so students must make arrangements to be dropped off near MPUMC (the corner of Earl and Euclid Streets) from their school bus. At 6:00 pm, students will have to be able to walk home, be picked up, or take public transportation.

Call Jane Krentz at 651-523-2071 to register.

Glorious Grocery Giveaway

Saturday, October 19, 10:30 am-12:00 pm. All are welcome for a free bag of groceries.

Marvelous Community

Movie Night

Saturday, October 19

4:30 pm: games start

5:15 pm: dinner (free-will offering)

6:00-8:00 pm movie: "E.T.: the Extra Terrestrial"

All are welcome!

Happy Halloween Party/Hallelujah Harvest

Thursday, October 31, 6:00-8:00 pm Dinner, games, candy and pictures taken. All are welcome!

The pastor of MPUMC is Dennis Alexander. Call 651-774-8736, email secretarympumc@yahoo.com, or visit www.moundsparkumc.org for more information.

A tree grows in Dayton's Bluff

Notable trees to be compiled for "Tree Trail"

by Forum staff

The Pohlad Foundation recently asked people in Dayton's Bluff to submit requests for funding for possible projects. The development of a "Tree Trail" was one of a few that have been chosen for a small grant.

The people in charge of the Tree Trail will find how many species of trees there are in the community, looking first at Indian Mounds Park and the surrounding area. When the trees are identified, a map will be produced so folks know where to find them. Each tree will have a plaque placed to identify it, as well. A mobile app will also be created.

Nominated trees should be in the park or on the boulevards or other public property, so they can be seen without going into someone's yard – unless the tree is located right by the sidewalk, and if the property owners allow the placement of a plaque. The trail should be ready by the end of December. If you know of any special trees that should be included, you can get in touch with Steve Trimble, who is heading up the project, at steve.trimble@gmail.com.

October at the Mounds Theatre

by Raeann Ruth, Executive Director, Mounds Theatre

Real Haunted Tours

Real Haunted Tours are back by popular demand for 2013. Due to production and guide availability, tours will be limited, so book fast!

For one hour, you and up to 15 other people will have two experienced paranormal investigators walk you through the theatre in near-darkness. For that hour, you'll learn the history of the building and hear the stories of the resident spirits. They will also answer your questions and help you learn to ghost hunt. The tour includes several pauses for evidence-gathering and invitations for activity, so don't forget to bring your camera, voice recorder or video camera and attempt to catch your own evidence!

Tours are available October 4, 5 and 20, hourly, 7:00-10:00 pm; and October 11, 12, 18, and 19, hourly, 7:00-11:00 pm. Book tickets online now at www.moundstheatre.org.

"Harry Murdoch and the Curse of the Grim Reaper" and "The Haunting of North 3rd Street"

"Harry Murdoch" is a new special effects-filled independent feature film by Jon Hyers of North St. Paul. This film is unique because it features nearly 150 visual effects shots that would be common to a Hollywood film but not for a film made for only \$20,000. The story follows the Grim Reaper as he moves through time trying to reclaim a magical well. The well is said to be located somewhere in North St. Paul. Harry Murdoch is an avid ghost hunter who lives with his Uncle Tom, who is secretly a wizard possessing strong magical powers. Harry's ghost hunting adventures collide head-on with the Grim Reaper's search for the magic well, and sets up a chase and pursuit and the apparent vanishing of Harry and friends. Uncle Tom, with the help of two other wizards, follows the

clues in search of Harry Murdoch and in doing so uncovers some unbelievable mysteries about Tom's house. This two-hour movie features 20 local actors, including Paperbacks Plus Bookstore owner Kathryn Harris.

"The Haunting of North 3rd Street" is a 2007 docudrama about the Jon Hyers family's experience living in a haunted house in St. Peter, MN in the 1970s. This film uses actual, taped interviews with the Hyers family, historical research, and actor portrayals to tell and portray the experience of a family's life in a haunted house, and all the mysterious occurrences that went on there. The movie's run time is 1 hour and 41 minutes.

October 16: 7:00 pm: "Harry Murdoch"; 9:15 pm: "Haunting of North 3rd Street"

October 17: 4:00, 7:00 and 9:15 pm: "Harry Murdoch"

Doors open half an hour before each show.

