

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

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"The Voice of the Community"

Dayton's Bluff shines at Minneapolis & Saint Paul Home Tour

Nick Duncan

Forum Contributor

On the weekend of April 25-26, hundreds of visitors from all over the region flocked to our neighborhood to visit the Dayton's Bluff leg of the Minneapolis & Saint Paul Home Tour. The tour, in its 19th year, is designed to showcase the best of city living in Minneapolis and Saint Paul. For two days, homes of different styles and eras were open for visitors to tour in neighborhoods around the Twin Cities.

Year in and year out, Dayton's Bluff homes have been among the tour's most popular and beautiful attractions and 2015 was no exception. Each of the six Dayton's Bluff homes showcased on this year's tour saw from 200 to 750 visitors pass

through their doors. The Dayton's Bluff portion of the tour is unique in that Dayton's Bluff includes an independent neighborhood tour running concurrently with the main tour.

Minneapolis resident Steve Nielsen has attended the home tour for many years. "This year I focused on looking at houses in Dayton's Bluff," Nielsen said. "Driving through the neighborhood, I was struck by how unique and different the houses on each block looked from the street." Indeed, the neighborhood's mix of classic Victorian and early 20th century Prairie style architecture sitting side by side is quite rare in the cities.

At Julie and Jeff Johnson's house on 4th Street, the couple and their team of neighborhood ambassadors spent the weekend greeting over 500

guests as they entered the beautiful, fun, and eclectic home. The Johnson's home, built in 1906, was especially popular with the crowds after its "Minnesota Room" was featured on the cover of the home tour guide book and was also featured as a location for a live local TV news morning show.

Much of the success of the Dayton's Bluff Home Tour can be directly attributed to the leadership of Karin DuPaul who, along with Saint Paul City Planning and Economic Development (PED) employees Jane Prince and Dave Hennessey, organized the first Dayton's Bluff Home Tour in 1996. DuPaul has been the lead organizer every year since.

See "Home Tour,"
continued on page 4

Night Out on E. 7th Street Business and Community Fair returns

Nicole Pressley

Dayton's Bluff Community Council

Mark your calendars, Night Out on East 7th Street Business and Community Fair is happening again, **Friday, August 21, from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** Hosted by the Dayton's Bluff Community Council, Night Out on East 7th Street is a free annual event where community and businesses come together for a night of food, fun, and entertainment for all ages. Families can discover the wealth of businesses and resources right in their backyards while tasting delicious local food and winning prizes.

More than just an event, Night Out on East 7th Street is a showcase of the greatness of our Dayton's Bluff community and the work we have accomplished together. From the new businesses that filled nearly all vacancies on East 7th Street, to Friends of Swede Hollow organizers that turn that great park into a showcase for local artists at Art in the Hollow (June 6), to great craft makers at East Side Open Market; this event is a celebration of what whole communities can accomplish through engagement and partnerships.

And do we have a lot to celebrate: the growth of businesses through the Community Council's Make it Happen on East 7th Street STAR program, a spectacular Home Tour, the new East Side Enterprise Center bringing multiple partners to advance economic development and the local food system on the East Side, and committed community groups working to keep our neighborhood strong. These shared efforts are what makes Dayton's Bluff the happening place to live, work and play. Join us and your fellow neighbors to celebrate community at the 3rd Annual Night Out on East 7th Street Business and Community Fair on Friday, August 21st.

For more information about the event, contact Nicole at nicole@daytonsbuff.org or (651) 772-2075.



Steve Trimble

Trudy Ohnsorg (middle) showing two visitors her new Little Free Library. Behind is the house that shares the purple paint.

New Little Free Library in the neighborhood

Forum Staff

In early May a group gathered to celebrate the presence of a new

house in Dayton's Bluff. It is located at 1125 Burns, but it houses books instead of people. It's the newest of the "Little Free Libraries" in the neighborhood and at the time was #11,684 when it was registered.

Trudy Ohnsorg, who has lived at the address for around two years, decided it would be a fun project. She drew a sketch and worked on the project on and off for two months before it was ready. It is painted a bright purple that matches the large house behind it.

While the visitors at the event sipped lemonade and munched on cookies, a few neighbors came by and added their own books. By the end of the day, #11,684 was filled and awaiting folks to "take a book," as the national group motto says. There are at least three other Little Free Libraries in Dayton's Bluff—another on Burns, one on Maria and one on Bates. If you know of others let us know and we can feature them in the future. For more information on the little library movement go to littlefreelibrary.org.

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Swede Hollow Birding Walk on May 2

Forum Staff

The weather was great for the Birding Walk in Swede Hollow Park on Saturday, May 2. Twelve people attended the walk. Participants learned how to use binoculars and birding field guides while looking for birds. Birding expert Marylyn Nelson, a longtime volunteer at the Maplewood Nature Center and Audubon Society member, led the walk. There were a many varieties of birds sighted as well as a large turtle in Swede Hollow during the walk.

