A bustling Thursday evening on the Bluff

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 7th Street).

East Side Enterprise Center

Carla Riehle
Forum staff

Next month, the Dayton's Bluff Community Council, long located at 798 East 7th 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 newsletter 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.

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.
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.

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 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.

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 or call 651-776-0550 for more information and the meeting’s location.

Upcoming opportunities at Dayton’s Bluff Recreation Center

- Rec Check! Sign up 1st-5th 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!

Metro State exhibit open to the public

Metro State exhibit

Metro 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.

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 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.

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.

Metro State art exhibit

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 7th 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 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.”

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Nominating a neighbor for the 2014 Roger Tetu award

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 “Robers”—folks whoselflessly 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, unsung 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.

The 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
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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 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.

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, loans 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 have information about the grand opening of East Side Enterprise Center pairs community, economic resources.

Fix up your home now!

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

There is no cost assistance for eligible homeowners. We offer payback loans with low interest rates (1.39%) and special programs that do not require payback.

Call 651.774.6965 to see if you qualify.

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.

Twin Cities Trapeze is open to the public and anyone can come by and take a class. Their schedule is at www.twincitiestrapeze.com. It’s also free to watch, so folks are welcome to stop by during class times and see what the 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.

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

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 (Elects each Fall)
• Committee Involvement
• Volunteer Opportunities

To learn more about DBCC and how to get involved, visit www.daytonbluff.org today!
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, creating plans, and developments.

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 sit 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

Racann Rath
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 Transway Corridor. The meeting runs from 4:00 to 7:00 pm. The public is invited.

Gateway Corridor Ravages Eastside

A group opposing the Gateway Transway 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, “Eastside vs. Gateway Corridor,” which more accurately reflects the conflict. After the movie, Randall 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 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

Mariela E. Cantu, Esq.
special to the Forum

In October of 2006, 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 perpetrators 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 our 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.

Mariela 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 788 7th Street East, St. Paul, MN 55106; www.cantuattorney.com.

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

Mariela E. Cantu, Esq.
Especial para el Forum

En octubre de 2006, el Congreso de la nación creó la visa U para inmigrantes que pasaron por las “victimas de la trata de personas y ley de protección de la violencia”. La legislación que fortaleció la capacidad de las agencias legales para investigar y enjuiciar al mismo tiempo proteger a las víctimas de los crímenes que les hayan sufrido abuso mental y físico debido a la delincuencia. La idea detrás de la legislación es que los inmigrantes, especialmente los 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 criminales de reporte son un perjuicio para toda la sociedad ya próxima victima de un agresor puede ser probable que un ciudadano estadounidense. Por lo tanto, el Congreso quería alentar a los inmigrantes a venir adelante a criminales 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 una Visa U, posteriormente se dará estatus legal para residir y trabajar en los Estados Unidos. En Minnesota, serán capaces de obtener una licencia para 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.


Summer is Here!  
565 Earl Street  Open 11 am – 9:30 pm
10 Dilly Bars for $7.89
 All-beef hot dogs $1.39
Buy one Blizzard, get the second (same size) for HALF PRICE

Expires 9/30/14

Bring in this ad and buy one shake, get one free!
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 (7th Street and Johnson Parkways), 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.

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 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.

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 7th 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 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.

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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 legislators, 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 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.

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.
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. Homeowners 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.
Gibbons began to schedule fights in other states. After Minnesota legalized boxing in 1915, the locals were too 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 correc-
tive surgery and passed the physical. 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 9,550 paid a gate of $41,846—a record for many years.

It was a close fight, but in the fifth round, two reporters awarded O'Dowd the verdict, as this fight was fought during the “no-decision” era. Although Gibbons had 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:

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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 Neighborhood 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 started 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 kids swings, I don’t remember if I intro-duced 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’ plate, where you could prac-tice 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 for many years. I remember thinking, “That’s great; someone my age able to 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, late in the afternoon. I don’t remember seeing him deliver the papers often, but I do re-member vividly the times he came to collect his monthly allowance.

We lived on 4th Street on the East Side, near the under-belly of the 3rd Street bridge where many Mexican-American families lived. The railroad tracks, which came from every-where 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 experi-enced 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 impres-sive to me. I remember he wore a win-ter 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 mon-ey, which he probably gave to his 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 1990s and early ’70s. Then a few years ago, Ed and I began to get reacquainted, and I had the plea-sure 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 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.

Friends of the Forum

Dear Reader,

The Dayton’s Bluff District Forum has been a volunteer-run newspaper since the 1970s, and has always operated on a minimal budget. Thanks to the generous contributions of nearly 50 individuals and businesses, we raised $2,800 in 2013, enough to keep the paper running for now.

If you value this community source of information, please consider filling out our form at right. Any amount is appreciated; you may also make memorial donations or include the Forum in your legacy planning.

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

Sincerely,

The Dayton’s Bluff District Forum

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

Friends of the Forum

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