

# Dayton's Bluff District Forum

Volume 28, No. 2  
March 2015  
daytonsbluffdistrictforum.org

"The Voice of the Community"

## Swede Hollow Café addition

Karin DuPaul, Forum staff

Swede Hollow Café located at 725 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street will be expanding into the area above their current space. The addition will nearly double their seating area. Construction will include a stairway to the second floor so customers may dine on either level. Construction is planned to be completed in May. Swede Hollow Café will be doing business as usual during the construction.

The Swede Hollow Café got started when neighbors talked about needing a coffee shop in Dayton's Bluff. After a lot of planning and work the Swede Hollow Café opened 1996. Some people said a coffee shop would never make it in our neighborhood, but the neighbors were right: the Swede Hollow Café has been a great success. The gardens and the patio are very popular in the warmer weather.

Stop by and check out the progress over the next few months!



Forum staff

Dave Murphy and Cliff Carey getting ready to start work on the new addition to the Swede Hollow Café at 725 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street.



**Cabaret!**

**The stars  
came out  
on the Bluff**

Brad Griffith

Above: Minnesota State Senator Fong Hawj at the third annual *Cabaret!* at the Historic Mounds Theatre. The February 20 event was a fund raiser for Friends of Swede Hollow's *Art in the Hollow*, the annual art festival in Swede Hollow Park, and included 17 wonderful entertainers and groups, a silent auction, food and drinks. *Art in the Hollow* is seeking artists for the June 6 festival. To apply, see article on page 8.

Below: Jaymas Taylor and his group were featured at the *Cabaret!* at the Historic Mounds Theatre. A very talented singer, Taylor is also a successful barber who had his shop on Payne Avenue for many years. For more information on the *Cabaret!*, see article on page 5.



Brad Griffith

## Dancing Goat Doing Good helps local nonprofits

Tim Herman, President,  
Small Business Connections

August 2014 saw the Grand Opening of The Dancing Goat Coffee House in Dayton's Bluff. They opened at the long-vacant former police station and cigar factory at 699 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street. The Dancing Goat recently brought in a "Coffee Guy" in new General Manager Chris. After 4 months getting to know residents, organizations and other businesses in the community, the owners and Chris decided to launch a program giving back to the community called "Dancing Goat Doing Good." For the first part of January, Dancing Goat co-owner Ben Hosfield committed 5% of total sales to The East Side Family Center at Dayton's Bluff Elementary, which

is operated by the Neighborhood House. They wrote a check for over \$900 to the organization. The end of January and the first week of February went to St. Paul Youth Hockey, and for the final 3 weeks of February the Dancing Goat is supporting East Side Thrive which mentors, tutors, and produces two musicals per year with students from East Side K-12 schools. The Dancing Goat has been talking with other local non-profits to partner with through the rest of the year. On deck: Family Values For Life, First Covenant Church sending high school students to "CHIC Youth Conference" in Tennessee, Dayton's Bluff Block Nurse Program, and many more to come. In total, they hope to help raise over \$10,000 for East Side organizations in 2015.

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Community Council  
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St. Paul, MN 55106**

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**WEQY  
making  
progress**

Forum staff

WEQY-FM East Side Radio has begun DJ training at its temporary studio, soon to be moving a few doors down to the newly renovated storefront space next to Rogers Printing where the station will begin broadcasting. The radio team also welcomes the addition of Titan Administration Records CEO Nick Muhammad who will be helping to recruit the station's advisory committee and create programming. Volunteer announcers, DJs and technicians are still needed. Contact [brenda@daytonsbluff.org](mailto:brenda@daytonsbluff.org) or 651-772-2075 for more information.

### 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 **Wednesday, March 11, 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. 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.

### Business classes

The next Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Microentrepreneur Class starts this spring. This program helps startup and young businesses on the East Side. All East Side entrepreneurs are welcome. Class training lasts eight weeks and includes topics such as operations management, marketing, financial management, one-on-one assistance with creating a successful business, and preparing a business plan, plus eight hours of one-on-one time with the instructor.

Those who successfully complete the course and locate their businesses in target neighborhoods are eligible for ongoing business support services. Some examples of businesses started by people who have previously taken this course include graphics, landscaping, photography, food service, restoration of wood furniture, art, custom floral design, and exterior and interior painting. The course is a partnership between the Dayton's Bluff Community Council and the Neighborhood Development Center. There is a small registration fee based on a sliding fee scale. The next session will be starting in the spring and class

size is limited, so get enrolled now. Please call Emma Spillman at 651-379-8432 for an application.

### Ramsey County offers discount on compost bins

Ramsey County residents looking to compost this year can get a discounted bin while supplies last. The Recycling Association of Minnesota is selling compost bins for \$55. The first 300 Ramsey County residents to order a bin by late April can buy one for \$40.

To receive the discounted price, pre-order online before April 24 at [recycleminnesota.org](http://recycleminnesota.org) and enter the promo code: ramsey. Or call 651-641-4589 and mention that you are a Ramsey County resident. The bins will be available for pickup April 17 in Roseville, April 18 in Maplewood, or April 25 in St. Paul.

### 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**.

Our next program, on **March 24**, will be about Women in the Marine Corps. Speaker is WWII veteran Jane Freemont.



### FOR LEASE

**651-230-4070 \$1200/mo**  
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**Luxury Office Space:** 700 square feet, 3 private offices, hardwood floors, full kitchen/break area, downtown skyline views, one block from Metro State University, high-speed Comcast internet, Electrowatchman alarm system, all utility, taxes and insurance, snow service and window cleaning.

### Take-a-Hike March 7

Take-a-Hike occurs on the first Saturday of most months. The next hike will be **Saturday, March 7**. Hikers meet at **10:30 am** in Indian Mounds Park at Earl Street and Mounds Boulevard, and hike down to Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary, then through Swede Hollow Park and winding up at the East Side Heritage Park. The hike is about two hours (four miles) with some moderately rough terrain. Share stories about life in Dayton's Bluff. Return transportation is available if needed. For more information, call 651-776-0550.

