National Night Out
Tuesday, August 5

The rich history of the Hamm’s Brewery, the desire to be part of the renewal of these historic buildings, and the water from “the land of sky blue waters” brought three businesses to the oldest buildings on the Hamm’s Brewery campus: the city-owned buildings on the south side of East Minnehaha Avenue.

Flat Earth Brewing Company
Beer is being brewed in the Hamm’s Brewery once again! East Siders are thrilled to have this happening. Flat Earth has 13 beers and also has a wonderful Root Beer and Ginger Ale. John Warner and Franco Claseman revived the failing Flat Earth Brewing in the West 7th Street area because they wanted to create more jobs and do something good to help St. Paul. When they outgrew their space, they chose the Hamm’s Brewery because they liked the history and wanted to be part of the “Save the Hamm’s Brewery” efforts, as well as to create more jobs and be a positive force on the East Side. Franco said that Hamm history has been very important; many people who come into their building were former employees or have family who worked at Hamm’s and like to talk about the good old days.

Flat Earth is in the buildings that were the old Racking Room, Wash House and the carpenter shop. Their public room has the old-time charm of Hamm’s and is very welcoming. It is used for events and as the tasting room where visitors can come in and taste a variety of Flat Earth beers. It is open on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 3:30 to 6:30 pm and on Saturdays from noon to 6:30 pm. Growlers of beer are for sale from noon to 6:30 pm, Mondays through Saturdays. A “growler” is a 64-ounce glass jug you purchase full of beer or root beer, and bring back empty to get another full one. Flat Earth does request that visitors bring a nonperishable food item for the food shelf when they come for tours. Helping the food shelves is very important to Flat Earth Brewing Company. For information, check out www.flatearthbrewing.com.

Flat Earth Brewing Company is located at 688 East Minnehaha Avenue. Enter through the driveway between Urban Organics and the old Hamm’s Stock House No. 2 on the south side of Minnehaha Avenue.

11 Wells Distillery
The owners of 11 Wells Distillery are Bob McMahan, who has both business analysis and microbiology experience, and Lee Egbert, who has a botanical and design background. 11 Wells Distillery, formerly Mill City Distillery, moved to Dayton’s Bluff into the old Hamm’s Brewery. They changed the name of their distillery to 11 Wells Distillery, partly because the old Hamm had 11 wells that they used back in the old days. “We wanted to pay homage to the tremendous history of the Hamm’s brew- ery,” Bob said.

11 Wells is decorated with some of the old brewery items that were left behind in the old buildings. “We are excited to bring renovation back to Hamm’s and bring the building to life as an asset to the re- vitalization of the Payne-Phalen corridor and Dayton’s Bluff,” Bob said.

11 Wells Distillery is in the old Blacksmith and Pipe Shop buildings of the former Hamm’s Brewery at 704 East Minneha- ha Avenue. The community is invited to an open house on Saturday, August 16, from noon until 4:00 pm. Come, and welcome them to the neighborhood.

Urban Organics
Urban Organics was the first of the three businesses to open in the city-owned Hamm Brewery buildings. Some time ago, owner Dave Haider told Friends of Swede Hollow members about him buying old Stock House #3 and turning it into an aquaponics operation to grow fish and vegetables. Dave went on to say that he really wanted to do it at Hamm’s, as his grandfather worked there. It sounded like it was a great plan and they have done it.

Urban Organics raises fish in large tanks. Then wastewater is pumped into the tanks into the growing beds, where the plants absorb the nutrients, cleaning the water so it can be pumped back into the fish tanks. The only water loss comes from evaporation. Their lettuce and other vegetables are: Beautiful, Lunds and Byerly’s stores purchase all of Urban Organics products. For more information, visit urbanorganics.com.

Radio WEQY to start broadcasting in September
Carla Riehle, Forum staff

With a $10,000 grant from the City of St. Paul in hand to purchase broadcast equipment, and a generous supply of volunteer labor, East Side community station WEQY hopes to be on the air sometime in September. Broadcasting at 104.7 on the FM dial and covering most of the East Side, the WEQY (“Equity”) call letters have been selected, but the station name is still to be decided. The September issue of the Forum will carry an announcement of the new name and air date.