At the same time, in another part of Swede Hollow, Boy Scouts practiced racing their Pine Wood Derby Cars. Many onlookers sat on the hillside watching the activities.

The Friends of Swede Hollow announced the 2015 Spring Photo Contest which began on March 21, and closes on June 19. All entries are welcome. Submit your Swede Hollow Park photo to karin@swedehollow.org.

New Friends of Swede Hollow are welcome

Do you enjoy Swede Hollow Park and care about its history and future? The next Friends of Swede Hollow monthly meeting is **Tuesday, June 9, at 6:30 p.m.** Email karin@swedehollow.org or call 651-776-0550 for more information and the meeting's location.

Get rid of your junk car; help Dayton's Bluff Community Council

Budget Towing of Minnesota is owned by Roy Carlson, a former Dayton's Bluff Community Council board member. Budget Towing will remove any junk car or truck – from anywhere in St. Paul – and dispose of it at no charge. 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.

No Take-a-Hike in June

Instead of the usual monthly Dayton's Bluff Take-a-Hike, come to Art in the Hollow in Swede Hollow Park on **Saturday, June 6, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** A wide range of artists will be showcasing and demonstrating their work. Openings are still available for artists, artisans, and performers. The fee to display is \$15 and tents are required. There is no fee for performers. Visit www.artinthehollow.org to participate. Many community members and volunteers make Art in the Hollow happen. To volunteer, contact Karin DuPaul at (651) 776-0550 or karin@swedehollow.org.

Police community meeting

The Eastern District Police host their monthly meetings for community members at 722 Payne Avenue, at the corner of Payne and Minnehaha Avenues.

The next meetings are **Wednesday, June 17, at 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.** Regular meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month.

The meetings are open to all. The intent is 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 for a great opportunity to discuss neighborhood nuisance issues.

City of St. Paul announces new youth summer learning options

As the school year comes to a close, Mayor Chris Coleman announced two new summer youth programs that will augment existing out-of-school time learning options offered through the city, including new hands-on educational camps at the Saint Paul Public Library focused on creativity, technology and engineering. All summer programs, many of which are free or accessible at reduced rates, can be accessed online through the Sprockets Program Finder at www.sprocketssaintpaul.org. Parents

can also sign up for text and email messages about free activities happening throughout the city.



The East Side Open Market is live music, food, art, and farmers market located at 463 Maria Avenue. **Open Thursdays from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** Call (651) 815-8523 for more information or East Side Open Market on Facebook.

Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR)

The St. Paul chapter of the DAR is open to any woman 18 years or older who can prove lineal descent from a Patriot of the American Revolution. We meet at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 674 Johnson Parkway on the fourth Tuesday of each month at **12:00 noon**.

Metropolitan State University to host free community event

Metropolitan State University Library & Learning Center and Dayton's Bluff branch Public Library will host a free community event on **Wednesday, July 8, from 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.** at the labyrinth on the west side of the Library and Learning Center. The Open Eye Figure Theater will perform *Tucker's Robot* at 7:00.

Tucker's Robot is the story of Tucker, a young boy who needs to go back in time to face a neighborhood bully. How do you go back in time? With a time traveling robot of course! Together Tucker and his robot discover the importance of friendship and the courage to face a bully.

Join us for food, games, and puppets, complete with face painting and an accordion player!

Margaret Park Summer Program

Saint Paul Parks and Recreation is bringing the fun to you this summer! **Mondays from 5:00 p.m.-7:45 p.m., Wednesdays and Thursdays from 1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m., June 10-August 6** (no program on July 9 and July 29). St. Paul Parks and Rec staff will be leading and teaching a variety of outdoor games, arts and crafts activities, and snacks for kids ages 6-12. Younger children are welcome if accompanied by an adult. In the event of inclement weather, activities will be canceled and participants will be sent home. This program is free for participants and requires no pre-registration. For more information, contact Ann at (651) 292-6508.

New barber school on East Side to award \$30,000

St. Paul International Barber School, the first such institution licensed in Minnesota in 35 years, will give away a \$30,000 Business Start-up Package to one of its lucky graduates. Applicants must have graduated from the school and agree to hire barber school graduates to qualify. Aspiring barbers who speak Spanish are especially encouraged to apply. For more details, stop by 990 Payne Avenue and speak to Alex Garcia, instructor for the new barber school.

June at the Dayton's Bluff Library

The Dayton's Bluff branch of the St. Paul Public Library shares its home with Metropolitan State University at 645 East 7th Street. It has recently lengthened its hours and is open until 8:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday. One-hour parking is available in the lot, and the 61, 63, and 73 bus routes serve the location.

