

# Dayton's Bluff District Forum

Volume 27, No. 9  
October 2014  
www.daytonsbluff.org

"The Voice of the Community"

## The luck of the Bluff



Greg Cosimini

Good fortune must be smiling on Dayton's Bluff, producing these four- and five-leaf clovers in a vacant lot on Euclid Street.

## Twin Cities Academy named one of best US schools

Forum staff

Twin Cities Academy High School, located at 835 East 5<sup>th</sup> Street, was recently ranked as the 42<sup>nd</sup> best high school in the country by US News and World Report. The charter school was also ranked the #1 high school in the state last year, based on the MN Department of Education's Multiple Measuring Rating, and was designated a Reward School for the third year in a row.

Six years ago, TCA (which includes a middle school and high school) moved into their current 5<sup>th</sup> Street location, the former parish school building at Sacred Heart, hoping to attract a diverse student body. With this ethnic, socioeconomic, and academic diversity, student success remains high. Last year's attendance rate was 96%, with a 94% graduation rate.

To get those high numbers, TCA strongly emphasizes academic rigor and community service. High school students are required to complete 20 hours of volunteer work each year. Class sizes are small, averaging 24 students. TCA emphasizes that no student who tries, will fail. Teachers make every effort to help students succeed, making themselves available before and after school, and sometimes via email.

In addition to working hard, TCA celebrates success. Students who are on track academically and behaviorally attend a fun outing every quarter. TCA offers music, art, drama, and a variety of sports, as well as Homecoming and Prom.

"It's a great school," said Jennifer Herman, Dayton's Bluff resident and TCA parent. For more information on TCA, visit [twincitiesacademy.org](http://twincitiesacademy.org).

**Dayton's Bluff  
Community Council**  
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St. Paul, MN 55106

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## Annual meeting and community dinner

Monday, October 20, 5:00-8:00 pm

¡SU VOZ! KOJ LUB SUAB!  
YOUR VOICE!

### Dayton's Bluff Community Council Board of Directors elections

Each year at our annual meeting, Dayton's Bluff Community Council (DBCC) elects our community Board of Directors. All Dayton's Bluff residents are welcome to come to celebrate the collective accomplishments of the Council and the community, and plan for the next year.

If you've been reading the *Dayton's Bluff District Forum*, you know that the DBCC has been engaged in some exciting new activities, including the forth-

coming move to beautiful refurbished offices, the creation of the new East Side Enterprise Center, the "Make it Happen on East 7<sup>th</sup> Street" initiative and much more! If you have ideas on how the neighborhood can continue moving forward, you are the ideal candidate for board membership!

**When and where can I vote?**

Voting will happen **Monday, October 20**

at the annual meeting and free community dinner, held at the Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center (800 Conway Street) from **5:00-8:00 pm**. If you have a personal conflict with the schedule, please call the DBCC office to make other arrangements to cast your ballot.

### What happens at the Annual Meeting?

Dinner will be served at 5:00 pm. Watch our slide show recapping the year, mingle with friends, and enjoy music. Immediately following dinner, City Council President Kathy Lantry will give a short "State of the District" address followed by the presentation of the annual Roger Tetu award for kindness and community service (see inset for more information). In addition, the Equity Committee of the DBCC will present, for community approval, an "Equity Covenant" outlining our expectations for "the just and fair inclusion of all members of the Dayton's Bluff community." Candidates will each give a brief speech and voting for board elections will commence. After ballots are collected and counted, we will announce the results and welcome our newly elected board members.

### Who can be a board member?

The board of directors has 18 members who serve alternating two-year terms, with nine members elected each year. Each of the four sub-districts has four representatives and there are also two at-large positions. You must live in the sub-district that you seek to represent; candidates for this year's at-large seat must represent a business in Dayton's Bluff. Board members are expected to attend monthly board meetings, and serve on at least one committee, which is a commitment of approximately 10 hours per month to board activities.

### How can I run?

To make sure you are on the printed ballot, fill out the online application at [www.daytonsbluff.org](http://www.daytonsbluff.org) or stop by the DBCC office to pick up a paper application. Applications for the pre-printed ballot must be returned by 5:00 pm on Monday, October 13. All candidates must be present at the annual meeting and dinner. If you miss the filing deadline, you and your supporters can still write in your name as a candidate. Write-in candidates will be accepted until 6:00 pm on October 20, the day of the election. All write-in candidates must be present at the annual meeting and must accept the nomination to be elected. All candidates will be asked to make a short public statement at the annual meeting, stating why they want to be on the DBCC Board and how they can contribute to the neighborhood.

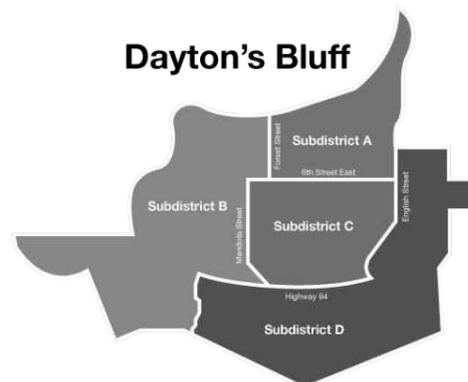
## Nominations for Roger Tetu Award due Oct. 13!