### Police community meeting

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, March 18, at 9:30 am and 6:30 pm**. This is a change; both meetings are now 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.

### Forum monthly meeting

This *Forum* newspaper is seeking help with writing, editing, online content, idea generation, and ad sales. Join us at our next meeting: **1:30 pm on Tuesday, March 3** at 804 Margaret Street (call 651-776-0550 to confirm).

Metropolitan  
State University 

## Hiroshima and Nagasaki: The Past is the Present

Transforming Suffering Into Peace and Environmental Justice

### Poster Exhibits

Metropolitan State University

#### Saint Paul Exhibit

Friday, March 20–Monday, March 30, 2015  
Founders Hall Reception Area, Saint Paul Campus  
700 East Seventh Street, Saint Paul, MN 55106

#### Minneapolis Exhibit

Monday, April 6–Monday, April 20, 2015  
13th Street and Harmon Place, Minneapolis, MN 55403  
MEC 2nd Floor Corridor Wall, Minneapolis Campus



Posters are provided by Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, and events are sponsored by the Provost's Office, Institute for Community Engagement and Scholarship, College of Arts and Sciences, History Department; Partnered with St. Paul-Nagasaki Sister City Committee, and St. Paul Peace.

### Related Events:

**Friday, March 20–Monday, April 20, 2015**

Library 2nd Floor, Saint Paul Campus  
Book Display

**Wednesday, March 25, 2015 • 6–8:30 pm**

Founders Hall Auditorium, Saint Paul Campus

Documentary Film: *Hiroshima: A Mother's Prayer*  
(30 minutes)–6 pm

(provided by Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum)

Hiroshima Atomic Bomb Survivor Talk and Q&A through Skype–7 pm (translation provided)

~ Refreshments provided ~

**Friday, March 27, 2015 • 2–4 pm**

Founders Hall Auditorium, Saint Paul Campus

**Keynote Speech:** How Peace Activists

Saved the World from Nuclear War,  
Professor Lawrence S. Wittner, professor of history emeritus, State University of New York at Albany

Copies of Prof. Wittner's book, *Confronting the Bomb: A Short History of the World Nuclear Disarmament Movement* (Stanford University Press, 2009) will be available for purchase and signing

~ Refreshments provided ~

**Wednesday, April 1, 2015 • 1–2:30 pm**

Ecolab Room, Library, Saint Paul Campus

A Nuclear Energy Site and One Native Community's Struggle: Presentation by Prairie Island Tribal Council President Ron Johnson

~ Refreshments provided ~



Forum staff

Children help tend to a plot at Skidmore Park Community Garden, located at 1085 East 4<sup>th</sup> Street. Garden plots are available for 2015, and spring will be here before we know it; apply soon!

## Plots available at Skidmore Park Community Gardens

*Jennifer Herman, Forum staff*

Skidmore Park Community Gardens announces that garden plots are now available for the 2015 growing season! There are 24 raised-bed plots in this neighborhood park near the Earl Street Dairy Queen at 1085 East 4<sup>th</sup> Street. Plots come in two sizes: 40 square feet and 64 square feet; the annual fee for all plots is \$25. The Early Bird registration deadline for returning 2014 gardeners is February 28. Registration for new gardeners opens March 1, and the final deadline for all registrations is March 31.

A mandatory orientation session will take place on Monday April 13, from 6:00-7:00 pm at the garden (weather permitting). An indoor location for orientation will be announced should the weather refuse to cooperate. Applications are available for download on the Skidmore Park Community Gardens Facebook page or you can pick one up at the Dayton's Bluff Community Council office at 804 Margaret Street. Plots are assigned on a first come, first served basis so get your application in today! Questions? Call the Dayton's Bluff Community Council at 651-772-2075.

## 2015 St. Paul Neighborhood Honor Roll



St. Paul's 17 district councils held their annual volunteer awards event on January 30 at St. Thomas University. The awards recognize people and organizations from all over the city who have given outstanding service to the community over a long period of time. Each of St. Paul's 17 district councils has been able to add three new people/groups each year since the 1980s. Congratulations and thank you to all the people who work hard to make Dayton's Bluff the best it can be.

### 2015 Dayton's Bluff Honor Roll Honorees:

– 180 Degrees –

– Dayton's Bluff Seniors Living at Home Block Nurse Program –

– Urban Roots –

### Dayton's Bluff members of the Neighborhood Honor Roll

- |                               |                  |                    |
|-------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| 180 Degrees                   | Angela DuPaul    | Catherine Piccolo  |
| All Artoli                    | Karin DuPaul     | Eugene Piccolo     |
| John Barbie                   | Denise Eler      | Jane Prince        |
| Anita Bendickson              | Chris Geurts     | Steve Randell      |
| Julie Benick                  | Charlie Golden   | Joan Rodriguez     |
| June Bennett                  | Amy Handford     | Raeann Ruth        |
| Glen Blomgren                 | Stephanie Harr   | Roger Schaefer     |
| Paul Broderson                | Sage Holben      | Jody Seidel        |
| Eric & Amy Buck               | Rob Huberty      | Margaret Sieland   |
| Alice Burdick                 | Beth Hyser       | Margie Smith       |
| Carol Carey                   | Bette Johnson    | Maxine Smith       |
| Cliff Carey                   | Teri Keller      | Carlos Stewart     |
| Maryann Chowen                | Cleo Kelly       | Ed Szalapski       |
| Al Cläusen                    | Ed Krahmer       | Dick Taylor        |
| Mary Ann Cogelow              | Deanna Layer     | Susan Tietjen      |
| Jean Comstock                 | Diane May        | Steve Trimble      |
| Greg Cosimini                 | Matt Mazanec     | <i>Urban Roots</i> |
| Donovan Cummings              | Sharon McCre     | Lorraine Venaas    |
| <i>Dayton's Bluff Seniors</i> | Wayde Moen       | Mike Voss          |
| <i>Living at Home</i>         | Colin Moore      | Wilfred Weber      |
| <i>Block Nurse Program</i>    | Mary Moore       | Juanita Westman    |
| Carrie Dimmick                | Dave Murphy      | Wayne Wittmann     |
| Margaret Doren                | Ruth Murphy      | Lisa Young         |
| Steve Duerre                  | Christine Nelson | Sandi Younk        |
| Jacob Dorer                   | Susan Omoto      |                    |

