

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

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www.daytonsbluff.org

"The Voice of the Community"

Dayton's Bluff ramps up for annual Home Tour

Karin DuPaul
Home Tour coordinator

The annual Minneapolis and St. Paul Home Tour will be held on **Saturday, April 26, from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm and Sunday, April 27, from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm.** During the home tour, residents in both Minneapolis and St. Paul open their homes to the public to showcase the great things about city living. One of the Dayton's Bluff homes on the tour is 702 East 7th Street (pictured at right), beautifully rehabbed and ready for a new family to move into Dayton's Bluff.

Dayton's Bluff has so many wonderful homes that each year we have six to eight homes on the tour. The tour shows off many of Dayton's Bluff great features: the location, Metro State, the parks, the growing business community, the views of the city and the Mississippi River, and the outstanding housing options in Dayton's Bluff. The tour is hosted by the Minneapolis/St. Paul Home Tour and Dayton's Bluff Community Council. The tour brochures can be picked up at the Dayton's Bluff Library on East 7th Street in mid-April. Dayton's Bluff tour brochures can be picked up at any of the homes listed above during the hours of the tour.

Many people come here year after year to see what's up in Dayton's Bluff. They like the variety of homes, the parks, the neighborhoods and the neighborhood people they meet in the homes. Some of the visitors like it so well that they have made Dayton's Bluff their home.

Volunteers are still needed for the Dayton's Bluff home tour. Tasks include greeting people at the door, giving out brochures and information about Dayton's Bluff, and helping the homeowners for a few hours either day. This is a chance to help market Dayton's Bluff to visitors. If you are interested in helping out, please email karin@swedehollow.org or call Karin at 651-776-0550. For more information on the MSP home tour, visit www.msp.hometour.com, and visit www.daytonsbluff.org for more information about the Dayton's Bluff tour.



Angela DuPaul

702 East 3rd Street – totally rehabbed – will be open to the public and featured on the Dayton's Bluff branch of the Minneapolis/St. Paul Home Tour on April 26 and 27.

Mark your calendars for summer fun!

Art in the Hollow, June 7

Romi Slowiak, Program director

Mark your calendars now for the Eastside's biggest explosion of art and talent: *Art in the Hollow* on Saturday, June 7. This marks the fifth year welcoming summer with day-long visual art demonstrations and sales, global performances, sculptures dotting the park, roving musicians, kids art activities, and Wise Elders all in the heart of magical Swede Hollow Park. Scores of commu-

(See "Art in the Hollow," continued on page 3.)

Make it Happen Night Out, June 20

DBCC release

It is that time again!

On Friday June 20, the Dayton's Bluff Community Council presents the *Make it Happen* Night Out on East 7th Street. This Community and Business Fair is a fun way to involve residents in the growth of a vibrant Business District in our neighborhood and bring the community together for a memorable celebration.

Gather your family and friends and make your way to East 7th Street where you will find business representatives out on the sidewalk to meet, greet and inform you of the richness of products and services available in the neighborhood. There will be deals offered for the evening, including lots of free stuff and extra fun for the kids. This is definitely an event for people of all ages!

Our walkable *Make It Happen* District along East 7th Street stretches from Metropolitan State University to the Beacon Bluff (3M) redevelopment site. Come to the district and look for the volunteers in their bright green *Make it Happen* t-shirts. The green color is reminiscent of the new growth and renewed energy that exists in the Dayton's Bluff business

(See "Make it Happen," continued on page 8.)

Community radio is coming to the East Side

Carla Riehle
Forum staff

Want to host your own radio show? In the not-too-distant future, Eastsiders will be able to tune in to 104.7 FM community radio based in Dayton's Bluff and operated by you and your neighbors.

Do you speak **Spanish, Hmong, Somali or Karen?** Are you a **hip-hop or spoken-word artist, or aspiring DJ?** We need you to help shape our programming.

Last October, for the first time in over a decade, the Federal Communications Commission made it possible for local nonprofit organizations to apply for permission to create low power FM radio stations. The Dayton's Bluff Community Council submitted its application and is expecting to receive final approval within the next couple of months. The plan is to work out of a studio at the new East Side Enterprise Center opening in June next door to the current Council office. The antenna and transmitter will be located at the 180 Degrees facilities on East 7th Street.

What does this mean for Dayton's Bluff and the Eastside? The Council is organizing an advisory committee which met for the first time on March 12. Although the meeting was called on very short notice, we attracted people who had worked with *Radio Favela* in Brazil and *Radio Liberación* in Nicaragua as well as at local stations.

The next meeting is scheduled for **6:30 pm on Tuesday, April 15**, at the Council offices at 798 East 7th Street. Anyone who wants to be part of this exciting new venture is invited to attend.

The unanimous conclusion at the first meeting was that our community radio station has to be a reflection of our neighborhood. We know that at least one-third of the households in Dayton's Bluff speak a language other than English, so we are committed to providing programming in some of those diverse languages. Other constituencies include our large communities of color, youth and our local artists, religious organizations and businesses. Eastside community radio is intended to be a voice for all.

Please consider adding your own special voice. Come to the meeting on April 15 to share your ideas about a community radio station, or contact us at daytonsbluff@gmail.com or 651-772-2075 for more information.

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

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New Friends of Swede Hollow are welcome

The next Friends of Swede Hollow monthly meeting is on **Wednesday, April 9, at 6:30 pm.** Email karin@swedehollow.org 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, a former 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 651-772-2075 to get a junk car out of the way – and help clean up Dayton's Bluff.

Be your own boss

The next Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Microentrepreneur Class is starting in April 2014. Class size is limited, so register early. This program helps start-up and young businesses on the East Side. All Eastside entrepreneurs are welcome.

Class training lasts 11 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 8 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 scale. Please call 651-772-2075 for an application.

Meet the police

The Eastern District Police will host their monthly meetings for community members at 722 Payne Avenue, at the corner of Minnehaha Avenue. The next meetings are **Wednesday, April 16, at 6:30 pm, and Friday, April 18, at 9:30 am.** The meetings are intended to address and listen to concerns about crime and other issues on the Eastside.