Volunteer broadcasters are still being sought, and Station Manager Kathy Harris is also looking for part-time volunteers to staff the Plaza del Sol studio's front desk and work some computer magic with the programming. Email Kathy at weqykathy@gmail.com if you’re interested.

The station is also starting to nail down underwriters, the noncommercial equivalent of advertisers, who will keep the station going for its first year. A media kit is posted at www.daytonsbuzz.org.
New Friends of Swede Hollow are welcome

The next Friends of Swede Hollow monthly meeting is on August 13, at 6:30 pm. Email karin@swede hollow.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 make a small donation to the Community Council. Just call 651-772-2075 to get a junk car out of the way – and help clean up Dayton's Bluff.

Meet with the police

The Eastern District Police hosts their monthly meetings for community members at 722 Payne Avenue, at the corner of Payne and Minnehaha Avenues. The next meetings are Wednesday, August 20, at 6:30 pm, and Friday, August 15, at 9:30 am. The meetings, open to all, are intended to learn about, listen to, and address concerns about crime and other issues on the East Side. Bring your neighbors; this is a great opportunity to discuss neighborhood safety issues.

Take-a-Hike August 2

Take-a-Hike occurs on the first Saturday of most months. The next hike will be Saturday, August 2. Hikers meet at 10:30 am in Indian Mounds Park at Earl Street and Mounds Boulevard, and walk to the East Side Heritage Park. The hike is about two hours (four miles) with some moderately rough terrain. New hikers are always welcome. For more information, call 651-776-0550.

Forum monthly meeting

If you'd like to contribute to the Forum newspaper, come to our next meeting, Wednesday, August 6, at 4:45 pm at 798 East 7th Street.

Serve your community – join the Dayton's Bluff Community Council

Did you hear the big news? The Dayton's Bluff Community Council has openings! The Dayton's Bluff Community Council (DBCC) has a number of mid-term vacancies and are looking for YOU to take this opportunity to learn about happenings in our neighborhood and engage with fellow neighbors. The DBCC is a neighborhood organization designed to encourage participation in and awareness of the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood. It is one of the 17 councils within the St. Paul District Council System. The Council is overseen by a board composed of people from the neighbor- hood. All adults who reside, own property or own a business in Dayton's Bluff are eligible to serve. The council also has several subcommittees addressing ongoing programs or issues.

Our mission statement: to advance equity and enhance quality of life through partnerships and community engagement. We meet on the third Monday of each month, and subcommittees meet on various nights, based on the schedules of the members.

If you're interested in serving on the Dayton's Bluff Community Council, please call the council office at 651-772-2073 or info@dayton bluff.org.

Free meals for all children

St. Paul Parks and Recreation, along with the St. Paul Public Schools Nutrition Services, provides free summer meals Mondays through Fridays to anyone 18 and under, and at parks and recreation centers around the city. Dayton's Bluff sites are:

Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center, 800 Conway Street. Hot lunch (at DB school): 12:00-1:00 pm; snack: 3:00-4:00 pm; supper: 6:00-7:00 pm (Fridays 5:00-5:30 pm)

Dayton's Bluff Library, 645 7th Street. Snack: 12:30-1:00 pm; 3:30-4:00 pm.

Many programs and activities are offered around meal times, including tennis, camp, and more. For more information, call 651-292-6508.

Free youth program at Margaret Park

Kids age 10-17 are invited to Margaret Park every Wednesday through August 20, for fun activities with an emphasis on teamwork, sportsmanship, and new friendships.

Each day includes soccer at 10:30 am; lunch at noon, and an afternoon art project until 3:00 pm. This opportunity is sponsored by St. Paul Eastside SDA Church, STOMP, and Dayton's Bluff Community Council.

Top Drawer Burlesque Expo at the Mounds Theatre

The notoriously delicious “M&M” burlesque veterans of the local Twin Cities burlesque scene, Mona Montague and Musette, plus an amazing crew, are thrilled to welcome you back to a second year of spectacular performances celebrating the Minnesota burlesque community in an exposition at the Mounds Theatre August 15 and 16. This year we’re raising the bar with more spectacular shows (featuring live music performances), classes, new social opportunities, and more glitter and rhinestones!

