

# Dayton's Bluff District Forum

Volume 27, No. 8  
September 2014  
www.daytonsbluff.org

Ve la página 4 para un artículo en español.

"The Voice of the Community"

## A bustling Thursday evening on the Bluff



Nicole Pressley

Above: this panoramic shot of the Market on the Bluff shows some of the beautiful craft, food, and produce options at the Market on the Bluff, which is held Thursday evenings at 463 Maria Avenue (just north of 7<sup>th</sup> Street).

## East Side Enterprise Center

Carla Riehle  
Forum staff

Next month, the Dayton's Bluff Community Council, long located at 798 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street, will be moving next door, into the new East Side Enterprise Center (ESEC). A couple of years in the making, ESEC is really two things: it's the culmination of a lot of hard work by the Council and its community partners, and it's also a springboard for an ambitious and transformative model of community development.

Pictured below is an artist's rendering of what the "new" ESEC building looked like in 1898 when it was first built. For years, the facade was covered up with sheathing and has only recently been revealed, as part of a labor of love by former owner Cleo Kelly. The building is now owned by ESEC, a limited liability company comprised of the Council and the Latino Economic Development Center (LEDC).

See "East Side Enterprise Center," continued on page 3.



## New DBCC website goes live

Forum staff

Dayton's Bluff has a new face and fresh new clothes, electronically speaking.

You'll find the new features at www.daytonsbluff.org, the same web address the Community Council has had for many years, but the look is much different, with crisp graphics and up-to-the-minute information about the neighborhood and what's happening with the Dayton's Bluff Community Council, as well as links to the Council's community partners. When you visit the new website, be sure to sign up for the Council's news-



letter if you're not already receiving it. The October *Forum* will have more information about the new website and all it has to offer.

The old site, with archived issues of the *Forum*, is still accessible at www.v1.daytonsbluff.org.

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

DBCC report

This October, there will be nine seats up for election for the Dayton's Bluff Community Council (DBCC).

The DBCC is a neighborhood organization designed to encourage participation in and awareness of the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood. It is one of the 17 councils within the St. Paul District Council System.

The Council is overseen by a board composed of people from the neighborhood. All adults who reside, own property or own a business in Dayton's Bluff are eligible to serve. The council also has several subcommittees addressing ongoing programs or

issues.

The DBCC encourages you to take this opportunity to learn about happenings in our neighborhood and engage with fellow neighbors.

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

If you're interested in serving on the Dayton's Bluff Community Council, please call the council office at 651-772-2075 or info@daytonsbluff.org. The election will take place at the annual meeting on Monday, October 20.

Dayton's Bluff  
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798 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
St. Paul, MN 55106

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## ESTE: Collaborating for equitable development

Jennifer Herman  
Forum staff

Residents of Dayton's Bluff are all too familiar with the frustration of having things done for us, to us, or in spite of us. Policymakers have a long history of waiting to address community concerns until after changing the rules, changing a process, tearing down old things, or building new things – and

even then, the focus is on a few concerns raised by a limited group of community members. The ESTE steering committee and organizers are hard at work creating a new way for all residents and policy makers to work together at the beginning of and throughout the change process.

See "ESTE," continued on page 4.

### New Friends of Swede Hollow are welcome

The next Friends of Swede Hollow monthly meeting is on **Wednesday, September 10, 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.

### 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, September 17, at 6:30 pm**, and **Friday, September 19, at 9:30 am**. The meetings, open to all, are intended to learn about, listen to, and address concerns about crime and other issues on the East Side. Bring your neighbors; this is a great opportunity to discuss neighborhood nuisance issues.

### Take-a-Hike September 6

Take-a-Hike occurs on the first Saturday of most months. The next hike will be **Saturday, September 6**. Hikers meet at **10:30 am** in Indian Mounds Park at Earl Street and Mounds Boulevard, and walk to the East Side Heritage Park. The hike is about two hours (four miles) with some moderately rough terrain. New hikers are always welcome. For more information, call 651-776-0550.

### Forum monthly meeting

This *Forum* newspaper is always looking for help in several volunteer capacities. If you'd like to contribute (writing, editing, online content, generating of ideas, etc.) to the *Forum*, please join us at our next meeting, **Tuesday, September 2, at 10:00 am** 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.

### Metro State art exhibit open to the public

*Metropolitan State release*

Metropolitan State University's Gordon Parks Gallery presents *Mixed Media: The Faculty Show* as the first exhibit of the school year. The exhibit opens with a reception on **Friday, September 12 from 5:00-7:30 pm** and continues through **October 3**. Gallery hours are Mondays-Thursdays, 11:00 am-7:00 pm; and Fridays-Saturdays, 11:00 am-4:00 pm. The gallery is located in the Library and Learning Center, 645 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street.

This exhibition features creative works produced by Metropolitan State's fine arts instructors. From paintings and sculptures to photographs and films, this show highlights the multi-disciplinary efforts of resident and community faculty.

Erica Rasmussen, resident faculty member and gallery director, said, "Exposure to such a show can be an invaluable tool for students interested in taking art classes. Close inspection of imagery and objects or multiple viewings of short films can reveal subtleties about the work that might otherwise be lost through limited contact or reproductions."

The reception includes a screening of James Byrne's new film, *The Light of Each New Day*. The film will be looped in a room adjacent to the gallery. All shows and programs at The Gordon Parks Gallery are free and open to the public.

For more information about the exhibit, contact Erica Rasmussen, gallery director, at 651-793-1631 or e-mail her at [erica.rasmussen@metrostate.edu](mailto:erica.rasmussen@metrostate.edu).