Tickets are \$7.00 and may be purchased online at www.moundstheatre.org.

"Night of the Living Dead" Live on Stage

From the same creative team who brought you the spine-chilling "War of the Worlds – A Live Theatrical Radio Drama" and based on the legendary film by George Romero and John Russo comes "Night of the Living Dead."

Forty-five years ago, on October 1, 1968, an independent horror film astonished and scared audiences everywhere as droves of the undead filled the silver screen. And now it's lurching its way to YOU.

Experience the tension and horror like never before when it's your turn to be part of the action! Trapped along with the rest of the survivors hiding from the living dead menace outside – will you fall prey to becoming one of the zombie flesh eaters?

Or will you survive this Night of the Living Dead? The only way to find out is to be there!

The Historic Mounds Theatre is proud to present an original treatment of the beloved horror classic: "Night of the Living Dead – Live & Undead"

You may have seen it on screen. You may even have seen it on stage. Now come live it.

"Night of the Living Dead" has been resurrected in October and November for a special limited run. Book your tickets now before it's too late.

"Night of the Living Dead" runs from October 26 through November 10. Performance dates and times: October 26 at 8:00 pm, October 27 at 3:30 pm, November 1, 2, 8 and 9 at 7:30 pm and November 3 and 10 at 3:30 pm. Doors open half an hour before the scheduled performance time.

Tickets are \$15.00 for adults; \$10.00 for seniors/students; \$6.00 children under age 12. Get your tickets online now at our website at www.moundstheatre.org.

Paint the Pavement October 12

by Tabitha DeRango
Dayton's Bluff Community Council

New art will be coming soon to The Make it Happen Business District, thanks to a grant received from the Pohlad family foundation. Community members are encouraged to be involved in this opportunity for painting the pavement on Margaret Street between East 7th and Arcade Streets. We will be working with renowned artist Ta-coumba Aiken to create a multicultural design. The plan is to gather youth silhouettes to be incorporated into the art work.

Eastsiders of all ages are encouraged to be involved in this design process. Come paint together on Saturday, October 12 from 10:00 am-2:00 pm with a finish-up date of October 19 at 10:00 am.

Please call Tabitha with questions on participation at 651-332-9069

Fix up your home now!

We are a non-profit agency eager to help you accomplish your home repairs using the latest green rehab techniques that may lower your energy costs.

There is no cost assistance for eligible homebuyers. We offer payback loans with low interest rates (1-3%) and special programs that do not require payments. Call 651.774.6995 to see if you qualify.

Yog koj xav paub ntxiv hu rau 651-774-9064

Dayton's Bluff
Neighborhood Housing Services
823 7th Street East
St. Paul, MN 55106
651.774.6995-office
www.dbnhs.org



MOUNDS PARK BARBER STYLISTS



651-771-6980

APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE
TUESDAY THRU SATURDAY

1043 HUDSON ROAD
SAINT PAUL, MN 55106

Judy Lee

Fall fun around the Bluff

Overlook restoration



Photo by Karin DuPaul

Above: Tom and Trover from Corner Markers restoring the Swede Hollow overlook historic plaque in Swede Hollow Park.

Family football



Photo by Steve Trimble

Above: Kids play a little catch on a leaf-covered street in Dayton's Bluff.



Photo by Meg Gronau

Flea market for a good cause



Photo by Steve Trimble

Sacred Heart church of Dayton's Bluff held its annual Fall Festival with rummage sale. Above: Customers shop the wares available for sale in the lovely sunny weather.

We want your photos!

Whether it's kids in Halloween costumes or playing sports, neighbors enjoying a shared moment, or fun times at a favorite local business, the Dayton's Bluff District Forum always welcomes reader submissions of photos or articles. Email editor@daytontbluff.org.

At left: Cuban *Placerero* tomato plants thrive in our St. Paul soil. The fruits are about the size of a golf ball, with distinctive "pleats" in the shape.

Cleaning up the Bluff



Photo by Karin DuPaul

Above: Volunteers helping with the Dayton's Bluff/District 1 Fall Neighborhood Clean Up on September 14 in the Hamm's Brewery parking lot.