Shows are: Friday, August 15, and Saturday, August 16, at 7:00 and 10:00 pm. Main floor tickets: $15-18 in advance. VIP 2-packs-plus-wine: $75. Visit www.moundstheatre.org for other upcoming events. The Historic Mounds Theatre is located at 1029 Hudson Road, St. Paul, MN 55106. 651-772-2253.

Dayton’s Bluff Book Club

Love to read? Join the Dayton’s Bluff Book Club to read and discuss multicultural and local author’s books. The first meeting is Thursday, October 9, 2014, 6:00-8:30 pm in the Metropolitan State Library & Learning Center, (co-located with Dayton’s Bluff Branch public library), Room 302. Space is limited and registration is required. Books and a light dinner will be provided at no charge. To register, contact Metro State’s Institute for Community Engagement at 651-793-1285 or community.engagement@metrostate.edu.

The book club is co-sponsored by the Dayton’s Bluff Branch of the St. Paul Public Library, and Metropolitan State University.

Upcoming opportunities at Dayton’s Bluff Recreation Center

- Jump Jam Double Dutch: jump roping, Monday through Thursday afternoons, through August 14. Ages 5-18; FREE.
- Open gym: 5:30-7:30 pm. Elementary age: Mondays & Wednesdays; Middle school-age: Tuesdays; High school-age: Thursdays.
- Summer Blast! Through August 21, Mondays through Thursdays, 12:00 noon-5:00 pm for 1st-5th graders; FREE.
- Summer Food Program: Mondays through Fridays. Snack: 2:30-3:30 pm; Supper: 6:00-7:00 pm.
- Mass produce distributions: August 28, September 25, 3:00 pm until food is gone.

The Dayton’s Bluff Rec Center is located at 800 Conway Street. 651-793-3885

Facebook: Dayton’s Bluff Recreation Center

Stop by and check us out!
August 2014  Dayton’s Bluff District Forum  Page 3

National Night Out at St. Pascal
St. Pascal Baylon Catholic Church, at 1757 Conway Street (at the corner of Flandrau and 3rd Streets) will be hosting an East Side Family Fun Night in conjunction with National Night Out. From 6:00-7:00pm on Tuesday, August 5, there will be all-age games, inflatables, prizes, a face painter and balloon artist, plus free hot dogs, chips and beverages. All are welcome.

Mounds Park United Methodist Church
Sunday Service: 10:30 am; coffee, cookies and snacks to follow

National Night Out: Tuesday, August 5, 6:00-8:00 pm. We will have “walking tacos,” a Sno-Cone machine, and a popcorn machine. There will be carnival games for all ages. Everyone is invited to participate.

Special Children’s Event: “Blessing of the Animals – Grand Parade of Our Pets” Sunday, August 17, 5:00-7:00 pm in Indian Mounds Park. Supper included. Community children are encouraged to bring their pets to the park for a parade and a service of blessing. If you don’t have a pet, please bring your favorite stuffed animal. We are asking that you register your pet for the parade & blessing. Just call Mounds Park Church at 651-774-8736 or email the church at secretarympumc@yahoo.com and request a registration form, then drop it by the church at 1049 Euclid Street (corner of Earl and Euclid Streets).

Celebrate National Night Out with your Neighbors!
August 5, 2014

Neighborhoods and neighbors should do what works for them to give crime and drugs a going away party.

National Night Out is designed to:
• Heighten crime- and drug-prevention awareness
• Generate support for, and participation in, local anti-crime programs
• Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships, and
• Send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and will not tolerate their criminal behavior

Here are some Dayton’s Bluff NNO events:
• Bethlehem Lutheran Church at Forest and Margaret
• Mounds Park United Methodist Church at Earl and Euclid Streets
• Our Savior’s Lutheran Church at Johnson Parkway and Beech
• Mounds Park at Mounds Boulevard and Earl Street
• Swede Hollow Park at Greenbrier and Margaret Streets
• Margaret Park at Margaret and Earl
• East 6th Street between Hope Street and Bates Avenue

Call the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council for more information about crime prevention at 651-772-2075.

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 homeowners. We offer payback loans with low interest rates (1-3%) and special programs that do not require payments. Call 651-774-6955 to see if you qualify.