### Nominate a neighbor for 2014 Roger Tetu award

*DBCC*

The Roger Tetu award, a Dayton's Bluff tradition, honors someone who "offers kindness without hesitation on a daily basis."

In life, Roger was a quiet, behind-the-scenes guy who didn't draw much attention. When he was killed in a hit-and-run accident in 2011, we found ourselves missing the little things Roger did each day to make our corner of the neighborhood better: rescuing animals, planting beautiful gardens, connecting with kids, comforting accident victims, and cleaning up a neighborhood park.

Dayton's Bluff is full of "Rogers" – folks who selflessly reach out to make our neighborhood a little better, a little brighter. It would be a tragedy to lose another "Roger" before expressing our gratitude. Does a "Roger" live on your block? Have you seen a "Roger" at work perhaps making a big difference in little ways? Is there a young person who has stepped up and made a difference? Or a quiet, unassuming neighbor who is known on your block for his or her kind deeds?

The 2014 Roger Tetu award will be presented this fall. Nominations can be for individuals or groups, young or old. Please take a minute to nominate the "Roger" you know! To submit your nomination, please call the Dayton's Bluff Community Council office at 651-772-2075.

## 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.

● **Rec Check!** Sign up 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders; starts September 8.

● **Open gym 6:00-7:45 pm.** Monday-Thursday; all ages.

● **Messy Fingers & Toes** (art for ages 1-4); starts September 19; Fee \$38.

● **Mass produce distribution:** September 25, 3:00 pm until food is gone.

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

**Facebook: Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center**

**Stop by and check us out!**

## Metropolitan State University receives recognition as adult learning institution

*Metropolitan State University release*

Metropolitan State University recently joined the Coalition of Adult Learning Focused Institutions (ALFI). Colleges and universities in the Coalition strive continuously to improve their programs and services for adult students, assess their adult degree programs regularly, and share best practices for adult learners with other Coalition members.

Metropolitan State joins Minnesota State Colleges and Universities sister-schools Winona State University and Inver Hills Community College in this recognition.

The ALFI Coalition is an alliance of members of the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL) who demonstrate their commitment to improving their services to adult learners by completing the ALFI surveys. The

surveys, based on CAEL's research on how to serve adult learners effectively, identify and compare how students, faculty, staff and administrators perceive the services offered by the institution. The data provided help an institution identify its strengths and challenges, plan strategically for the future and discover how best to allocate resources for the greatest impact. Data also serve as a baseline, enabling an institution to establish consistent measurements for the impact of their adult programs.

Metropolitan State University, a member of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system, is America's premier university for life-long learning, providing unsurpassed, competitive academic and professional degree programs at the bachelor's, master's and doctoral levels while maintaining affordability.

## Flying high in former Hamm's Brewery

*Karin DuPaul  
Forum staff*

On the north side of East Minnehaha in the old Hamm's Brewery (now named Everest LLC), there are many interesting businesses. One of the businesses is the Twin Cities Trapeze Center.

The owner of the Twin Cities Trapeze Center is Katie Kimball, who got started in the flying trapeze business because she was a dancer who

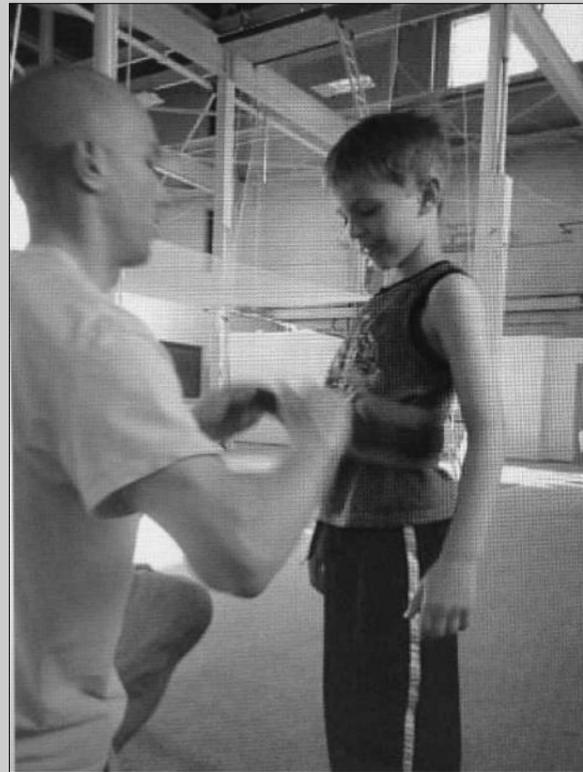
saw a production of Cirque du Soleil and thought "hey, that looks cool, I bet I could do that!" So she ran away to California to train. Katie and Jake (her business partner) spent 10 years learning, teaching and performing Flying Trapeze (and other aerial arts) before returning home to the Twin Cities.

They looked for a year before finding the Old Hamm's Brewery space, with a building with a 40' ceiling. Katie said "the location is perfect and the property management staff are a dream."

Twin Cities Trapeze is open to the public and anyone can come by and take a class. Their schedule is at [www.twincitiestrapeze.com](http://www.twincitiestrapeze.com). It's also free to watch, so folks are welcome to stop by during class times and see what the trapeze is all about!