The Roger Tetu Unsung Hero Award will be presented on October 20 and we want your nominations.

We're looking for community members and organizations who offer kindness without hesitation on a daily basis, who do the little things to make Dayton's Bluff a better place.

DBCC is interested in recognizing these acts of kindness and highlighting the role of unsung neighborhood heroes.

Visit [www.daytonsbluff.org](http://www.daytonsbluff.org) to learn more about the Roger Tetu award and to submit your nominations today! The deadline for nomination is October 13.



### **New Friends of Swede Hollow are welcome**

The next Friends of Swede Hollow monthly meeting is on **Wednesday, October 8, at 6:30 pm**. Email [karin@swedehollow.org](mailto: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 October 4**

Take-a-Hike occurs on the first Saturday of most months. The next hike will be **Saturday, October 4**. 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. Share experiences and hear stories about life in Dayton's Bluff. New hikers are always welcome. 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, October 15, at 6:30 pm, and Friday, October 17, 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 an idea for our publication. If you'd like to contribute to the *Forum*, please join us at our next meeting, **Thursday, October 2, at 1:00 pm** at 798 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street. Snacks encouraged.

### **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, beginning with *Spirit Car* by Diane Wilson. 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 Metropolitan State's Institute for Community Engagement at 651-793-1285 or [community.engagement@metrostate.edu](mailto: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.

### **4<sup>th</sup> annual All East Side reunion**

The annual party to renew old friendships and to get in touch with others, including classmates, teammates, and old friends from Cretin, Harding, Johnson, Hill-Murray, or North St. Paul, will be held on **October 11** at American Legion Post 577, 1135 Arcade Street (Arcade Street and Maryland Avenue).

The party will start at **6:00 pm**; Joe Wagner's band "The Arcades," with dance music from the '50s, '60s, and '70s, will play from 8:00 pm-12:00 midnight. Admission is \$5.00 per person and there is a cash bar.

Please help get the word out; invite others! For information, call Claudia Steiner, 651-735-4784 or Janice Ziemer, 651-777-8896.

### **Free organics recycling through Ramsey County**

Ramsey County's new organics recycling program has dramatically increased the number of visits to yard waste sites by county residents.

All Ramsey County yard waste collection sites (except for Arden Hills) began accepting organics for the first time when they opened this spring. The new program enables county residents to drop off food scraps, non-recyclable pa-

per products, coffee grounds, dryer lint, and other items, so less waste goes into the trash. The St. Paul yard waste site closest to Dayton's Bluff is at Frank and Sims, just north of Phalen Boulevard. To further promote organics recycling, Environmental Health is offering free plastic kitchen caddies to collect food scraps. The caddies, along with free liner bags, are available at all county yard waste sites that accept organics. A total of 600 caddies will be distributed on a first come, first served basis, while supplies last. More information on organics recycling at [http://www.co.ramsey.mn.us/ph/rt/organics\\_recycling.htm](http://www.co.ramsey.mn.us/ph/rt/organics_recycling.htm).

### **Library celebrates 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary**

Dayton's Bluff Public Library and Metropolitan State University Academic Library are celebrating their 10-year partnership. The public is invited to fun activities on **Sunday, October 26, from 2:00-4:00 pm**. Planned activities include: celebrity storytime; origami and haiku; labyrinth walk; building tours; science; student readings; and a media screening room. Guest speakers from the community are scheduled.

The public is also invited to a celebratory reception on **Tuesday, October 28**, in the Ecolab Room, LIB 302.

The MSU and Dayton's Bluff Public Library story will be shown through a slideshow using archival photos, patron recollections and sentiments and a review of what the two libraries have accomplished in the past 10 years. If you have some thoughts or remembrances to share, please contact Katherine Arndt at [katherine.arndt@metrostate.edu](mailto:katherine.arndt@metrostate.edu) or 651-793-1634.

## **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.
- **Seniors "500" card playing:** every Friday, 12:00-4:00 pm; coffee and snacks provided!

- **Fitness Room:** 3-7:45 pm
- **Teen "Bluff Room":** 3:00-7:30 pm.
- **Take Home Chef:** learn how to make simple, healthy snacks to take home or make at home. Tuesday, October 7, 6:00-7:30 pm.

