

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

Volume 28, No. 10
November 2015
daytonsbuffdistrictforum.org

"The Voice of the Community"

Purple pride

Nick Duncan
Forum Contributor

September 27 was a beautiful day on Dayton's Bluff. There had been strong storms earlier in the month with lots of rain and gray days, but this Sunday was different. The storms had passed and the sun was shining. By early afternoon, cars were backed up from Wakefield to Cypress to Frank Streets, and the crowd was shoulder to shoulder in the Mounds Park Sports Bar. There were waves of purple from the front door to the taco stand in the back room.

Sunday, September 27, was the day the Mounds Park Sports bar hosted a benefit memorial to celebrate the life of Ramona Turner. Mona was tragically killed by her longtime partner on September 17. Mona was born, raised, and spent her whole life in the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood. She was a fast friend. She always had a smile and a kind word for everyone, friend or stranger. Mounds Park Sports Bar manager, Dave Spiess, remembers the first time he meet Mona. "She stopped in (the Mounds Park Sports Bar) looking for donations for a benefit at another place," said Spiess. "We contributed and she was so happy she said 'this is my

new favorite place.' She became a regular patron, and a great friend," Spiess added.

Purple Pride. On this same Sunday, the Vikings beat the San Diego Chargers 31-14, but on Dayton's Bluff the purple pride and the purple outfits had a more important meaning than football. Mona's family

requested that everyone who came to the benefit wear purple as a symbol to fight domestic violence. The crowd, including Mona's family, co-workers, friends, and others committed to ending domestic violence obliged. There was a sea of purple. Mona's son, Josh Weisner, was overwhelmed by the turnout. "I knew she had a lot of friends. But, wow, I just want to thank everyone for turning out," he remarked.

The benefit included a number of raffles and auctions. The prizes were an assortment of gifts, many of which were donated by other neighborhood businesses. Everybody from Tongue in Cheek, to the St. Paul Saloon donated items for the benefit. It says something about our neighborhood when competing businesses will come together to donate to a cause like this.

Mona Turner spent her entire life, 54 years, in our neighborhood. She was born and bred on the Bluff. She loved classic rock, she loved to dance on the weekend and though she wasn't a big drinker, she loved a Fuzzy Navel now and then. Domestic violence took Mona's life but her memory lives on in the hearts of her family, her friends, and her neighborhood. Purple pride.

The St. Paul and Ramsey County Domestic Abuse Intervention Project hotline is available 24 hours a day by calling 651-645-2824.



Nick Duncan

Friends, family, and well-wishers gathered to celebrate the life of Mona Turner at a memorial benefit in her honor, held at the Mounds Park Sports Bar on Sunday, September 27.

Skidmore Community Gardens seeks gardeners and volunteers

Jennifer Herman
Forum Staff

November 1 marks the end of the sixth growing season at Skidmore Park Community Gardens. The 24 plots will settle in for a winter nap and gardeners will enjoy a rest after a busy harvest season.

Once the winter holiday season passes, everyone begins to long for sunshine and spring and gardeners warm their hearts by studying seed catalogs and making plans for summer gardens. So, in late January or early February Skidmore gardeners will have the opportunity to reclaim their plot for the 2016 growing season. In March, applications will be accepted from new gardeners seeking one of the unclaimed plots. Usually all plots are

claimed before the annual orientation gathering each April, so mark your calendars now if you plan to return as a gardener or if you would like to join the garden next spring!

All gardeners, as members of the Skidmore community, are asked to contribute some time and energy to the ongoing care for the garden space and the Skidmore community. There is currently a need for help with the spring registration process and for fresh ideas about how to grow community within Skidmore. If you could help in one of these areas or would like more information about the garden, please contact the garden coordinator John Barbie at johnbarbie@hotmail.com or the District Council at 651-772-2075.

