

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

Volume 27, No. 10
November 2014
www.daytonsbluff.org

"The Voice of the Community"

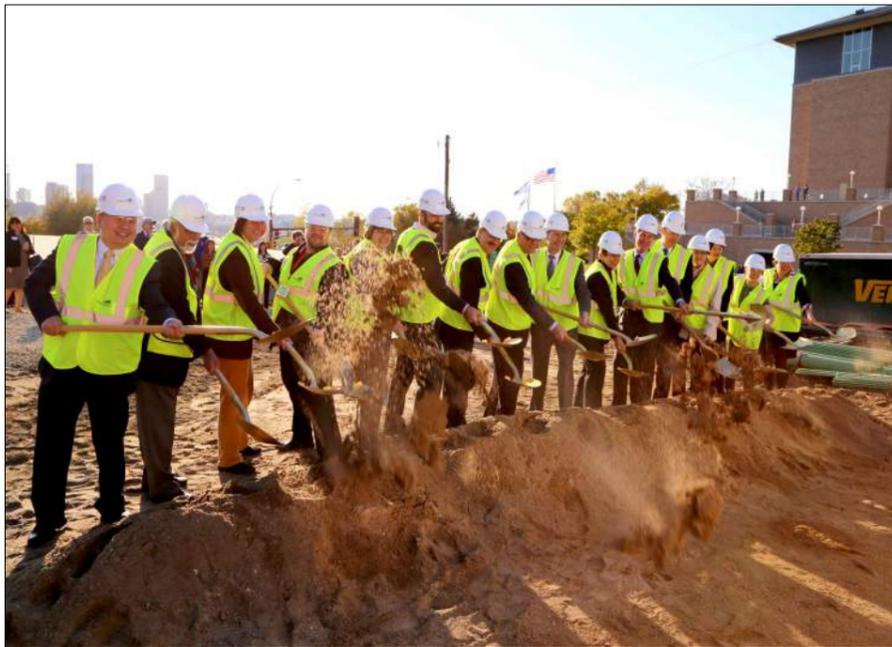
Beautiful day in the "neigh"-borhood



Greg Cosimini

The St. Paul Police Mounted Patrol were spotted all over Dayton's Bluff on October 15 from Mounds Park to East 7th Street. Here they are in the alley at Euclid Street near Forest Street. Officer Jennifer Mink, left, rides Jett and Officer Hank Price rides Cowboy. They were a big hit everywhere as they – the officers, not the horses – stopped to talk with local residents.

STEM center breaks ground



Tom Cook

Metro State University broke ground on their new Science Center at Mounds Boulevard and 6th Street East in Dayton's Bluff on Friday, October 10. Being the only MNSCU College or University without a Science & Research Lab, this new center will bring a focus on Science & Technology training to the East Side and will raise up new partnerships with STEM Programs in area schools as well as bring local and national attention to the research opportunities created and developed right here in our community. This is a huge opportunity for both Metro State University and for Dayton's Bluff.

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Awards, elections, and good news

Carla Riehle, Forum staff

About 80 community members turned out on Monday, October 20, for the annual Dayton's Bluff community meeting. Held at the Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center, the event included a free dinner by Plaza del Sol, followed by remarks from St. Paul City Council President Kathy Lantry, the presentation of the annual Roger Tetu award and election of new members of the Community Council Board of Directors. The event was chaired by Chilli Lor, award-winning East Side artist and activist.



Brad Griffith

From left, candidates for the board of the Dayton's Bluff Community Council: Henry Garnica, Jennifer Johnson, Bridget Merkt, Sai Vue, Tong Thao, Jacob Lambert, and Breann Trestle.

In her State of Dayton's Bluff message, Council President Lantry said that the word "groundbreaking" capsulizes the whirlwind of activity currently underway in the community. She pointed to the new projects that have literally broken ground in the last few weeks: the new Mississippi Market store on East 7th Street and the new Metropolitan State Science Building, as well as other enterprises that are taking off, like the Dancing Goat coffee shop and the East Side Enterprise Center at 804 Margaret Street, set for its grand opening on October 30.

Dayton's Bluff artist Diane May presented the annual Roger Tetu award to a surprised Eric Zidlicky, who has earned the admiration and respect of his neighbors by daily acts of goodwill and generosity ranging from fixing neighbors lawnmowers and cleaning up the nearby park to delivering fresh eggs from a local source. The award celebrates "community members who offer kindness without hesitation on a daily basis" and is named in honor of a Dayton's Bluff neighbor who did exactly that for many years, before his tragic death in 2011 resulting from a hit-and-run accident next to his house.