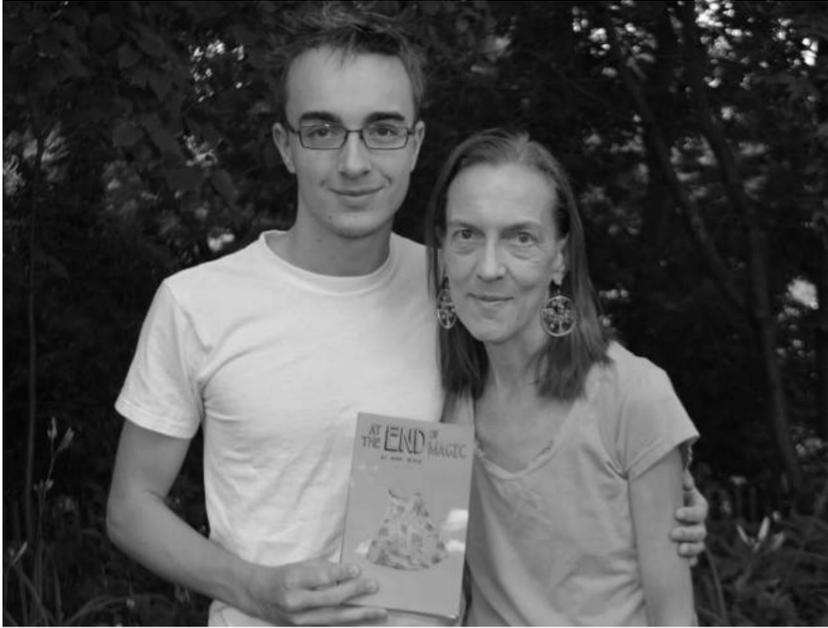
- **Rec Check!** Free program for 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders; registration required.
- **Open gym 6:00-7:45 pm.** Monday-Thursday; all ages.
- **Basketball practice** starts October 20.
- **Cheerleading and Karate:** Sign up the week of October 20.
- **Fall Blast!** October 16 & 17, 1:00-4:00 pm, ages 6-12. Sign up online.

**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!**

## Magic for this Bluff family



Petrie family

Mary Petrie, at right, is pictured with her son Stryker Thompson, who had his mother's memoir published this summer.

### Son gives gift of a dream fulfilled

Forum staff

There's no danger that Mounds Park resident Mary Petrie will ever forget precisely when she relocated to this neighborhood. Her family's move to Mound Street coincided with two other major life events: the birth of her third child, and completion of a novel, *At the End of Magic*.

That child is now 11 years old and the book, after languishing for a decade, has just been published. The magic at play here extends beyond the title to the sweet story of how the manuscript moved from a dusty shelf into a book.

Last spring, Petrie's then-17-year old son, Stryker Thompson, was winding up his senior year at Como Park High school in style: captain of the debate team, National Honor Society, 14 Advanced Placement courses, fourth in his class academically. But those demands on his time didn't stop Thompson from giving his mother the gift of a lifetime. Near the end of his senior year, he decided to self-publish his mother's novel as a "thank you for raising me" gift. Enlisting the help of his girlfriend, fellow Como student Tessa Portuese, the two painstakingly formatted and designed the book. Thompson toiled over format, paper weight, texture, and editing; Portuese created the art, using a picture of a dress that Petrie had long envisioned on the cover. Thompson researched

the publication process and settled on one that would allow the book to be available in both print and Kindle. It was time-consuming, laborious work.

But that effort paid off – and more – when Thompson handed his mother a gift-wrapped copy of the book's proof on June 20. Petrie opened the paper and burst into tears, immediately understanding the gift and its significance when she saw the pretty yellow dress on the cover. Petrie acknowledges this has been the greatest gift of her lifetime. "That my son recognized and responded to my dreams is itself the most magical part about this," she says.

That magic continues as word of the book and the son's gift spreads. The *Star Tribune* featured Petrie and Thompson in a September 7 column by Gail Rosenblum. The story made it to the Today Show Web site and enjoyed a few minutes of fame on Twitter and Facebook. But Petrie reports that publicity isn't the only reason the book is selling. "It's good! Readers are recommending it to their friends. I think of it as 'the little book that could,' finally getting the readers it deserves."

The book is available at Red Balloon, Common Good Books, SubText, Amazon and Kindle. Petrie will be reading from the book at Dayton Bluff's new coffee house, The Dancing Goat, at **4:00 pm on Sunday, October 12**.



## Watch the Glow of the Setting Sun annual event Oct. 11

Karin DuPaul  
Forum staff

The annual "Watch the Glow of the Setting Sun on the Red Brick Brewery" event hosted by Friends of Swede Hollow (FOSH) will start at 6:30 pm on Saturday, October 11. Everyone is welcome to attend. Meet at the Henge in Swede Hollow Park, near the Drewry Lane and Beaumont entrance. Witness the sunset firsthand, and see the bright glow of the brewery building.

After the sun sets, the evening cookout begins and socializing continues. Former Swede Hollow residents and Hamm's employees are invited to share memories of the

"good old days" of living in the Hollow and working at the brewery.

Some years, Joe Sanchelli and his daughter Nancy have entertained everyone with Italian songs and stories about life in the Hollow. Historians like Steve Trimble and Jim Sazevich have been known to attend "Watch the Glow." Last year's event, pictured above, was attended by about 20 neighbors and friends.

FOSH is a nonprofit organization that works on Swede Hollow issues, plantings, cleanups, education, history tours, and events. For more information, please send an email to [karin@swedehollow.org](mailto:karin@swedehollow.org) or call 651-776-0550.