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

 Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Housing Services 852 7th Street East St. Paul, MN 55109 651.774.0955-office www.dnhs.org

Ever think, “Someone should do something...”? You ARE someone...in Dayton’s Bluff.

Join us at our 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: TBD

Housing Committee: 2nd 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.
Did you know...?  Transit challenges affect the East Side

Jennifer Herman, Forum staff

The Green Line may be up and running, but that is only the beginning of new transit development in the eastern metro. Did you know that there are three potential transit projects that could have a direct impact on the future of Dayton’s Bluff?

1. Gateway Corridor – a transit corridor running along I-94 between Woodbury and Union Depot.
2. Rush Line Corridor – a transit corridor running between Hinckley and Union Depot.
3. Streetcar Line – running on 7th Street from Randolph Avenue, through downtown, to Arcade Street.

All of these projects are in various stages of study and planning, so now is the time to get involved.

Why are we spending so much money building new transit corridors?

• Transit is the second-largest housing sector.
• Transit is an excellent communication tool.
• Transit provides a useful mobility tool.
• Transit projects are very expensive.
• Transit projects can be very time-consuming.
• Transit projects can be very controversial.
• Transit projects can be very expensive.

How can transit help Dayton’s Bluff?

• Transit helps people who need to go where they need to go.
• Transit helps people who need to keep going.
• Transit helps people who need to stay on track.
• Transit helps people who need to stay on schedule.
• Transit helps people who need to stay on budget.
• Transit helps people who need to stay on track.
• Transit helps people who need to stay on schedule.
• Transit helps people who need to stay on budget.

What are the potential challenges with new transit?

• Routes – potential routes could impact existing streets, highways, homes, parks, and parking. Studies provide a certain amount of data, but community input really informs planners about the true neighborhood impact of possible routes.
• Construction impacts – construction can be a long, messy process impacting everyone and everything in the area. Careful planning and excellent communication ease construction stress.
• Poorly-designed and -located stops – stops need to be easily accessible on foot, by bike, and from other connecting modes of transit. Stops also need to be strategically placed so that transit riders are dropped off near employers, shopping, and service providers to maximize the positive economic impact on our community.

Increased property values/rents – Studies show that property values and rents near transit lines will increase; this could help our neighborhood weathered deeply from the foreclosure crisis. For households struggling to remain in affordable housing, this can create difficulties. In some cases, the transportation savings offered by transit and the access to better jobs can offset the increased housing costs. But careful planning will be necessary to ensure that those who struggle most will benefit from new transit and not be displaced by it.

Your input will help ensure that new transit is a positive thing for Dayton’s Bluff. Visit these websites to learn more about the projects and how to get involved:

Gateway: www.thegatewaycorridor.com
Rush Line: www.rushline.org
Streetcar: www.stpaul.gov/index.aspx?

NID=4872
For this article’s sources, please contact editor@daytonsonbluff.org

The Real Estate Market has improved
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Summer is Here!

565 Earl Street  Open 11 am – 10 pm
10 Dilly Bars for $7.89 All-beef hot dogs $1.39
Buy one Blizzard, get the second (same size) for HALF PRICE
Expires 8/31/14

Bring in this ad and buy one Turtle Sundae, get one free!
Residents express gratitude for DeRango’s Community Council work

To the community of Dayton’s Bluff, as Dayton’s Bluff residents are writing to express our sadness and bewilderment, as we have recently learned that one of our very own talented organizers, Tabitha Benci DeRango, has left the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council. She will be very missed, and the loss of her work will be felt deeply throughout Dayton’s Bluff and the greater East Side for a long time.

Many of us have known Tabitha since she moved to the neighborhood about 10 years ago. We admired what she accomplished for the many children she took care of in her home daycare. She was more than an amazing daycare provider; she was also making contacts in the community and developing relationships that have lasted many years.

Through her work at the Community Council, Tabitha has been a resource for many constituents looking for answers about transit, empty lots, new business, home tours, community conversations (Mind Munch was one of Tabitha’s conceptions), police activity, Market on the Bluff, block clubs, online community groups… If Tabitha did not have the answer – which was not often – she would return with information gathered from one of her various contacts.