Steve Trimble

Culminating the program was the election of board members for the Dayton's Bluff Community Council. Since board members serve two-year terms, each year half the seats are up for election. This year, incumbents Elizabeth Matakis, Rafael Espinosa and Tong Thao were reelected. New board members include Henry Garnica, Bridger Merkt, Jacob Lambert, Breann Trestle and Jessica Johnson.

Eric Zidlicky, left, received the 2014 Roger Tetu award for community generosity and kindness. He is congratulated above by St. Paul City Council President Kathy Lantry.

WEQY-FM keeps eyes on the prize

Carla Riehle, Forum staff

There have been a few bumps in the road to finding studio space for new low-power FM radio station WEQY-FM, soon to be on the air at 104.7. In last month's *Forum* newspaper we reported that storefront space had become available on East 7th Street, but that was not to be. The

good news is that a lease has now been signed for a second floor studio at 777 East 7th Street above North Lake Contracting. Station Manager Kathy Harris reports that the build-out should be concluded in early November and that the station should be live before the end of the month. Volunteer help is still needed; contact her at WEQYKathryn@gmail.com.

New Friends of Swede Hollow are welcome

The next Friends of Swede Hollow monthly meeting is on **Wednesday, November 12, 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 make a small donation to the Community Council. Call 651-772-2075 to have a junk car removed – and help clean up Dayton's Bluff.

Take-a-Hike November 1

Take-a-Hike occurs on the first Saturday of most months. The next hike will be **Saturday, November 1**. Hikers meet at **10:30 am** in Indian Mounds Park at Earl Street and Mounds Boulevard, and hike down to Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary, then through Swede Hollow Park and winding up at the East Side Heritage Park. The hike is about two hours (four miles) with some moderately rough terrain. Share experiences and hear stories about life in Dayton's Bluff.

New hikers are always welcome. Return transportation is available, if required. For more information, call 651-776-0550.

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, November 19, at 6:30 pm, and Friday, November 21, 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. **The St. Paul Eastern District is committed to maintaining and growing the quality of life for all of our residents.** Bring your neighbors; this is a great opportunity to discuss neighborhood nuisance issues.

Forum monthly meeting

This *Forum* newspaper is always looking for help in several volunteer capacities. Help is always needed with writing, editing, online content, idea generation, and ad sales; or perhaps you have another idea for our publication. If you'd like to contribute to the *Forum*, please join us at our next meeting, **Tuesday, October 28, at 11:30 am** at 798 East 7th Street. Snacks encouraged.

St. Paul EMS Academy accepting applications

The St. Paul Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Academy is an intensive, tuition-free emergency medical technician (EMT) certification and firefighter

awareness program designed for low-income, minority, and women residents of St. Paul between the ages of 18-30.

Participants earn an hourly wage during the training, which lasts 240 hours over 10-14 weeks. Recruitment is targeted to youth of diverse ethnicity, linguistic ability, and cultural experience, with the goal of building an EMS workforce reflective of St. Paul's communities.

Upon completing the EMS Academy, graduates earn National EMT certification, nine elective college credits through Inver Hills Community College, and job competency training.

The next session will begin in January 2015; the application deadline is **4:30 pm on Friday, October 31**.

For more information and the application, search for "EMS Academy" at www.stpaul.gov.

Dayton's Bluff 2nd Annual Holiday Boutique

On **Saturday, December 6**, there will be a vendor-run boutique in the Educational Building of the First Lutheran Church located at 463 Maria Avenue. The show will run one day only from **8:00 am-4:00 pm**. Last year, over 25 local entrepreneurs sold their products and we expect this year to be even bigger and better. "Heavenly Day Cafe" will be selling food, and a morning visit by Santa is planned. For more information on renting a table, please call Diane May at 651-295-4056. Please be aware that you are required to carry in all your wares, set them up yourself, have your table manned the whole day, and do your own take-down after 4:00 pm. If you need help with any of the above, you will have to line up that help yourself. Thank you!

ESABA & East Side Enterprise Center: 1st Annual Raffle

Sponsored by Dayton's Bluff Community Council, this raffle aims to help fund the programming and business engagement efforts of the East Side Enterprise Center.

The Grand Prize is \$5000!

Second Prize is \$500, plus a 12-month Tour of East Side Food & Culture, and twelve \$25 restaurant, food and catering gift cards (\$300 in value).

Third Prize is the 12-month Tour of East Side Food & Culture, and twelve \$25 restaurant, food and catering gift cards (\$300 in value).

Raffle tickets are \$100 each and can be purchased at the Dayton's Bluff Council office at 798 East 7th Street, and at upcoming ESABA or ESEC events. Raffle tickets are available now, up until the ESABA Holiday Gala. The restaurants to be featured in the Tour of the East Side Food & Culture will be announced soon.

The drawing will be held at the Gala on **Thursday, December 4 at 5:30 pm** at the Union Depot. You need not be present to win. Tickets can be paid for by cash or checks made out to the Dayton's Bluff Community Council. Credit cards are not accepted for legal gambling in Minnesota.