This space prepared and paid for by the Lantry for Council Volunteer Committee, 25 East Sandra Lane, St Paul MN 55119

## Get Involved and Let Your Voice Be Heard!

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

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

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

MANY CULTURES. BUILDING THE FUTURE.



dayton's bluff  
COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
804 Margaret Street  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55106  
651.772.2075

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

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

Dayton's Bluff NHS is a non-profit agency eager to help. We offer:

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651.774.6995  
[www.dbnhs.org](http://www.dbnhs.org)





**AZTECA MEXICA**  
**New Year Festival**  
**YEI AKATL**  
**March 21 - 22, 2015**

Johnson Senior High School  
 1349 Arcade Street, Saint Paul

For more information: Contact Kalpulli Yaocenotli  
 651.366.0006/ 612.203.5690/ mexica.cenoch@gmail.com

**Hazel Park United Church of Christ**

1831 East Minnehaha Avenue; 651-735-2555  
 hazelparkcongregationalucc.org – Hazel Park UCC on Facebook  
 hazelparkchurch@q.com

“Our faith is 2,000 years old, but our thinking is not,” says Rev. Sara Morse of Hazel Park UCC, a neighborhood church on the East Side of St. Paul. “We are a forward-looking congregation, and we seek to embrace and carry out the mission of the church in our community and in the wider world. No matter who you are or where you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here!”

**Save grocery money with Fare For All Express**

Hazel Park United Church of Christ is a distribution partner for Fare For All Express, which offers fresh produce and quality meats at up to 40% off retail prices. The cooperative buying program is open to everyone, with no qualifying requirements or pre-registration. The next drop-in purchase opportunity is **Wednesday, March 4, 4:00-6:00 pm** at the church. Items available include produce, meat, and combination packs ranging in price from \$10-30. Cash, credit cards, EBT cards or debit cards accepted; checks not accepted. Visit fareforall.org for other Twin Cities locations, or contact the church.

Events and schedules are subject to change.

**Dayton's Bluff Rec Center in March**

Congratulations to our basketball teams! The Dayton's Bluff 10U girls have won two tournaments. Our 10U and 12U boys have also each won a tournament.

Open gym: Monday-Thursday, 6:00-7:45pm.

The rec center is located at 800 Conway Street: 651-793-3885.



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TEL: 651 793 4912 FAX: 651 793 4628

**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. All are welcome to the following community events:

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

**Urban CROSS can help!** Will you be in need of some help with a project around your home or property this summer? Whether you are a homeowner or a non-profit in the Dayton's Bluff area, we will have teams of volunteers available during the week of June 15-19 to assist you. Projects range from yard work, landscaping, indoor and outdoor painting and simple construction. To have our staff come and assess the project(s) you have in mind, please call the church office, or send in the work request form that is available at the church and on our web site: moundsparkumc.org/urbancross.html.

**Community Friendship Gathering – Wednesday, March 25, 12:00 noon**

Hot lunch, followed by live entertainment. All are welcome to come; the focus of this event is on persons age 55 and over.

**Community Easter Egg Hunt – Saturday, April 4, 2:00 pm**

Mounds Park Church will host a community-wide Easter Egg Hunt at Indian Mounds Park South Pavilion (Earl Street & Mounds Boulevard). There will be treats, games and activities for all ages.

**RUMMAGE SALE – Saturday, March 28, 9:00 am-1:00 pm**

Clothes \$7 per bag; household items as marked. No early sales.



**It's not Sunday School as usual – it's better!**

At Mounds Park Church children are deeply valued as full participants and leaders. We are blessed with kids from multiple cultures and traditions that reflect the community diversity of Dayton's Bluff.

Every Sunday morning at Mounds Park Church children are provided time and space to practice spiritual disciplines that nurture their relationship with God for a lifetime. We all start out in morning worship together at 10:30 am. Pastor Dennis Alexander calls all the children forward to share with them a story or an activity that invites them into the Biblical theme of the day. The kids ask questions or share moments in their lives. After a prayer, the children head to their special place in the church building.

For the next 45 minutes, the children are invited to a “time apart” from the noise and bustle of life to learn and experience practices that can nurture their spirituality and help them form community together. These practices include Bible stories, prayer, and song, but also conversations and the choice to learn via music, art, reading, and writing.

This form of Sunday School comes from “The Way of the Child” formed by Wynn McGregor and is based on six core beliefs: that kids have an innate connection with God, a natural openness to mystery, an amazing capacity for awe and wonder; that kids are receptive, open, and love what is real.

Utilizing the values of quiet, imagination, peace, respect, and cultural diversity; we seek to nurture the child's openness to God, help them know the power of God's love for them, encourage them to develop their own relationship with God and explore their own role as instruments of life-giving love to others.

This Sunday morning experience is open to all kids ages 6-11. There is also a preschool class for ages 3-5. Feel free to invite your friends or neighbors to check it out!

**Dayton's Bluff District Forum**

804 Margaret Street, St. Paul, MN 55106  
 Phone: 651-776-0550 E-mail: editor@daytonsbuff.org

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Board of Directors:  
 Greg Cosimini, Karin DuPaul, Jennifer Herman, Carla Riehle, Steve Trimble  
 Editor/Layout: Meg Gronau Editorial Assistant: Mark Gallagher

Next issue: April 2015. Deadline for material: March 15, 2015.



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## Community Engagement: How can we achieve racial justice?

Carla Riehle, Forum staff

"Hands Up, Don't Shoot our Youth Movement." It's a provocative title for a movie, but one that resonates deeply with many young African Americans on the East Side and beyond.

The film was screened on February 11 by the newly formed Dayton's Bluff Community Engagement Committee as part of its goal to create a free and open space to discuss matters that impact our neighborhoods and to provide a gathering place for activists organizing to change the status quo.