**Left: Twin Cities Trapeze instructor and co-owner Jake adjusts the harness of 7-year-old Edward in preparation for Edward's first try on the trapeze.**

Forum staff



## King Arthur in Swede Hollow Park

*Karin DuPaul  
Forum staff*

Mixed Precipitation presents King Arthur: A Picnic Operetta in Swede Hollow on September 14 at 4:00 pm. Enter Swede Hollow Park at the Drewry Tunnel at Beaumont and Drewry Lane, one block south of Payne and Minnehaha next to HOPE Community Academy. King Arthur is a punk retelling of Henry Purcell's

1684 English Baroque opera. This magical story is family-friendly and full of adventure.

Chef Nick Schneider's five-course sampling menu of locally-grown treats is created especially for the performance. To reserve your seats, call 612-619-2112. Audience is encouraged to bring lawn chairs and blankets to sit on. The suggested donation is \$10-\$20 per person.

## Continued from page 1: East Side Enterprise Center pairs community, economic resources

However, ESEC also includes ten other community partners, shown in the graphic at right. These partners have all agreed to provide programming in the new Enterprise Center that will include classes, loan and grant opportunities for businesses, and community engagement opportunities for East Side residents.

In next month's issue of the Forum, we'll have information about the grand opening of ESEC (it was planned for September, but construction delays got in the way). The October issue will also have more information about ESEC with a special focus on the important role of local food production.

Forum staff



**Robin Major of Stone's Throw Agricultural cooperative, with one of the farmers and a truckload of cantaloupe from Agua Gorda cooperative.**



### Fix up your home now!

We are a non-profit agency eager to help you accomplish your home repairs using the latest green rehab techniques that may lower your energy costs.

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[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

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

Continued from page 1:

## ESTE: Collaborating to greet neighborhood change

ESTE stands for East Side Transit Equity, and is a continuation of the work begun last year by Fostering an East Side Transit Equity Conversation (FESTEC). The ESTE steering committee is made up of the four East Side District Councils (1, 2, 4, & 5), ESABA, Metro Transit, St. Paul PED, Ramsey County Regional Rail, and Washington County. ESTE guides a group of organizers who are hard at work meeting with East Siders to gather input about upcoming transit development projects and raise up a group of residents willing to remain engaged throughout the planning and development processes.

Though diversity makes the East Side beautiful, it also creates challenges when trying to get input from everyone. People of color and people in poverty are typically under-engaged in community planning and decision-making, even though they may be the most impacted by the changes. For that reason, the ESTE steering committee hired organizers who represent these groups. The organizers look like, speak the languages, and understand the cultural traditions of the area's diverse residents. They are

focused on identifying active representatives from these underrepresented groups. Adding these voices to the chorus of the traditionally-engaged will ensure more equitable decisions, plans, and developments.

**The [ESTE] organizers look like, speak the languages, and understand the cultural traditions of the area's diverse residents.**

District Councils are, by design, geographically-based organizations focused on the needs of the residents and businesses in a particular district. However, the proposed transit projects are regional in scope, and each will pass through and impact multiple districts. The Executive Directors of the four Councils and ESABA realized that by working collaboratively they could design and implement a coordinated and more-equitable engagement process across the entire East Side. The folks from the city, the counties, and Metro Transit see the value in equitable development and are modifying their planning processes to incorporate this new model. This fresh collaborative spirit across the East Side is creating more access and opportunity for an equitable planning and development process that will help us respond with a strong and diverse voice when we greet change on the East Side.

## September at the Historic Mounds Theatre

*Raeann Ruth*  
Executive Director, Mounds Theatre

Two unrelated transit-centric events are planned for the Mounds Theatre in September. Join us for one or both!

### Earl Street BRT Station Area Planning Meeting

The City of St. Paul is holding a meeting on September 3 at the Mounds Theatre to discuss a possible Earl Street station on the proposed Bus Rapid Transit line along the I-94 Gateway Transitway Corridor. The meeting runs from 4:00 to 7:00 pm. The public is invited.

### Gateway Corridor Ravages Eastside

A group opposing the Gateway Transitway Corridor will hold an event on Tuesday September 23 at the Historic Mounds Theatre. Billed as "The Gateway Corridor Ravages Eastside," it features a high-quality documentary-style film that is a

ground and aerial tour and overview of the proposed Hudson Road Alignment of the Gateway Corridor. The movie has been retitled from its original title, "Is the Hudson Road Gateway Corridor Alignment an Illusion?" to a title more appropriate to this event and presentation, "Eastside vs. Gateway Corridor," which more accurately depicts the conflict. After the movie, Randal O'Toole, worldwide authority and proponent of sane transit, will speak.

Door prizes and a grand prize give away are scheduled. Attendees will have the opportunity to sign a petition for reverse commuting (which is a sane, nondestructive alternative to the devastation of the corridor). The event runs from 7:00-9:00 pm. It is free and open to the public.

Visit [www.moundstheatre.org](http://www.moundstheatre.org) for other upcoming events. The Historic Mounds Theatre is located at 1029 Hudson Road, St. Paul, MN 55106. 651-772-2253.

## Immigration law: Path to citizenship for immigrant victims of serious crime

*Marisela E. Cantu, Esq.*  
special to the Forum

In October of 2000, Congress created the U nonimmigrant visa when they passed the "Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act." The legislation was intended to strengthen the ability of law enforcement agencies to investigate and prosecute cases while protecting victims of crimes who have suffered substantial mental and physical abuse due to the crime. The idea behind the legislation is that immigrants, especially undocumented immigrants, were not likely to report crimes or come forward to prosecute the perpetrator because they had too much to lose such as being placed into deportation proceedings. In the end, immigrants not coming forward to report crimes is a detriment to all of society, since a perpetrator's next victim may likely be a U.S. Citizen. Therefore, congress wanted to encourage immigrants to come forward to report crimes.