Only 300 raffle tickets will be sold – make sure you get yours today!

The Forum still needs your support

We are always seeking new *Friends of the Forum!* This community newspaper is run by volunteers. Consider taking out a paid advertisement, or giving a yearly donation. See our ad, page 7.

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



- **Parent & Tot Time:** ongoing, Wednesdays and Fridays, 10:00 am-12:00 noon.
- **Judo:** Mondays, 6:00-7:00 pm.
- **Fitness Room:** 3-7:45 pm.
- **Teen "Bluff Room":** 3:00-7:30 pm.
- **Take-Home Chef:** Learn how to make simple, healthy snacks that you can take home or make at home! 6:00-7:30 pm on Tuesdays through November 25.
- **Rec Check!** Free program for 1st-5th graders; registration required.
- **Open gym 6:00-7:45 pm.** Monday-Thursday; all ages.
- **Cheerleading:** Mondays, 6:00-7:45 pm.
- **Basketball:** practice has started. Sign-ups are still available for 8U co-ed, 10U boys & girls, 12U & 14U boys.
- **Messy Fingers & Toes:** Toddlers-and-parents art class, Friday, November 7, 10:00-11:00 am.
- **Karate:** Wednesdays, 6:00-7:45 pm.
- **Voting:** General elections, Tuesday, November 4, 6:00 am-8:00 pm.
- **Save the date!** Dinner with Santa, Tuesday, December 9.

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!



Tim Herman

Mississippi Market general manager Gail Graham at the October 13 groundbreaking for the new food cooperative, scheduled to open in the autumn of 2015 at the corner of East 7th and Maple Streets.

Mississippi Market breaks ground in Dayton's Bluff with new goals

*Tim Herman
Executive Director
East Side Area Business
Association*

On Monday, October 13, Mississippi Market broke ground on their new store at the old Hospital Linen site at Maple and East 7th Street. This momentous occasion follows months of community meetings with topics spanning from the design of the building and new jobs, all the way to equity and diversity of their staff. Not only has Mississippi Market been actively engaged in building community partnerships prior to formally purchasing the property, they have also hired Diversity and Equity Consultant Lisa Tabor, owner of CultureBrokers® LLC, to help move their staff, training programs, and company policies to reflect their commitment to being a store that resembles the communities they are in.

I recently participated in their Diamond Inclusiveness Assessment conducted by CultureBrokers® LLC and DIA-works, and attended the staff briefing announcing the results

and company plans to address some areas to improve. This assessment was taken by 57 people including staff, board members, partners, vendors, customers, and members. Mississippi Market plans to do an additional assessment in one year to benchmark progress made in the areas the assessment pointed out. Mississippi Market general manager Gail Graham said, "The DIA is not something we will put on a list and scratch it off when it's done. It is how we will be doing business from now on, continuing the work with the consultant to implement new policies and training programs around diversity and equity. This is just the beginning."

Mississippi Market plans to be open for business by fall of 2015 in Dayton's Bluff and I believe they will be a store that is inclusive to all in our community based on the relationships I see them developing cross-culturally throughout our community. ESABA for one will be one of those partners helping connect them to our vibrant community.

Swede Hollow Park – Commuter Rail?

Karin DuPaul, Forum staff

Friends of Swede Hollow is working on a campaign to keep commuter rail out of Swede Hollow Park. One of the proposed light rail routes for the Rush Line corridor (a transit line from Forest Lake to Union Depot in downtown St. Paul) would pass through Swede Hollow Park. Friends of Swede Hollow does not oppose the Rush Line or light rail, but strongly oppose the proposed route through Swede Hollow. There are other ways for the Rush Line to get to Union Depot.

Over the years since the Burlington Northern trains stopped rolling through Swede Hollow Park, it has become a beautiful, rich nature area full of wildlife right in the heart of the city of St. Paul. Visitors marvel at how when they are in Swede Hollow you do not know you are in the middle of a city. We believe the Rush Line would destroy the beautiful nature of Swede Hollow Park.