Dayton's Bluff takes topics to Community Meetings

Every first Thursday of each month there is a community meeting held at the Dayton's Bluff Community Council offices. Residents can bring issues to law- and code-enforcement officials for followup and discussion. It's a great way to build relationships with the people who work to keep our neighborhood safe, clean, and drug-free.

Each month we also explore a new topic with the community. In March, we discussed the District Council's direction for 2014, the areas of work it's involved in, and the many committees of the Dayton's Bluff Community Council.

In April we'll talk about pedestrian-friendly environments and discuss what we can do to make Dayton's Bluff more walkable. Come join in on **Thursday, April 3 at 6:30 pm.**

If you are unable to join us, you can always call the office at 651-772-2075 for committee and volunteer schedules.

Take-a-Hike April 5

Take-a-Hike occurs on the first Saturday of most months. The next hike will be **Saturday, April 5.** Hikers meet at **10:30 am** in Indian Mounds Park at Earl Street and Mounds Boulevard, and walk through local parks and trails, winding up at the new East Side Heritage Park. The hike is about two hours (four miles) with some moderately rough terrain. Enjoy stories of the history of the people and buildings of Dayton's Bluff! Return transportation is available, if required. New hikers are always welcome. For more information, call 651-776-0550.

Mounds Park Church rummage sale March 29

Mounds Park United Methodist Church's spring rummage sale will be **Saturday, March 29 from 9:00 am-1:00 pm.** All money received goes to mission projects here in our neighborhood, our nation, and abroad.

Mounds Park United Methodist Church is located at 1049 Euclid Street. Contact secretary mpumc@yahoo.com. Or 651-774-8736.

April 12 cleanups at Mounds Park, Swede Hollow

On **Saturday, April 12,** over 1,000 volunteers will help pick up litter at many St. Paul parks. Join them!

Cleanup at Indian Mounds Park is being organized by the Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR) and will begin at **8:30 am.** There will also be environmental sustainability tables with up-to-date information on St. Paul's recycling initiatives, compost drop-off sites and compost bin and/or rain barrel sales.

The Friends of Swede Hollow are looking for volunteers to help clean up Swede Hollow Park from **9:00 am-12:00 noon.** Meet in the parking lot at Greenbrier and Margaret, or at the bottom of the Drewry tunnel. For more information, email karin@swedehollow.org or call 651-776-0550.

This important event helps ensure the beauty, safety and environmental health of St. Paul. Search for "spring cleanup" at www.stpaul.gov.

Eastside Transit Spotlight

On **Tuesday, April 29,** from **6:00-8:00 pm** at the Dayton's Bluff Rec Center, join the Hiawatha Education Foundation for a transit event focusing exclusively on the Eastside.

The event features a powerful documentary film, *Is the Gateway Corridor Hudson Road Alignment a Pure Illusion?* This will be followed by short presentations of interviews with residents of the Eastside expressing their views on the Gateway Corridor Project, which largely seems to bypass the majority of Eastside residents.

All are welcome for refreshments, snacks, popcorn and door prizes.

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



- **Parent & Tot Time:** ongoing, Wednesdays and Fridays, 10:00 am-1:00 pm.

- **Judo:** Mondays, 6:00-7:30 pm.

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

- **Summer girls' basketball:** ages 9-12 (grades 3-6). Registration fee will apply; there is a cost for tournaments.

- **Self-defense:** Wednesdays, 6:00-7:45 pm.

- **Cheer America:** Mondays, 6:00-7:00pm.

- **Teen Room "Bluff Room":** 3:00-7:30 pm.

- **Anti-bullying summit:** April 3, 11:00 am-4:00 pm. Kids in grades 3-8 can sign up through their school: Hazel Park, Farnsworth Upper, Dayton's Bluff Elementary, John A. Johnson, American Indian Magnet, or Battle Creek Elementary/Highwood Hills.

- **Rummage Sale:** April 26 (sign up through your school).

- **Open gyms 6:00-7:30 pm.** Elementary school-age: Mondays & Wednesdays; Middle school-age: Tuesdays; High school-age: Thursdays.

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

Stop by and check us out!

Continued from page 1:

Art in the Hollow: June 7 event seeks artists

nity members come together to make this happen and are rewarded with a breakfast at the beginning of the day and a party with the artists after. The hidden wonderland comes alive with an array of award-winning environmental sculptures, strolling musicians, and meandering historic characters from the neighborhood. Artists in a variety of media demonstrate and sell their works, and performers from around the globe grace our stage.

There is a \$15 fee for artists to display; tents required. Sculpture contest entry is \$10, and concepts meeting safety criteria will all be erected the day of the festival. The three sculpture prizes are \$300, \$200 and \$100. In keeping with the community feel of the festival, the awards will be made by a people's panel based on votes the day of the festival. There is no fee for performers who will be selected based

on talent, variety, and local roots. As a community festival set in the heart of the neighborhood, this is an "un-plugged" event.

We are especially pleased to be partnering with Twin Cities Academy High School, who helped create this event. This year, students will create signs and staff the kids' activity area. In a cozy hidden fairy den, guests may welcome our lovely, spritely "Spirit of Swede Hollow" who will be accepting suggestions for a proper name while handing out literature on her dream: the emerging Hamm's Center for Healing Art.

For more information on volunteering for this wonderful celebration of community and talent, or to exhibit, perform, or enter the sculpture contest, call Karin DuPaul 651-776-0550, or consult our website at www.artinthehollow.org.

Coming to the Historic Mounds Theatre

Raeann Ruth

Mounds Theatre Executive Director

North American premiere of Rats' Tales

"Fairy tales are strange and familiar, frightening and reassuring, and provide a map of childhood which we can use as adults to remember who we are. Their retelling and reinterpretation is part of the lifeblood of literature." -Carol Ann Duffy

Rats' Tales, by British Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy (adapted for the stage by Melly Still) will run one weekend only: **April 3, 4, 5** at 7:00 pm with a matinee on **April 6** at 2:30 pm. Performances will be at the Historic Mounds Theatre. Originally presented at the Royal Exchange Theatre, in Manchester in 2012 to excellent reviews, this is the first performance of *Rats' Tales* granted in the United States. David Hanzal directs.