Local producer and director Ralph L. Crowder III introduced his film to the overflow audience by describing his visit to Ferguson, Missouri on the day of the funeral of Mike Brown, the unarmed teenager shot dead by police last August. Crowder built the movie around interviews he filmed with Black youth at the center of the uprising that followed. His thesis was that people like him need to pick up a camera and make the films that mainstream corporate media isn't making. Without any financial backing, Crowder, along with his production company Freedom Radio and TV, has produced a film that is gaining attention both locally and nationally for its frank look at racial relations in the US today.

A panel joined by community activists Christopher Melendez, Vanessa Taylor, and Nick Muhammad shared its thoughts on the causes and possible solutions to the widening



Nicole Pressley

From left: Sandrel Bunting, Ralph L. Crowder III, and Cindy Lewis at the February 11 screening and discussion of Crowder's film "Hands Up, Don't Shoot our Youth Movement," hosted by the DBCC Community Engagement Committee.

equity gap affecting people of color, and what to do about the tragic deaths of so many youth. Members of the audience related some of their own experiences: a young Latina of about 10 years of age wondered why most of her teachers didn't look like her, two mothers of Black sons worried about their abilities to protect them, and a young man made the case that it's crucial to hire police who come from the communities they patrol.

The Community Engagement Committee believes this is just the beginning of the conversations about racial justice that need to happen on the East Side. To that end, committee co-chair Tong Thao invites everyone with a passion for justice to attend the committee's inaugural meeting on **Wednesday, March 11, 6:30-8:00 pm** at Community HQ in the East Side Enterprise Center at 804 Margaret Street. The tentative road map includes the "Black Lives Matter" and "Drivers' Licenses for All" campaigns, immigrant outreach and WEQY-FM, Voice of the East Side radio, any or all of which could form the basis for issue-oriented subcommittees as well as joint action.

According to Thao, though, it will be the meeting participants from our traditionally under-represented communities of color, now more than 60 percent of the East Side, who will set the committee's priorities and decide how best to implement the agenda they decide upon.



Forum staff

334 Mounds Boulevard, pictured above, is one of the homes on the Dayton's Bluff/Minneapolis-St. Paul Home Tour, April 25 and 26.

## Home Tour volunteers needed

Karin DuPaul, Forum staff

The annual Minneapolis and St. Paul Home Tour will be held on **Saturday, April 25, from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm** and **Sunday, April 26, from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm**.

We are looking for 30-plus Dayton's Bluff volunteers to be Neighborhood Ambassadors. The Ambassadors will help the home owners and welcome visitors, telling the visitors about Dayton's Bluff.

On Sunday evening when the tour is over, a supper party will be held for the families whose homes are on the tour and all volunteers. To volunteer, email [karin@swedehollow.org](mailto:karin@swedehollow.org) or call 651-776-0550.

During the home tour, residents in both Minneapolis and St. Paul open their homes to the public to showcase city living. Dayton's Bluff has so many wonderful homes that each year we have a number them on the tour. The tour shows off many of Dayton's Bluff great features: Metropolitan State University, the parks, our growing business community, our views of the city and the Mississippi River, our outstanding housing options and of course the wonderful people in Dayton's Bluff.

Many people from all over come to see the Dayton's Bluff homes year after year. Some of the visitors like it so well that they have made Dayton's Bluff their new home.

Watch for more information in the April issue of the *Forum*.

## 2015 Cabaret!

Karin DuPaul, Forum staff

The 2015 *Cabaret!* began with Irish music by the house band Barra while the audience checked out the silent auction. At 8:00 pm the evening's emcee, the spectacular Victoria Deville, introduced VIP Bingo, a game that got the audience moving about the room and meeting each other.

The first act of the evening was Chilli Lor with a spoken-word presentation about people working together on East Side. She was followed by 16 more acts, most with East Side roots. There were singers, dancers, and a skit that brought back Catholic-school memories to many in the audience. The very last performance was belly dancing by Kamala Chaand Dance Company that recently moved into 1051 Hudson Road, just a few doors down from the Mounds Theatre. (See full article on Kamala Chaand, at right.)

The audience marveled at the many different and excellent acts at the cabaret. The food for the night was donated by East Side businesses including Cub Foods, Magnolias Restaurant, Marquez Grill, Mississippi Market, Señor Sol, and Yarusso Brothers Italian Restaurant.

At the end of the evening, the "Spirit of Swede Hollow" spoke about Swede Hollow Park and *Art in the Hollow*, the annual art festival to be held this year on June 6, for which the cabaret is a fund raiser. For more information, see the article on page 8 or email [karin@swedehollow.org](mailto:karin@swedehollow.org).

## Self and social awareness through belly dance: Kamala Chaand



Forum staff

Members of Kamala Chaand Dance Company demonstrate the American Tribal Style of belly dance in their new studio, now open for business at 1051 Hudson Road.

Meg Gronau, Forum editor

The music begins, slow and rhythmic, and the dancers curl their wrists, stretching their arms and gently rolling their torsos. They are watching each other carefully when the music suddenly changes and, as one, they spin and stomp, tossing their hips, all the while clanging zils (hand cymbals) in perfect rhythm.

But they haven't done this exact dance before. American Tribal Style (ATS) belly dance is almost entirely improvised. ATS is the main practice of Kamala Chaand Dance Company, which has just taken up residence in

a brand-new studio at 1051 Hudson Road.

Tasha-Rose, director of KCDC, gestures to a flowchart of slow and fast dance moves on the wall. "The leader for each dance cues the changes in movement with the drop of an arm, a curve of the body, or a turn of the head," she explains.

ATS originated in San Francisco in the 1970s and is a truly American "melting pot" style of dance. "Its influences are from North Africa, Flamenco, Roma, and India, with a unique American flair," Tasha-Rose says.

Though belly dance has a reputation for being performed by flirtatious, scantily-clad young women, members of KCDC emphasize the natural, family-friendliness of ATS.