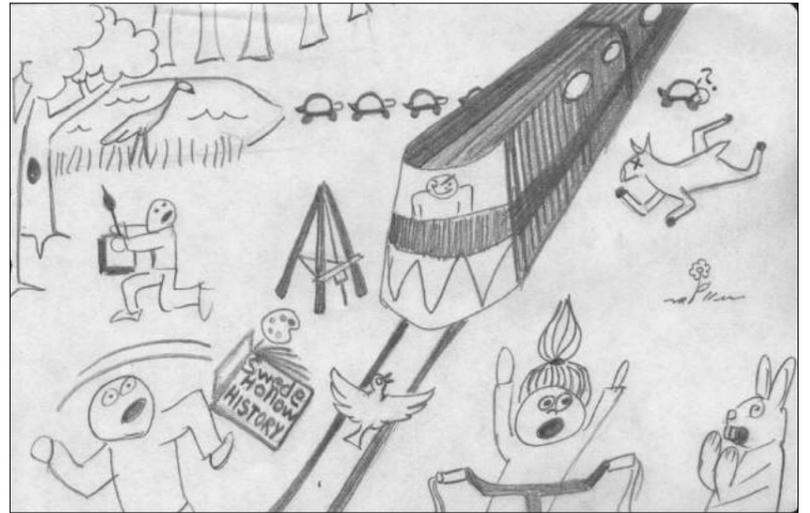
The Dayton's Bluff Take-a-Hike started on December 5, 1990 as a way to show the world that the abandoned Burlington Northern Rail Line would make a wonderful recreational trail. The line was purchased by the Ramsey County Regional Rail Authority and the St. Paul section was leased to St. Paul Parks and Recreation, who developed the recreational trail. The trail was named Bruce Vento Regional Trail after a US Congressman who did much for the parks and trails and environment. The Take-a-Hike continues on the first Saturday of each month. The hike includes history of the community and now information on the light rail possibility.

The St. Paul Garden Club was the driving force in turning Swede Hollow into a city park, along with East Side residents and the St. Paul Parks Department.

Swede Hollow Park has been called "St. Paul's hidden gem" by a local writer. Walkers and bikers enjoy the wooded Bruce Vento Regional Trail that passes through the park, where you may see wild turkeys, deer, foxes, turtles, and many other kinds of

wildlife. The Park has provided educational opportunities for many schools including the adjacent Hope Community Academy and Metro State University. It is surrounded by historic structures such as the old Hamm's Brewery, First Lutheran Church (celebrating 150 years), and the iconic 7th Street Improvement Arches.

Swede Hollow draws people from all



The cartoon above, by local artists Diane and Michael May, depicts what could happen if the Rush Line is allowed to be built through Swede Hollow Park.

over the Metro area and beyond to events. Swede Hollow Park has inspired music by Peter Ostroushko, and an original opera by composer Ann Millikan which debuted at Art in the Hollow. It is a favorite venue for Mixed Precipitation's picnic operettas. The annual Art in the Hollow festival attracts talented local and regional artists and performers, and visitors from all over. The park also features a permanent sculpture known as the Swede Hollow "henge," designed by local artist Christine Baeumler. There are many history tours of Swede Hollow attended by people from all over. Every autumn, Friends of Swede Hollow hosts a gathering called "Watch the Setting Sun on the Red Brick Brewery" at the henge, where some people who were born in the Hollow share their memories of this unique and beloved park.

Combining train tracks with animals, children, and adults in a ravine would likely be dangerous, irresponsible, and destroy a valued City Park and gathering place. If you would like to help us keep the Rush Line out of Swede Hollow Park, please sign our petition at www.change.org (click on Environment, then search for "Swede Hollow.") For more information about Friends of Swede Hollow, email karin@swedehollow.org. For more information on Take-a-Hike, see the article on page 2.

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Get Involved and Let Your Voice Be Heard!

Want to Make a Difference in Your Community?

Dayton's Bluff Community Council is looking for community members who want to get involved. DBCC is dedicated to supporting and building a community of equity where everyone can thrive. Below are some ways you can get involved:

- Become a Member of the Board (Elections each Fall)
- Committee Involvement
- Volunteer Opportunities

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To Learn More About DBCC and how get involved, visit www.daytonsbuff.org today!

November at Mounds Park United Methodist Church

1049 Euclid Street (corner of Earl and Euclid); 651-774-8736

Sunday Morning Schedule:

9:15 am: Adult small group study; adult Sunday school class; pastor's class.
10:30 am: Worship celebration in sanctuary; 10:40: Kids' time
10:45 am: Children's Sunday school (preschool ages 3-5; elementary 6-11); nursery available
11:30 Fellowship; 11:45 Youth gathering in Youth Room (ages 11-18)

Halloween Party

Are you looking for a safe and dry place to have some wholesome **October 31** fun for you and your children? Join the fun at Mounds Park Church, 1049 Euclid, from **6:00 pm-8:00 pm**.

Come dressed in your best costume! There will be a free dinner for all who attend, games to play that will earn candy prizes, and a warm place to catch up with neighbors and have a hot dog. There will also be the opportunity to get your child's picture taken in their Halloween Costume We can't wait to see you there!