Gene Gelgelu: An African immigrant success story

article and photo by Mark Gallagher
Editorial Assistant

In 2008, a small group of immigrants became concerned about the decline of wealth in African immigrant communities in Minnesota. Gene Gelgelu, who was born in Ethiopia, was part of the group that became known as African Economic Development Solutions (AEDS). Later that year, AEDS was established as a community development organization to respond to the pressing need for culturally-specific services in African-immigrant communities.

They saw a great need that was based on the economic model of supply and demand of resources. Communication was also a big issue. "When people have a cultural barrier or a language barrier, it is a critical barrier for our immigrant population," Gelgelu says. "When my life happens to support those people who can't even communicate, there is nothing more exciting. I love what I do."

How AEDS works

AEDS helps the African-immigrant community by doing business plan training, taught in a 10-week course, held once a week in the evening. Since its inception, AEDS has partnered with the Neighborhood Development Center in St. Paul. "We were so lucky to have an organization that believes in leadership to help us," Gelgelu says. "We have business consulting that is unique to our organization, and we help people who have vision turn that vision into reality. That's where we have made a real difference."

AEDS also helps entrepreneurs with such critical issues as marketing support, financial support, consulting with a mentor, and developing a vision of one's own business. "We are a cultural broker in the immigrant community who helps minimize barriers by providing technical assistance and helping immigrant entre-

preneurs connect to resources," Gelgelu says. "That is our core competency."

Potential homeowners are also part of the AEDS vision to help African immigrants living in the Midway area between Minneapolis and St. Paul. AEDS offers classes on how to be a critical homebuyer/homeowner. Class participants discover how to manage their spending while focusing on their own goals. They also learn about credit, mortgages, home inspection, and the closing process.

"Basically, the people learn how to decide what is important," Gelgelu states. "People who come to the financial literacy class learn to build their money management skills and seem to live a better life."

Dr. Bruce Corrie, a founding board member of AEDS, had a vision of a "World Cultural Heritage District" and the concept of "Little Africa" emerged out of our work with this group.

Little Africa project

The Little Africa project is a transit-oriented development strategy. Through transit arteries, the project will create a diverse, regional market by connecting three cultural, economic, and political nodes of African immigrants in the metro area: Little Africa (St. Paul); Little Africa (Minneapolis); and Little Africa (Brooklyn Boulevard). These nodes will be developed as destination points as well as places for vibrant economic activity.

This strategy will bring new private and public capital to improve the lives of African immigrants living in the metro area, and at the same time tap the vibrant economic and entrepreneurial energy in this immigrant community.

"Little Africa is going to create visibility for the businesses there," Gelgelu says with much delight, "because when people come to that area, they are not only going to one specific business, but they will go to any business on the Mid-



Gene Gelgelu, pictured above, is one of the founders of African Economic Development Solutions, a group that helps the African immigrant community in the Twin Cities.

way corridor."

Gene Gelgelu up close

Gelgelu founded AEDS right after he got his master's degree in finance. When asked about his business acumen, he said, "My business mentality helped me get into this nonprofit world where we are all driven by fear and limited by fear. Fear of failure is what limits most of us to start something new. For me it was a good time to start African Economic Development Solutions."

Gene Gelgelu and his wife have three children. They live in Dayton's Bluff and like the neighbors, the diversity of the East Side, the affordable housing in the

area, Lake Phalen, and the great air. They usually cook at home, but on special nights Gelgelu and his wife sometimes go out to the Olive Garden in Maplewood.

Gelgelu generally works long days at his Midway office. His four staff and a business consultant help design the marketing support that African Economic Development Solutions provides.

"We are so blessed," he says, "to be able to provide this service to the people who really need it."

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

Send us your seasonal photos



Photo by Steve Trimble

Above: the last blooms of summer burst forth on a Maria Street front porch.

Fall photo opportunities

Autumn is here, with apples, pumpkins, and beautiful leaves all around us. The *Forum* wants YOU to be on the lookout for seasonal goings-on in your neighborhood. Snap a photo of some fall foliage, or kids in action, or anything you find interesting in Dayton's Bluff, and we'll publish them in the next issue of the *Forum*. Thanks for being a part of our community!

7th Annual

BOOYA!