Rats' Tales weaves together original stories by Carol Ann Duffy with dark and enchanting fairy tales from around the world. The thematic thread that runs through the show explores the pain of innocence lost, stolen childhood, growing up, and growing old. One of the macabre and magical stories is about an outsider with mysterious powers who rids a town of vermin, and then entices all the children away; another tells of a mother so eaten up with jealousy that she steals her youthful daughter's shadow. Others tell of a strange doll who becomes real, and

father. Using puppetry, live music, visual spectacle, and storytelling, audiences will be taken on a thrilling journey into the darker side of fairy tales.

Rats' Tales is recommended for ages 9 and up due to some "scary elements." General admission is \$10.

As *Rats' Tales* is produced by Theater Underground and Metropolitan State University's Theater Program, with support from Student Activities Funding, Metro students with ID may attend at no cost. Metro students who bring their families may attend on a \$10 ticket to cover everyone.

Reservations are encouraged. To order tickets online, please go to www.mounds-theatre.org.

Empower Emporium

Empower Emporium, a Psychic and Wellness Faire, will be held at the Mounds Theatre on **Saturday, April 26** from 11:00 am-5:00 pm. This is a psychic and healing faire for practitioners and interested members of the community to network, learn, share and grow through the intuitive and healing arts as well as other methods of cultivating a more holistic lifestyle.

Activities include:

- Free classes and workshops
 - Psychic and intuitive readings
 - Alternative health professionals
 - Aura Photos and artisanal businesses
- Admission is \$5 per person.

Mounds Park United Methodist Church

MPUMC release

Mounds Park United Methodist Church is located at 1049 Euclid Street, at the corner of Earl and Euclid.

Sunday Mornings:

Adult Sunday School: 9:15-10:15 am. Kids' and Youth Sunday School: 9:15-10:15 am. Worship Service: 10:30-11:30 am. Coffee, juice and treats: 11:30 am-12:30 pm.

Palm Sunday (April 13) and Easter Sunday (April 20) Services: 10:30 am

Easter Egg Hunt: Saturday, April 19 at Indian Mounds Regional Park at 2:00 pm. Please come and join the fun.

Community Dinner and Movie Night: Saturday, April 26 in the church hall. 4:30 pm board games; 5:15 pm dinner; 6:00-8:00 pm movie: *Rookie of the Year*.

Neighborhood BBQ: Saturday, May 3, 4:00-7:00 pm on the church lawn. (We will be inside in case of bad weather.) All are invited. Hot dogs, drinks, and sides provided. Bring a dish to share or just come to visit with your neighbors. There will be activities for kids, and sno-cones. The police and fire departments may make an appearance.

Contact MPUMC at 651-774-8736 or secretarympumc@yahoo.com.

Urban CROSS seeks yard/home projects

Urban CROSS (Christians Reaching Out in Service in St. Paul), a ministry of Mounds Park United Methodist Church, is ramping up for its fifth year.

During the second week of June, teams of youth demonstrate the love of God through serving the people of St. Paul's residential Eastside.

We 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."

If you would like our help, please go to our website and fill out a form. The deadline for requests is May 15.

Urban CROSS is also in need of donations. We always need tools, supplies, paint, painting equipment, printing, staff t-shirts, food for the teams/staff, and even scholarships for youth to come and to join us. To make a financial donation, please

contact Mounds Park Church at 651-774-8736.

For more information about Urban CROSS, contact MPUMC Youth Director Eric Buck at 612-559-2369 or urbancross.stpaul@gmail.com, or visit moundsparkumc.org/urbancross.html.



Urban CROSS 2013

CENTROMEX SUPERMERCADO

816 East 7th Street – OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK, 8:00 AM – 8:00 PM

Fresh Meat – Fruit and Produce

EBT & WIC programs available

10% off on meat Saturday & Sunday

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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