The library provides special services for kids: free snacks after school, baby and family story time, and *Sing, Play, Learn* with McPhail are just a few. Special programs offered this summer beginning June 15, include *Reading, Fun, and Games in the Zone!* Teens ages 12-18 will design computer games, play games, solve puzzles, and earn book prizes. This program is offered **Monday-Thursday, noon to 4:00 p.m.** Drop in any time! For kids 11 and under, *Reading, Fun, and Games!* Will include games, puzzles, and book prizes, offered **Monday-Thursday from noon to 4:00 p.m.**

Beginning June 19, the *Summer Movie Series* will screen a FREE family movie every Friday afternoon in the Metropolitan State University Library Student Lounge; **Fridays from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.** Ongoing Events at the Dayton's Bluff Library include: *Job Search & Open Lab Assistance*; **Monday-Thursday from noon-3:00 p.m., Computer Help & Training**; **Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to noon, Summer Homework Help for Adults**; **Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning June 16, from 10:00 a.m. to noon, Summer Snack in the Zone**; **Mondays through Thursdays beginning June 15, from 4:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.** Best of all, these services are free! A complete schedule of hours and events is available at sppl.org or by calling 651-793-1699.

Summer Youth Soccer

Free summer youth soccer at Margaret Park, located at Margaret and Earl Streets, will be offered week days start-

ing in June for kids ages 10-18. Currently seeking volunteers, participants, and suggestions. Contact Greg Demaray at (651) 353-1091. Watch for more details on the *Forum* website, the STOMP Facebook page, and in the Dayton's Bluff Community Council weekly updates.

June at the Mounds Theatre

Jessica Johnson, Executive Director;
Mounds Theatre

May 28, 29, and 30: Lesson .333 is a show produced by BorderLine Expansion Company in partnership with The Historic Mounds Theatre. *Lesson .333* is being written through rehearsal. It is a truly unique original work! Using the works of Eugene Ionesco and interviews with local educators as a springboard for discussion, a small group of actors seek to represent questions and propositional truths concerning the subject of the inherent and imposed power dynamics in gender, education, sexuality, and communication, as well as those ideas' relationships with each other. Tickets are available on a sliding scale of \$20-\$30. **May 27, Pay-What-You-Can Preview, May 28 & 29 at 7:30** (followed by discussion), and **May 30 at 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.**

June 13: Independent Wrestling International will be in the house with Summer Sizzler! This family friendly pro wrestling show is great fun! General Admission tickets at the door are \$10 adults, \$6 kids. VIP seating at ring-side tables on stage are available in advance online.

Weekends, June 19-27: The creators of *Don't Shoot the Masseuse* and *I (Heart) Brains* are thrilled to invite you to a new original comedy: *Agent Carlisle*. Once a fearsome federal agent, Martin Carlisle has been demoted after a witch hunt gone sour. He has finally convinced himself there are no communists and no conspiracies, just in time to find himself entangled in a sprawling Soviet plot. Advance tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for students and seniors.

June 25: Watch our website and Facebook page for announcements about a live music event on Thursday, June 25. It's going to be a rockin' good time!

Visit our website at moundstheatre.org for more information on any of these events and to purchase tickets as they become available.

The Historic Mounds Theatre is located at 1029 Hudson Road. 651-772-2253; historicmoundstheatre@gmail.com.

WEQY Seeking Underwriting Sales Representatives

WEQY-FM, the Voice of the East Side, is looking for qualified individuals to serve as Underwriting Sales Representatives.

Underwriting will represent a significant part of our nonprofit station's operating budget, and our underwriting partners will support our values of building community and valuing diversity on the East Side.

The Underwriting Sales Representative will be an independent contractor and will be paid by commission for all new and renewal underwriting based on a percentage of collected revenue. The Underwriting Sales Representative will maintain positive relationships with current clients and develop new connections/relationships with potential new partners.

Download the full job description at daytonsbuff.org or contact Brenda Reid at brenda@daytonsbuff.org or 651-621-2760. Please send your resume and cover letter to Brenda at the above email address.



Urban Oasis plays ball!

Urban Oasis will offer delicious and healthy craft condiments during St. Paul Saints' games in their new ballpark at CHS Field in Lowertown.

*Jacquelyn B. Fletcher
Urban Oasis*

"This is a thrilling opportunity that enables us to serve our mission in a way that shows clear impact on our local economy, farmers, and food system," says Tracy Sides, Urban Oasis founder and executive director.

"Serving healthy, locally-produced condiments gives us a reason to purchase even more produce from local, underserved farmers so we can actively expand the market for our priority growers in a real and direct way. It's the perfect example of how the magic of food can create a healthier, more resilient, and prosperous community."

The Urban Oasis trio of craft condiments includes: Honey mustard made with locally sourced honey, REALLY local. Some of the honey will actually come from hives (and nectar) on the East Side; sweet pepper relish from the recipe of a great-grandmother and Saint Paul restaurant owner of one of the Urban Oasis chefs; and seasonal ketchup made with fresh, local produce that's so healthy fans can have another beer.

Vendors Urban Oasis will be sourcing ingredients from include: Big River Farms, Hmong American Farmers Association, and Shared Ground Farmers' Cooperative.