Dayton's Bluff
Community Council
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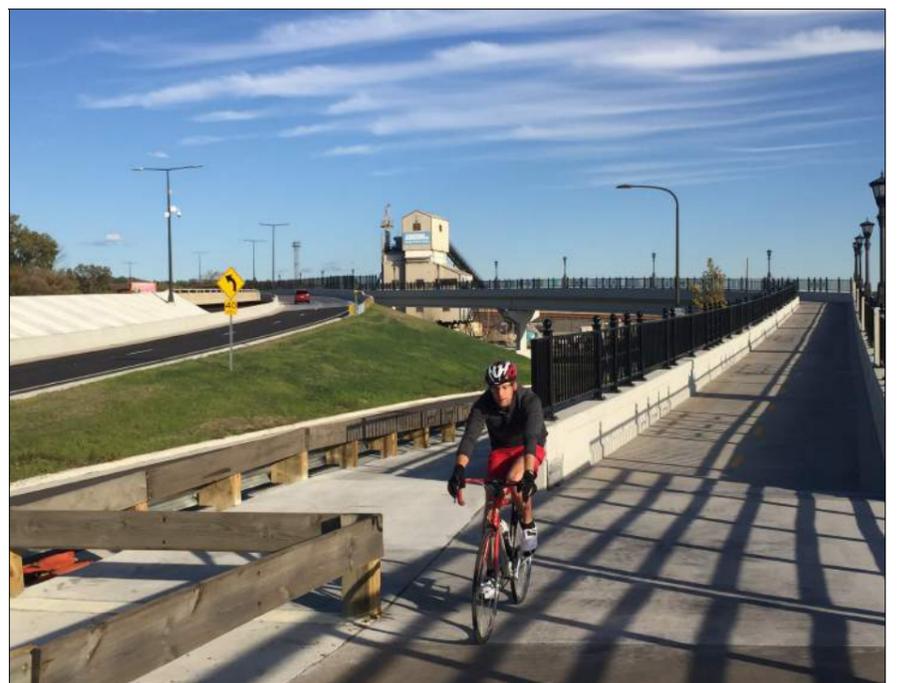
New and improved bridge opens

Nick Duncan
Forum Contributor

After a little over two years of construction, the bridge on Warner Road over Childs Road and the rail yard fully reopened in early October. The 11.7 million dollar Ramsey County project restored the once structurally deficient bridge to full working order with all

four lanes open.

The project also reconfigured the bike/pedestrian bridge removing the treacherous Childs Road crosswalks on the east and west end of the bridge. These crossings, which had pedestrians and bikers on the Warner Road trail competing with heavy trucks entering and exiting from Childs Road, saw a number of fatal accidents over the years. The new bridge passes over Childs Road on the east side and under Childs Road on the west. No more crosswalks.



Nick Duncan

A biker made use of the new, safer, bridge over Childs Road on Wednesday, October 14.

Community Calendar

Saturday, November 7

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Dayton's Bluff Take A Hike

Learn a little history of the East Side while hiking through Dayton's Bluff.

The hike starts at Indian Mounds Park at Earl Street and Mounds Boulevard and is about one and a half to two hours long. Hikers will have their choice of ending in Swede Hollow Park or East Side Heritage Park.

For more information email Karin@SwedeHollow.org or call 651-776-0550.

Wednesday, November 11

Time: 6:30 p.m.

New Friends of Swede Hollow

Watch over, restore, and celebrate the history of Swede Hollow Park. Come join the Swede Hollow community at their monthly meeting. Email Karin@SwedeHollow.org or call 651-776-0550 for more information and the meeting's location.

Thursday, November 12

Time: Noon-2:00 p.m.

Elder Cafe

Calling all Dayton's Bluff Seniors: *Meet new friends and old!* First Lutheran Church and Dayton's Bluff Seniors Program is hosting lunch and a book reading by local author: Gary Brueggemann. Gary's book focuses on Minnesota's oldest murder mystery. Signed copies will be for sale. Make your reservations at 651-237-7633. 463 Maria Ave. St. Paul, MN.



Saturday, November 14

Time: 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Poetry Workshop

Kristin Johnson, award-winning author of numerous picture books, mysteries, young-adult non-fiction, and poetry, will be coming to the Dayton's Bluff Library for a Poetry Workshop on Saturday. This workshop will allow teens and older children to work on their poetry-writing skills under the guidance of an expert in the craft. Teens are encouraged to attend! For more information about the event you can check sppl.org or call 651-791-1699. The Dayton's Bluff library shares it's home with Metropolitan State University at 645 E 7th Street.

Wednesday, November 18

Time: 9:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.

Police Community Meetings

The Eastern District Police will host their monthly meetings for community members held at the Eastern District police office at 722 Payne on the corner of Payne and Minnehaha Avenues.

The next meetings are at 9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. The meetings are intended as a time to learn, listen to, and address people's concerns about crime and other issues on the East Side. Saint Paul Police Eastern District is committed to maintaining and growing the quality of life for all our residents. Bring your neighbors, it is a great way to talk about all neighborhood related issues.

Thursday, November 19

Time: 6:30-8:00 p.m.