Donna Bartol, KCDC Assistant Director, said, "These are family dances, with folkloric roots."

"We wear so much clothing!" Tasha-Rose added, unfolding a skirt made from 25 yards of fabric.

KCDC member Breana Larson went on: "ATS is a celebration of the

natural movement of the human body."

The way the women naturally complete each other's thoughts is emblematic of the positive energy and teamwork of ATS. And the benefits are physical as well as psychological. ATS dancers can expect to improve posture, and hip and shoulder mobility. "Learn to stand taller," Tasha-Rose says. "You own your space, so take it!"

To further embody that aim, KCDC is also the home of Our Dancing Daughters (ODD), a non-profit mentorship program for at-risk girls and teens. ODD plans to offer girls a comprehensive program including homework help, dance training, financial literacy, and crisis mediation. ODD is currently accepting donations through GoFundMe.

The KCDC class schedule and more information can be found at [kamalachaanddancecompany.com](http://kamalachaanddancecompany.com). ATS classes are offered for women, men, and baby-wearing, and a student troupe is being formed. KCDC also offers classes in yoga, hoop dance, and poi.

A "haflawarming" celebration and open house will be held **March 28, 3:00-10:00pm** at the studio, and all are welcome to enjoy food, prizes, and open-stage dance performances.

## Locals explore Cuban agriculture – and bring the lessons back home

*Forum staff*

This January, a Twin Cities delegation of urban farmers, food educators, writers, healthy food advocates, and local government representatives spent nine days on a food sovereignty tour around Cuba. Included on this delegation were members of Urban Oasis, the winning idea in the St. Paul Foundation's \$1 million Forever St. Paul Challenge. Urban Oasis, led by founder and Executive Director Tracy Sides, is creating all sorts of ways you can feed your family and support our local food system.

Follow Sides' blog, including reflections on her Cuba trip, at [urbanoasismn.org/blog](http://urbanoasismn.org/blog).

Hear, touch, and taste more of Tracy's trip to Cuba on **March 20 from 7:00-9:00 pm** at the East Side Enterprise Center community room, 804 Margaret Street.

*The following are some reflections on farming in Cuba from Robin Majors, manager of Shared Ground Farmers Cooperative, who also partook in the January trip. Shared Ground is based in the East Side Enterprise Center at 804 Margaret Street.*

I first learned I had to visit Cuba a few years ago while working for Common Harvest Farm in Osceola, WI. In the 1990s, farmer Dan Guenther had traveled to the island nation of 11 million. While he and I bunched Swiss chard together in the early mornings, he would tell stories of the acres of raised beds, the public farmers' markets on every corner, and the many universities and government organizations that provided markets and worked with and connected urban and rural farmers. It sounded like an organic farmer's dream.

Three years later – January 2015 –

Stone's Throw Urban Farm and I had the opportunity to organize a group of farmers, city officials and food professionals interested in food and urban agriculture to travel to Cuba. We traveled around Havana, Pinar del Rio and Matanzas to farms and agriculture projects including the Ministry of Agriculture and farm cooperatives. While the agriculture system in Cuba contains many components considered ideal in the U.S. organic farming world (organic systems, small farms, few petroleum-based tools), it is difficult to compare our agricultural systems without taking the economic and political conditions into account. Cuba was faced with an economic crisis and a lack of petroleum-based resources that required the government to invest in sustainable agriculture. Cuba prioritizes agriculture to prevent widespread hunger.

Cuba's current agriculture system was born out of necessity. Before 1989 Cuba exported much of its sugar to the Soviet Union in exchange for many resources, most importantly petroleum and petroleum-derived products. With the collapse of the Soviet Union in

1989 and compounded by the U.S. embargo, Cuba fell into an extended period of economic crisis defined primarily by the shortages of petroleum. During



Urban Oasis

**A Cuban farmer pauses during the harvest. Cuba is known as one of the world's leaders of sustainable farming an agroecology, and a group from Dayton's Bluff visited the island nation in January.**

the "Special Period" in the early 1990s, Cuba re-structured its agricultural system. Rather than putting resources and research into large state farms and petroleum-based agricultural systems, Cuba switched its focus to organizing farm cooperatives and researching sustainable farming methods. Today Cuba is known as one of the world's leaders of agroecology and sustainable farm-

ing.

Therefore, while our group came to learn from the Cuban agricultural system, we left impressed with their dedication to agroecology but knowing that we have neither the political structure nor the economic climate to demand the systemic change that Cuba went through. There were a few main differences and topics that stuck out to us:

1. The embargo created many struggles for farmers. It is difficult for Cuba to import tools. Therefore, few farms are mechanized and many people primarily use physical labor or drive oxen to seed, till, cultivate, and harvest. When we asked farmers how they hoped the loosening of the embargo would benefit them, "mechanization and access to tools and tractors" was the most popular answer.

2. Here in the United States, farmers' biggest challenges are access to fair-paying markets and affordable farmland. In Cuba neither of these are an issue – the government gives away land to anyone looking to start a farm, and any and all available produce or animals raised have a market in schools, hospitals, and farmers markets.

3. Farm cooperatives are everywhere and the government has put much effort into connecting farmers with each other and researchers to the farmers. Every town has a farmers' cooperative that collaborates to educate each other, distribute product, and share infrastructure.

While there are many impressive aspects of Cuban agriculture, it is important to acknowledge that it is not a perfect system. It is obvious that more fertility, tools and mechanization are needed in order to feed the island and export products like sugar and tobacco.

I look forward to discussing more about Cuba, agriculture, and the embargo with Tracy Sides on March 20. See you there!

– Robin Majors

## Reform 2020 makes a difference for our seniors

*Rhonda Battisto, Executive Director  
Dayton's Bluff Seniors*

This year, Dayton's Bluff Seniors received \$30,000 through the Core Home and Community Based Services fund as part of the Reform 2020 initiative. This was much-welcomed new funding to our program. Dayton's Bluff Seniors is a Living at Home Block Nurse Program, helping more than 100 seniors who live in the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood of St. Paul with basic health, wellness and social support.