"Our condiments will be made on the East Side nearly within pitching distance from the field. Now that's local," says Sides.

The St. Paul Saints' goals of providing a uniquely Saint Paul experience for fans and families, offering healthy and delicious local food products, and building community around fun and food, align very closely with what Urban Oasis is working to do.

"By serving our locally made and sustainably produced condiments at CHS Field, which is a model of sustainable design, during games by the St. Paul Saints, our very own local, craft baseball team, we'll be able to keep dollars in the local food system and bring greater equity and opportunities to local growers," says Sides. "It's a home-run for us to partner with the Saints and CHS Field."



Urban Oasis
Healthy craft condiments now featured at CHS Field.

Mounds Park United Methodist Church

1049 Euclid Street (corner of Earl and Euclid); 651-774-8736
Mounds Park United Methodist on Facebook

Mounds Park United Methodist Church is a community-based cross-cultural congregation. We strive to build on the positive assets of Dayton's Bluff; working together as neighbors improving our community. In May, we invited a new Karen congregation to share our building called New Abundant Life Church. They worship at 1:30 p.m. on Sundays. We welcome our Karen neighbors!

All are welcome to the following community events:

Sunday morning service starts at **10:30 a.m.** with fellowship time following. Come join your neighbors in worship.

Community Friendship Gathering with hot lunch – **Wednesday, June 24, 12:00 noon** – We begin with a hot lunch of baked chicken, cheesy hash brown casserole, rolls, and dessert; followed by live entertainment provided by Joanne Bolles, a local singer who will share her music. All are welcome to come; the focus of this event is on persons age 55 and over.

Get Involved and Let Your Voice Be Heard!

Want to **Make a Difference** in Your Community?

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

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



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



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Forum staff

Sitting at the Swede Hollow History table are former resident Dick Sherwood and historian Steve Trimble. Looking at historic photos are visitors including Joe Sanchelli, former Swede Hollow Resident.

Art in the Hollow brings performance art, culture, and music to Swede Hollow for sixth year in a row

Karin DuPaul
Forum Staff

On Saturday, June 6, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., the 6th Annual Art in the Hollow will again draw people from all over the region to experience art, music, and a public sculpture contest tucked within a hidden wilderness on the edge of downtown Saint Paul. The main entrance to the event is located in Swede Hollow Park, at 720 Payne Avenue.



Forum staff

A wide range of artists will be showcasing and demonstrating their work, including sculptors, dancers, weavers, painters, glassblowers, and photographers. Performances throughout the day will include Hmong and Native American dancers, Mexican Mariachis, R&B, and Bluegrass artists, and Hmong youth entertainers. The event is free and open to the public.

Many Art in the Hollow visitors enter through the old Drewry Tunnel into Swede Hollow at Beaumont, next to the Hope Community Academy School's parking lot.

Openings are still available for artists, artisans, and performers. The fee for artists to display is \$15 and tents are required. There is no fee for performers, who will be selected based on talent, variety, and local roots. Those interested in performing, displaying, demonstrating or selling their art should visit www.artinthehollow.org.

Art in the Hollow will also include a temporary environmental sculpture contest. Concepts meeting safety criteria will be erected the day of the festival. Entry fee is \$10 and prizes will be awarded to the winners. There are no credentials or previous experience required. Deadline to apply is June 1.

Scores of community members come together to make Art in the Hollow happen, and volunteers are rewarded with a breakfast at the beginning of the day and a party with the artists afterward. For more information on volunteering contact Karin DuPaul at (651) 776-0550 or karin@swedehollow.org.

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Continued from page 1:

Home Tour: April 25-26

DuPaul finds homes for the tour, and then organizes a team of "neighborhood ambassadors," which is a fancy term for Dayton's Bluff neighbors and family members of the homeowners who chaperone the houses during the tour. DuPaul points out that ultimately it's the homeowners themselves and their willingness to open their homes to hundreds of strangers that make the tour a success.

At times, the traffic jam on the little sliver of 3rd Street that is home to Daniela Bell and Eric Foster reminded one of Morelli's parking lot during Christmas week. There was a constant flow of visitors in and out of Daniela and Eric's impressive 1883 Victorian home. The couple had spent almost a year restoring and refurbishing the home and it looks spectacular.

From 3rd Street, a short one-block stroll north on Bates led tour attendees to two of the Saint Paul Housing and Redevelopment Authority Inspiring Communities Program's most recent rehabs: a beautiful 1880 Italianate style cottage and a Greek Revival cottage dating back to 1879. Both properties are currently for sale. Tour attendee Nielsen was very impressed with the rehabs. "Both structures captured some existing details from

the late 19th century such as colorful painted exteriors, chunky moldings, high ceilings, and great hardwood floors inside," he said. "I could picture myself living in either one."