Star Party with Mike Lynch

View planets, star clusters, nebulae, galaxies, and other wonders of the night skies using large reflecting telescopes, including two giant 20-inch reflectors! The fun begins in Metro State Library Room 302 and is intended for adults or families with children over 10 years old. Be sure to wear warm clothing! For more information about the event you can check sppl.org or call 651-793-1699. The Dayton's Bluff library shares it's home with Metropolitan State University at 645 E 7th Street.

Saturday, November 21

Time: 6:45p.m.

Shows at Mounds Theatre

Look for *Oh Snap!* to return in November for low cost weeknight fun. Check our website for details.

Saturday, November 21: The Mounds Theatre presents **IWI Wrestling**. Doors open at 6:45 p.m. with bell time at 7:30. This is a family-friendly pro wrestling event. General Admission tickets are available at the door. VIP seating at tables on stage above the ring are available in advance online.

Remember, anyone who has an event, even as simple as watching their favorite show on the giant screen, can contact the Mounds Theatre with suggestions!

Rehearsals for *A Klingon Christmas Carol*, under the direction of Bill Stiteler, have started. Plan now to see this play. We guarantee it will be an out of this world experience.

December 3-6, 10-13, 17-20, 26-27: *A Klingon Christmas Carol*, live on stage at the Historic Mounds Theatre. Check our website for more information.

Visit our website at moundstheatre.org for other events not listed here and to purchase tickets as they become available. The Historic Mounds Theatre is located at 1029 Hudson Road. Call 651-772-2253; or email historicmoundstheatre@gmail.com.

Neighborhood Announcements

Business classes

Spring 2016

The next Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Microentrepreneur Class is starting in the spring of 2016. 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 sponsored by 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 sign up now. Please call Emma Spillman at 651-379-8432 for an application.

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 owner of the vehicle 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.

Dayton's Bluff Library Update

Extended hours and services

While the George Latimer Central Library is closed for remodeling through the end of the year, the Dayton's Bluff Library will be adding some additional hours and services! These include extended hours for the Job Search/Computer Skills/Open Lab Mondays & Wednesdays: Noon to 3:30 p.m. Tuesdays & Thursdays: 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. as well as the C.R.O.P. Community Resource Outreach Project Wednesdays, 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. C.R.O.P. There will be experts on-hand to provide information and answer questions about services such as:

- Housing resources
- Mental health case management
- Chemical dependency resources
- Health care
- Employment info
- Youth resources
- Veteran's benefits
- MNsure

Interested people can call 651-793-1616 for more information.

The Library will also have Snack in the Zone Mondays-Thursdays: 4:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Homework Help in the Zone Sundays: 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Mondays-Wednesdays: 4 :00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Volunteer to help seniors

Dayton's Bluff Seniors Needs Volunteers

Volunteers are key to the mission and success of the Dayton's Bluff Living at Home Program. Dayton's Bluff Seniors is a community of neighbors helping neighbors, supporting seniors to live independently in their homes.

For more information, contact Michele Streitz at 651-400-1650 or email volunteer@daytonbluffsensiors.org.

The following volunteers are needed:

- Drivers
- Errand Runners
- Friendly Visitors/Callers
- Chore Persons
- Special Projects
- Governance
- Administrative

Free Thanksgiving Day Meal

Our Savior's Lutheran Church is hosting its 9th annual free East Side Community Thanksgiving day meal. The event is from noon to 1:00 p.m. Call the church office to reserve a spot or volunteer. 674 Johnson Parkway, St. Paul, MN. 651-774-2396.



Like Dayton's Bluff District Forum on Facebook!

Dayton's Bluff Community Council Annual Meeting

Date to be determined

The Dayton's Bluff Community Council will be having its annual meeting and election of board members in December. The date will be set later and full information will be in the December issue of the *Forum*. There are several seats up for election. If you or someone you know might want to run, you can call the Council office for more information at 651-772-2075.

Correction

The *Memorials on the Bluff* article on page 7 of the October *Forum* said that Bonnie Luke was part of Metropolitan State's nursing faculty. She was an advisor and community faculty member, but not nursing faculty. Bonnie taught in individualized studies, the University's original bachelor of arts program. We regret the error.

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, multi-cultural congregation located at 1049 Euclid Street at the corner of Earl and Euclid. We strive to build on the positive assets of Dayton's Bluff; working together as neighbors while improving our community. In May, we invited a new Karen congregation to share our building – they are called New Abundant Life Church, and worship at **1:30 p.m. on Sundays.**

Everyone is invited to the following community events:

After-school programming for all children grades 5 - 12 is available at the church every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. The programming includes homework help, group activities, music, cooking, recreation, field trips, fun, and snacks, sponsored by McVay Youth Partnership of Hamline University. All are welcome!