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

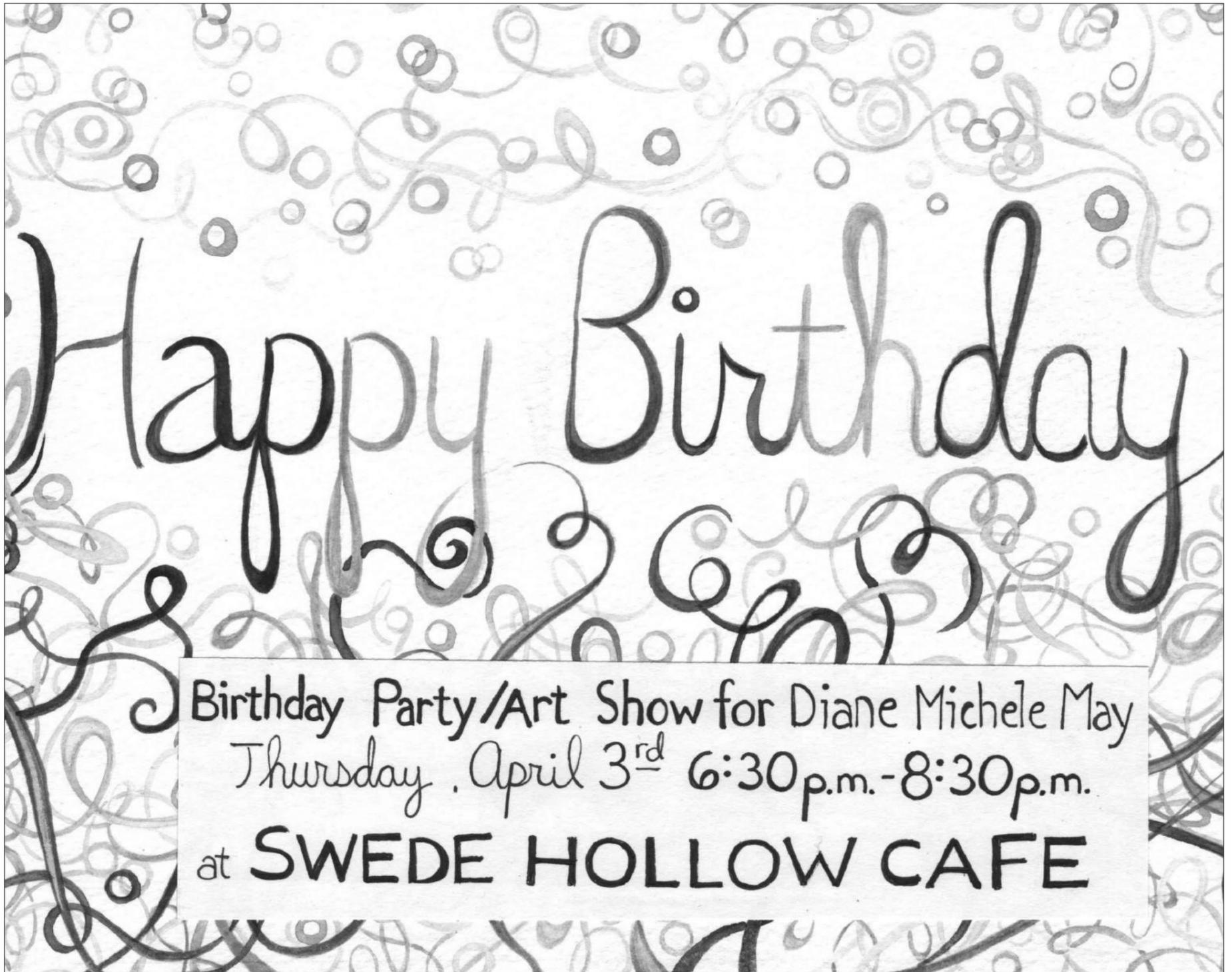
Equity Committee:
1st Tuesday each month, 6:30 pm

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

Arts and Cultures Committee:
1st Thursday each month, 6:30 pm

Ask about our **Marketing, Greenspace, and Outreach Committees.**

Meeting times may vary from this schedule.
Call 651-772-2075 to confirm, and for more information.



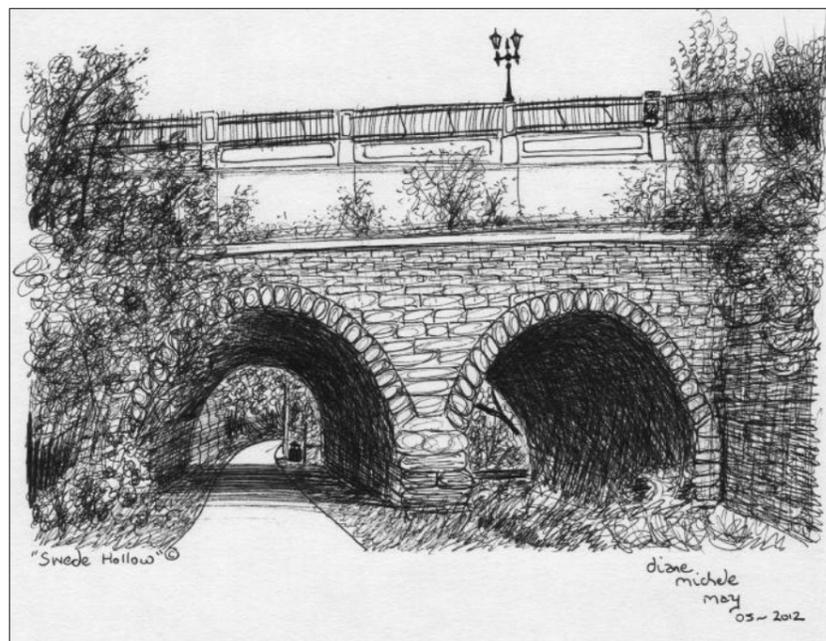
Meet a local artist at her birthday celebration: Diane May

My name is Diane Michele May and this year I turn 44 years old. That, in itself, is not such a great accomplishment; it just means I managed to survive one more Minnesota winter. But I would like to celebrate it anyway, and I am inviting everyone in Dayton's Bluff to Swede Hollow Café on **Thursday, April 3 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm.** Look over my local artwork displayed there, eat a free pumpkin cookie, and talk about what we like about our neighborhood. The Swede Hollow Café is located at 725 7th Street East.

Thirteen years ago, my husband Mike and I were looking for a house to make into a home. My dad was a realtor and he found a house in Dayton's Bluff he thought we should look at. Mike and I drooled over the list of amenities in the house: claw-foot tub, hardwood floors, built-in buffet, stained glass windows, etc.

We had been to the neighborhood one time, to have lunch at the Swede Hollow Café. I had read an article in the St. Paul Pioneer Press about the Café's famous grilled quadruple-cheese sandwich and had to try it myself. I really admired the exposed brick on the wall of the restaurant and the nice view of downtown St. Paul from its big windows. So when my dad said there was a house for sale in Dayton's Bluff, I knew where that was.

We signed for the house on Valentine's Day 2002 and, almost as soon as the ink was dry, started working on it. The house was built in 1908 and there were some structural things that needed to be addressed before the cosmetic.



Why was this radiator stone cold and that one piping hot? Why did our basement floor drain overflow with washing machine water only after doing back-to-back laundry? Was the scaffolding in the attic there because the previ-

ous owners wanted to eventually finish more space in the house, or was there another reason? I am happy to say after 12 years of living here (and for my birthday present last year), my husband, Mike, my son, David, and I painted the

house turned 100 years old. We celebrated the house's birthday by serving cake with a picture of our home on it.

So, if you are not getting the picture yet, we like celebrating birthdays. And a birthday isn't truly celebrated unless you have at least three parties – maybe even four.