Further down the Bluff on Mounds Boulevard, the only thing visitors marveled at more than Jamen Parkey's high ceilings and stained glass windows was the incredible view of downtown from her 1869-built Victorian home. It is no wonder that when neighborhood namesake Lyman Dayton passed away in 1865, his family chose to bury him on this property overlooking the entire city.

Like every year, each of the homes on the tour were worth viewing and represented Dayton's Bluff living in its most positive light. By the end of the weekend, many people who barely knew Dayton's Bluff existed left our neighborhood very impressed.

April 2016 will mark the 20th anniversary of the home tour. Keep that in mind if you missed out on the fun this year. Also remember, if you would like to include your home on next year's tour or volunteer to be a neighborhood ambassador, it's never too soon to contact Karin DuPaul at (651) 776-0550.

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

804 Margaret Street, St. Paul, MN 55106

Phone: 651-776-0550 E-mail: editor@daytonsbluff.org

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A delegate's experience at the 2015 DFL City Convention

Jennifer Herman
Forum Staff

In our April edition, Tim Herman recounted his first experience at the precinct caucus and ward convention (see article, "One vote matters: the fascinating caucus and convention process.") This month, he shares his experience as a delegate at the city DFL convention on April 19. The city convention process was very similar to the ward convention but the focus was on nominating school board candidates. The rules were read, candidates spoke, and there were a series of ballots in which candidates were eliminated or endorsed. At the end of the day, delegates endorsed Zuki Ellis, Steve Marchese, Jon Schumacher, and Mary Vanderwert. One part of the process that was new to Herman was voting for

resolutions. Resolutions were presented and approved by delegates at some of the other ward conventions. All of these resolutions were read at the city convention and presented to the city delegates for vote. The votes on the resolutions were tallied by volunteers after the convention and it was just announced that 18 resolutions passed with the needed 60 percent of votes. These resolutions become part of the official City of St. Paul DFL platform which all DFL candidates should support. To read the approved resolutions visit the DFL website: <https://stpauldfi.wordpress.com/author/stpauldfi/>.

In reflecting on the experience, Herman says it was interesting to watch as deals were made and alliances were created while the politi-

cal process played out right in front of him. While he felt better informed about the school board candidates, he wishes the DFL had made more of an effort to give him access to the proposed resolutions so he could have reviewed them and been more informed about them before the vote at the convention. Though it was exciting to see how critical his one vote was at both conventions, he left the experience concerned that in our heavily DFL city candidates are essentially elected through the nominating process where only a few hundred residents are allowed the privilege of being delegates. By the end, he began to understand those who push for non-endorsements so that all candidates can be on the November ballots when all voters get the chance to choose.



Doug Champeau

Pictured above: "The Girls," Eleanor and Helen, at home in their owners' back yard.

Fowl play on the bluff

Doug Champeau
Special to the Forum

I love chicken, don't you? Baked with a side of boiled potatoes, fried over the grill with spicy barbecue sauce, or running around the backyard pecking for worms. Backyard? Worms? In Dayton's Bluff? Yes, that would be Helen, our Red Comet whom we adopted five years ago. And Eleanor, another Red Comet we acquired last year from a farm in Woodville, Wisconsin.

My housemate, Wanda, and I didn't set out to be chicken farmers. We already had a dog and two cats, typical urban pets. But one day, a stray chicken wandered into our neighbor's yard. We've seen feral chickens before during walks at Mounds Park. The neighbor kept the stray chicken in a rabbit hutch until she figured out what to do with it. We adopted her on the spot. We had an enclosed and unused kennel space under the eave of our garage where we stored firewood. Another neighbor, a craftsman, built an elevated coop inside the kennel, complete with doors and a ramp. A bag or two of cedar shavings and chicken feed, and we were in business.

The City of St. Paul requires chicken owners to purchase an annual permit after acquiring at least 75 percent approval of all immediate neighbors.

The limit is three chickens. I remember the Minnesota History Center had an exhibit of Hmong culture years ago, long before the current one, and both Wanda and I were struck by a photo of a family with chickens in the basement. It seemed so odd to have live chickens in the city, and it also seemed odd to Panhia Vang, a Hmong co-worker and friend, that an old white man like me would have chickens. She was startled when I showed her pictures, and remarked, "That's soooo Asian of you!" I couldn't think of a higher compliment.

Helen and Eleanor are actually less work than our other pets. They're very self-sufficient, and they eat almost anything, including table scraps. They even eat *chicken*, which at first stirred some cosmological contemplation. We refer to those chickens as "The Girls."

But it's all about those orbs. Big, beautiful brown eggs, with luscious orange yolks, and delivered daily with time off during the hardest winter months. If only the dog laid eggs! We have a third chicken on the way, a pullet from Faribault our daughter has acquired. And when "The Girls" reach their demise, we have no plans to broil them. Besides, they're tough birds. Now, if a stray goat wanders in the yard...

Doug Champeau lives in the Mounds Park neighborhood.