Sunday, November 8, former pastor, Rev. Rufus Campbell will be preaching as we honor all military veterans during the 10:30 a.m. Sunday morning service entitled: *Remembering Soldiers.*

Wednesday, November 18, starting at Noon – Community Friendship Gathering with hot lunch. We begin with a lunch of hot turkey and dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, cranberries, green beans, and dessert, which will be followed by the Thompson Trio singing gospel music. All are welcome; the focus of this event is on persons age 55 and over.

Looking for the talented

*Karin DuPaul
 Forum Staff*

The 4th Annual CABARET will happen in late February at the Historic Mounds Theatre, located at 1029 Hudson Road. Watch the December issue of the *Forum* for the date. We are looking for MORE East Side talent — singers, musicians, comedians, and dancers. This is a celebration of talent with East Side roots. If you or someone you know would like to entertain at the CABARET, visit www.artinthehollow.com or call Karin DuPaul at 651-776-0550 to sign up.

The CABARET is a fundraiser for this coming year's 7th annual Art in

the Hollow, the art festival in Swede Hollow Park. Next year's Art in the Hollow will take place on Saturday, June 4, 2016. The CABARET and Art in the Hollow are hosted by Friends of Swede Hollow, a nonprofit organization that works to restore and protect the park, celebrate Swede Hollow history, and host events honoring Swede Hollow Park and the neighborhood.

The evening will also include a silent auction of original art and other items. CABARET tickets are just \$20 in advance, and \$25 at the door. Get your tickets now and get the CABARET on your calendar! The theatre will come alive with an amazing variety of acts. Get your tickets now by calling Karin DuPaul at 651-776-0550 or karindupaul@comcast.net. Don't miss it!

MOUNDS PARK BARBER STYLISTS



APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE
 TUESDAY THRU SATURDAY

1043 HUDSON ROAD
 SAINT PAUL, MN 55106

651-771-6980

Judy Lee

Needed: Homes for the home tour

*Karin DuPaul
 Forum Staff*

The 2016 Minneapolis/St. Paul Home Tour will be here before we know it. We are hot on the trail for homes to be featured on the home tour. The tour will take place on Saturday, April 30, and Sunday, May 1, 2016. The home tour is of occupied homes to show visitors our wonderful Dayton's Bluff people, homes, and community. Visitors from all over the metro come each year to see the lovely homes in Dayton's Bluff.

Six to eight Dayton's Bluff homes are needed to be on the tour. Homes can be large or small, Victorians or ramblers, or

anything in between. Homes may be works-in-progress or finished products. It's a fantastic opportunity for us to show off our neighborhoods and all the good things about Dayton's Bluff. Each year, some visitors like the Dayton's Bluff community so much that they buy a home here. The tour is also a great way to get new ideas on remodeling and updating your home. Nominate your own home, or talk to your neighbors about getting their homes on the tour.

We are also looking for neighborhood people to volunteer to help out during the tour. On Sunday evening after the tour is over, an after-tour supper party will be held for the families of the homes on display and all home tour volunteers. To learn more about having your home on the tour, to volunteer, or for more information, please email karindupaul@comcast.net or call 651-776-0550.



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*Trisha Clinesmith
 Special to the Forum*

The East Side Learning Center, located at 740 York Avenue, transforms lives by giving children the skills they need to succeed in school. I joined their team over the summer, and I have been constantly impressed by the level of mentoring taking place there.

The staff at the East Side Learning Center may live out the mission of "unlocking each child's potential through a foundation of reading," but they do so much more than that. They unlock children's worlds. They show how the indecipherable hieroglyphs on a page contain a whole universe of meaning. When they can, they use props and maps; at other times, they ask students about personal interests, desires, and memories. In this way, the East Side Learning Center helps children learn not only to recognize words but associate them with positive experiences in the real world.

Tutoring over the summer, I had the honor of working alongside some of these children. I got to see children who, though only in kindergarten, were already discouraged with their abilities in school. They viewed reading a single page as an almost impossible task—

forget reading a book. Still, as we followed the lesson plan and they focused on one word at a time, they could see their progress. Their discouragement faded as their confidence grew.

The task of reading slipped from the 'impossible' to the 'challenging but doable' range, and the armored, teenager-like disinterest slipped from their faces and transformed into a six-year-old child's curiosity about the world. One kindergartner even told his tutor "Reading is better than ice cream!"

