The luck of the Bluff

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 5th Street, was recently ranked as the 42nd 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 5th 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.

Dayton’s Bluff Community Council
798 East 7th Street
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 forthcoming move to beautiful refurbished offices, the creation of the new East Side Enterprise Center, the “Make it Happen on East 7th 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 recapizing 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 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.
New Friends of Swede Hollow are welcome

The next Friends of Swede Hollow monthly meeting is on Wednesday, Oc-
tober 8, at 6:30 pm. Email kar-
in@swede hollow.org or call 651-777-
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, Minne-
sota's largest towing company, is owned by Roy Carlson, a former Dayton’s Bluff Community Council board mem-
er. 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 do-
ation to the Community Council. Call 651-772-2075 to have a junk car re-
moved – and help clean up Dayton’s Bluff.

Take-a-Hike October 4

Take-a-Hike occurs on the first Sat-
day 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 al-
ways welcome. For more information, call 651-777-0550.

Meet with the police

The Eastern District Police hosts their monthly meetings for community mem-
ers 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 op-
portunity to discuss neighborhood nui-
sance issues.

Forum monthly meeting

This Forum newspaper is always looking for help in several volunteer ca-
pacities. 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 7th Street. Snacks encouraged.

Dayton's Bluff Book Club

Love to read? Join the Dayton’s Bluff Book Club to read and discuss mul-
ticultural and local author’s books, begin-
ing with Spirit Car by Diane Wilson. The first meeting is Thursday, October 9, 2014, 6:00-8:30 pm in the Metropoli-
tan State Library & Learning Center, (co-located with Dayton’s Bluff Branch public library), Room 302. Space is lim-
ited and registration is required. Books and a light dinner will be provided at no charge. To register, contact Metropolitan State’s Institute for Community Engage-
ment at 651-793-1285 or community.en-
gagement@metrostate.edu.
The book club is co-sponsored by the Dayton's Bluff Branch of the St. Paul Public Library, and Metropolitan State University.

4th annual All East Side reunion

The annual party to renew old friend-
ships and to get in touch with others, in-
cluding 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, 615-735-4784 or Janice Ziemer, 651-777-8896.

Free organics recycling through Ramsey County

Ramsey County's new organics recy-
cling program has dramatically in-
creased the number of visits to yard waste sites by county residents. All Ramsey County yard waste col-
lection sites (except for Arden Hills) be-
gan 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 lin-
er 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 sup-
plies last. More information on organics recycling at http://www.co. Ramsey.m-
n.us/ph/organics_recycling.htm.

Library celebrates 10th 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 in-
clude: celebrity storytime; origami and haikus; 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 cele-
bratory 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 re-
view of what the two libraries have ac-
complished in the past 10 years. If you have some thoughts or reminiscences to share, please contact Katherine Armst at katherine.armst@metrostate.edu or 651-
793-1634.

Upcoming opportunities at Dayton’s Bluff Recreation Center

- Rec Check! Free program for 1st-5th 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!
At the End of Magic.

That child is now 11 years old and
bates the title to the sweet story of how the
Magic for this Bluff family

13 September

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 oth-
er 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
aroused a lifetime. "That my son recognized
and responded to my dreams is itself
the greatest gift of my 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 en-
joyed a few minutes of fame on Twit-
ter and Facebook. But Petrie reports
that publicity isn’t the only reason the
book is selling. "It’s good! Readers are
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enjoying it, and the son’s gift spreads. The
book is available at Red Bal-
loon, Common Good Books, SubText,
Amazon and Kindle. Petrie will be
reading from the book at Dayton
Bluff’s new coffee house, The Danc-
ing Goat, at 4:00 pm on Sunday, Oc-
tober 12.

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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 ob-
stacle arose at the last minute that
seemed like it might delay the start for a few months, that cloud turned
to have a silver lining. Despite the best efforts of Sonia Ortega, owner
of Plaza del Sol on Payne Avenue, con-
struction 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 Sta-
tion Manager Kathryn Harris can’t re-
veal 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 dis-
cussion 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 commu-
nity in an innovative way, contact
Station Manager Kathryn Harris at
WEQYKathryn@gmail.com.