Tabitha knows this community inside and out, and has built relationships with persons with authority on a wide variety of community services. She has also seen how important it is to make sure there are a variety of different viewpoints included in decision-making in our community. Diversity and equity have taken a front seat as she has done her work here.

After the first Night out on East 7th Street a couple of years ago (an event Tabitha conceived), many of us began frequenting several Dayton’s Bluff businesses that we had not previously been aware of. Often we would mention having learned about the business through Night out on East 7th Street, and the business owners always had high regard for Tabitha, her ability to bring people together, and her vision for their business district.

While we wish Tabitha great luck (not that someone with her skills and abilities needs any) in all her future endeavors, we sure will miss her in Dayton’s Bluff. Whatever community she ends up in is very fortunate and will surely be better off because of her addition. Tabitha DeRango, you have done amazing things here for so many residents of this community and we will be forever grateful for your years of service.

Residents of Dayton’s Bluff

Taco article spreads delicious appreciation

Back in the October 2011 issue of the Forum, Dan Stahley wrote a really nice article: “Car-nitas, chorizo and tacos spice up the East Side.” It was a great article about how “Dayton’s Bluff has some of the best Mexican and Salvadoran food in the state.” It went described four of our restaurants and gave helpful hints about what to expect and order at each. I cut it out of the paper, and ever since have kept it to use as a reference. I am happy to report that it has taken me almost 3 years, but I have finally gone to each of those establishments and indeed am downright hooked on some of them. (Foursquare is calling me a Mexican Food Fiend.) Thank you, Dan, for helping to add some spice to my life.

Diane Michele May
Dayton’s Bluff

The Dayton’s Bluff District Forum welcomes letters to the editor. Letters may be edited for length and content and, once submitted, become property of the Dayton’s Bluff District Forum. Letters under 500 words are preferred. Send to editors@daytonsbluff.org or 798 East 7th Street, St. Paul, MN 55106. The deadline is the 10th day of each month, for the following month’s issue.

Residents of Dayton’s Bluff
Somali American Center opens in former St. John’s campus on East 5th Street

by Carla Riehle, Forum staff

On Saturday, July 12, I sat down to talk with Feisal Elmi, a representative of the Darul Uloom Islamic Center, the new owner of the buildings on East 5th Street previously occupied by St. John’s Catholic Church and school.

As a former Catholic, I didn’t know much about Islam, so Feisal began with the basics. He said that the first principle of his faith is that there is one God, whose messenger is Mohammed; Muslims are required to perform Zuḥūl, an act of charity, by giving to the poor at least once a year. At least once in their lifetime, they are obligated to perform Ḥajj, to Mecca.

As it happened, our conversation took place during the observance of Ramadan, the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar. During Ramadan, Muslims fast for the entire month, during the observance of Ramadan, Mecca.

The center’s goal is to be a catalyst for the growth of small business in the community, and its leaders see East 5th Street as a prime location for Somali stores and restaurants, akin to the Karmel Mall in South Minneapolis.

Somali refugees are still arriving from that war-torn country. Feisal told me that the first wave of Somali immigrants to Minnesota were refugees, but tended to be from the wealthier strata of Somali society, while the most recent ones are in more desperate circumstances. A couple of generations ago, many of them were Ethiopians who fled to Somalia; now, they are seeking to escape the strife in Somalia.

The former rectory at St. John’s is housing some of these new arrivals, and the center will provide assistance in finding them permanent housing. As with many mass inflows of refugees, they are sponsored by religious agencies (in this case, Lutheran Social Services), and must qualify for refugee status under federal law.

Feisal asked that I be sure to invite our readers to stop in sometime at 977 East 5th Street and meet the new occupants.

It’s that it’s always changing.

BLUE-GREEN ALGAE CAN BE TOXIC TO DOGS

If you are a dog owner, be sure to check water conditions when dogs are playing near lakes or slow-flowing streams. Blue-green algae “blooms”, have a thick, cloudy appearance that can look like green paint, pea soup, or floating mats of scum. Some, but not all, species of blue-green algae contain potent toxins that can be deadly to dogs, livestock, and other animals within hours of contact.