## WEQY-FM 104.7, the Voice of the East Side

by Carla Riehle  
Forum staff

Not long after this newspaper reaches your mailbox, WEQY-FM, the Voice of the East Side, hopes to be "riding the signal," which is what radio veterans call the test phase of the new station. Although a major obstacle arose at the last minute that seemed like it might delay the start for a few months, that cloud turned out to have a silver lining. Despite the best efforts of Sonia Ortega, owner of Plaza del Sol on Payne Avenue, construction delays were not able to be overcome in building the radio space that she had generously offered to the station at no cost. However, the offer of new space in a historic building came along at just the right moment, with the added bonus that a storefront

studio will be possible. WEQY Station Manager Kathryn Harris can't reveal the address yet, but says it looks about 99% sure.

We are happy to report that Barry Madore's radio-novela project is one of the finalists for several Knight Foundation grants to be awarded in October. Kathryn Harris is also in discussion with two cultural umbrella groups about an innovative idea for combining station underwriting with radio programming and fundraising for the member organizations.

Volunteer positions are still open at the station, ranging from answering the phone and staffing the front desk to acting as a "traffic" engineer. If you want to contribute to the community in an innovative way, contact Station Manager Kathryn Harris at [WEQYKathryn@gmail.com](mailto:WEQYKathryn@gmail.com).

### NEED HOME IMPROVEMENTS AND DON'T KNOW WHERE TO START?

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- Limited funds only available for households with residents 62 years of age or older
- Owner-occupied single family homes in St. Paul
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- Funds can only be used for accessibility improvements

#### CONTACT US TODAY TO FIND OUT MORE!

Dayton's Bluff  
Neighborhood Housing Services  
823 East Seventh Street  
Saint Paul, MN 55106  
651.774.6995  
[www.dbnhs.org](http://www.dbnhs.org)



## 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

MANY CULTURES.  
BUILDING THE FUTURE.



804 Margaret Street  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55106  
651.772.2075

To Learn More About DBCC and how get involved, visit [www.daytonsbuff.org](http://www.daytonsbuff.org) today!

### October 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: "Having Faith During Turbulent Times."  
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!

#### Community Friendship Gathering

**October 28 at 12:00 noon** at Mound Park United Methodist Church. Everyone is invited. Hot lunch, plus entertainment! Come for food, fun and fellowship. Menu: beef stew in homemade bread bowl. Salad and dessert. Entertainment: Winter Carnival Court  
While the Community Friendship Gathering focuses on persons 55 and older, all are invited to participate. Reservations are appreciated by calling 651-734-8736. \$8.00 requested for the meal.

## Rub-a-dub-dub



Karin DuPaul

East Siders Mary Brownlow, left, and Sage Holben enjoy a relaxing soak in a pool of gelatin. Several neighborhood women took turns in the vat of crimson goo, earning some strange looks from passersby. Non-edible but non-toxic, "wrestling gelatin" is used for its unique, relaxing sensation.



illuminating a New Phase

Hosted by: 

  • #bluffie • [www.daytonsbluff.org](http://www.daytonsbluff.org)

### Join Us...

to Celebrate the Grand Opening of the East Side Enterprise Center

October 30 • 5:00-8:00 PM

Food • Entertainment • Prizes

798 East 7th Street  
Saint Paul, MN 55106

## Real Haunted Tours at the Historic Mounds Theatre

Raeann Ruth  
Executive Director, Mounds Theatre

This Halloween, why settle for a fake haunted house when you can take a Real Haunted Tour?  
For one hour, you and up to 10 other people will have two experienced paranormal investigators walk you through the Historic Mounds Theatre in near-darkness. For that hour, you'll learn the history of the building and hear the stories of the resident spirits.  
Your guides will also answer questions and help you ghost-hunt on your own. The tour includes several pauses for evidence-gathering and invitations for activity. Don't forget to bring a camera, voice recorder or video cam-

era so you can attempt to gather your own evidence like tour guests have done on previous years' tours.  
Tours this year will be led by paranormal investigator Lisa Lea. (Sal and Mia will not be leading tours for the 2014 season due to scheduling conflicts.)  
Tours will be held October 3 through November 1, every Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 5:00-11:00 pm. Tickets are \$20 and tours must be booked in advance.  
Visit [www.moundstheatre.org](http://www.moundstheatre.org) to purchase tickets and for information about other upcoming events. The Historic Mounds Theatre is located at 1029 Hudson Road, St. Paul, MN 55106; 651-772-2253.

## History walk



Brad Griffith

Crowds look at homes along the 700 block of Margaret Street during the History Walk of the Upper Swede Hollow Neighborhood, held on September 6. This area has many beautiful homes, some dating back to the 1880s.

**8th Annual**

# BOOYA!

Sunday, October 5th | Noon

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SPORTS BAR & GRILL



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W I C & E B I Programs



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## Building equity in Dayton's Bluff and beyond

*Avi Viswanathan  
special to the Forum*

Until recently, many Twin Cities residents were oblivious to the fact that our metro region ranks among the worst in the country when it comes to racial disparities in employment, education, housing and incarceration. These disparities are particularly bad between whites and African Americans, and whites and Native Americans. But disparities have become a common theme in politics in the Twin Cities. Politicians are constantly talking about eliminating disparities and closing gaps.