As the victim of a serious crime, an individual may be eligible to apply for a U-Visa. The U visa applies to immigrants, including undocumented immigrants, who are the victims of certain

serious crimes and who have cooperated with authorities in the prosecution of the perpetrator. The undocumented immigrant must cooperate with law enforcement agencies which include the police department, the prosecutor's office and the Court to be eligible for this visa.

An immigrant granted a U Visa will subsequently be given legal status to reside and work in the United States. In Minnesota, they will be able to obtain a driver's license. U visa status cannot exceed four years. After three years, an immigrant in U visa status can apply for permanent residency status (green card).

If you or someone you know has been a victim of a crime, it is important to consult with an immigration attorney to see if they qualify for a U visa.

*Marisela E. Cantu is an immigration law attorney on the East side of Saint Paul. She is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association. She speaks Spanish and can be reached at 651-239-8195 or at her law office at 798 7th Street East, St. Paul, MN 55106; [www.cantuattorney.com](http://www.cantuattorney.com).*

## Ley de inmigración: Camino a la ciudadanía para inmigrantes víctimas de delito grave

*Marisela E. Cantu, Esq.*  
Especial para el Forum

En octubre de 2000, el Congreso creó la visa de no-inmigrante U cuando pasaron por las "víctimas de la trata de personas y ley de protección de la violencia". La intención de la legislación se fortalecer la capacidad de las agencias legales para investigar y enjuiciar al mismo tiempo proteger a las víctimas de los crímenes que han sufrido abuso mental y físico debido a la delincuencia. La idea detrás de la legislación es que los inmigrantes, especialmente los inmigrantes indocumentados, no eran propensos a denunciar delitos o salen a perseguir al autor porque tenían mucho que perder como se colocan en proceso de deportación. Al final, los inmigrantes no adelantándose a crímenes de reporte son un perjuicio para toda la sociedad ya próxima víctima de un agresor puede ser probable que un ciudadano estadounidense. Por lo tanto, Congreso quería alentar a los inmigrantes a venir adelante a crímenes de reporte.

Como la víctima de un delito grave, un individuo puede ser elegible para aplicar para una Visa U. La visa U se aplica a los inmigrantes, incluyendo a los inmigrantes indocumentados,

quienes son las víctimas de ciertos delitos graves y que han cooperado con las autoridades de la Fiscalía del perpetrador. Los inmigrantes indocumentados deben cooperar con agencias policiales que incluyen el Departamento de policía, la fiscalía y la corte para ser elegible para esta visa.

Un inmigrante concedida que una Visa U posteriormente se dará estatus legal para residir y trabajar en los Estados Unidos. En Minnesota, serán capaces de obtener una licencia a manejar. Estatus de visa U no pueden exceder de cuatro años. Después de tres años un inmigrante en estatus de visa U puede solicitar estatus de residencia permanente (tarjeta verde).

Si usted o alguien que usted conoce ha sido víctima de un crimen, es importante consultar con un abogado de inmigración para ver si cumplen los requisitos para una visa U.

*Marisela E. Cantu es un abogado de inmigración en el East side de Saint Paul. Es un miembro de la American Immigration Lawyers Association. Ella habla a español y se puede llegar al 651-239-8195 o en su oficina de abogados en 798 7th Street East, St. Paul, MN 55106; [www.cantuattorney.com](http://www.cantuattorney.com).*

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## Scenes from a Dayton's Bluff summer



Urban Oasis

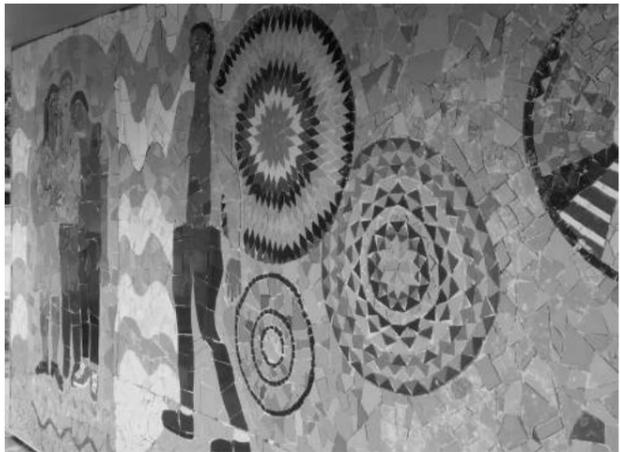
*Vibrant new construction; picnic foods, collaborative get-togethers: all signs of a successful summer on the Bluff. Here are some images captured by neighbors this summer:*

**Top left:** Revelers enjoy the Urban Oasis event August 17.

**Top right:** Youth Director at Mounds Park United Methodist Church, the ebullient Eric Buck, charms a neighbor during the church's annual National Night Out celebration.

**Bottom left:** Lori Greene at Mosaic On A Stick completed the new mosaic at 180 Degrees (7<sup>th</sup> Street and Johnson Parkway), incorporating healing images like quilt squares, and native themes into the work. The new facility will offer refuge to girls who have been victims of sexual trafficking.