If you went to my opening Art show at Kathy Lantry's office last year, or the show they put on for me at the Metropolitan State University Administration wing, then you have already seen these original drawings and paintings of mine that will be on display for 2 months at Swede Hollow Café. So, as one of your local artists, I hope to see you Thursday night, April 3, at Swede Hollow Café. I have purchased 44 pumpkin cookies to share; fresh-brewed coffee will be compliments of the house; and there will be some food and drinks available to purchase. The Café is not usually open this late, but one of the new owners, Ruth Campbell (see story on page 5), has graciously arranged it for us. On that day, the store will close at its usual 3:00 pm closing time, but re-open at 6:30 pm for the show. Hope to see you there and to have your support as I continue to showcase the Eastside and all the great things about this neighborhood. And by the way, I am actively looking for more sponsors and patrons!

dining room (and it needed it when we moved in here!).

We had our home on display in the Minneapolis/St. Paul Home Tour in 2005 and then again on the Dayton's Bluff Home Tour in 2008 when the

"Kill the lazy vermin:" Genocide and the Dakota people of Minnesota

Carla Riehle
Forum staff

Jane Gray Swisshelm was a progressive woman in her day. She edited a newspaper in St. Cloud in the 1850s and '60s and fought for women's rights and against slavery. But according to a story on Minnesota Public Radio on September 26, 2002, she also called for the extermination of all Dakota Indians following the Dakota-U.S. War of 1862.

"Exterminate...these red-jawed tigers, whose fangs are dripping with the blood of the innocents," one of her editorials read; "kill the vermin" read another.

A plaque honoring Jane Gray Swisshelm still stands near St. Cloud University.

Last year the Minnesota Legislature passed a law recognizing April as Genocide Awareness and Prevention Month. In the spirit of that declaration, the Dayton's Bluff Community Council is hosting a presentation by Dr. Chris Mato Nunpa, who will talk about the continuing aftermath of the 1862 war and how official histories still fail to recognize the genocide that was meted out on Native peoples. He will also unveil plans for a "fish-in" on Lake Phalen this May, in which Dakota people will exercise their rights under their 1805 treaty with the U.S.

The presentation will be held at **6:30 pm on Tuesday, April 22**, at the Dayton's Bluff Community Council office, 798 East 7th Street, in St. Paul. The event is free and open to the public.

Dr. Mato Nunpa is a Dakota elder and historian, a retired professor from Southwest Minnesota State University and a Community Faculty member at Metropolitan State University.

Dayton's Bluff is the site of the original village of Kaposia and home to many generations of Dakota people. Many important sites are located here, including Indian Mounds Park, once part of a much larger area of mounded burial sites that were looted, vandalized and ultimately leveled; and Wakan Tipi, now known as Carver's Cave, a sacred Dakota site that is now entombed behind a steel door with no indication of its historical significance.

For more information, contact 651-772-2075 or daytonsbuff@gmail.com.

A light in the Hollow: new owners continue delicious work

Mark Gallagher
Forum staff

The Swede Hollow Café, located at 725 7th Street East in St. Paul, was established in July of 1997 in the historic Stutzman Block Building, which was built in two stages from 1885 to 1889. The building was a dynamic part of the Dayton's Bluff community until it fell into disarray in the early 1990s. In 1994, the building was purchased and restored by the Upper Swede Hollow Neighborhood Association (USHNA).

John and Ruth Campbell are the third owners of the Swede Hollow Café, named after the history-rich Swede Hollow, located behind the building. They also own a computer consulting business, but John, who likes to drink coffee, was looking to do something a little different: he was interested in starting a mobile coffee cart. Ruth says, "John was talking to Wes, the previous owner of the Swede Hollow Café, and three weeks later, Wes approached John about buying the café, just as we were looking for another opportunity."

In the mid- to late 1800s, Swedish immigrants looking for new opportunities to settle chose the valley Svenska Dalen – since renamed Swede Hollow – because it resembled their homeland and they could live among their countrymen.

Nearly all of Swede Hollow Café's

menu items are made on-site. "Well, most everything here is made from scratch: the food, the baked goods, all of the soups, and all the quiche is made here in our kitchen," Ruth says. "Some of the sandwich bread is from a vendor, but we make most of our bread here. We have a baker-cook that comes in at 5:00 am."

The coffee beans come from Roastery 7, a wholesale coffee roaster in Brooklyn Center that roasts many types of coffee beans for their clients. "A lot of the coffee is grown Certified Organic and Free Trade from a lot of different countries," Ruth says. "We have different kinds of beans that come from Central and South America."

The Swede Hollow Café gets consistently complimentary comments on restaurant rating Web sites. Many mention the daily specials. "The only thing that is set for a weekday special is that we always have our gumbo on Fridays," Ruth says. "The soups and specials

will vary depending on what we think might work that day. We don't plan by the day, but we know what people like and what special sells, and we'll repeat that one again. We always try to have lots of variety."

Some of the biggest sellers on Swede Hollow Café's menu are the rolls. "We make a lot more rolls in the summer. We start out with an assortment of scones; we also have caramel, cinnamon, and bacon caramel rolls," Ruth says. "Bacon caramel is a unique combination; people love the salt and sweet taste. It's caramelized bacon so there is just caramel

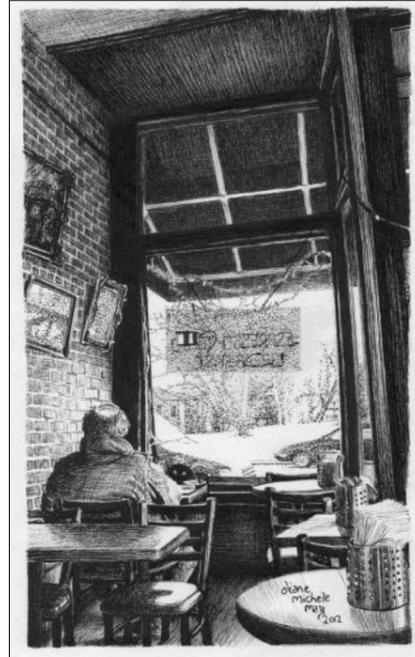
sauce, nuts, and we put some bacon pieces in the sauce.