So who benefits from those dollars?

- Stan is a regular attendee at the wellness clinic Dayton's Bluff Seniors operates at the Wilson Hi-Rise Apartments. Stan is blind and has multiple health issues including diabetes. At a regular clinic visit to check his blood pressure, Stan opened up to the clinic nurse about his confusion using his new glucometer—a voice activate model to accommodate his blindness; he was not shown how to use it by his doctor. Our nurse helped Stan learn how to use the machine so he could safely and independently manage his blood sugars at home.

- Francine lives at Parkway Garden Senior Apartments in St. Paul. She has high blood pressure and comes for physical and emotional support to the weekly Dayton's Bluff Seniors wellness clinics held in her building. Francine says the volunteers lift her spirits when she's feeling down.

- Maggie is weak from dealing with cancer and the impacts of rigorous chemotherapy. During her initial interview, Maggie reported her shower chair was broken. Our staff brought Maggie a donated chair so she could safely bathe again, with help from our volunteer nurse. Maggie feels supported and cared for.

These stories nicely illustrate the mission of Dayton's Bluff Seniors: helping seniors live, safe and independent, at home. We do this with many teams of volunteers and a shoe-string budget. The new state funding is absolutely vital to helping small organizations like ours to enrich the lives of seniors as they live well at home.

We are grateful to everyone who supported this legislation. Please know these dollars make a difference in our community.

## Pro wrestling comes to the Mounds Theatre

*Greg Cosimini, Forum staff*

The IWI (Independent Wrestling International) has found a home at the Historic Mounds Theatre. The next IWI events will be **March 14 and April 11**.

The Mounds provides an ideal venue for pro wrestling. The ring is set up in front of the stage. VIP guests sit at tables on the stage overlooking the ring. The other three sides of the ring are surrounded by comfortable seats. The lighting and sound systems are excellent and a variety of beverages and food items are available.

Five matches were held at the first event, on February 14. Kody Rice beat Venom in the opening match. Patrick McDaniels took out Tre Blackman in the second with a "neck-breaker." The third match was a handicap match pitting the Mad Russian against the tag team of Lore and Miles Mathers. The Mad Russian lost. This was followed by the Tag Team Title Match with Glam-Slam 2.0, Ian Xavier and Tommy "Spiderbaby" Saturday versus Tall & Small, "Hollywood" Brian Sager and "TNT" Tommy Mason. The IWI Heavyweight

Championship Match had Rob James versus The Black Stallion after the former champ, Da Minnesotan, was stripped of his belt for not showing up. After a vicious match the Black Stallion became the new IWI Heavyweight Champion.

Visit [moundstheatre.org](http://moundstheatre.org) or call 651-772-2253 for information about wrestling and other upcoming events.

The Historic Mounds Theatre is located at 1029 Hudson Road.

## Clearing the air

An article in our February issue ("Teachable moments at Freedom School," page 6) should have been labeled an opinion piece, reflecting the thoughts and experiences of the author. It was not meant to represent the opinion of the *Forum* newspaper. The *Forum* is a place for the community to express opinions, and your thoughts are welcome. Email [editor@daytonsbuff.org](mailto:editor@daytonsbuff.org) with your contribution.

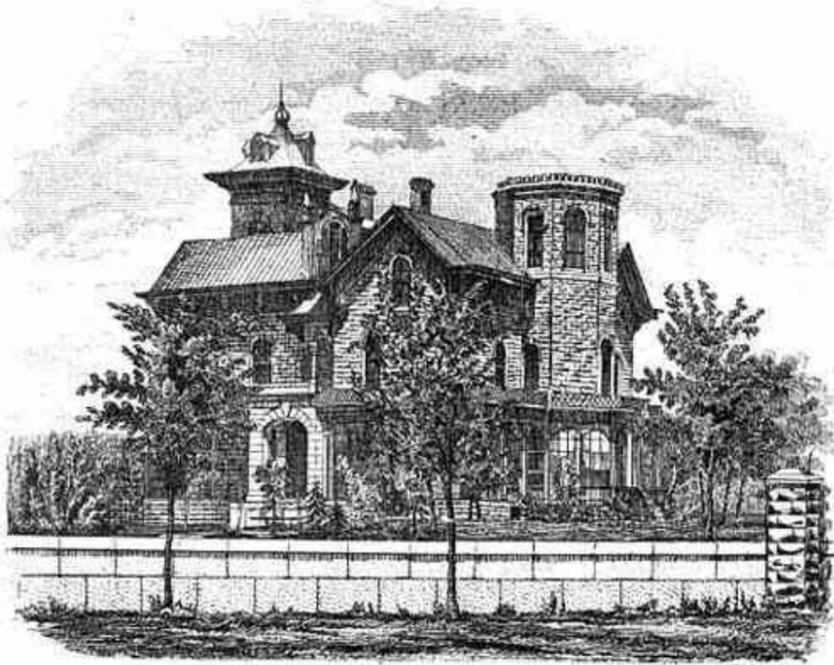
History corner

Bits and pieces of history

Steve Trimble, Forum historian

Sometimes you know what you are looking for when you start doing history research. Other times while you are on target, you accidentally run into something that is so interesting that you tuck it away and decide to get back to it later. This month, I'm going to give few examples of what is often called serendipity. I think I'll also comment on some local history that crops up on Facebook from time to time.

and some even had hot and cold running water, which was rare at the time. After Thompson died, the home was sold to Patrick H. Kelly, a successful longtime St. Paul wholesale grocer." After serving as a church home and then a men's club (it was called the Tuxedo Club), it was demolished in 1910 to make way for a city playground. It was often called Tuxedo Playground and then the Bluff Playground. The site is gone, swallowed up by I-94.



Minnesota Historical Society

Pictured: the James Thompson mansion, later known as the Tuxedo Club, was demolished in 1910 to make room for a playground. The site, at 230 Mounds Boulevard, now lies under I-94.