I am honored to be there alongside a child when they realize they can read, they can learn, they can be curious about the world. I am honored to look at the East Side Learning Center staff and not simply talk about what "they" are doing, but about what "we" are doing. We give children the time and space to realize all that they can do.

The East Side Learning Center provides free one-on-one literacy tutoring to K-3 students who are behind their grade-level in reading skills, but have nowhere else to turn for help. We estimate that we will serve nearly 300 students during this school year.

If you are looking for an opportunity to change a young child's life forever and to make a real difference in your community, the East Side Learning Center always welcomes new tutors. Contact Trisha Clinesmith at trisha-clinesmith@spps.org, or at 651-793-7364.



Trisha Clinesmith

The East Side Learning Center provides free one-on-one literacy tutoring to K-3 students.

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Meet Jennifer Gascoigne — Our New Forum Editor

Mark Gallagher
Associate Editor

The way Jennifer Gascoigne became the *Dayton's Bluff Forum* editor is, as she says, a funny story.

"I worked in the library when I first started at the Minnesota Historical Society (MNHS), and sometimes my boss was a contributor to the *Forum*," Gascoigne says. "I knew he did that and I came to know Steve Trimble a little bit because of his research in the library," she says. "When Nick (Duncan), my boss at the library, found out that the *Forum* was looking for an editor he said, 'Hey, I think you should talk to Steve Trimble; you would be good at this.'"

And that's what happened. "I thought there would be an interview process, but they said no; just give it a shot. So I said okay." Gascoigne became the editor in April 2015; May was her first issue.

"I always liked writing and was pretty good at it," she says. "I thought that writing

was a pretty handy skill to have. I'm not sure that I actually wanted to work in journalism but thought it would be something that would be applicable to any job."

Gascoigne started writing as a kid and used to write for her literary publication in grade school. She worked on her yearbook staff and student newspaper while attending Burnsville High School. During high school, her dream was to become a journalist.

The University of Minnesota School of Journalism was Gascoigne's next educational stop; she graduated in 2005 with a Bachelor's Degree in Print Journalism. Her dream started taking shape when she secured an internship writing for *Explore Minnesota*, a Minnesota Office of Tourism publication. "I ended up using the MNHS library to write a piece on the agricultural history of Minnesota, and thought *I really love it here — this is great.*"

When asked what intrigued her about journalism, Gascoigne says,



Jennifer Gascoigne, the new editor of the *Dayton's Bluff District Forum*.

"I'm kind of a perfectionist type of person. I like being able to take something and make it as flawless as possible."

For any given *Forum* issue, Gascoigne starts her editorial work on the 10th of the previous month. "I start collecting submissions and organizing them according to which page I think they might fit on," she says. "I read over the submissions and edit them a little bit," she said.

"Then I have to wait for things to come in; the official deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month. I'll give people until then, and from about the 15th to the 19th is about organizing, editing, and trying to make things fit on the page. Deciding what gets in — and what doesn't — and what there is room for comes next. I would say it takes about 25 to 30 hours per month to get the paper ready."

Gascoigne doesn't live in Dayton's Bluff but spends much of her time there. "I like the new Mississippi Market. The cafeteria is great for lunch," she says. "I love the Mañana Restaurant y Pupuseria. That's right over by the Community Council office on East 7th right across from Animal Ark. I really like Ward 6, Cook St. Paul, and

all the little different niche restaurants that are popping up."

She likes to visit Indian Mounds Park, as well as the beacon, and take in the view. "The view of the city is just awesome," Gascoigne says. "I love how there is a lot of nature, but it is also very urban. The architecture is my favorite part. There are bungalows to Victorian mansions all on the same street; driving around the neighborhood you can see many styles of houses."

Jennifer Gascoigne's favorite book is *The Great Gatsby*. "I think it's great that I can leave work at lunchtime and walk by where F. Scott Fitzgerald was born," she says. "I think it's really cool he used to live up on Summit Avenue. I love Minnesota, local history, and the historical neighborhoods — working at the *Forum* has tied together all of those things."

Mark Gallagher is a professional writer and editor. He can be reached at refineEditorial@gmail.com.

See Jane run!



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Dayton's Bluff District Forum

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Next issue: December 2015. Deadline for material: November 10, 2015.