"Our quiche is another popular seller with both our eat-in customers and our catering clients, who are usually from the downtown area or the neighborhood," Ruth says. "We have a wide variety of meat and veggie quiches for our customers to choose from, but there are no Swedish entrées on the menu. We do get asked that quite a bit, but it's just the [name of the] neighborhood."

The Campbells were raised in Wisconsin. Then they lived on 6th Street on St. Paul's Eastside for about 20 years, but currently live in Woodbury.

"A good group of regular customers is the bread and butter of the Swede Hollow Café," Ruth says. The regulars come in two or three times a week to enjoy a hot cup of coffee or tea, a quiche or sandwich for breakfast or lunch, and the ambiance of the cozy café.

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



Above: Original artwork, inspired by Swede Hollow Café, by local artist Diane May. For an invitation to May's birthday party at the café, see page 4.



Mark Gallagher

Swede Hollow Café owner Ruth Campbell, center, is pictured with house managers Helen Lindberg (left) and Shirley Yang.

First thoughts: Year of the Horse for Lao Minnesotans

Bryan Thao Worra
Twin Cities Daily Planet

This April, we'll be saying goodbye to 2556, the Year of the Snake, and "Sabaidee" to 2557, the Year of the Horse, the seventh animal on the traditional Asian zodiac. So, just for fun, what can we expect ahead?

Traditionally, in China and other countries where horses are popular, the horse is considered good luck, known for its constant efforts to improve itself.

Among its positive qualities, the horse was a symbol of the energetic, the bright, the compassionate, the intelligent and the competent. There's very little that people born in a Horse year cannot do, and many are considered indepen-

dent free spirits. Horse children are said to have difficulty seeing a project through to completion, and can be unruly and independent, chafing at too many restraints, rarely listening to advice, and letting their famous bad tempers show. They're often considered talkative, down-to-earth, and sometimes stubborn on things that matter to them.

Horse years are said to be years when fortunes fluctuate. Horses are flamboyant and prone to spending more than they should. If one were Chinese, one might look at the pending fate of Sochi following the costly Olympics, or the recent performance of the Denver Broncos at the Superbowl, as cautionary tales.

Lao attitudes towards the horse are a little different from those of the Chinese.

While Genghis Khan and his people rode the horses across the world to the edge of Europe, Lao culture has had a less-epic tradition with the horse over the centuries. Most of the roles of the horse were instead fulfilled by water buffaloes and elephants. The scholar Douangdeuane Bounyavong, however, notes that "horses are as close to people as elephants are," associated primarily with military and trade purposes.

Lao have few folk sayings connected to horses, who are typically ill-suited for the Lao geography considering the time, care, and expense of keeping them in good health compared to other animals. However, many Lao know the tale of winged horses who take good spirits to the heavens and were born to be the

mounts of heroes. The most famous of these is Manikab, traditionally considered an emblem of loyalty.

Knowing all of that, what's coming up that we should be specifically watching for in 2557?

2557 will mark 660 years since the founding of Lan Xang, and 60 years since Laos was formally recognized by the United Nations and given independence.

Lao Minnesotans are getting ready to welcome the return of Refugee Nation to Intermedia Arts in April. Acclaimed actors Ova Saopeng, Leilani Chan and Litdet Viravong will be performing the

See "Year of the Horse," continued on page 6.

Continued from page 5:

Year of the Horse: A reflection of Lao culture

latest iteration of the popular multidisciplinary performance which has grown significantly since its last showing four years ago.

The Lao Minnesotan community is already starting to take a strong lead role in this year's Twin Cities World Refugee Day celebration, scheduled for June 14, thanks to Saymoukda Duangphouxay Vongsay.

The Center for Lao Studies recently announced it has opened for applications for participants in its popular SAIL (Study Abroad In Laos) program. Students and young professionals should also consider participating in the SEASSI (Southeast Asian Studies Institute) an 8-week language-intensive program in Wisconsin.

Previous horse years Lao Minnesotans observed were 1978, 1990, and 2002. In each of those years, there were many changes for us in our diaspora. Some are very convinced of the accuracy of this traditional belief; others are not.

Many Lao Minnesotans do well remembering that old Shakespeare quote: "The fault...is not in our stars, but in ourselves." But a New Year is always a good time to look back and see the bigger picture of your experience: Where you've been and where you might go. What lessons have you learned, what memories have you made, what dreams have unfolded. If nothing else, we recommend you see the horse as a symbol of a journey this year.

Dayton's Bluff Night at the Minnesota RollerGirls

Forum staff

Join your neighbors for a fun night of hard-hitting women's roller derby in downtown St. Paul! On Saturday, April 19, a group from Dayton's Bluff will be attending the Minnesota RollerGirls' home team championship bout at 7:00 pm at the Roy Wilkins Auditorium.

The Minnesota RollerGirls, now in their tenth year, are the Twin Cities' premier roller derby league, drawing upwards of 4,000 fans for their home games. With four home teams, mascots, a halftime band and many activities, roller derby is fun for the whole family!

Roller derby has evolved into a legitimate, full-contact sport. The women

practice up to nine hours per week. MNRG has three skaters who live in Dayton's Bluff, and three more from the Eastside. Come see these talented athletes in action on April 19!

Tickets are \$14-16 (kids 9 and under get in free) and should be purchased in advance from the Xcel Energy Center box office, HealthSource at 1754 Old Hudson Road, or online at Ticketmaster.com. The Dayton's Bluff fan contingent will be meeting at Alary's Bar at 5:30 pm before heading over to the game.

Search Facebook for the event "Dayton's Bluff Night at the Minnesota RollerGirls." Visit www.mnrollergirls.com for more information on the league.

YOU MAY QUALIFY FOR A PROPERTY TAX REFUND

To qualify for a Homestead Credit Refund (for Homeowners) or a Renter's Property Tax Refund, you must be a full- or part-year resident of Minnesota for the year, and you can't be claimed as a dependent by another taxpayer. Eligibility is also based on your household income and property taxes paid on your principal residence in Minnesota, as outlined below.