Sunday, October 6th | Noon

1347 Burns Ave, St. Paul
(1 Blk West of 61
& Burns Ave)
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OBBS
SPORTS BAR & GRILL

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

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

Editor/Layout: Meg Gronau

Editorial Assistants: Mark Gallagher, Danny Evans

Next issue: November 2013. Deadline for material: October 10, 2013.

Before you vote Nov. 5

from a League of Women Voters
release

How will you decide which candidates will get your vote in the November 5 general election? See the candidates in person and compare their answers to questions from the audience and from co-sponsors.

The League of Women Voters of St. Paul is sponsoring two non-partisan public meetings with candidates who will be on the November 5 ballot. There will be one meeting for the candidates for Mayor, and one for candidates for the School Board.

The **Mayoral Forum** will be held Thursday, October 24, from 7:00-8:30 pm, in the School District Central office (rooms A and B), 360 Colborne Street, St. Paul MN, 55102. Candidates on the ballot are Sharon Anderson, Chris Coleman, Tim Holden, and Kurt Dornfeld.

The **St. Paul School Board Forum** will be Tuesday, October 22, from 7:00-8:30 pm, at the Hallie Q. Brown-Martin Luther King Community Center, 270 Kent Street, St. Paul, MN, 55102. Candidates on the ballot are Jean O'Connor, John Brodrick, Chue Vue, Terrance Bushard, and Greg Copeland. The conversation will focus on the achievement gap in St. Paul schools. Co-Sponsors of this event are the Minnesota Achievement Gap Committee, and Hallie Q Brown-Martin Luther King Center.

Please note that candidates will be elected using the new Ranked-Choice method of voting, so there is no primary for city elections.



Photo by Steve Trimble

Classic bike tour rolls through the Bluff

by Forum staff

The 19th annual St. Paul Classic Bike Tour, the largest bike tour in Minnesota, wound its way through the city on Sunday, September 8. Bicyclists of all ages enjoyed the traffic-free route, created by bikemn.org to benefit the Bicycle Alliance of Minnesota. Left: Riders made a stop in a particularly picturesque spot on Dayton's Bluff.

Sidewalk poetry in your city

by Forum staff

The poem at right, written by Anne Piper, can be found in a section of sidewalk on Cherry Street near Mounds Park.

The sidewalk poetry project, Everyday Poems for City Sidewalk, is a project by Marcus Young and friends, St. Paul Public Works, and Public Art St. Paul. Each year, poems are selected through a contest at publicartstpaul.org/poetry.

There is more Dayton's Bluff sidewalk poetry on the south side of 3rd Street, just west of the Parkway baseball fields.

Not like fire

*Nothing flaming
or even
potentially
aflame.
Nothing
caught up
with danger;
Nothing racing to take
control
of possessions or
no prisoners.*