**Bottom right:** Participants share ideas and food at a Mind Munch gathering.



Robert Sebo Lubke



Greg Cosimini



### Volunteer for WEQY, the Voice of the East Side

*Carla Riehle  
Forum staff*

WEQY FM, the Voice of the East Side, is slated to launch before the end of September; that is, if the all the pieces fall into place as planned. Station Manager Kathryn Harris (pictured at right) is asking our readers to start tuning in to 104.7 FM during the last two weeks of September to see if the signal is on the air yet, and determine how strong it is at various locations. The first week of airtime is called "riding the signal," a test phase for new stations that won't have any specific programming, but will provide valuable engineering information. In particular, Kathryn wants to know what the signal is like from all parts of the East Side: in your car, on your bike or at home. Email her at WEQYKathryn@gmail.com to report in.



contact Dwayne Diggs at WEQY-Dwayne@gmail.com.

The initial programming line-up is representative of WEQY's diverse format. Here's just a partial list: Barry Madore is putting together a telenovela/variety show for Latino East Siders, Thom Derus will showcase local music on Beats, Tong Thao and friends will feature Hmong rap, Cindy Lewis will chat about schools and kids on Parent Talk, and Tim Olson will air Irish music.

Want to be a part of WEQY? The heart of community radio is its volunteers. The principal need right now is for people who can staff the front desk and answer phones at the Plaza del Sol studio at 990 Payne Avenue. If you want to get a little deeper into radio, training will be available to be a "traffic" engineer, who makes sure the program line-up and promotional spots are properly in place and air at exactly the right time. If you're not sure what your talents are, email Kathryn anyway, at WEQYKathryn@gmail.com and she'll find a spot for you.

As of this writing, Harris and sales manager Dwayne Diggs have just returned from the Grassroots Radio Conference in Ames, Iowa, organized just for radio start-ups like WEQY. They returned with a lot of information and connections as well as a sense of the solidarity and power that hundreds of new community radio stations are starting to feel as they move forward with their agenda of independent, community-based radio.

Here on the East Side, underwriting sponsors are stepping up. Many thanks to Mississippi Market (opening in 2015 on East 7<sup>th</sup> Street) for being the first to sign on. Also on board is New Lens Mentoring Society, a partnership between the St. Paul Public Schools and the St. Paul Public Schools Foundation to mentor young Black males. A number of other partners are in the pipeline. If you know of a potential sponsor, please

### What I learned from my time in Germany

*Foung Hawj  
Minnesota State Senator*

The good news for Minnesotans began a few weeks ago with the announcement that the Minneapolis-St. Paul region's four-percent unemployment rate in May was ranked the lowest among U.S. metros with a population of one million or more! Minnesota's economy continues to pick up speed.

In addition to our low unemployment rate, our businesses continue to expand and grow, and we were recently ranked number two in the U.S. in research and development. I'm so proud to be an ambassador for Minnesota – and that's exactly the role I played recently on a trip to Germany.

Along with 19 other Minnesota delegates, I was invited to the week-long Berlin Energy Seminar, where we learned about renewable energy policy. I was honored to be invited, and fascinated by the things I saw and what I learned about the future of renewable energy. My initial reaction is that Germany is many years ahead of Minnesota when it comes to light-rail. While we are just getting started here in Minnesota, Germany and Berlin have entire networks of light rail and subway systems. The same is true for our energy conservation. I was particularly impressed with the Germans' solar energy research and their storage of energy. Germany seems to be making changes quickly, while the United

States seems to be moving so slowly on any kind of energy reform.

While Minnesota has passed energy conservation and sustainable energy changes in recent years, what I learned from my time in Berlin is that we need to do more. While I think it's safe to say we are more deliberate with our decisions and research, we need to make substantial changes to become more energy-efficient. The Germans invest heavily in their renewable-energy research, and likewise they have many students studying it in their universities. This is where I see the future. I would recommend that Minnesota high school students study the sciences and engineering and become part of the solution to our county's dependence on non-renewable energy sources.

While my time in Germany taught me a lot about what we can do differently, I did walk away with a renewed appreciation for our green spaces. Minnesota clearly values protecting our waterways, prairies and forests, and creating parks and bike paths in our cities. I did not see as much of this in Berlin as I find right here in the Twin Cities. We treasure our environment here, and that is a gift not all states and countries are blessed with.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss a specific topic, please email me at sen.foung.hawj@senate.mn or call my office at (651) 296-5285.



Forum staff

### The wild and the wacky

Okay, a goat's not exactly "wild." Above: The Dancing Goat Coffee House celebrated its grand opening on August 13. Left: Actual goat present at grand opening; will also appear at special occasions. The Dancing Goat is located at 699 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street and is on Facebook.

Right: Over 300 people came together to celebrate National Night Out at St. Pascal Baylon School on August 5. The evening was filled with face painting, games and building community. Silly Miss Tilly was a huge hit with young and old alike!



Elizabeth Matakis

## Housing forum pairs officials, residents in discussing the future of Dayton's Bluff

Angela DuPaul  
special to the Forum

On Thursday, August 14, a meeting was held to facilitate dialog between community members and elected officials on housing issues. Representatives from city, county and state were on hand to discuss topics of concerns to Dayton's Bluff residents. The forum was organized by the Dayton's Bluff Community Council's Housing Committee.

The affordability of housing was one theme brought up repeatedly. There is a fear that gentrification – the shift toward wealthier residents and businesses – will displace many current residents, including those now working hard to improve the neighborhood, as has happened in other areas of the city. Property values here are expected to rise dramatically.

Quality of housing was another issue raised by several participants. The impact of vacant or poorly-managed properties extends far beyond the property itself. The processes for

dealing with problem properties are often long and complicated. The impact of good properties also benefits the neighborhood as a whole. Home-owners often want to improve their homes, but may lack funds to do so.