Youth Missions Silent Auction

Sunday, November 16, 11:45am-12:30pm: All proceeds benefit the youth group's July 2015 mission trip to Heifer Ranch (a part of Heifer Project, International) in Arkansas. Items will include donations from local businesses such as MN Wild, MN Swarm, MN Historical Society, Downtowner Car Wash, Cafe Latte, Regina's Fine Chocolates as well as items from our congregation and youth families (handmade jewelry, pies, cookies, child care, bonfires, gift baskets of many types). This is a great way to get some of your Christmas shopping done while helping our neighborhood youth. If you wish to donate an item/certificate for the auction, please contact the church office by Sunday, November 9.

Friendship Gathering

Wednesday, November 19, 12:00 noon: \$8.00 per person. Menu includes turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, green beans, cranberries, rolls and pumpkin pie. Trudy Harper will be playing the harp. Reservations are appreciated; call 651-774-8736.

Community Advent Vespers

Sunday November 30, 2:00 pm: Includes readings, hymns, and special music by Gigi Decker & Irene Gottwalt. Following vespers, tea and refreshments will be served in the fellowship hall. This is a community event – all are encouraged to come. Please invite your friends and family. It's a great way to begin the season of Advent and Christmas.

United Methodist Women Christmas Concert and Dessert Buffet

December 6, at 1:00 pm: Free concert and cookie sale featuring "The Golden Melody Makers."

All the above events are open to the entire community. All are welcome at Mounds Park United Methodist Church!

Hazel Park United Church of Christ

1831 E. Minnehaha Avenue; 651-735-2555
www.hazelparkcongregationalucc.org
Hazel Park UCC is on Facebook.

Hazel Park UCC, a neighborhood church on the East Side of St. Paul, is a progressive Christian community. The church facilities are also home to Sunshine Montessori and Childcare, the Iglesia Apostolica de la Fe en Christo, Capitol City Car Club, Silver Maple Boy Scout Troop, Taking Off Pounds Sensibly, and Fare For All Express.

"Our faith is 2,000 years old, but our thinking is not," says Rev. Sara Morse. "We are a forward-looking congregation, and we seek to embrace and carry out the mission of the church in our community and in the wider world. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!"

The church hosts educational events for multi-generations on the first Sunday of each month at 11:30 am, and for adults on the second Sunday of the month at 11:30 am. A weekly visitation group, "Alive and Well," meets on Tuesdays at 9:30 am at the church and visits people in their homes or in care facilities. "Table Talk" is a bring-your-own-bag-lunch event that meets at 12:30 pm on the third Monday of the month to share in prayer and discuss book topics.

All are welcome to attend. Events and schedules are subject to change.

Save grocery money with Fare For All Express

Hazel Park United Church of Christ is a distribution partner for Fare For All Express, a cooperative food-buying program that offers fresh produce and quality meats at a savings of up to 40 percent off retail prices. The cooperative buying program is open to everyone, with no qualifying requirements or pre-registration.

Fare For All groceries are available for purchase on select Wednesdays each month from **4:00-6:00 pm** at the church. Upcoming drop-in distribution events are **October 29** and **December 3**. Items available include:

- Produce Pack (\$10) typically contains potatoes, onions, carrots, along with additional varieties of fresh fruits and vegetables.
- Meat Only Pack (\$11) contains a variety of 3-4 frozen meat items, such as: turkey, beef, chicken or fish. This pack is pork-free.
- Regular Pack (\$20) to save an extra \$1 by combining the Produce Pack and the Meat-Only Pack.
- Mega-Meat Pack (\$25) includes a variety of 7-8 frozen meat items, such as: beef, chicken, fish, pork or turkey.
- Holiday Pack (\$30) contains most of the fixings for a holiday meal, including a turkey in October and a ham in December.

Cash, credit cards, EBT cards or debit cards accepted; checks not accepted. Visit www.fareforall.org for other Twin Cities locations or contact the church.

Thanksgiving Prayer Service

The Hazel Park United Church of Christ invites the St. Paul community to a special Thanksgiving prayer service **Sunday, November 23 at 7:00 pm** at the church.

The Thanksgiving service is a candlelight prayer service. Attendees are asked to bring non-perishable food items that will be donated to a local food shelf as an offering.

All are welcome to attend.

new moon
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Illuminating
a New Phase

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Watching the glow with friends and neighbors

Two historians at the 10th annual *Watch the Glow with the Setting Sun on the Red Brick Brewery* event: sitting, left, Steve Trimble talking with Jim Sazevich, St. Paul House Detective. In the background are Polly's Coffee Cove Royalty, King Fred Kaphingst and acting Queen Ann Polachek.

Karin DuPaul

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A pumpkin grows in Dayton's Bluff



Greg Cosimini

This 10-pound pumpkin grew in an empty Dayton's Bluff lot this summer, despite City attempts to mow over it.