Unto a good land – they came

A walking tour of the historic Swede Hollow immigrant settlement

*Karin DuPaul
Forum Staff*

On October 11, Jim Szevich, (Saint Paul's "House Detective") and Christopher Keith hosted a history walking tour of Swede Hollow. Attendees included former Swede Hollow residents, families of former residents, and many other interested people. Jim told stories about several immigrant groups who called the hollow home, including the Swedish settlers who came first in the 1870s, followed by the Irish, Poles, Italians, and finally Mexicans. For over 80 years this mysterious, yet cohesive community thrived, hidden below the rest of the city in a deep ravine

Today, besides its rich history, Swede Hollow is a magnet for nature lovers as the landscape is stunningly beautiful. Since its transformation in 1956 from a residential neighborhood to vacant land, native birds and animals have taken over the valley and

wooded hillsides.

As the group walked the length of the valley they learned about the founding and history of Hamm's Brewery, which guards the northern boundary of the hollow, Schaber's Grist Mill, the Drewry Brewery, as well as the Railroad Island and Dayton's Bluff neighborhoods.

Szevich has been studying the history of Swede Hollow for more than forty years, and his work has added much to the context and understanding of this pioneer immigrant settlement. He led his first tour of the hollow in 1975, and since that time has brought more than 6,000 visitors to this special place. Szevich is also currently writing a book about the six large squatter settlements which once existed in various parts of St. Paul, and the volume will include a lengthy chapter on Swede Hollow.



Nick Doten

Jim Szevich lead tour visitors through the historic East 7th Street Improvement arches.

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They offer rides to the store, doctor appointments, social events and more. For those seniors who don't have family around to keep an eye on them, DBS can arrange a volunteer to stop by. Lack of social contact can be a problem for those who no longer drive, so DBS hosts a monthly Elder Café where they can meet others in the community. During our harsh winters, they make sure that someone clears the driveways and sidewalks so our seniors can venture out safely.

Dayton's Bluff Seniors – Helping neighbors help neighbors.

For more information, call (651) 237-7633 or email Info@DaytonsBluffSeniors.org

Sincerely,

Rep. Sheldon Johnson



State Representative

SHELDON JOHNSON

259 State Office Building
100 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

(651) 296-4201
rep.sheldon.johnson@house.mn
www.house.mn/67B
www.sheldonjohnson.com

City prepares to revitalize "dead" park

Jennifer Herman
Forum Staff

Visitors to Margaret Park this summer described the space as dead, trashy, rundown, unfriendly, bare bones, and neglected. Dave Ronzani and Bianca Paz from the City of Saint Paul see the park as a centrally located destination point and rest area in the neighborhood and hope to help the community realize their dream for a friendly, fun, clean, and safe park. On Monday, October 5, they met with Dayton's Bluff residents to talk about upcoming improvements to Margaret Park. The top priority is to add a single stall, ADA accessible restroom with a drinking fountain and community message board. The field area is heavily used for soccer, volleyball, and flag football so the orange aggregate baseball diamond will be removed (the backstop will remain in place for pick-up games) and the whole field will be aerated and re-seeded. The hill is popular for winter sledding and work will be done to stabilize the slope so that it stops washing away and becoming rutted. There will be a new, more visibly located sign. Some of the remaining concrete from the old build-

ing will be removed and the concrete steps by the parking lot will be repaired or replaced. The Earl Street entrances to the park will be widened and spruced up. Picnic tables, benches, and bike racks will be added near the new bathroom. Decisions still need to be made about how park visitors will get from the bathroom at the top of the hill to the field area at the bottom and whether the large lights in the field will stay. Several memorial plaques were suggested. Residents recommended removing the parking lot to create additional green space. A basketball court or other teen friendly features continue to be discussed. One percent of the project budget must be used for public art in the park and though some ideas were discussed (murals on remaining concrete walls, sidewalk poetry) more ideas will be considered and explored. Funding for this project is limited so the community will need to prioritize improvements and additional funding sources have been suggested and will be researched. There is still lots of opportunity for us to give input and shape the coming improvements. The next community meeting will take place in early December. Updates on the project can be found on the city's website at <http://www.stpaul.gov/index.aspx?nid=5731>.

New MSU Student Center

Metropolitan State University reaches another building milestone this season with the upcoming opening of the new Student Center.

The University's newest facility represents the bustling construction and development along 7th Street. Its neighboring building is the 764 stall parking ramp and new surface parking lot on Maria Avenue. The ramp opened its gates to users at the end of July. The MSU Parking Ramp and Student Center was built by Adolfson & Peterson Construction. A block east of the MSU student center, the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood recently celebrated

the opening of the new food co-op, Mississippi Market.

The new, two-story MSU Student Center offers a unique set of spaces that do not presently exist elsewhere on the St. Paul campus. There is flexible space to meet various programming needs including those which support student services, gathering spaces for events, and a healthy offering of lounge areas. In addition to informal lounge areas, there are also study and breakout spaces and a cafe and dining venue.