Elected officials who participated in the housing forum were City Council President Kathy Lantry, Ramsey County commissioners Jim McDonough and Rafael Ortega, and State Representatives Tim Mahoney and Sheldon Johnson.

The merits of the Dayton's Bluff Historic District were also discussed. Resurveying of the district could reveal sections within it that are eligible for national designation. This might allow property owners in these areas to access new sources of funding for restoration of their properties.

Participants went away with new knowledge about the state of housing in Dayton's Bluff, information on resources available to them, and, it is hoped, the sense that their concerns have been heard.



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## History corner

**An Irish boxer of St. Paul**

Steve Trimble, Forum historian

At the 2014 Irish Fair on Harriet Island in August, I gave a talk about six Irish boxers. Even though the fighters were not from our neighborhood, I thought people might enjoy reading some of what I found. The following is an excerpt from the talk, focusing on a boxer named Mike Gibbons.

A good portion of Gibbons' successful fighting career was spent while his sport was illegal. Though boxing started in the 1850s in St. Paul, often featuring nationally well-known fighters, the Minnesota Legislature outlawed boxing in 1892.

Minnesota finally yielded to public sentiment and legalized boxing on April 24, 1915. The law imposed a no-decision rule that was intended to eliminate betting. The bill also limited matches to 10 rounds, and limited prize fights to towns with 50,000 people.

Mike's parents came from Ireland to St. Paul, where he was born in 1887. They lived in the Frogtown area and spent a lot of time on Rice Street. Mike started out as a wrestler but switched to boxing. He was called "The Phantom" because he was cagey and hard to hit. His career in fisticuffs lasted 16 years with 132 record-fights.

One writer said that Mike Gibbons combined an "Irish fighting instinct with the science of boxing and uses his husky physique to put it over." His professional career started in 1907, when fighters could face a jail term as well as a hefty fine. However, there were fights in small halls, gyms, barns and open fields in the woods. Some were even held in upper floors of downtown buildings, in the shadow of police stations. It would have been foolish to use print to advertise bouts, but word-of-mouth would usually produce a good crowd for the illegal fights.

Gibbons' debut was in a preliminary fight in South St. Paul. He went to the building where the fights were to be held and was ushered through a back door where he was surprised to be facing a row of jail cells. It turned out that the local chief of police was a promoter of the fights and the bout took place upstairs at city hall. He won a six-round decision over Newsboy Brown.

Gibbons' third pro fight in 1908 was in a St. Paul Park barn against a tough fighter from Minneapolis. Unfortunately, most of the people were gate-crashers and the gate only came to \$90, so each fighter received only \$22.50. Gibbons went home with a broken nose, an injured hand and a cauliflower ear that he had for the rest of his life. At another secret fight Mike made \$25.00, but someone told the authorities and the sheriff soon knocked on his door, fining him \$26 for the illegal activity.

Gibbons began to schedule fights in other states. After Minnesota legalized boxing in 1915, the locals were eager to see Mike, then a top contender. So, on January 18, 1916, he made his first legal home state appearance. A large crowd filled the St. Paul Auditorium to see Gibbons explode and flatten his opponent in the first round.

When World War I broke out, Gibbons was conditionally rejected because of a double hernia and varicose veins; however, he underwent corrective surgery and passed the physical. In the Army, one of his duties was that of boxing instructor.

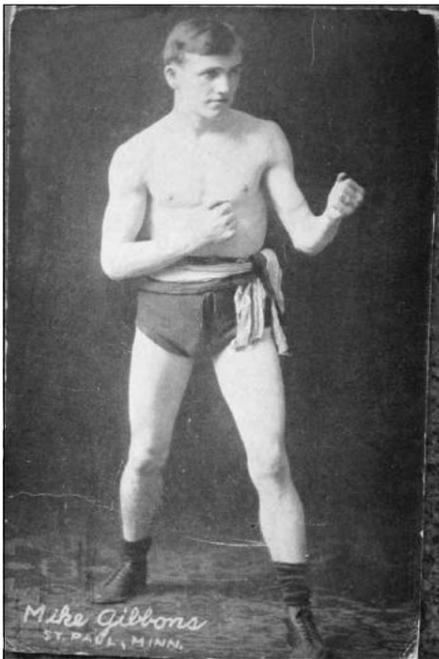
Mike Gibbons never won a world title because three successive middleweight champions avoided meeting him. Only fellow St. Paulite Mike O'Dowd gave him a crack at the crown. The two met in St. Paul on November 21, 1919. Special trains brought fans to the fight. A sellout crowd of 9,559 paid a gate of \$41,846 – a record for many years.

It was a very close fight, but in the end, most reporters awarded O'Dowd the verdict, as this fight was fought during the "no-decision" era. Although Gibbons boxed well, it was evident that his best days were behind him.

St. Paul artist LeRoy Neiman, who grew up in the Rice Street area, told this story: Gibbons "came up rough," he said, and became "the blarney king of Rice Street by provoking tough guys

into making... dopes of themselves. His gimmick was to stand on an open handkerchief against a brick wall and bet big they couldn't knock off his derby hat, saying 'Fifty cents says you're not man enough!' And he'd just stand there without budging off the handkerchief and slip, duck, and dodge punches until his challenger's fists were broken and bloodied from hitting the bricks. He was a hell of a guy, like a character out of an American tall tale... to us kids."

Gibbons was also an author and penned two books: *How to Box* and *How to Train* that sold thousands of copies. He was enshrined in the Boxing Hall of Fame in 1958, and the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 1992. On August 31, 1956, Mike was playing cards with his wife in their home when he suffered a fatal heart attack at the age of 69.