Letter to the editor: Dayton's Bluff neighbors deserve responsible and responsive development

Jane L. Prince

Editor's note: Jane Prince is a Dayton's Bluff resident and a candidate for the Ward 7 Council seat.

Thank goodness we have the Dayton's Bluff District Forum, which can be used as an outlet for the energetic exchange of ideas about the kind of neighborhood we want to be. Today, I write in response to Jennifer Herman's impassioned article supporting the Dominion senior housing development, now underway at 720 East 7th Street.

These are exciting times for Dayton's Bluff. All of us are thrilled there will be millions of dollars in economic development, which will provide hundreds of construction jobs right here on our Bluff. As has always been the case in Dayton's Bluff, residents have played a key role in

making this a place where their desire is to restore the neighborhood and reside in beautiful historic homes. It is also a place where diverse businesses and institutions like Metropolitan State University and CLUES want to locate.

A case in point is the development of Mississippi Market, which resulted from scores of enterprising East Side neighbors joining forces to form a food co-op. Once Gateway Co-op had sold 200 memberships, Mississippi Market was convinced that it could build its first East Side store on the Hospital Linen site. Mississippi Market came ready to build needing no public subsidy to develop this beautiful facility and expand our city's tax base.

Unlike Mississippi Market, Dominion came to our community to develop senior housing, seeking millions of dollars in

public subsidy and tax relief from our city. Did you know that the city provided Dominion with tax-increment financing, which means it won't pay property taxes for the next 25 years? And that's not all. Dominion received nearly \$2 million dollars in cash from the city, including precious Neighborhood STAR funds. Beyond that, Mississippi Market was persuaded to support the city's tax-increment financing scheme, so that its property tax payments go to fund the Dominion project!

As a candidate for city council, I believe that when a developer asks the City for an enormous taxpayer subsidy, it is completely reasonable that the developer be expected to create a project respecting the community's plan and vision. To fit our Near East Side Roadmap (Dayton's Bluff's chapter of the city's comprehen-

sive plan), Dominion should have incorporated retail on its first floor, and it should have altered the size of the building to adhere to city code.

Developers expect to work hard to win neighborhood support across town in Highland Park, Macalester Groveland, or Saint Anthony Park. The East Side should be no different in demanding that developers who want to develop here and who want big taxpayer subsidies to do it, work just as thoughtfully with us.

With all due respect to Dominion, this was not a conflict between neighbors and developers, as much as it was a missed opportunity for a developer to work together with its neighbors to build the kind of project that serves our mutual aspirations.

Disrespected by the Saint Paul Public Library

Sage Holben

Forum Contributor

'Disrespected' is the word being heard on the street and among patrons of the Dayton's Bluff branch of the Saint Paul Public Library and the Metropolitan State University Library. Word is that the Saint Paul Public Library (SPPL) is once again yanking the manager from our neighborhood public library branch; I believe this will be the fourth since the library opened.

We've had some great managers and we are losing our latest—not because she wants to go, but because our Dayton's Bluff Library, I've gleaned, is a training ground. I'm not sure what SPPL promotions entail, or how the structures of Librarian I, Manager, etc., work. I do know that filling the manager position with someone who invests the amount of time and talent I have seen Kathleen Conger and previous managers offer (the strong community connections they make with youth, and the trust they build in their relationships with adults striving to enter the job market, learn English, hone parenting skills; all the qualities that make our neighborhood stronger and heighten the quality of life, is no

small task). Yet, just as a child is snatched away from a healthy foster family, so our library's manager is once again snatched away from the healthy library family she has worked to develop.

Unfortunately, SPPL sees fit to use this socioeconomically challenged community as a training ground. Great for the inheritors! Metropolitan State University wisely and generously provides complementary funding, staff, and programming to benefit our East Side community, bringing people of many ethnic and economic backgrounds together. However, this revolving door hinders the opportunity to build strong partnerships between institutions. The library is where reduced tensions and affordability are strongly evident. We see our social capital flowing in our well-used public library. Our social capital is strong largely because of the investment in continuity, planning, commitment, and community organization of our SPPL Dayton's Bluff branch manager. Why weaken this by treating it as a training ground? Why weaken this partnership by removing a branch manager who has proven her competence and commitment to serving this community?

Kathleen, our public library manager, may not see herself wearing the title of community organizer or com-

munity investor, but as an onlooker, I see it. I hear it from adults and children alike. We have a terrific public library staff which remains relatively stable. I, and others, are calling for the same job stability in the position of manager, and why not a promotion with it?!

Kathleen has interwoven public library services with the community into a tapestry of identified patron needs being filled. She has worked to create a well-run and well-maintained service point and strong relationships with many community organizations.

Removing our manager only to bring in a raw recruit creates instability, a breakdown of trust, undue stress in retraining, and readjusting for everyone involved. This revolving door only increases the urge for people to isolate themselves and remain in their silos rather than having to continually rebuild their social groups every time their community center is toppled. To quote one library user, "What's wrong with letting a manager execute a long-term vision for a branch? It results in undercutting of the branch manager's authority if we are made to see them always as temporary. What's the point of building a relationship with the manager if you know that as soon as it is really developing, she will be moving on?"