If possible, keep your pets away from algae-laden water entirely. If your dog does go into water with heavy algae growth, hose it off right away before it has a chance to lick itself clean. Animals become ill when they ingest the toxins, so preventing them from drinking affected water or licking toxins from their coat is key to preventing illness.

If you are concerned that your pet has been exposed to harmful blue-green algae, take the animal to a veterinarian immediately.

AVOID CONTACT

The best way to prevent algal blooms over the long term is to reduce the amount of nutrients that run off into lakes from fertilizers and organic materials like leaves and yard waste. Once a bloom has developed, there is no way to correct it. Blooms often come and go quickly, so the best option is to stay away from the water until rainfall, wind shifts, or cooler temperatures disrupt the algae’s growth.

Human deaths from exposure to blue-green algae are extremely rare, since the unpleasant odor and appearance of a blue-green algal bloom tend to keep people out of the water. If people do come into contact with toxic blue-green algae, they can experience skin irritation, nausea, and eye, nose, and throat irritation. People should never swim in water if they suspect a blue-green algal bloom.

For more information: http://bit.ly/1snjZSg

Dayton’s Bluff District Forum

798 East 7th Street, St. Paul, MN 55106
Phone: 651-772-2075 Fax: 651-774-3510 E-mail: editor@dayton bluff.org

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Board of Directors: Greg Cosimini, Karin DuPaul, Jennifer Herman, Carrie Obry, Carla Riehle, Steve Trimboli
Editor/Layout: Meg Gironau
Editorial Assistant: Mark Gallagher
This month I am featuring a recent work about a famous local landmark. Written by Greg Brick, it is titled Wakan-Tipi Cave (Carver’s Cave).

Greg Brick, for those who haven’t heard of him, is an avid St. Paul cave explorer and researcher with Ph.D. in geology. He has published numerous articles in magazines such as Journal of Speleological History. He is the author of the recently-published Suburban Minnesota Caves, a book that details many of the stories and current conditions of many caves in our area.

Greg has been generous with his time, sharing his love of exploration at local meetings. A year or so ago, he ventured along with me to the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council offices and gave a well-attended, illustrated talk about his cave discoveries. Greg Brick has just released two 24-page booklets on important St. Paul landmarks: Wakan-Tipi and Fountain Cave.

Some people already know some of the information about our local cave, Wakan-Tipi, located near the Brice’s Bridge to Nature Sanctuary below the bluffs. I thought it might be time to refresh those memories and introduce some of the little-known information contained in Greg Brick’s writings.

He opens with the origin of the English phrase “Carver’s Cave.” Jonathan Carver, a captain in the British Army when this land was claimed following a war with France, was part of an expedition to see what the new “possession” contained. Carver visited Wakan-Tipi in April 1777. He penned quite a few observations in Travels Through the Interior Parts of North America, making Wakan-Tipi a cornerstone of information to appear in a literary publication.

Carver wrote of “a remarkable cavern of which the entrance was about 10 feet wide with a height of around five feet. The bottom of it consisted of fine clear sand and there was a clear lake inside. ‘I found in this cave many Indian heiroglyphicks,’” he added, “which appeared very ancient, for the time had nearly covered them with drift.”

In a booklet, Brick explains that it was a “spring cut cave” formed by the erosion of sand by moving water, something that geologists call “piping.” As a result, the cave had gone through phases of being naturally sealed by falling debris, and the falling of portions of the cliffs above.

Because of Carver’s book, many later travelers wanted to visit the landmark which was already being called Carver’s Cave. In July 1817, Major Stephen Long of the U.S. Corps of Topographical Engineers arrived with a group and stopped there for breakfast. They went inside with lighted candles. Sometimes other visitors to the area searched – in vain - for the cave.

One of the more interesting, though unfortunate episodes, in its history is discussed briefly in Brick’s pamphlet. In 1912, John Colwell, a neighborhood resident living on Johnson Parkway, announced that he was going to find the lost cave. It took him almost a year and it was finally opened to the public on November 5, 1913.

Brick is hopeful to commercialize the find, making it a rival of Kentucky’s Mammoth Cave. He wanted to have steps coming into the cave with springs of lights inside the cavern to attract tourists. Fortunately the project never took off, and Wakan-Tipi was mostly forgotten again, its entrance slowly covered with debris.