Construction of the facility started in the winter of 2014, and in the past month completed its interior build-out. The University's furnishings and equipment will round out the final construction activities just before opening its doors to students, faculty, and staff.

Are you receiving your copy of the *Forum* each month?

If you live in the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood, you should receive your copy of the *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* within the first two weeks of each month.

If you live within the neighborhood and have missed delivery, please email editor@daytonsbuff.org along with your

name and mailing address. We will contact the US Postal Service on your behalf.

If you do not live within the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood but enjoy reading the *Forum*, you can pick up a copy at many neighborhood locations, including the Dayton's Bluff Community Council offices at 804 Margaret Street, or email editor@daytonsbuff.org to have the *Forum* mailed to you for a yearly fee of \$15. You can also view the *Forum* online by visiting daytonsbuffdistrictforum.org.

School Board Hears Proposal to Rename Harding H.S. for St. Paul Teacher/ Architect Mary Colter

Patrick Hill
Special to the Forum

On July 21, the Saint Paul Board of Education heard a proposal from two St. Paul citizens, Diane Trout-Oertel from Highland Park and Patrick Hill of the East Side, to rename Harding High School for St. Paul teacher and ground-breaking architect Mary Colter, "the best-known, unknown architect in the National Parks."

Opened in 1926, the school was named for the 29th President Warren G. Harding. Though Harding had no significant connection to Minnesota, the fact that he had been popular (elected with a 60% plurality) and died in 1923, two years into his only term, seem to be the basis for the namesake honor.

Harding was charming and handsome but not a man of high intellect or great oratory.

One critic described his speeches as "an army of pompous phrases moving over the landscape in search of an idea." But the times required a change and being in the right place at the right time, he was elected President in 1920. While he selected a number of nationally recognized and accomplished men to serve in his cabinet, to his great misfortune he also included a number of lesser types selected from the "Ohio Gang", friends and political operatives from his Ohio days. They would be his political ruin.

Although married until his death for 32 years to Florence Kling, for fully half of that time Harding carried on extra marital affairs with a series of women, some resulting in suicides and rumors of illegitimate children. In others, extortions were paid. These were common enough that it is alleged his political cronies had even established a fund with which to pay the bribes.

The most recent revelations are found in a cache of 1000 pages of love letters to his most serious paramour Carrie Fulton Phillips, a married woman, with whom he was involved for over 10 years. The letters were sealed in the Library of Congress for 50 years by agreement with her family, and just released to public examination in 2014. Viewed in this context, it provides a perhaps unintended interpretation

to Harding's claim that "I cannot hope to be one of the great Presidents, but perhaps I may be remembered as one of the best loved."

Following his death, evidence emerged linking Harding's name with both the political corruption and marital indiscretions. "We feel the need to reconsider the honor of naming one of our city's most valued educational institutions for youth after him," said Hill.



Photo courtesy of Patrick Hill

Mary Jane Colter, circa 1890.

In promoting the recognition of Mary Colter, Trout-Oertel explained "Not only was Colter an accomplished teacher who taught high school in St. Paul but she herself was an exceptional product of the St. Paul public school system who eventually made her mark in the world as one of the first woman architects."

Colter was born in Pittsburgh in 1869, but she grew up in St. Paul, which she would always consider her hometown. Shortly after she graduated from Saint Paul High School, now Central High School, her fa-

ther died, leaving the family with no income. She convinced her mother that, if she could use their small savings to go back to school and earn a teaching degree, she could support the family. After graduating from the California School of Design in San Francisco, she returned to Saint Paul and taught drawing and literature at the newly-established Mechanic Arts High School (MAHS) where she played a pivotal role during its formative years.

"Under her leadership, MAHS students won a gold medal for their exhibit at the World's Columbian Exhibition in Chicago in 1893 and later a gold medal in art and craftsmanship at the St. Louis World fair of 1904," revealed Trout-Oertel

Trout-Oertel went on to reveal that "Colter taught at MAHS for 15 years, occasionally taking time off to design first interiors, and later buildings, for the Fred Harvey Company, a hospitality company that partnered with the Santa Fe Railroad to open up the West to tourism."

"Colter is best known for the iconic buildings she designed at the Grand Canyon including Hopi House, Phantom Ranch, Watchtower, Hermit's Rest and others. There her buildings fit into the landscape so seamlessly that they appear to be as old as the canyon itself" said Trout-Oertel. "In preparation for designing these structures, Colter visited American Indian ruins throughout the southwest and observed their materials and building techniques so that she could represent them in her work at the Grand Canyon. Here it is most apparent that Colter continued to educate others long after she stopped teaching in the classroom."