Greg Cosimini, pumpkin whisperer

There is an empty lot next to my house on Euclid Street where a house once stood. The city razed it in 2011. Since then, the city has ignored it. Neighbors shoveled the sidewalk in winter and tended to what remained of the lawn in summer. Not even weeds would grow in whatever was used to fill the area formerly occupied by the house itself. Neighbors added organic matter to this wasteland and finally in the summer of 2013 some wildflowers began to appear, although attempts to grow vegetables failed.

This summer, something resembling a native prairie – with a variety of wildflowers and grasses – started to grow. I planted pumpkins in the middle of it. It rapidly became a habitat for bees, butterflies, dragonflies and grasshoppers. Even the pumpkin patch was flourishing.

But as is so often the case, no good

deed goes unpunished. Someone complained to the city and an inspector was sent to inspect this supposed eyesore and it was ordered to be removed. On July 2, while all the neighbors were gone, the lawn mowers arrived and laid waste to our little nature preserve, including the pumpkin patch. Nothing remained but piles of cut and decaying plants.

Or so we thought. Four days later, a single pumpkin flower popped up among the rubble. I uncovered what remained of a pumpkin vine and nursed it back to health. This time I put a fence around it and the angry mowers left it alone when they returned each month. Soon a pumpkin appeared. I am pleased to announce that a few weeks ago I harvested a healthy orange pumpkin from our sincere little pumpkin patch. It weighed 10 lbs. and was 28 inches in circumference. Mother Nature triumphed over Big Brother.



Scenes from the annual meeting

The Dayton's Bluff annual meeting, elections and community dinner took place on Monday, October 20 at the Dayton's Bluff Rec Center. See full story, page 1.

Left: Community Council Administrative Coordinator Nicole Pressly, far left, and Chilli Lor, who hosted the evening, help prepare for the 80+ attendees' arrival.

Right: Neighbors of all ages gathered for food, fun, and excitement about the future of Dayton's Bluff.

Forum staff photos



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History corner

Mike "The Harp" O'Dowd: Boxer and bar owner

by Steve Trimble
Forum historian

For those readers who are getting tired of articles on Irish boxers of St. Paul, this is the last of its kind – at least for a while. This one concerns Michael Joseph O'Dowd, who was born into an Irish family in St. Paul on March 10, 1895.

O'Dowd, who became known as "The Fighting Harp" or simply "The Harp," attended Maxfield and McKinley schools and before becoming a boxer was a football player, starring with a local team called the Laurels during 1911-1913. He also played baseball for the Oxfords in the Sunday League. As a young man, Mike was employed as a lineman for the telephone company.

He had watched and read the stories of the glory attained by the Gibbons brothers, and was soon drawn to the riches and glory the prize ring had to offer.

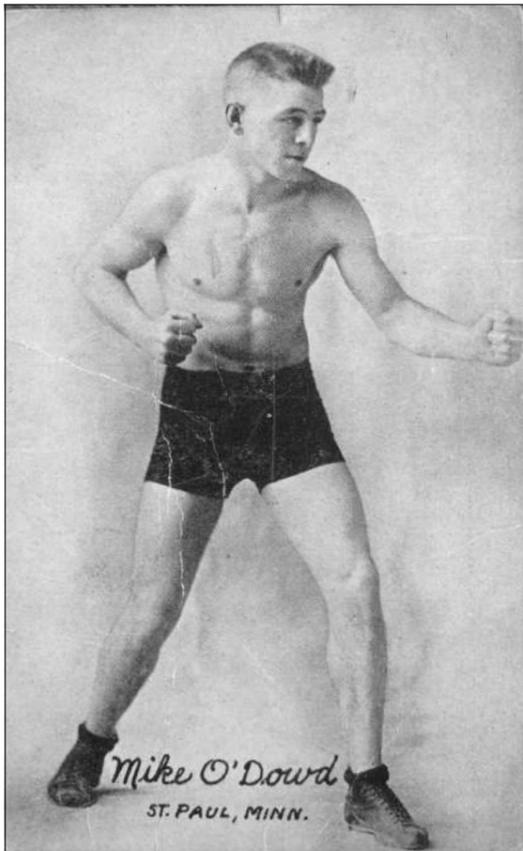
His style of fighting was that of a constant aggressor who never quit coming forward and throwing high volumes of heavy punches. He first received recognition when he fought fellow St. Paulite boxer Billy Miske at the old Dreamland Gymnasium.

Unlike the early era of the Gibbons brothers, he was fighting after boxing became legal in the state in 1915. O'Dowd officially became a champion fighting in the middleweight division by taking the world title from Al McCoy in 1917 with a sixth-round knockout. After a no-decision bout with Harry Greb, he enlisted in the Army and served in Europe during the First World War.