Personal collection of Steve Trimble

Above: Mike Gibbons in his fighting prime.

**View from my porch: Intersections**

Sage Holben

Dayton's Bluff Community Council

**East 7<sup>th</sup> Street & Maria Avenue**

When I close my eyes, I still see the shiny, dark green fender just two inches from my thigh...

I stood on the curb of the northwest corner of East 7<sup>th</sup> Street at Maria Avenue, waiting for the "walk" signal. At five o'clock Friday afternoon, the workday traffic was heavy. I stepped down, waited for an impatient driver to make his turn from the south onto 7<sup>th</sup> Street, heading west, in front of me. He was turning before I was actually in the street, so I'll give him that. I had just entered the inside westbound lane and eyeing the intersection walled with cars up to the crosswalk. A second car came fast, from Maria, turning west. The SUV driver in the eastbound lane screamed. I saw the vehicle coming at me and leaped backward. I don't know that the driver even saw me. He wasn't looking in the direction that he was driving; he was looking to his right, in the direction of Burger King or the bus stop. He didn't stop or slow down, yet time seemed to lock my eyes on the forest green fender. All I saw as he drove away were the first characters on his plate: "610."

I called the police after assuring bystanders that I had not been hit and was okay, though visibly shaking. Calling and talking with someone in dispatch doesn't mean a report is made, but certainly something could be done? Yes, I told dispatch, I would like to talk to an officer; I gave my home address and said I would meet an officer there (and later was told it would become a dead report).

**4<sup>th</sup> Street East & Bates Avenue**

People trust a four-way stop, except when even church buses and parking enforcement vehicles run through it.

*Sunday, July 20, 6:45-7:09 pm (24 minutes): 29 vehicles through the 4<sup>th</sup> Street & Bates Avenue 4-way stop intersection: 6 going north, 12 going south, two of which ran the 4-way stop.*

Speed bumps; lighted stop signs; changing a lane direction; or creating a roundabout might create a better intersection. Too expensive; traffic has to go somewhere; it'll just create a problem elsewhere; who'll pay for it?

*Sunday, June 29, 12:39-1:38 pm (one hour): 63 vehicles, 21 going south; 19 going north. Plus, 2 no-stops from the west, turning south; 1 no-stop from the south, turning east; 23 pedestrians, one pedestrian with dog; one pedestrian with stroller; and three bicyclists.*

*Thursday, July 3, 7:38-8:22 pm (42 minutes): 51 vehicles, most (21) traveling southbound. Other traffic: 1 near-broadside, three turns made without stopping; 21 pedestrians; 3 pedestrians*

*with strollers; 8 bikers.*

Several years ago, I requested and received a traffic study report for the 4<sup>th</sup> Street and Bates Avenue intersection. Conclusions indicated that the amount of traffic wasn't unusual, and that if rerouting was done, it would negatively affect other intersections. Another time, I complained of drivers running the stop signs and requested a traffic enforcement watch. After giving the time span of most activity, I saw a parking enforcement vehicle park near a stop sign for all of ten minutes – and not at the time I gave as most active. Perhaps another observation occurred, though I'm not aware of it. But a well-marked parking enforcement car parked near a stop sign for ten minutes – what sense does that make?

*Wednesday, May 8, 5:54-6:30 pm (36 minutes): 36 vehicles, 1 no-stop; 12 pedestrians; 3 dogs, one kid hitting a puppy, 1 bicyclist.*

Speed isn't generally a problem, but not stopping at the stop sign – and the number of vehicles – is. Granted, just because people stop doesn't mean they really look at what or who is also nearing the intersection.

*Wednesday, July 30, 7:00-7:37 pm: (37 minutes): 39 vehicles, 12 going south, 14 going north; 13 pedestrians (two with dogs), 2 bicyclists.*

June 30, edging toward dusk: Three cars within 45 minutes ran the 4-way stop at Bates Avenue and 4<sup>th</sup> Street 4-way. Usually it's cars traveling north to south. One of the three came from the north on Bates and made a left turn onto 4<sup>th</sup> Street, almost on two wheels, stopping about two-thirds of the way up the hill, in the 700 block of 4<sup>th</sup> Street East.

I walked up the hill and as I approached the car, the driver emerged. She was young, petite, and took out a baby in a carrier. Two other children exited, about two to four years old. I asked the driver if she realized that she had just run a stop sign on the corner. "Huh?" was her reply. Me: "You drove, at a fast speed, through a stop sign."

*Sunday, August 12, 5:38-7:07 pm (90 minutes): 107 vehicles; 34 moving south (one didn't stop), 42 moving north (one didn't stop); 32 pedestrians, 7 bicyclists, 7 pedestrians with dogs, two kids on tricycles, 3 strollers, 1 U-turn. No area detours were in effect to account for volume of traffic.*

A look of disinterest and another "Huh" and then, "There's no stop sign on that corner." Me: "There is a stop sign on each corner." She: "Sorry." With THREE little kids! I don't know if she lives there, or just takes her children to the child care across the street. Why would I expect people who use our neighborhood streets as a cut-through to care more than those who have a residence or regular destination here?