*No, our love
was never
like that.*

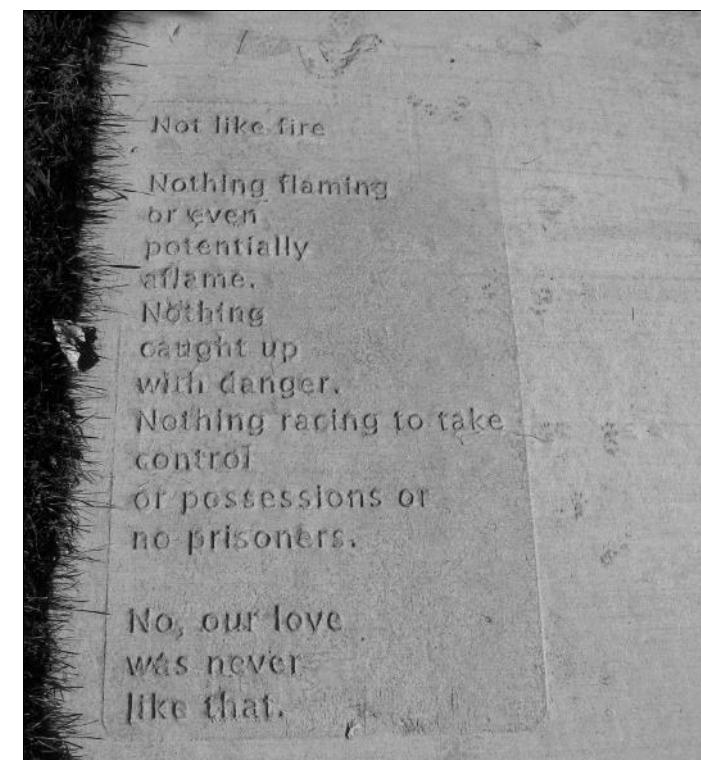


Photo by Steve Trimble

Letter to the editor

Call for Dayton's Bluff residents to demand good planning for a safe 6th Street

Many of you are aware of the proposed development on the old Hospital Linen Site, and the proposed Metro State Parking Ramp. I have attended the meetings for the Hospital Linen Site, and the Metro State Parking ramp, as I know many of you have, and I find the current plans unacceptable. 6th Street is a residential street, lined with houses, while 7th Street is commercial in nature. Unfortunately, 94 is connected to 6th Street, which encourages cars to use 6th Street as a highway ramp. Compounding this problem, the proposed developments will funnel traffic to 6th Street, as opposed to 7th Street, in their current draft.

In their current state, the plans for the old Hospital Linen Site call for two entrance/exits on Maple Street, one on Bates, and none on 7th Street. Because there is no plan to direct traffic to 7th Street, people will be encouraged to use 6th Street, increasing traffic on an already too-busy residential street. Additionally, Metro State has an entrance/exit on 6th Street, and one on 7th Street for the parking ramp. However, their own traffic study states that 66% of the traffic for the parking ramp will use Sixth Street, and I suspect it will be higher.

As many of you have heard, there have been multiple accidents in the past months on 6th Street. I think the traffic has reached a boiling point, and it is time to demand action from our leaders. To this end, I have started a petition to

Council President Kathy Lantry, and Representative Sheldon Johnson. The petition advocates a comprehensive plan to direct traffic toward 7th Street and away from 6th Street for the proposed developments. Additionally, the petition advocates closing 6th Street between Mounds and Maria.

Directing traffic towards 7th Street by adding an entrance/exit on 7th Street for the Hospital Linen Site, and removing the entrance/exit for the parking structure on 6th Street is an obvious way to plan in a way that benefits the neighborhood, and the 7th Street commercial district. By diverting traffic away from the neighborhood, the residents will be happier, and by diverting traffic towards 7th Street, businesses will get more eyes on their store fronts. This comprehensive plan is imperative to ensure that the already overburdened 6th Street does not have to carry additional traffic from these new developments.

Matt Mazanec and I recently met with Council President Kathy Lantry, who was open to these ideas, but could not commit to supporting or executing them. She did not support the closure of 6th

Street between Mounds Avenue and Maria Street. We have a meeting with Representative Johnson soon, will deliver the petition, and I will keep the community updated on his commitments.

Please take a minute to sign my online petition, available at the following link: <http://petitions.moveon.org/sign/petition-for-entrance>. Please take another minute to call or email Council President Kathy Lantry and call or email Representative Sheldon Johnson, and demand that they listen to the petition by executing a comprehensive plan to direct traffic from the developments to 7th Street. Also, demand that if the City of St. Paul is not willing to close 6th Street between Mounds Avenue and Maria Street permanently, that the street be closed temporarily so we can see the effects for ourselves. It is very important that you voice your concerns with your leaders, and that they be

accountable to the people. Below is their contact information.

Council President Kathy Lantry
kathy.lantry@ci.stpaul.mn.us
651-266-8670

Representative Sheldon Johnson
rep.sheldon.johnson@house.mn
651-296-4201

It is time to make a real change on 6th Street in order to reduce traffic and increase safety. Please help the neighborhood by signing the petition, and voicing your opinion directly to our elected leaders. I assure you that these problems will not be fixed without your help. Together we can make a positive change in the neighborhood.

Elliott Nickell
Dayton's Bluff

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651-228-1847
966 West 7th St.
One Block West of the Brewery

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Electronic history of Dayton's Bluff: final installment

by Steve Trimble
Forum historian

The last three articles I submitted to the paper were stories of several Dayton's Bluff structures written for a new mobile app being put online by an organization called Historic St. Paul. They will be free for anyone to watch, but I am giving our neighborhood residents the first peek. These are the last two that will become part of the "electronic history." If you want to see some of what have been written for other neighborhoods as well, you can find them at www.saintpaulhistorical.org.