RENTERS: Your household income for 2013 must be less than \$57,170 (for 2012, less than \$56,220). The maximum refund is \$2,000.

You must have lived in a building that was subject to property taxes or "payments in lieu of property taxes." If you're not sure about your building, contact your landlord.

HOMEOWNERS: You may be eligible for one or both of the following refunds if you owned and lived in your home on Jan. 2, 2013.

Regular Homestead Credit Refund (for Homeowners) and Renter's Property Tax Refund: Your household income for 2013 must be less than \$105,500 (for 2012, less than \$103,730). The maximum refund is \$2,580.

Special Homestead Credit Refund (for Homeowners) and Renter's Property Tax Refund: There is no income limit, but net property tax on your homestead property must have increased by more than 12 percent from 2013 to 2014. The increase must be at least \$100. The maximum refund is \$1,000.

Your home or mobile home must be classified with your county as "homestead" (the home you live in for tax purposes). Properties that are classified as "relative homestead" don't qualify.

TO APPLY, COMPLETE FORM M1PR

This form is available at public libraries and at other locations where state tax forms are distributed. You can also file electronically for free. It can also be found at the MN Dept. of Revenue website:

www.revenue.state.mn.us/forms_and_instructions/m1pr_13.pdf

Claims based on property taxes payable in 2013 or rent paid in 2013 must be filed prior to August 15, 2014.

QUESTIONS?

Contact the Dept. of Revenue at: (651) 296-3781

You can also check the status of your refund by calling: (651) 296-4444

or visit: www.revenue.state.mn.us



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History corner

War, embezzlement, and the big white house on the bluff

Steve Trimble
Forum historian

There has recently been a lot of interest in the American Civil War, the money in the Minnesota State Treasury, and white-collar crime. Here's a little-known story about a former prominent resident from the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood's past that, in a way, contains all three.

Emil Munch was born in Prussia in December of 1832 and immigrated to the United States at the age of 18. It's unclear when he moved to our neighborhood in St. Paul, but he first settled in Taylors Falls, Minnesota in 1852, and moved to Pine County after five years. He served in the Minnesota House of Representatives for the Pine County area from 1860-1861, but enlisted in the First Minnesota Artillery Battery on October 16, 1861 and was chosen captain the following month.

He experienced some bad times during the conflict. While fighting at Shiloh, one of the bloodiest battles of the war, his horse was shot out from under him. While Emil tried to remove the saddle, he was severely wounded in the thigh. As a result of the wound and subsequent exposure while on march, Munch resigned his commission in December 1862.

When he returned to our state, Munch joined the Minnesota State Militia as a brigadier general. During May through July 1863 he was involved in the aftermath of the U.S.-Dakota War. Governor Alexander Ramsey sent him to go to the western counties to get the settlers ready to defend themselves if their areas came under attack. In this commission, he helped fortify settlements.

In August 1863 he was back in the Union army. He had accepted an appointment to the Veteran Reserve Corps, unfortunately named the Invalid Corps. Munch remained with the unit at Camp Douglas, Illinois, until the war's end. His duties largely involved serving on court martials and guarding military prisons.

Munch returned to St. Paul in 1865 and married Bertha Seeger, a member of a prominent German American family living in Dayton's Bluff. In 1871, Emil Munch was living at a house at 334 Mounds Boulevard (now 652 East 5th Street). It is usually listed as the Gustav Munch house, but at least one of the

Minnesota Historical Society's photographs label it the Emil Munch house. At this time, I'm not sure where Emil fits in.

The house, an 1869 Italianate frame structure, still stands and is the last remaining west-facing home on the crest of the bluff. It's the one with the white columns – added sometime in the 1940s – that make it look like the plantation home Tara from *Gone With the Wind*.

Like many other Civil War Veterans, Emil became involved in politics. He served as deputy state treasurer and was elected Minnesota state treasurer from 1868 to 1872. After these two terms, Munch was succeeded by his father-in-law and neighbor William Seeger. Unfortunately, during his father-in-law's tenure, "The Great Defalcation" was uncovered in the winter of 1873. (I looked up "defalcation;" and it is an archaic term for embezzlement).

As investigations showed, Munch had purchased timberland and saw-mill operations using "enforced loans" he made from the treasury. \$112,000 would be

found missing from the State General Fund. He doubtless had the expectation that his profits would enable him to restore the loan he made to himself.

The blame was attached to William Seeger. He had accepted his son-in-laws I. O. U. and listed it as cash when he took over as State Treasurer. Seeger probably hoped that Emil's personal finances would rebound and the missing fund could be restored before any one noticed. Like Nixon's Watergate scandal, the cover-up became almost more troublesome than the crime.

After an investigation, a legislative resolution was immediately passed, ordering Seeger's impeachment. There is some confusion in the historical records. One writer said during the impeachment proceedings, Seeger sent a letter of resignation which was accepted by Governor Horace Austin. A different source said that Seeger tried to resign, but was ultimately impeached, convicted, and removed from office. Must have made an interesting topic of conversation at the Dayton's Bluff family dinner tables.

No criminal prosecution was made. Munch's bondsmen, including two major bankers and the head of a major whole dry goods firm, made the treasury whole. Emil moved to Lakeland in Washington County, where he engaged in the lumber business. He went to nearby Afton, Minnesota in 1875 and took charge of a flour mill. According to one later source, he and brother Adolph – a long-time Dayton's Bluff resident – also had a boat building enterprise there. Emil Munch died on August 30, 1887 and is buried in Oakland Cemetery.



Minnesota Historical Society

Emil Munch, c.1861



Minnesota Historical Society

The Munch house, 652 East 5th Street (later 334 Mounds Boulevard), built in 1869. The current white columns were added in the 1940s.