In September 1977, the cave was resurfaced as part of a bi-centennial celebration. A backhoe removed the debris that was blocking the land entrance. A group of Native Americans led by a group from Red School House went inside. In his booklet, Brick includes a picture of them posing out. To protect the site, double steel doors were erected across the entrance. They too were slow-covered, as limestone fragments and other vegetation fell from above.

Brick identifies two short notices that have not been mentioned in print before. One of them involved a California photographer who read Steve Thayer’s fictional account of a chase inside the cave in his novel St. Maud and came to explore. He arrived in 1991 with scuba gear and was able to visit the first chamber but his sizable equipment wouldn’t allow him to go any further.

Greg is selling his two new booklets at an affordable price. There are a dozen or so photographs and images that add to the story. You can own the Wakan-Tipi and/or the Fountain Cave for $10 each, which includes postage. If you have access to the internet, you can order either or both by writing to The author at www.gregbrick.org. You can also write him at 1001 Front Avenue, St. Paul, 55103. It’s a good time to order, since 2016 is the 250th anniversary of Jonathan Carver being led to Wakan-Tipi by the Dakota people, who had of course “discovered” it long before he arrived.

Sage Holben, Dayton’s Bluff Community Council

Even as I write this, a community member asks me, “What is the status of the ‘adobe house’?” This 393 Bates Avenue structure is also known to some as the “fast house, standing.” As cranes, builders and trucks work away in the great pit surrounding this solitary island, some see the predicament only as an impediment to the footprint of Metro State University’s parking ramp. One neighbor noticed activity around the house, jumping to the conclusion that demolition was pending. The lot’s perimeter has been shored up, leading to more questions about the future of the house. I notice changes in the landscape every time I walk past. A gap in the earth – is the digging around the property causing the “island” to weaken? When the hanging flower pots disappeared, a neighbor asked if it signified a dire change; but no, the plants just needed some tender care and watering.

When I walk to work or walk home, I’m not sure if the adobe house will be standing or if I will see a flattened area being readied for “the ramp.” Perhaps the adobe house’s pedestal hanging over the house earlier this week was the final omen of doom.

The MnSCU Acquisition of Property document notes: “the university intends to continue negotiating with the seller, but if the eminent domain action proceeds, the system intends to use the ‘quick take’ process provided under state law. The quick take approach is commonly used by the state to take early possession of the property, but still requires proceedings in state district court before the state can take title. Even using this process, securing title to the property likely would not be completed until late 2014.”

Above: this adobe home at 393 Bates, built in 1929, sits on the site of the future Metro State parking ramp. Eminent domain may be invoked to Metro State can acquire the land.
Art on the Blocks unites youth to create murals

Jesús Ramírez, Youth Organizer
Art On The Blocks

Art on the Blocks, a series of mural projects, has been in the works this summer at various East Side sites. Art on the Blocks ties into one of the objectives of the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council, to “help formulate a youth leadership and outreach network,” according to the council’s 2014 workplan.

The first mural project was completed this spring, with students in a Latino-cultural after-school program at Battle Creek Elementary School and Harrison High School. The final mural has images of Mexico (Aztec) and Mayan motifs and a silhouette of St. Paul’s skyline. The goal of the mural was to create a better relationship with the school and the youth, as well as the opportunity for mentorship and dialogue about civic engagement.

The second project, at Margaret Park, partners the Seventh-day Adventist church, St. Paul Parks and Rec, and STOMP (Stewards of Margaret Park). The project goal is to get youth talking about community engagement while painting.

The third project, at Dayton’s Bluff Recreation center, will partner teens with two local artists to complete the mural.

Thursday evenings come to life with ultra-local Market on the Bluff

Nicole Pressey, Administrative Coordinator, DBCC

2014 is the second year of the Market on the Bluff Farmers’ Market. The market grew out of Dayton’s Bluff Community Council’s Make It Happen Initiative, aimed at economic development along East 7th Street and community engagement throughout the District.

In its second year, Market on the Bluff has experienced some developments on its own. It has moved from its former spot on East 7th and Margaret Streets to the courtyard in front of First Lutheran Church at 463 Maria Avenue. With more space, Tim Page, Market Manager, has expanded the number and variety of vendors to create a vibrant and edible marketplace, featuring local artists like David May, urban farmers like Megan Davis, and craftsman David Gray.