The Dayton's Bluff Commercial Club Building

The Dayton's Bluff Commercial Club was started in 1905 to provide a place for social exchange and community leadership. The clubhouse at 770 East 7th Street was built for meetings and socializ-



The Dayton's Bluff Commercial Club, c. 1910.

ing for the area's professional class. Later expansions added bowling lanes, private dining rooms, a men's smoking room, a billiard area, as well as a banquet hall and dance floor.

The Commercial Club often spoke on behalf of the community and undertook a number of local initiatives. In 1909, they published a booklet entitled *Picturesque Dayton's Bluff*. In it, they discussed the "wonderful strides in material progress" that had been made in the area. There were photos of many area businesses and industries around East 7th Street and the nearby homes of their owners. According to the booklet, "the many advantages offered on Dayton's Bluff are attracting home builders and residents" and over 700 new houses were going to be built.

The Commercial Club was involved in many activities in its early years. It had raised money for the erection of a ski slide in Indian Mounds Park. The organization launched an "industrial expansion project" to "encourage the establishment of industries in the East District. An energetic Women's Auxiliary held many events including many "canned goods parties" to give food to charities. Large crowds also came to their annual picnics.

The Commercial Club shifted away from involvement in civic and economic matters after World War II. The members were no longer the wealthy, but more of a cross section of the neighborhood. The leadership of the group had slowly shifted to small businessmen. It continued as a location for neighborhood events, including community sings, wrestling matches and wedding receptions. The annual bowling banquet after "pin season"

was eagerly awaited by the community. Hundreds of people came to Commercial Club events such as musical and vaudeville acts.

There were commercial clubs in many St. Paul neighborhoods, but they slowly faded away. The Dayton's Bluff Commercial Club was one of the few that hung on and continued to have members into the 1970s. Since it closed, the building has often been empty, but has been sold from time to time. In the late 1970s it was owned by a man who raised wholesale fish bait there and dubbed it "Worm City." Most recently, it has served as the meeting place for an Ethiopian Church.

CLUES and The Mexican Consulate

The number of Latino people living on the East Side has increased dramatically since the 1980s. There are now numerous restaurants, groceries and other stores that respond to their specific cultural tastes. The historic Latino area in the city was on the West Side, across the river from downtown. There are a number of groups there to serve the immigrant community, but in response to the growing number of Latino residents on the East Side, one of the important institutions chose Dayton's Bluff for the location of their new headquarters buildings.

The groundbreaking for the new home of Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio (CLUES) at 797 East 7th Street took place in 2004. CLUES was founded in 1981 as the first language-appropriate and culturally-competent mental health clinic for Latinos. It has become a vital organization in Dayton's Bluff and beyond, providing services that focus on health and wellness, education, and employment. They focus on the six core services: mental health, chemical health, aging well, family economic advancement and community health worker services.

A Mexican Consulate, the first in the state, was opened in a remodeled section of the CLUES building in 2005. In addition to its work in St. Paul, the organization serves Mexican immigrants living in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and northern Wisconsin. The consulate can issue passports and an identification card called a "matricula consular," which can be used to open bank accounts, cash paychecks and obtain marriage licenses. It also offers visas, as well as emergency services and educational and cultural programs. Mexican citizens living in the Upper Midwest no longer have to go to Chicago or elsewhere to obtain such documents.



CLUES and the Mexican Consulate

View from my porch

Lack of self-control hurts us all

by Sage Holben
President, Dayton's Bluff
Community Council

I've learned in the last month that one of the least talked-about neighborhood problems is also one of the most prevalent: public urination.

It's not a nice conversational topic, but it is more widespread than even I had imagined. Since the last article I wrote ("Litter, cussing, and public urination," September 2013), people have told me of several instances in which young women (approximately in their 20s) have jumped out of cars on Bates Avenue and dropped their pants. They pee on the street, in daylight -- some between the car and boulevard, and some on the street, in the traffic lane. I witnessed one using our lilac bushes. Another story of a male passenger who, in daylight hours, simply opened his door and urinated onto the boulevard while remaining in his seat. When done, he waved to a shocked nearby resident and said, "when a man's gotta go, he's gotta go." The corner bushes at 4th Street and Bates are a common male urination spot, night or day. All this with a Burger King restaurant just a couple blocks away!