This represents a major shift. Just five years ago, politicians and government officials were hesitant to talk about race. Many would change the topic or point the finger in another direction – or even deny there was a problem. This has changed dramatically, as we see government officials looking at race issues head-on through strong statements. But talk is not enough. Communities of color have been developing solutions for the issues their communities face for a long time. Because of the current climate around inequities, these solutions are finally being heard and are rising to the top.

Dayton's Bluff is a community

that has a majority of people of color. Many of the issues that face our region as a whole are magnified in our neighborhood. We have an opportunity to learn and share with other communities, so we can all benefit from their knowledge and expertise.

One of the biggest issues being debated in the Twin Cities is the development of the Southwest Light Rail system, which would be an extension of the Green Line. Transit cannot, by itself, create racial equity, but it does represent a significant opportunity to help people of color access better employment or housing or education. Communities of color in Minneapolis and its suburbs have come together to take advantage of this opportunity. Thirty organizations have formed the Equity Commitments Coalition and developed a set of requests around the light rail that will help move towards equity. These requests are related to increased access to all forms of transit including buses, land-use planning and development, and access to employment and training opportunities. These requests have been presented to several government agencies including the Met Council, Hennepin County and the City of Minneapolis. Each is developing a response to have a real dialogue with communi-

ties of color.

In Minneapolis there has been a small group of residents – all white – who are completely against the light rail development. They have made comments that this is not an equity train, and that communities of color are being used by government agencies so the rail will be developed. This is an old way of thinking. These individuals would rather kill the project in the name of equity rather than listen to communities of color and use the project to move toward equity.

On the East Side, with strong communities of color, we have an opportunity to move towards equity. With transit development coming our way, we have an opportunity to learn from the great work of communities in our region and to quash that old way of thinking. All the tools are in place. East Side Transit Equity (ESTE) organizers are on the ground in our communities and have been connected to the Equity Commitments Coalition work. We have strong allies in government, such as Ramsey County Commissioner Jim McDonough, who are ready to represent our communities and our values as transit is developed. It is time for our community to take action and take advantage of this opportunity.

### Letter to the editor

#### Community skating rink would be a boon on the Bluff

Dear residents, friends and neighbors, I have a simple question to ask and I would love to hear from anyone who has an opinion on this matter.

How can we, the residents of Dayton's Bluff on St. Paul's East Side in the state of Minnesota, not have a skating rink? Let's think about this for a moment and ask ourselves; what would be the pros and cons of said rink?

Pro: A place for families and neighbors to get together.

Con: ? I got nothing.

Now let's get to the real issue: cost. Location, location, location. We have the perfect one at Dayton's Bluff Elementary and Recreation Center. The field lights are on all night already! So no cost there. Water? No more charge than the city would charge the city. And finally, there's the care and maintenance. I find it hard to believe that this community wouldn't volunteer ourselves for our children and neighborhood. You may ask, "should and will supervision be needed?" I think our community is respectful and responsible enough to follow posted rules.

So as I see it: Total cost = FUN.

P.S. The Market on the Bluff, held at 463 Maria Avenue, will continue on Thursday evenings through the end of October. The last day of the Market is tentatively planned for October 30, with a harvest event with more vendors, entertainment and activities.

*A neighbor  
Dayton's Bluff*

## 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, 6:00-8:30pm in the Metropolitan State Library and 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](mailto: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.*



State Representative

**SHELDON  
JOHNSON**

549 State Office Building  
100 Martin Luther King Jr.  
St. Paul, MN 55155

(651) 296-4201

[rep.sheldon.johnson@house.mn](mailto:rep.sheldon.johnson@house.mn)

[www.house.mn/67B](http://www.house.mn/67B)

[www.sheldonjohnson.com](http://www.sheldonjohnson.com)

## East Side Enterprise Center houses huge walk-in cooler

Jennifer Herman, Forum staff

Access to a huge walk-in cooler is not what I had in mind when I heard about the resources the East Side Enterprise Center (ESEC) is offering to entrepreneurs and businesses, but it turns out that the cooler and warehouse space are just what some local entrepreneurs need. In fact, when John Flory from Latino Economic Development Center (LEDC) saw the 4,000 square feet of warehouse and garage space with 2 loading docks and 5 overhead garage doors, he knew he had found the perfect site for the East Side Local Food Incubator.

At LEDC, John had been working with local immigrant farmers, realizing that there are several barriers to success. A lack of access to prime farmland was the first challenge for Hmong farmers. They formed the Hmong American Farmer's Association (HAFA) and with the support of LEDC they were able to find an angel investor to buy 155 acres of farmland 15 minutes south of St. Paul.

HAFA has arranged a long term lease for this land with the option to purchase it.