Shortly after taking the crown, he became the only active champion to serve in the U. S. Army during WWI, something that no one else wanted to risk. Sometimes he was at the front lines. This act of courage made Mike the face of the United States Army and the hero to his fellow fighting men. While in Europe he participated in charity matches.

After the "War to End all Wars" he again stopped McCoy in three rounds in a 1919 rematch. Unlike those who ducked fights with the Gibbons brothers, he agreed to face

his hometown rival, Mike Gibbons in November of 1919. The fight was so popular that people came from all across the country to see it, and it was billed as "The Fight



Trimble collection

Mike "The Harp" O'Dowd, St. Paul boxer who became the proprietor of a tavern in the city, was only knocked out once in his career.

of the Century" in Minnesota.

It was a very close battle, but in the end most reporters awarded O'Dowd the verdict, as this fight was fought during the No-Decision era. The bout set the state record for a gate at \$41,426, a record that would stand for 38 years. After the classic Minnesota fight he knocked out Tommy Murphy twice and Joe Fagan once before losing his belt to Johnny Wilson in a 15-round rematch with Wilson.

O'Dowd was only knocked out once and that was in his final fight on March 16, 1923 when a good fighter named Jock Malone knocked him out in the first round. He then decided it was time to retire from the ring.

But he didn't totally disappear from the public view. In January 1925, he made the newspapers during Prohibition when federal prohibition agents spotted him walking to the Victoria Café on University Avenue with a liquor bottle in each hand. He didn't go easily and a small battle ensued, but "the Harp"

was subdued. He was charged with transporting liquor and resisting arrest, but I haven't been able to find out if he was found guilty.

After retiring, he took up the phonograph business and had a franchise of coin-operated music machines. He also owned and operated a tavern in downtown St. Paul. He later moved it to Western just off Selby, where he kept running it until 1955. He died of a heart attack in July 1957 at the age of 62 – just 11 months after famous rival Mike Gibbons – and is buried in Calvary Cemetery. The day after he passed away, there was a photograph and a front page article about Mike O'Dowd in the *Pioneer Press*.

Another article on the sports page said Mike was "a real, honest-to-goodness fighter's fighter." Boxer John Salvator, who often trained with O'Dowd, said that training with O'Dowd made him as tired as a ten-round bout. Another local boxer once said, "He wasn't such a great boxer when he started, but he learned fast. I think when he reached his peak... he could have whipped any two middleweights in the same evening."

I had a drink to his memory when I lived on Holly Avenue, near where O'Dowd's establishment – appropriately named The Harp Bar – was located. It is said that he sometimes told a saloon-keeper joke that he picked up somewhere along the line:

"There's this saloon keeper who's paying his bartender the going wage, yet discovers the guy is pocketing half the receipts. What can you do? Then the bartender begins pocketing nearly all the receipts. So the proprietor says to his bartender: "Ain't we partners no more?"

History note

A few issues ago, the *Forum* ran a short article about Mike Sanchelli's reminiscences of growing up in Swede Hollow. There is a more-complete version published in the Spring 2014 issue (volume 49, number 1) of *Ramsey County History*. You can find the magazine in any St. Paul or Ramsey County libraries. If you are interested in owning a copy, you can order one from RCHS. Call them at 651-222-0701 or visit rchs.com.

News from the Dayton's Bluff Seniors Living At Home/Block Nurse Program

Dayton's Bluff Seniors introduces new Service Coordinator



Tiffany Shiek is the new Service Coordinator for Dayton's Bluff Seniors.

Tiffany Shiek, the new Service Coordinator for Dayton's Bluff Seniors, grew up in Elk River, Minnesota and graduated from Minneapolis Business College in 2005. She spent six years filling various administrative roles. Most significantly, she filled the role of a document control and training coordinator at a medical component company. Tiffany has spent the last four years as a military spouse and a stay-at-home mom for two boys.

When she is not volunteering, she enjoys trying out new recipes and cooking for friends and family. Tiffany dreams of staying involved with her community and making the life experience of others just a little bit better.

Dayton's Bluff Seniors LAH/BNP has been bringing wellness to the seniors in District 4 since 2008. To learn more about how we provide a circle of care around the elderly and their caregivers, please call us 651-776-7210 ext. 303.

Senior support program seeks board members

The Dayton's Bluff Seniors Living At Home Block Nurse Program has been serving seniors in Dayton's Bluff since 2008. They assist elder neighbors through a combination of volunteer, nursing and other services to help older people stay in their own homes. Last year, 126 seniors were serviced through wellness clinics, service coordination, and advocacy. We empower seniors to live fuller lives in their homes.

The role of Dayton's Bluff Seniors Board members is vital. Board responsibilities include maintaining the program mission and purpose; developing and administering policy; developing personnel policies, including employing an Executive Director; and ensuring adequate financial resources and effective organizational planning.