No, I'm not obsessed with

this topic. I am wondering what brings out such animal behavior in people. It seems my cats have more pride in their privacy and personal behavior than many people do. Is this the same animal behavior that "frees" a person to loudly talk in public about his or her detailed personal life of jail experiences and vicious relationships? To physically beat a person for no reason other than being triggered by unconnected, unspent anger? On the street I see people so quickly grab a weapon or use their fist to pound on someone else. There seems to be little hold on anger, self-awareness, or a full bladder.

What does this say to our many neighborhood kids? I try to teach them to walk up to someone to talk instead of yelling down the street; when on the porch, to treat the person with respect even if you don't like the person; to share what you have; be respectful of others' property...and then they witness public urination, which is so debasing to all those around. I find it easier to explain why one person physically slams another person than to explain the base and disrespectful action of public urination. Enough. Next is a visit to the city attorney's office to find out what can be done.

**What's the BIGGEST THING
this neighborhood needs?**

**Write down the most important thing you think
would benefit Dayton's Bluff, then clip out this box
and mail it to the Dayton's Bluff District Forum at
798 East 7th Street, St. Paul, MN 55106.**

Dayton's Bluff needs _____

Name: _____

**Or find the Forum on Facebook and submit your
ideas there!**

**Ever think, "Someone should do
something..."?**

You ARE someone...in Dayton's Bluff.

Join us at our Community Council meetings. **All are open to the public** and held at the Community Council office at 798 East 7th Street.

Board of Directors:
3rd Monday each month,
7:00 pm

Land Use Committee:
1st Monday each month, 7:00 pm

Equity Committee:
1st Tuesday each month,
6:30 pm

Vacant Building Committee:
3rd Thursday each month,
6:30 pm

Greenspace Committee:
3rd Monday each month,
6:00 pm

Ask about our **Marketing, Arts and Cultures, and Outreach Committees**.

Call 651-772-2075 for more information.

Beethoven, secret agents and snacks at the Picnic Operetta

Photos by Karin DuPaul

Above and below: scenes from Mixed Precipitation's "Agent Fidelio: a Picnic Operetta." This last performance of the season was held in Swede Hollow Park, with about 150 in attendance.

*Where in Dayton's Bluff?*

Photo by Steve Trimble

Think you recognize this obeliskoid piece of yard art from the neighborhood? There's a pretty big clue in the picture. Email editor@daytonsbuff.org with the correct, precise location -- first correct entry wins a prize!

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSPAPER NEEDS YOUR HELP

Dear Reader,

The *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* has been around since the late 1970s. It's a volunteer-run newspaper that has always operated on a minimal budget, but is now facing the possibility that it won't be able to continue because of economic difficulties.

The large companies in Dayton's Bluff are gone, and most of the small businesses don't have the finances to purchase advertisements.

We have to admit that we can no longer rely on ad income alone, though we will keep trying to increase this revenue source. Grants are hard to get these days.

So we are trying this approach: We'd like to get 100 residents to become *Friends of the Forum* and agree to make annual tax-exempt

donations to help the paper continue to mail out neighborhood news on a monthly basis.

If you value having a community source of information, please consider filling out the form at right and enclose a check. Any amount is appreciated.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dayton's Bluff District Forum Board: Greg Cosimini, Karin DuPaul, Carla Riehle, Steve Trimble

Editor, Meg Gronau
Editorial Assistants: Mark Gallagher and Danny Evans

798 East 7th Street, Saint Paul MN 55106
Phone 651-772-2075 Fax 651-774-3510

Yes, I will become a *Friend of the Forum*.

My tax-deductible check is enclosed, for (circle amount):

\$100 \$50 \$25 Other _____

Or give online at givemn.razoo.com. Click on "donate" and type in Hopewell Communications.

Name _____

Email _____

Address _____

ZIP _____

Phone _____

Make checks out to Dayton's Bluff District Forum and mail to 798 East 7th Street, St. Paul, MN 55106. For more information, contact Karin at 651-772-2075 or karin@daytonsbuff.org.

Friends of the Forum

Thank you!

The Dayton's Bluff District Forum thanks these generous donors who have stepped forward with a monetary gift in support of the Forum.

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	Steve Trimble

Consider joining them; fill out the form at left.