I was looking for information about a St. Paul mobster named Gleckman when I accidentally ran across information related to our neighborhood. It featured Hyman Chargo, who was a bootlegger during Prohibition (1920-1933). On January 21, 1930, federal Prohibition agents set him up by having Alex Tabalich order alcohol for delivery to his house at 408 Maple Street, in the heart of our own community. Hyman was nabbed after unloading five 5-gallon cans of moonshine into the Tabalich garage. He was arrested in the driveway while drinking a sample of his hooch, and charged with illegally transporting and selling liquor. The city directories confirm there was an Alex Tabalich on Maple Street at the time. There was a later notation that he had moved to Siren, Wisconsin in 1931. Perhaps he left town for fear of retribution?

Sometimes there are surprising bits of historical lore show up on Facebook. One time someone put up a stereoview of the James E. Thompson mansion in Dayton's Bluff and wondered if anyone had any information on it. Fairly quickly there was a post from my friend Jim Sazevich, well-known as "The House Detective," who said it was one of his favorite photos. He then quoted *Historic Buildings of Minnesota*: "One of the finest houses built on Dayton's Bluff in St. Paul overlooking the city and river valley was the James E. Thompson Mansion, also known as the 'Fairview Estate.'" Jim stated that "the house consisted of 14 rooms that were heated with steam,

Interesting history bits often come from web Facebook sub-groups. A good example is "Old St. Paul Minn" that any one with interest in the past can join. Recently one person asked for help finding information about his great-grandfather Carl Brink, who lived at 59 South Phalen Creek. He wasn't sure if there was such a house, because he could find the creek but no houses on maps.

Jim Sazevich to the rescue. He said that the address was along the creek and located south of the 7th Street Bridge. "The area is where the first Irish lived in the hollow, and later it was predominantly occupied by our city's earliest Polish immigrants, who later went on to live in the Arcade Street area, and founded St. Casimir's Church." Jim shared a MHS map that showed exactly where he lived. He also added a photo of South Phalen Creek from MHS.

One of the most interesting bits of unexpected history occurred last month. I was at the Minnesota Historical Society scanning a reel of microfilm of the MHS Scrapbooks for an item of interest. Suddenly a picture of a young girl caught my eye; the headline above it read "Minnesota's Helen Keller." Check this space next month for the incredible story of Vera Gammon.

Opinion: View from my porch

Dominium building plans don't jibe with community

Sage Holben, special to the Forum

On January 5, the Dayton's Bluff Land Use Committee voted unanimously to oppose the height variance requested for Dominium's proposed building on East 7th Street. Neighbors met and pooled their money to appeal the proposed height. The Dayton's Bluff Community Council voted to join the appeal. On February 18, St. Paul City Council blew us off.

One crucial element of opposition to the variance lay in the scale of the proposed building. Its height is out of keeping with the surrounding structures - "unsympathetic," as public records would state. As proposed, it would be the tallest building on East 7th Street outside of downtown. Metropolitan State University recently changed their plans for an almost equally-high parking structure on East 7th Street because of fierce neighborhood opposition to its size. They moved the parking lot away from 7th Street and decreased its height. To the east, Mississippi Market (which has been wonderfully responsive to neighborhood expectations) was carefully built within height and size restrictions.

Dominium's residential neighbors to the south are still hoping Dominium will respect their privacy and quality of life by placing foliage and attractive privacy barriers. Its neighbor to the north, the Stutzman building, is a model of urban architecture. It is almost completely negated by the proposed height of the Dominium building. If built as proposed, the building would block almost all sunshine from the community garden across the street west of the Stutzman building for at least five hours of each day. A Stutzman building second-floor business tenant talks with dread of the way the Dominium building ("a monstrosity") will erect an urban barrier that will "literally darken" all around it.

Dominium has consistently refused to follow neighborhood recommendations that it abide by the spirit of the East 7th Street development plan, the *Near East Side Road Map* and the *East 7th Street Design Guidelines*. Recent developments in the immediate vicinity of the proposed Dominium building have given new life to the plan's vision of an urban, walkable streetscape. The new Metropolitan State Student Center, with its cafe open to 7th Street; the newly opened

Dancing Goat coffee shop across 7th Street; the soon-to-be-enlarged Swede Hollow Café ; and the new Mississippi Market will all promote a vibrant street culture. Strong and persistent requests that Dominium add street-level retail have fallen on deaf ears.

The Dayton's Bluff Land Use Committee understands and is sympathetic to the need for "affordable" senior housing (Although only one person in each unit needs to meet the age criteria. Potentially, extended families will also dwell here, and where is the greenspace to accommodate children?) If Dominium is correct that they need 113 units to be economically feasible, it behooves them to find a new site that will allow them and their tenants sufficient space. If Dominium does not build in the proposed site (perhaps the 3M site might be appropriate?), the mere presence of Mississippi Market will entice revival of the Bluff between Bates Avenue and Maple Street. If, instead, the Dominium Building is allowed to exceed the size limitations laid out by the city for the site, we face the daunting prospect of a huge edifice that could easily, in 20 years or so, segue from a senior housing structure to an urban slum.

As to the City Council meeting on February 18, where only three people were able to speak in favor of appealing the Planning Committee's earlier decision, I was saddened to hear from the Mississippi Market rep that MM has been partnering with Dominium for the last two years, but not a word of partnering to the community's good with Gateway or DB Community Council.

Does money *always* hold power over what the community wants?

Oh, wait, we are Dayton's Bluff!! I am proud of our residents and how they invest their sweat, ideas, tight incomes and passion into creating a healthier and more cohesive community. I am tired of our mayor and city council bullying our district and using it to benefit their coffers. I resent a Dominium representative smirking as he told the council that "of course, people find change difficult when a lot has stood empty for so long." I resent having a piece of facade passed off as a roof, and a business stomping its (now unwanted by me) horrendous footprint into the most public area of Dayton's Bluff.