Another challenge for Hmong and Latino farmers is access to markets. One immigrant farm grew \$40,000 of produce but was only able to sell \$19,000 of it. At the same time, the Anglo farmers at Stone's Throw Urban Farm were finding they couldn't grow enough produce to meet the demands of the urban market. So Stone's Throw Urban Farm in Minneapolis, Whetstone Farm in Windom, Agua Gorda Co-op in Long Prairie, Cala Farm in Turtle Lake, Wisc., and La Familia Co-op in New Richmond, Wisc., joined together to create Stone's Throw Agricultural Co-operative. This marketing co-op acts as an intermediary so that buyers have one consistent contact person who connects them to all of the varied farm products from the member farms and HAFA. The co-op currently provides produce to a 200-member CSA and about 20 restaurants.

However, this access to urban markets created a new challenge. Where would

the urban farmers bring produce to be sorted and stored, and how would it get delivered to buyers? Many of the farmers of HAFA live on the East Side of St. Paul and they longed for a distribution facility nearby. LEDC realized that the warehouse and garage at ESEC were the perfect solution!

A Healthy Food Financing loan was used to install the large walk-in cooler for storing produce. The warehouse space is perfect for sorting, boxing, and additional storage. The garage is the ideal home for the refrigerated delivery van and truck purchased with federal and state grants. LEDC (an ESEC partner) holds the master lease for the warehouse and garage space and the offices above. They are leasing office space to three organizations connected to local food: Urban Oasis, Twin Cities Mobile Market, and Stone's Throw Agricultural Co-operative. The marketing cooperative is leasing the van and truck as well as space in the cooler to provide services to its members and other farm groups. Addi-

tional space in the cooler will be available for lease by local grocery stores. The East Side Local Food Incubator is truly a place to nurture growing businesses. The terms of the financing loan allow the Incubator to charge below-market lease rates to farmers until they can afford market rates. And, yes, the Mobile Market, an MTC bus-turned-grocery store, will have a parking space in the garage and will load up with local produce from the cooler before heading out around the East Side and North Minneapolis.

Mexican immigrant farm laborers dream of owning their own farms. Hmong farmers long to have sustainable farms capable of financially supporting the entire family. Urban grocery stores, co-ops, and chefs long for fresh, local produce. Connecting the farmers and the buyers strengthens everybody's business which is exactly what ESEC is all about – and that is why it is the perfect home for the East Side Local Food Incubator and their really huge cooler.

## The Educated Palate: serving the Metropolitan State University community, and so much more

Mark Gallagher  
Forum Editorial Assistant

The Educated Palate, located on the 7<sup>th</sup> Street level of the New Main Building on the southwest corner of 7<sup>th</sup> Street and Maria, is Metropolitan State University's East Side campus cafeteria. Stephen Mike, owner of the Wabasha Deli and Cafe and two kiosks in downtown St. Paul, was awarded the Metro State contract in 2010.

Stephen and his staff do all the cooking at the Wabasha Deli and Cafe, and all that cooking is from scratch, but he also does many other things. "I order the food, run the dishwasher, sweep the floor," he says. "I do it all. As I tell my staff, 'I wouldn't ask you to do anything I wouldn't do.'"

He learned how to cook from his grandmother. "My grandmother was one of the few people who could control me," Stephen says. "So I always hung out with her and did all of her menial work. I learned to cook from the ground up."

Stephen took the loving instruction taught by his grandmother and used his cooking skill at St. Matthew's Church on the West Side of St. Paul, where he volunteered to cook for the Fun Fest, the Men's Club fish fry, and many other events.

Benjamin Mike, Stephen's son, works with his dad as cashier, catering manager, customer service, guest service, and he also prepares most of the catering bids. "Dad and I go to the Ed-

ucated Palate once a week to oversee the operation," Benjamin says. "We also have monthly meetings with the manager."

The Educated Palate at Metro State has a full kitchen. Its hours are Monday through Thursday, from 8:30 am-8:30 pm, and Friday and Saturday from 8:30 am to 1:00 pm. It has a walk-up counter that serves students and the general public. The informal menu is perfect for the quick breakfast, lunch, or supper that students or faculty sometimes need.

The breakfast menu includes pancakes, French toast, breakfast sandwiches, à la carte selections, and beverages. Deli sandwiches, paninis, soups, wraps, salads, and beverages make up the lunch/dinner menu. The Educated Palate has about five employees, and that number varies according to the season. They typically slow down in the summer when there are fewer students on campus.

The culinary opportunities at the Educated Palate differ from those at the

Wabasha Deli and Cafe. "There is large Muslim population at Metro State," Benjamin says. "We have some halal products that fit into their religious and dietary restrictions."

"We are excited to be a part of the East Side and West Side of St. Paul," Benjamin says. "We are participating in a program, through the St. Paul public schools, called STEPS (Specialized

Transition Employment Planning Services), which helps students with special educational needs prepare for employment and independence after graduation."

The students are in the program for many different reasons: some have a disability, some have a problem at home where

they need extra attention, or some just need more basic interaction with people.

"I think the St. Paul Public Schools are trying to give these kids a life lesson," Benjamin says. "What it means to show up for a job, work hard, take instruction from someone, complete a

task, and be rewarded for completing that task. Stephen is a great cook, and he does an excellent job working with the kids."