The Dayton's Bluff Seniors Board is composed of up to nine members. The majority must come from the Dayton's Bluff community, at least one who is 65 years of age or older; one shall be a church leader; one from a health or social service profession, or a person with business or government background. The time commitment is several hours a month.

To learn more about the Dayton's Bluff Seniors, visit www.daytonsbuff-seniors.org or call Rhonda Battisto at 651-776-7210 ext. 303.



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Judy Lee

Travels with the Forum

Take a copy of our paper when you travel, and submit your photos to editor@daytonabluff.org.



The Forum goes Hollywood

Left: Past and present St. Paul residents, from left to right: Dr. Michael Cosimini, Mary Block and Mark Cosimini, take time to read the *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* in sunny Los Angeles, with the famous Hollywood sign in the background.

The Forum in the Windy City

Right: Taken in the Logan Square neighborhood on the north side of Chicago. The young woman on the left, who was raised in Dayton's Bluff, is pictured with her daughter and husband as they keep in touch with the goings-on in our community 400 miles to the northwest.



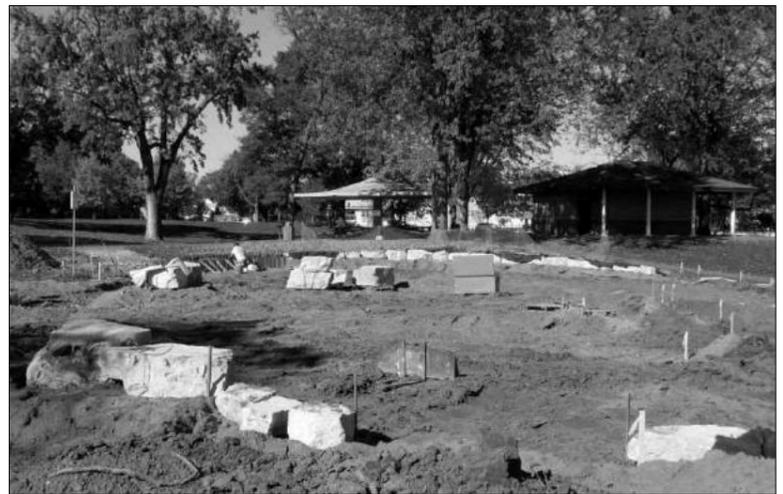
Signs of life...in the fall



Steve Trimble

Left: Freshly-harvested pumpkins bask in the sun in a Dayton's Bluff yard.

Right: The new playground is under construction at Indian Mounds Park.



Greg Cosimini

Thank you to these donors for their generous contributions:

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- Ward 6 Food & Drink

Friends of the Forum

Dear Reader,

The *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* has been a volunteer-run newspaper 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 source of information, please consider filling 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

Board: Greg Cosimini, Karin DuPaul, Jennifer Herman, Carrie Oby, Carla Riehle, Steve Trimble
Editor: Meg Gronau Editorial Assistant: Mark Gallagher

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

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For more information, contact 651-772-2075 or editor@daytonabluff.org.

Vote Sheldon Johnson on Nov. 4!



Sheldon Johnson worked hard for this past session's legislative highlights:

- Invested in Minnesota's E-12 education system providing needed funding for schools to reduce class sizes and boost student achievement.
- Fully funded all-day, every day kindergarten for every Minnesota child for the first time in state history and invested in early learning scholarships aimed at closing the achievement gap.
- Froze college tuition for students at the University of Minnesota and MnSCU after a decade of historic tuition increases, and provided significant new resources to the state grant program.
- Put middle-class Minnesotans first with the \$1.2 billion surplus, providing \$550 million in tax cuts to more than 2 million Minnesotans
- Raised Minnesota's minimum wage in stages to \$9.50 for large business and \$7.75 for small businesses by August 2016. More than 350,000 Minnesotans will get a raise.
- Enacted the Women's Economic Security Act, which aims to close the gender gap, strengthen workplace protections and flexibility for pregnant mothers, and expand employment opportunities for women in high-wage, high demand professions.
- More than 200,000 Minnesotans have obtained high-quality, affordable health insurance through MNsure, many of them for the first time in their lives—at the lowest rates in the nation. We're not going back to the days of denials for pre-existing conditions or having your coverage dropped when you are sick.
- Synthetic drugs will be more difficult or impossible to buy at retail stores.
- Electric monitoring devices are authorized to increase the safety of domestic abuse victims.
- Those subject to orders for protection (restraining orders) for domestic abuse, sexual assault or stalking, are required to surrender their guns and will not be allowed to purchase a new gun.

A Leader for the East Side, Working Hard for Working Families.

Prepared and paid for by the Volunteers for Johnson Committee; 2031 Howard St. S., St. Paul, MN 55119



★★★ Sheldon
Johnson

For State Representative

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