View from my porch

Our animal companions

Sage Holben
special to the Forum

Around 22 years old, Sophie spends most of her time curled up in front of the heat register. She comes out for food, water and the litter box. She once loved to be cradled on her back in my arms, reaching her paw to gently turn my face toward her when my attention strayed. Now she prefers to just sit nearby, seeming to doze for half an hour at a time. During this nap time, I trim what gnarly mats from her coat that I can. Under her once fluffy, long, multicolor coat, her body has lost almost 10 pounds and become sharply angular. She appears to be somewhat deaf and blind, but still able to jump up onto the bed and chairs. She chose me when she was about three years old. Poppy, my son's 17-year-old cat, had died and Sophie showed up on a nearby Iowa farm. A work colleague brought her to my office, opened the cat carrier, and Sophie walked to me, one of three women standing there. As she's nearing the end of her life, I am grateful for the years she's shared, including about 10 years ago when she came into indirect contact with D-Con and I found her icy cold, with coughed-up blood. (Thank you, Dr. Ryan, for your care!) Then there were the nights she carried her miniature Mickey Mouse doll down the hallway, giving an eerie midnight wail.

We gained a housemate about four years ago when an acquaintance called to ask if I could find a home for a stray. Renamed Tommy, the stray is still with me. He was big then; now, at about 25 pounds, Tommy seems as much like a dog as a cat. He is at the door to welcome whoever is there. He is alert to any outside noise and jumps up like a watchdog. He seems to know his bulk is formidable, as he gently eases his way onto a lap or into a snuggle. When he came into our home he brought new life to Sophie, encouraging her to imitate his play and seeming to remind her of activities she had slipped from initiating. Yet Tommy always seems to respect the old girl's space and needs.

"Perhaps the greatest gift an animal has to offer is a permanent reminder of who we really are."

—Nick Trout, *Love Is the Best Medicine: What Two Dogs Taught One Veterinarian about Hope, Humility, and Everyday Miracles*

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Judy Lee

Metro State exhibit features local artist

MSU release

Metropolitan State University opens its next exhibit, *This is What Progress Feels Like*, on April 27, in the Gordon Parks Gallery. The exhibit features the work of Elizabeth Garvey, of St. Paul. Garvey was an artist in last year's Art in the Hollow sculpture contest. Her work combines found objects and natural materials into mixed media assemblages that explore relationships between work, nature, and the self. "Now that...our na-

tion's population has moved from rural areas into towns and cities, people are more familiar with office procedures than with the rhythms of the natural world," Garvey says. "The works... are a reminder that we are...a part of this natural world."

The exhibit continues through July 24. Gallery hours are Mondays-Thursday, 11:00 am-7:00 pm; Fridays and Saturdays, 11:00 am-4:00 pm. The gallery is located in the Library and Learning Center, 645 East 7th Street.

Happy birthday, Harrison!



Viswanathan family

Harrison Younkin Viswanathan, above, turns five on April 4. A third-generation Dayton's Bluff resident, he is looking forward to the snow melting, and the new Mounds Park playground.

Continued from page 1:

**Make it Happen:
Annual event
June 20**

community. The volunteers will guide you to the clearly marked starting points on each block where you can get your *Make it Happen* boards. You can go any direction along the route, but remember: The more businesses you visit, the more giveaway items, special deals and chances to win prizes you will earn. Watch for the designated parking areas and stay safe by crossing the streets at the crosswalks. Check out the jump castle for the kids, and free popcorn, musicians and dancers. Bring your family and friends and plan to eat out on 7th Street. Visit the Market on the Bluff and local restaurants for dinner.

The drawing for prizes takes place at approximately 7:45 pm.

You will gain a whole new awareness of businesses in our district and see how you can buy local, including many everyday services and great food. It also provides an opportunity to meet your neighbors and those who work in our district.

Don't miss it; mark your calendars for Friday, June 20, from 5:00 to 8:00 pm.

Call Tabitha at 651-332-9069 for information, if you want your business to be represented, or if you are willing to volunteer at this community event. See you all there!

Hamming it up



Karin DuPaul

Above: Mark Stillman, left, and Nancy Sanchelli Guertin performed Italian opera pieces at the cabaret benefit for Swede Hollow. Nancy is the daughter of former Phalen Creek/Swede Hollow resident Joe Sanchelli. The Friends of Swede Hollow are already starting to plan next year's Cabaret.

Rest in peace, Dorothy Day

*Carla Riehle
Chair, Dayton's Bluff
Equity Committee*

The dust has settled on the proposal by Catholic Charities to site a new Dorothy Day Center on the Eastside. Unfortunately, Dorothy Day herself might have shuddered at how the discussion unfolded. A pacifist and anarchist, Day advocated "distributism," the equitable division of property and the means of production.

For its part, the Dayton's Bluff Equity Committee took a look at the process, rather than the result, and concluded that it was deeply flawed. The committee asked whether the decision to move the center from downtown St. Paul might have

less to do with serving the poor than with the site's potential investment value and the desire to make the homeless less conspicuous. When some of the center's patrons were asked recently about the proposal, they said they much preferred the downtown location and dismissed, as the least of their worries, the oft-repeated statement by Catholic Charities CEO Tim Marx that they felt "on display."

There are over 10,000 poor people in Payne-Phalen and Dayton's Bluff, many of whom are only one or two steps removed from being homeless. We need housing, jobs, and, yes, homeless shelters. But the hurried and possibly disingenuous way this proposal came to us did little to address those needs.

Friends of the *Forum*

Dear Reader,

The *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* began in the late 1970s and remains a volunteer-run newspaper that has always operated on a minimal budget, but we now face a "new normal" of an uncertain future due to economic difficulties.

Thanks to the generous contributions of nearly 50 individuals and businesses, we raised \$2800 in 2013, enough to keep the paper running for now.

If you value this community source of information, please consider filling out the form at right and

enclosing a check. Any amount is appreciated; you may also make memorial donations or include the *Forum* in your legacy planning.

Already a *Friend*? It's time to renew your membership for 2014. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Dayton's Bluff District Forum
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Jennifer Herman, Carla Riehle,
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