The Educated Palate caters a lot of events. "We cater conferences and [events in the rented] space at Metro State, either in a conference room, in the New Main building, or in the library's Ecolab Room," Stephen says. "We cater a lot of ethnic meals. We do quite a bit of catering for the Muslim community because they have a large presence here, and we do many evening events at Metro State like birthday parties, showers, and anniversary parties."

"If I had it to do all over again, I would," Stephen says. "It's hard to run a small business – dealing with food is even more difficult – but that's the business I'm in," Stephen says.

"Over the years, The Wabasha Deli and Café has sponsored or hosted many pancake breakfasts and spaghetti dinners to raise money for certain events," Benjamin says. "We are proud and honored to host these events. The support shown to us by the community is important to the Mike family, as well as our support returned back to the community."

Mark Gallagher is a professional writer and editor and a graduate of Metropolitan State University. Mark can be reached at [refineEditorial@gmail.com](mailto:refineEditorial@gmail.com).



Mark Gallagher

Above: Stephen Mike, left, prepares a dish at Metropolitan State University's campus cafeteria, the Educated Palate, while his son Benjamin, right, gives the camera a smile. Stephen is the owner and operator of the Wabasha Deli and Cafe.

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History corner

**Tommy Gibbons: Puncher and politician**

by Steve Trimble  
Forum historian

Last month I told the story of St. Paul boxer Mike "The Phantom" Gibbons. This time I will relate the life of boxer Tommy Gibbons, the younger brother. He was born in St. Paul in 1891 into an Irish immigrant family. After graduating from Washington High School, he completed two years at St. Thomas University. He had been working at the Great Northern Railway rail yard for \$1.10 a day but his father agreed that his son could make a living with his fists so his college days came to an end.

Even though boxing was illegal in Minnesota at the time, Tommy, like others, participated in secret bouts, helped by the fact that the ban was not strongly enforced. He entered ring full time on September 5, 1911, with a bout in Minneapolis, and began to compile a commendable record. He started out as a middleweight but grew into a heavyweight with a respectable punch.

Minnesota finally yielded to public sentiment and legalized boxing on April 24, 1915. The sport was only allowed in the state's three largest cities. Also, to try to stop wagering on the outcome, there were no announced decisions. The site for the first legal show in 23 years was the St. Paul Auditorium on July 12, 1915. The headline bout that evening pitted two of St. Paul's future all-time greats against each other: Tommy Gibbons and Billy Miske.

Even though Tommy was a gifted boxer, he fought for several years in the shadow of his legendary brother Mike. He fought 80 fights over 11 years without an official defeat in all parts of the country and Canada. He was in over a hundred bouts with a final record of 56-4-1 with 44 no-decisions – remember the restrictions on having an announced outcome – and one no-contest. His only losses were to Jack Dempsey, Gene Tunney, Harry Greb and St. Paul's Billy Miske.

Tommy Gibbons' biggest fight came near the end of his career when he met heavyweight champion Jack Dempsey on July 4, 1923 in Shelby, Montana. He was a definite underdog, but de-

cidated to accept the match. Tommy said. "I knew I could make a fortune with the championship," he said, "and was content to gamble on that chance."

The town's leaders thought that the exposure would put

ing won a championship. "I could have made another \$100,000 before retiring," he later said, "but I thought of my brother Mike blind in one eye; Harry Greb, blind in both eyes. I decided it was time to get out."

After retiring from boxing at age 34, Gibbons was a success at selling insurance before he decided to enter city politics. He was elected to a city administrative position. His friends then convinced him to run for Sheriff of Ramsey County in 1934. He won six consecutive four-year terms and was unopposed in one of the elections.

He was sometimes quoted in the local newspapers. Here's one of his opinions: "The juvenile delinquency problem could be alleviated immeasurably if more parents would devote more attention to their sons – and daughters."

He retired from politics at the age of 68. A year later, on November 19, 1960, Tommy Gibbons passed away at the age of 69. Tommy had nine children with his first wife, plus the three children his second wife

had when she married him. Funeral services for Tommy were at the Willwerscheid Mortuary with a burial at Calvary Cemetery. He was elected to the Boxing Hall of Fame in 1963, and was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 1993. As Tommy Gibbons once summed things up: "Boxing was very good to me and it will always will have my best wishes."

**History note**

A few issues ago, the *Forum* had a fairly short article about Mike Sanchelli's reminiscences of growing up in Swede Hollow. There is a much more complete version that was 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.



cyberboxingzone.com

Above: Tommy Gibbons, St. Paul boxer who became Sheriff of Ramsey County from 1934-1958.

them on the map as they had some alleged oil lands they wanted to sell. They built a huge arena and a hotel, and laid railroad tracks into the town. But the fight was a financial disaster and local backers went broke. It is claimed that three banks failed as a result of backing the fiasco.

Gibbons felt he made a mistake in being aggressive instead of defensive and was staggered in the first round. He later said that after that punch he saw three Dempseys, grabbed the middle one and clinched until his head cleared. He recovered and lasted a full fifteen rounds before losing the decision to the champion.