Rep. Sheldon Johnson invites you to: ART IN THE HOLLOW 2015

Swede Hollow Park

Saturday June 6, 2015 from 10 am to 5pm

Join me for the Sixth Annual ART IN THE HOLLOW on Saturday, June 6th 2015. ART IN THE HOLLOW is the only art fair on the East Side. This unique event is an amazing show case of the wonderful art and culture we have in Saint Paul. Registration for artists is still open at www.artinthehollow.org

There are over 50 visual & performing artists anticipated to show off their amazing works. Many of them will be creating works on site, including glass mosaics, murals, sculptures, and painted furniture. Plein air (open-air) painters will seek to capture the beauty of the deep, lush ravine, with its ponds and stream, its variety of flora and fauna.

This year there will be a sculpture installation contest, a teen gallery, children's art area, and the Swede Hollow history booth.

Come join your neighbors and local artists for an afternoon of fun!



State Representative

**SHELDON
JOHNSON**

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100 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

(651) 296-4201

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History Corner

A century ago in Dayton's Bluff

Steve Trimble
Forum Historian

First, a few random events picked out of St. Paul newspapers. The DeLuxe Theatre opened in 1915 at 287 Maria with a capacity of 393 seats. There were several small theaters in the community. The DeLuxe Theatre closed in 1950, but the building is still there, now home to Eagles Aerie No. 33. The present church building of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, at Forest and Margaret was completed and dedicated on October 10, 1915. Its architect was Emmanuel L. Masqueray, who also designed the Cathedral of St. Paul.

In the nearby Railroad Island neighborhood, the grandfather of Jimmy Morelli started his grocery store that is now located on Payne Avenue. Warren Burger's family moved into a home at 695 Conway a century ago. The future Chief Justice of the U. S. Supreme Court went to Van Buren Elementary, today's Dayton's Bluff School, and then graduated from Johnson High School. He lived at the Conway address until 1933.

The pipe organ of St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, located at 765 Margaret Street, was considered one of the finest in the region and dates back to 1915. It was installed by the Wirsching Organ Co. of Salem, Ohio, and extensive repairs and upgrades were made to the instrument in 2004.

On June 5, 1915, 20 1/2 acres of land across from today's Obb's Sports Bar and Grill was signed over by the State Fish Hatchery to the city. This was the origin of the St. Paul Municipal Forest. At this time a man named George W. Rodenberg was the State Representative for Dayton's Bluff, where he and his family resided. A short bio in a state handbook said he was in the insurance business. It reviewed some of his votes, recording that he was against

prohibition, suffrage for women, and other reforms. Rodenberg authored a bill to make all patent medicines to show their contents on the label and another bill to require semi-monthly paydays. He opposed the Elwell Road Law and the Guilford amendment, but I currently have no idea what they were. Do any readers know?

There was news about the neighborhood schools. In June 1915, nineteen eighth-grade

march was played. Three decades earlier, the couple had taken their honeymoon on a steamboat trip to St. Louis.

Others were sad. Such was the story of Mr. and Mrs. Flynn of 963 East Fourth Street. Their nine-year-old son Raymond was missing and they searched for him through the night. They finally found him, but discovered his body in the city hospital. He had died in an automobile accident on West Seventh Street. For some reason he asked for a ride in the Andrew Schoch Grocery delivery wagon, but the wagon was struck by a streetcar. The owners of the store lived in Dayton's Bluff.

Sometimes people say act locally and think globally, or is it the other way around? A June paper reported a local institution that was thinking about the development of world issues. World War I had begun in Europe during 1914 and some of the battles were on the ocean; German U-boats sunk many ships. The *Volkszeitung*, a German-language daily that was published by a Dayton's Bluff family, was trying to keep the United States out of the European conflict following the sinking of the *Lusitania*, which had Americans on board the doomed ship.

In a June 2, 1915, editorial, the *Volkszeitung* claimed that the German government desired "to maintain friendly relations" and that not one out of 10,000 Americans wanted war with Germany. The paper stated, "That a few Americans foolishly and recklessly took passage on an English ship bearing arms and munitions destined for one of the belligerents and that anti-German feelings were being fueled by the 'American jingo press.'" In the end, the sinking of the *Lusitania* was one of the important events that finally led President Woodrow Wilson to lead the country into "The Great War" in Europe, as it was once called.



Minnesota Historical Society

The Van Buren School Baseball Team in 1901.

girls at Van Buren Elementary served a "unique luncheon." They were in a cooking class under the direction of the domestic-science teacher and successfully fed twelve guests.