“Not just a place to pick up produce; although food is a large part of the market. It’s a place to bring children, listen to music, look at and purchase art, and meet your neighbors.” This year, Market on the Bluff has lined up live entertainment, include a youth drumming group and a bluegrass band to liven up your Thursday evenings.

Another notable development is the market’s participation in the West Bank’s Arts on the Blocks program. This program, a project of The Center for Prevention at Blue Cross Blue Shield Minnesota and the MN Department of Human Services, allows SNAP recipients to receive $5 in free Market Bucks to purchase seasonal, affordable and delicious food at the farmers’ market.

This initiative is giving more residents the ability to have greater access to better locally grown produce.

Dream of Wild Health, a non-profit that helps farmers, shares in the market’s commitment to make produce affordable, affordable and delicious. Stop by their stall any week and get a recipe book that offers healthy and tasty ways to cook your vegetables.

The Market is open 4-8 p.m every Thursday. Every visitor gets a free reusable shopping bag. Check out the Market on the Bluff Facebook page to get more information about the vendors and entertainment lineup.

Sustainable-food initiative Urban Oasis kicks off with August 17 festival

Forum staff

Is Dayton’s Bluff about to become the capital of Minnesota’s sustainable food movement?

That’s a distinct possibility, thanks in large part to Urban Oasis, an initiative of the Lower Phalen Creek Project, seen by Dayton’s Bluff resident Tracy Sides. The program got its start last summer, when Sides’ idea—to create new markets for locally grown produce—won the St. Paul Foundation’s $1 million Forever Saint Paul Challenge.

Since then, Sides and her team have worked to bring the idea to life: projects are underway to develop new markets and classes around sustainably-produced produce, simultaneously helping local farmers earn a better living while giving local citizens access to healthy food.

The group’s first big public program will be a free community food festival, celebrating locally grown produce, grown, prepared, and served on St. Paul’s East Side.

The Urban Oasis Food Fest, from 12:00 noon to 4:00 pm on Sunday, August 17, is expected to attract as many as 2,000 people to the former Hospital Linen site, a vacant property at 740 7th Street East that is expected to become Mississippi Market Natural Foods Cooperative’s newest retail location.

“This is a party to mark the official launch of the Urban Oasis program, and our way of saying thank you to the people who voted for our idea last summer, during the Forever St. Paul Challenge,” Sides said. “Giving people more opportunities to access and enjoy locally grown food not only results in better health, but also creates a more resilient, prosperous community. And at the same time, we’ll have a lot of fun.”

Activities will include a tomato-canning demonstration with chef and cooking instructor Jenny Breen, and taste-testing of what will become Urban Oasis-branded condiments, developed by chef and East Side resident Bridger Merkt. There will also be food samples from several East Side vendors, including Flat Earth Brewery’s root beer and African Delights Food & Catering.

“Today’s East Side is widely recognized for its great foodscape,” Sides said. “Urban Oasis programs will only enhance this neighborhood’s burgeoning reputation as an example of how better food systems can create communities that are healthier, more prosperous, and more equitable.”

Co-sponsors of the coming event include Mississippi Market, Eureka Recycling, the City of St. Paul, and the St. Paul Saints. Numerous local organizations involved in the production and distribution of sustainably produced food will have tables at the event.

In addition, local gardeners who grow their own tomatoes are encouraged to bring up to two pounds each for use in the event’s canning demonstration. Participants will also be entered in a drawing for St. Paul Saints baseball ticket and other prizes.

To register, visit uoffoodfest.eventbrite.com.

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Dear Reader,

The Dayton's Bluff District Forum has been a volunteer-run newsletter since the 1970s, and has always operated on a minimal budget.

Thanks to the generous contributions of nearly 50 individuals and businesses, we raised $2,800 in 2013, enough to keep the paper running for now. If you value this community resource of information, please consider filing out the form at right. Any amount is appreciated; you may also make memorial donations or include the Forum in your legacy planning.

If you became our Friend in 2013, please renew your membership for 2014. Thank you!

Sincerely,

The Dayton's Bluff District Forum

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