Dempsey got paid up front, but because the fight drew only about 7,000 spectators, Tommy just received his expense money of \$15,000 for the fight. He did make \$5,000 from a subsequent vaudeville tour – a 14-week engagement on the Pantages circuit.

Gene Tunney finally dropped Gibbons in the twelfth round of a 1925 fight. It was the first and only time he was knocked out. Tommy then retired, never hav-

*View from my porch:*

**Race**

Sage Holben  
Forum contributor

The following are some thoughts after attending "Let's Talk: Ferguson" at Penumbra Theatre, Wednesday, September 10. Sarah Bellamy hosted panelists Dr. Matthew Johnson, Ricardo Levins Morales, and Dr. Soolin Pate. Artistic readings were given by Malik Curtis, Erin Washington, H. Adam Harris, and Gebreil Khadar.

"This is a time of harvest...things that have grown in our community," Dr. Johnson wasn't speaking of sweet corn and pumpkins. He was speaking of hate, racism, violence, abuse of systems and people, and overall, our false illusions that race relations and our justice system are better since Freedom Summer. As a country, as a city, we give magnificent narratives of what our programs do to address the violence of racism and the trauma it causes; but they are illusions! He nailed it.

The panel described racism as akin to child abuse. We tell victims not to talk about it. How many Black youth don't tell family about the police stops, frisking or intimidation exercised by police? A chronically, physically abused child or woman flinches when a man raises his arm, she in readiness to be hit. An officer's hand reaches towards his holster...what will happen? Just as a child or woman becomes hyper-vigilant, noting the smallest physical movement that might indicate a change in mood and potential abuse. So a Black youth watches the gait or eye movement of an officer to gauge how distrustful the officer is of the youth on the street, ready to what? Run out of fear? Stay and wonder what will happen? And the trauma continues; trauma is about loss of power.

Child abuse and racism have become embedded in our public and private systems and values. The systems continue because someone benefits from perpetuating the behavior. Unfortunately, people of color are punished collectively, by race, while whites are punished by individual crime. I'm left asking myself: what are my assumptions? How do I help stop the trauma? This "View" is admittedly incomplete. We need to look at the role of policing and the methods we use to police our housing, employment, correctional systems, and schools. We need to look within ourselves.

As a white person, how do I perpetuate this power that causes trauma and injustice? Do I condone by my silence? What are my inner feelings and outer reactions on the subject of race? Am I willing to shine the light on the traumas and injustices of racism? What do my neighbors of color ask of me?

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*Judy Lee*



David Lyons

Above: this old beer bottle dates from around the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and reads "Drewry & Sons St. Paul." It was found this summer in a muddy earthflow in Mounds Park.

## Fun find: an old beer bottle in the mud

David Lyons, Mounds Park Special to the Forum

Early this summer I was walking in the woods at the bottom of a bluff near my house when I came across a massive tree-strewn earthflow. I looked up to see a huge gash in the hill where a portion of it had pulled away and washed to the bottom. I then looked down to see part of an old bottle sticking out of the mud. I decided to explore the debris field and came across a perfectly intact embossed beer bottle that read "Drewry & Sons St. Paul."

First a bit on mass movement, because I teach geography. Debris flows like this are a product of three factors (in addition to gravity, which as the joke goes, always sucks): slope, characteristics of the sediments, and water content. The Mississippi River bluffs in the Mounds Park area of St. Paul are, in places, very steep and made up of porous limestone along with unconsolidated materials. And the rains during June this year were epic, totaling a record 11.36." The conditions were perfect; gravity did the rest of the work.

Second, as I am a collector of breweriana I was excited to research the bottle. I have narrowed its date to between the mid-1890s and 1917. The bottle has a crown top – it was once sealed with a bottle cap. This breakthrough invention of 1892 was found to be so superior to the "blob-top" of the time that it was pretty much universally adopted within a few years – and it's still in use! I consulted Doug Hoverson's *Land of Amber Waters: A History of Brewing in Minnesota* to research the brewery. Drewry & Sons operated near the corner of Payne and Minnehaha Avenues – interestingly, the old Hamm's Brewery is also near this intersection. Drewry & Sons, one of the few late-19<sup>th</sup> century breweries in Minnesota to specialize in ales, went out of business in 1917, one of the many casualties of Prohibition.

Although the bottle has little collector value, it is a fun conversation piece.



## Representing Dayton's Bluff at the Fair

Left: The Cosimini family donated this bench at the Minnesota State Fair in memory of Elsie and Joe Cosimini, two lifelong Dayton's Bluff residents who loved going to the State Fair.

Greg Cosimini

## King Arthur in Swede Hollow Park

Right: Mixed Precipitation theatre group performed in Swede Hollow Park on September 14. The show, *King Arthur: A Picnic Operetta* was paired with a five-course sampling menu of locally-grown treats for the audience.

Karin DuPaul



## The Forum at Sturgis

Left: Bikers in Sturgis, including the man with the biggest helmet, enjoyed reading articles from the *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* during the 74<sup>th</sup> Sturgis Motorcycle Rally.

Karin DuPaul

## 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.

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