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 equals where everyone
can thrive. Below are some ways you can get involved:

• Become a Member of the Board (Quarterly election)
• Committee Involvement
• Volunteer Opportunities

To Learn More About DBCC and get involved, visit www.daytonsv bluff.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

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.

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**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 camera 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 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.

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**Rub-a-dub-dub**

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.

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**History walk**

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.

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**8th Annual BOOYA!**

Sunday, October 5th | Noon
1347 Burns Ave, St. Paul (1 Blk West of 61 & Burns Ave)  
651.776.7010

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**Treat yourself today!**

565 Earl Street

10 Dilly Bars for $7.89  All-beef hot dogs $1.39

Buy one Blizzard, get the second (same size) for HALF PRICE

Bring in this ad and buy one shake, get one free!

Expires 10/31/14
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 – and development, and access to employment and training opportunities. Communities of color in Minneapolis and its suburbs have come together to take advantage of this opportunity. Thirty organizations have formed the Equity Commissions 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 communities 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 Commissions 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.

The book club is co-sponsored by the Dayton’s Bluff Branch of the St. Paul Public Library, and Metropolitan State University.
The Educated Palate: serving the Metropolitan State University community, and so much more

Mark Gallagher
Forum Editorial assistant

The Educated Palate, located on the 7th Street level of the New Main Building on the southwest corner of 7th 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 experiences to start a small business on the West Side of St. Paul, where he volunteered to cook for the Fun Fest, the Men’s Club fish fry, and many others.

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 Educated 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 5:00 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, la carte selections, and beverages. Deli sandwiches, with a variety of meats, wraps, salads, and beverages make up the lunch/and 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 learning disability, some have a problem at home where they need extra attention, others 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 a 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 to do it 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 Cafe 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 the deli and cafe 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 reedit@cityLib.g-mail.com.
History corner

Tommy Gibbons: Puncher and politician
by Steve Trimbble
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 of Mike. 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 before going into business at the Great Northern Railway yard for about a year, but his father agreed that his sons needed to make a living with their fists so his college days came to an end.

Even though boxing was illegal in Minnesota, Tommy, like others, participated in secret bouts, helped by the fact that the ban was not strictly 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 midweight but grew into a heavyweight with a respectable punch. Minnesota’s pugilists yielded to public sentiment and legalized boxing on April 24, 1915. The sport legally allowed in the state’s three largest cities. Also, to try to stop waging on the outcome, there were no announced draws. 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 decided 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 them on the map as they had when she married him. Furreral services for Tommy were held at the Willwerscheid Mortuary with a burial at Calvary Cemetery. He was elected to the Boxing Hall of Fame in 1993. As Tommy Gibbons once summed up boxing: “Boxing was very good to me and it will always 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 RCSIL. Call them at 651-222-0701 or visit rchs.com.

Free computer classes at Dayton’s Bluff Library

Tired of feeling technologically out-of-the-loop? Would you like to be able to list computer skills on your resume? The Dayton’s Bluff Library offers free introductory computer classes every Tuesday and Thursday, from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon. Topics include the basics of the computer, Microsoft Word, and Microsoft Excel. Space is limited! To register or to learn more, please call 651-793-1699 or email derek.sandkamp@ci.stpaul.mn.us.

View from my porch:

Race
Sage Holton
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. Soshoni 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 is ready to be hit. An officer’s hand reaches towards his holster...what will happen? Just as a child or woman becomes hyper-vigilant, not 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? “Boy, willing to shine the light on the traumas and injustices of racism? What do my neighbors of color ask of me?"
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 74th 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.

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Sincerely,

The Dayton’s Bluff District Forum

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Mounds Park United Methodist Church – Stefan & LeeAnn Pomerene – Carla Riehle – Gloria Russell


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 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 onceBossed beer bottle that read “Drewry & Sons St. Paul.”

I came across a perfectly intact embossed beer 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.”

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

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

The Forum at Dayton’s Bluff District Forum