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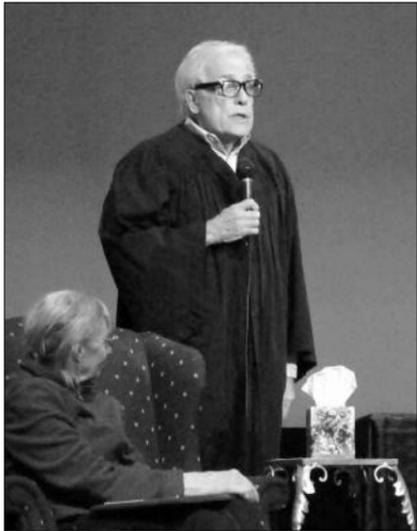
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Judy Lee

# Remembering Ed Lambert

A longtime fixture in Dayton's Bluff, Ed Lambert passed away in August. Ed was raised in Dayton's Bluff and served as the Executive Director of the Dayton's Bluff Community Council from 2006-2011, in addition to doing much more work for the neighborhood. Here are some reminiscences from Dayton's Bluff denizens who knew Ed.



Above: Lambert played the part of Judge at Karin DuPaul's retirement party last year.

## Serving the neighborhood

Karin DuPaul

I first met Ed Lambert when we both worked at the Wilder Foundation in the late 1980s. He did a lot of work on the West Side at that time. Through his job at Wilder he helped neighborhood organizations and groups. Two organizations I know he worked with here in Dayton's Bluff at the time were the Upper Swede Hollow Neighborhoods Association and the *Dayton's Bluff District Forum*. He helped the *Forum* find ways to cut costs, like getting a cheaper printing company.

Over the years I would see him at different meetings here and there. And then to my surprise he was hired at the Dayton's Bluff Community Council as the Executive Director. He was a great person to work with. He grew up in Dayton's Bluff and he was very happy to work in his old neighborhood. During Ed's time at DBCC we started our annual fund raising dinner at the Strip Club which funded our free community dinner and community council election of the board members.

Ed was instrumental in starting the East Side Social Leaders Action Network, which included leaders from many East Side organizations working together on East Side projects. Ed along with Betsy Leach and Amy Sparks starting the popular training sessions for city wide district council staff and boards members, to them learn about district councils roll with things like Zoning, Code Enforcement, running a good meeting, etc.

We had many fun times in the office, and one nice summer day we went on a staff excursion. Ed took June Bennett and me on a ride on his boat on the Mississippi. It was a wonderful day.

## From childhood chum to lifelong friend

Rick Cardenas

I first met Ed Lambert at the Bluff playground as he was coming from his house directly across from the kid swings. I don't remember if I introduced myself or not – we both must've been about 10 or 11 years old. He looked a little ragtag: messed-up shoes and messed-up pants with a T-shirt on. It was summertime. I thought how great it would be to live right across the street from the Bluff playground. He could race home for lunch or supper and run right back across the street to see what was happening at the Bluff.

The Bluff (as we called it – some of the older kids called it the "Tuxedo") was our place of refuge away from parents; a place where you could practice your budding athletic skills, your wood carving or jigsaw skill, or your popularity and dancing prowess with girls – and often the last two were not mutually exclusive. Ed and I played football and baseball together over the years. We also danced! The Bluff had Friday night dances, and I remember Ed could dance the fast ones while I only danced the slow ones.

Ed was our paperboy when he was 13 or 14 years old. He had taken the place of Buzzy Ruttermen, our long-time paperboy, and I remember thinking, "That's great; someone my age able to be out there making money." Of course, I was very curious about how someone 14 years old could get a job delivering newspapers – because I wanted to make money too! I figured Ed must be really enterprising, with excellent powers of persuasion.

Ed's papers were *The St. Paul Pioneer Press* and *Dispatch*, and his delivery times were early in the dark of morning and late in the afternoon. I don't remember seeing him deliver the

papers often, but I do remember vividly the times he came to collect his monthly payment.

We lived on 4<sup>th</sup> Street on the East Side, near the underbelly of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Street bridge where many Mexican-American families lived. The railroad tracks, which came from everywhere to St. Paul, were

practically in our backyard. Many people were afraid to come down to our house because of fear of the people who lived there. There was also a little racism on our East side; I experienced it as a kid. For instance, there was a girl in the seventh grade who liked me. I was interested in her too, and one time we were going to walk to the movies together. Then, the day before the movie, she told me I couldn't come to the door because her dad didn't like Mexicans. That ended that; however, things like that happened to me once in a while!

But when Ed came to our neighborhood to collect his payment for the newspapers, I could feel his lack of fear, his acceptance, kindness and his absence of racism. This was impressive to me. I remember he wore a winter cap that had fur-lined ear flaps. He still looked a little sloppy, and I may have identified with him because he was a poor kid out there making money, which he probably gave to his



Jack Davidsen collection

Above: 1953 Peewee baseball team at Bluff Playgrounds. Front row, left to right: Dave Petri, Ed Lambert, Dan McDermott. Back row, left to right: Mike Holland, Rick Cardenas, Dick Puffer, Jack Davidsen. The vacant lot across Wilson street is pictured in the background.

mother.

Life happened, and I didn't have much contact with Ed for many years after high school. I did see his name here and there, and sometimes watched his news program on KTCA back in the late 1960s and early '70s. Then a few years ago, Ed and I began to get reacquainted, and I had the pleasure of meeting his wife, Chiky. This time it was on the water. They had a houseboat on the Mississippi downtown, and my sister and niece and their husbands all had boats at the St. Paul Yacht Club. Also, Ed and I were both involved in some city politics and would run into each other at meetings and other events.

He and Chiky moved away a few years ago, but we were able keep in touch by Facebook. Whenever they came back from South Carolina for a visit, I always enjoyed meeting them and talking about the East Side. I will always treasure the memories I have of Ed.

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