**MOUNDS PARK BARBER STYLISTS**

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## Fresh new Forum feature

I am going to be writing a new series, *East Side Eating*, during 2015. A short version will appear in the monthly *Forum*, but the entire version will be available at [daytonsbuffdistrictforum.org](http://daytonsbuffdistrictforum.org). Just click on "East Side Eating" on the top of the home page. Below is a brief introduction, and two of the restaurant visits. – *Steve Trimble*



**Forum contributor Steve Trimble is attempting to eat at every sit-down restaurant on the East Side in 2015. He hopes to get the word out to the Dayton's Bluff community about all the eating options here on our side of town. Pictured above is a burrito and taco – with beans and rice, of course – from Taqueria Los Paisanos.**

I have decided to embark on an adventure during 2015. There are over 60 restaurants on St. Paul's East Side and I thought it would be interesting to try to eat at all of them in one year. Occasionally breakfast, and more likely lunch or dinner and I am only going to include owner-run establishments—no chains unless they are small local ones. They have to have a place to sit down, so no strictly take-out spots or food trucks. I am not going to pretend to be a food critic, so no judgments on quality. You won't find any statements like "the pâté was too dry" or "the fava bean dish would have been vastly improved with arugula and sun-dried heirloom tomatillos." Instead there will be descriptions of what is available, and other useful information. Do they have a liquor or beer and wine license, what type of food is available and are there any surprising dishes to be tried? Is there a patio, live music television or arcade games or any merchandise to buy? One thing I will try to include is each establishment's own Web site, so you won't have to scroll through dozens of Yelp or Urban Spoon pages to find a menu. So here goes. "*Bon appétit*," as Lynne Rossetto Kasper says on her *Splendid Table* radio show.

Taqueria Los Paisanos  
825 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
651-778-8062  
[lospaisanostaqueria.com](http://lospaisanostaqueria.com)  
Monday-Thursday & Sunday:  
8:00 am-10:00 pm  
Friday & Saturday: 8:00 am-11:00 pm

January 7, 2015: I had just finished my first tutorial from Carla Riehle on how to build this blog site, so I felt she deserved to be the first of my East Side Eating guests. The Taqueria is located at the northeast corner of East 7<sup>th</sup> and Arcade Streets. Some will remember it as the former home of Clark's submarine sandwiches. It is smallish – maybe a dozen tables and booths – and nicely decorated. Diners order at a counter from a menu of mostly traditional Mexican food. I had a burrito served with rice and refried beans (pictured above) and it was so big I took half of it home with me. You may order ahead of time online. There is a small amount of off-street parking. On our way out, two women called to us and asked if we could help them push their car – it seems they had no reverse gear. Fortunately two other people came to their aid and they were able to get out of the little lot. Never a dull moment!

Eastside Thai Restaurant  
879 Payne Avenue  
651-776-6599  
[eastsidethai.com](http://eastsidethai.com)  
Monday-Wednesday 11:00 am-7:30 pm  
Thursday-Sunday 11:00 am-8:00 pm

January 14, 2015: Next, I checked in with my neighbor Alan who is something of an expert on Asian dishes, especially Thai cuisine. Off we went for lunch, to a spot on Payne Avenue that neither of us had been before. No expectations, just an adventure. We entered a fairly small business that was attractively decorated and clean. There were maybe 12 tables and no buffet. The menu had a lot of options. I chose a Pad Thai with a combination of chicken, beef and shrimp, and the huge pile on the plate allowed for leftovers. My friend was taken with the large number of curry dishes. Service was nice. The food took a while to arrive, but it was tasty. Alan said it was some of the best curry he had ever had and happily noted that the condiments included jalapeno peppers in vinegar and fish sauce. Eastside Thai uses mostly old family recipes, and also offers catering.

## Seeking artists for Art in the Hollow

*Forum staff*

Our area's biggest explosion of art and talent – *Art in the Hollow* – is on **Saturday, June 6, from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm**. Artists, artisans, and performers are needed for the one-day festival in the heart of Swede Hollow Park. For artists to display, there is a \$15 fee and tents are required. There is no fee for performers, who will be selected based on talent, variety and local roots. As a community festival set in the heart of the neighborhood, this is an "unplugged" event.

Once again *Art in the Hollow* will include a temporary environmental sculpture contest. Entry is \$10, and, concepts meeting safety criteria will all be erected the day of the festival. The three sculpture prizes are \$300, \$200 and \$100. Make a statement with public art! No previous experience or credentials required. Deadline is June 1; apply at [artinthehollow.org](http://artinthehollow.org). For more information on volunteering to be a part of this wonderful celebration of talent, contact Karin DuPaul at 651-776-0550 or [karin@swedehollow.org](mailto:karin@swedehollow.org). To exhibit, perform, or enter the sculpture contest, sign up at [artinthehollow.org](http://artinthehollow.org) or on Facebook.

Mark your calendar. Everyone is welcome at *Art in the Hollow* and it is free! There will be all kinds of art for sale and entertainers all day.

## Ramsey County Veterans Court seeks veterans to serve as mentors

The Ramsey County Veterans Court is seeking veterans to serve as volunteer mentors to Veterans Court participants.

The Veterans Court provides veterans of the United States military branches who are charged with committing a crime in Ramsey County an alternative to traditional court processes.

Each participant in the Ramsey County Veterans Court is assigned a veteran mentor. Mentors serve as volunteer staff and are assigned to work one-on-one with participants in Veterans Court, acting as a coach, guide, role model and advocate. There are currently 20 volunteer mentors serving Ramsey County Veterans Court participants.

Those interested in serving as a volunteer mentor should contact Donn Lindstrom at 651-266-2545 or [donn.lindstrom@co.ramsey.mn.us](mailto:donn.lindstrom@co.ramsey.mn.us).

## Many thanks to our 2015 donors:

Dennis & Gail Alexander  
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Brent Katzenmaier  
Charissa & David Osborn  
Kirstin Scanlan

## 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.

Sincerely,  
*The Dayton's Bluff District Forum*

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

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Make checks out to *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* and mail to 804 Margaret Street, St. Paul, MN 55106.

For more information, contact 651-776-0550 or [editor@daytonsbuff.org](mailto:editor@daytonsbuff.org).