The local boys were also in the news. The Mounds Park Elementary baseball team was competing in the final four of the St. Paul school league. According to a June 1915 article, "The Mounds Park nine had sprung into prominence only this year." On June 6, they played a tough Jackson School to a 7-7 tie. The game, which lasted eleven innings, was "one of the most sensational games ever played in the grade school baseball league." The game had to be rescheduled and, I hate to report, our old neighborhood team lost.

Some of the June stories were happy. The *St. Paul Globe* reported a surprise party that was given for community leaders Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Seeger of the Seeger Refrigerator Company. They were celebrating their 38th anniversary as they were on their way to St. Louis aboard a steamboat. When they went into the main cabin they were showered with rice and the familiar wedding

Mounds Park: Then & Now

Nick Duncan
Forum Contributor

The early spring provided an opportunity to better appreciate the rich history of Mounds Park. With no snow cover and little to no foliage to obscure the view, a walk through the back country of Mounds Park reveals a long history of human inhabitation of the area. Thanks to the Minnesota Historical Society, the *Forum* has found some photos of Mounds Park from bygone days and matched them up with some current photos of the same locations. Each month we'll take a look at two new locations, past and present.



Nick Duncan



Minnesota Historical Society

This month's issue features a look south east from the top of the bluff near the pavilion in 1910, pictured above.



Nick Duncan



Minnesota Historical Society

The Mounds Park Sanitarium once sat roughly where the Marian Center is now located on Earl and Thorn. This 1920 photo shows the sanitarium with Mounds Boulevard in the foreground.



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East Side Eating – Trimble's Taste Trek

Forum contributor Steve Trimble is attempting to eat at every sit-down restaurant on the East Side in 2015 (chain restaurants will only be included if they are small and local). He hopes to get the word out to the Dayton's Bluff community about the eating options here on our side of town. Steve isn't going to pretend to be a food critic, but will give readers a little insider knowledge about the experience of eating at each place. A longer version of each month's article is available at daytonsbuffdistrictforum.org; click on "East Side Eating" on the top of the home page.



Steve Trimble

Pictured above is the corned beef and cabbage meal at Governors; a special St. Patrick's Day treat.

Governors Fine Food and Drink

959 Arcade Street
651-778-1045
Monday: Closed
Tuesday: 11:30 am-8:00 pm
Wednesday: 12:00 noon-8:00 pm
Thursday: 11:30 am-8:00 pm
Friday & Saturday: 11:30 am-9:00 pm
Sunday: 11:30 am-8:00 pm

March 17, 2015: I decided to celebrate St. Patrick's Day by going out to eat. Knowing that the later hours of this particular time can get a little rowdy, it might be best to show up for lunch. Of course I wanted to get corned beef and cabbage, so I had to do some research to see who was serving this traditional Irish fare on the East Side. I decided to invite Mike, Tony, and Frank to join me, since none of them had ever been to Governors and they needed to have an East Side experience. The corned beef and cabbage came with potatoes and as a special treat, a piece of Irish soda bread. Oh, and I did have one beer.

The restaurant has been around for a long time. A sign on the front says "Since 1987," but there has been a bar here since the end of Prohibition under different names. When current owner Lou Lentsch named his new venture, he and many of the patrons were graduates of Johnson High School, whose nickname was "The Governors." The charity for the pull tab booth still goes to the school's hockey team.

The décor has the flavor of an older style eatery. The building is divided into two basic sections; a dining area with booths and tables, and a horseshoe bar area with around thirty stools. There is also a banquet room that can serve groups from fifteen to 150.

They hold an old-time meat raffle every Thursday and karaoke on Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday. They have sandwiches, appetizers, burgers, and a classic "sloppy hot dago." Popular items at Governors include garlic toast, "famous cheese bread," clam or smelt, chicken Parmesan dinner, and prime rib dinner. They offer a small children's menu, as well as a Friday fish fry throughout the year.

The Forum gets out of town!



Several readers sent us pictures of themselves reading our newspaper on their travels. If you'd like to do the same, please email photos to editor@daytonsbuff.org.

Above: Dayton's Bluff resident Carol Watnemo enjoying the *Forum* during a stop on a riverboat cruise from Paris to the beaches of Normandy.



Above: Ashlee Olds of Margaret Street checks out the mines "up north" while keeping up on the latest Dayton's Bluff happenings.

MOUNDS PARK BARBER STYLISTS



APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE
TUESDAY THRU SATURDAY

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Judy Lee

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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.

For the past two years we have been soliciting donations through our *Friends of the Forum* program. Thanks to the donations of readers like you, we have been able to keep the paper up and running.

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

If you have been our *Friend* in the past, please renew your membership with a donation in 2015.

Our goal for the year is \$2,000; as of this printing we have raised \$825. Won't you help us?

Sincerely,
The Dayton's Bluff District Forum

Board: Greg Cosimini, Karin DuPaul, Jennifer Herman, Carla Riehle, Steve Trimble

Editor: Jennifer Gascoigne
Editorial Associate: Mark Gallagher

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