Colter died in 1958 and her body was brought back to St. Paul. She was buried next to the rest of her family in Oakland Cemetery.

Women have been the lifeblood of American elementary and secondary education for generations. Yet they have never been recognized in the names given to any Saint Paul High Schools. Warren Harding by virtue of his political and personal failures, and absence of connection to Minnesota, is an unworthy namesake for any Saint Paul school, particularly one of our most valued institutions.

Mary Colter considered Saint Paul her hometown; she attended school here and taught here for 15 years; went on to earn and establish a 50-year career as one of America's first great female architects whose works are still visited by millions each year; and by her own request was returned to Saint Paul for burial.

"She is a perfect example of someone we would like our youth to emulate. And she's one of ours" observed Hill.

Saint Paul Almanac

Steve Trimble
Forum Historian

The 2016 Saint Paul Almanac is now available. As usual, it is filled with stories, poetry, art, reminiscences, and a lot of city history. I provide a lot of the dates, birthdays and quotations for each annual issue. This year is a little different. It is a retrospective that consists of submissions from the last nine years. The cover however, is new — a creation of local artist Ta-coumba Aiken, as well as the dedication of the volume to Carol Connolly, the city's poet laureate. It is a 448 page full-color book with 156 stories and poems, plus 200+ photos and illustrations. All corners of the city are covered and I am happy to say there are quite a few submissions that feature our East Side. Here are short summaries of them.

Reminiscence of Mike Sanchelli. This, I am proud to say, is an article that I sent in. It is an edited selection of a manuscript Mike gave to the Minnesota Historical Society. He was Swede Hollow's premier storyteller and musician. Here he discusses the 1920s and 30s community, making wine, killing a pig, learning to like hot dogs, holidays, playing, and raising chickens.

The Streetcars of Saint Paul, by Ronee McHendrik. In the early 1940s, the author's family lived near Hazelwood and East Seventh. Their main source of transportation was streetcar. They sometimes went to the Radio movie theater on East Seventh, a few blocks west of Johnson Parkway. One night there was a live poultry raffle; grandfather won a duck and walked it home on a leash.

Meridel LeSueur Recalls Swede Hollow fore Prohibition, edited by Patrick Coleman. This is a selection from Meridel's story *Beer Town*. The Hamm mansion was compared to a feudal castle above the hand-made houses in the hollow, which was surrounded by the

rumbling of beer wagons and the clatter of horses.

Fire on Pig's Eye Island, by Matthew Van Tassel. Here is some history of the area for background. The author was raised there in the 1940s in a tarpaper shack with no electricity, a pump for water, and an outhouse. They were frightened by scary radio shows on a battery-powered radio. An ex-convict built a house near them. His shack caught fire, he went wild and their mother protected them with a rifle.

World Champion, written by Mark Connor, an East Sider. It is the story of Will Grisby, who became a world champion junior fly-weight boxer in 1998 at the age of 28 years old. He started in Golden Gloves and turned professional. He won a lot, lost a few, and had some personal issues.

The East Side — a Story of Tradition and Change, by Tony Andrea, is focused on Margaret playground, Lake Phalen, and the East Side starting in the 1930s. Led by a Greek grandfather and Italian father "we learned to adapt to change" and about "the traditions we keep." It mentions railroads and factories, WWII, and the welcoming of new immigrants with new traditions.

Saint Paul's Caves, by Cary Griffith. A general story about caverns with mentions of Jonathan Carver who was led to Wakan Teebe in 1766, Fountain Cave, Lyman Dayton, who mined sand for glass below the bluff, and tells of a handful of people who died in local caves.

November, by November Paw and Ron Peterson. November came to Saint Paul as a young Karen immigrant

fleeing a violent homeland in Burma. She outlines her family's attacks by soldiers, living in a refugee camp, reactions to her new land, and learning English. She ends by saying ta blit (thank you) Minnesota.

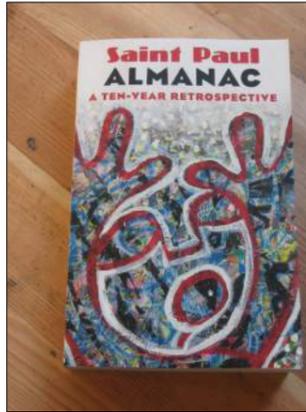
My Mother's Garden, by Tiffany Lee Germain Street. Every day after work, her mother worked in the backyard garden raising tomatoes, bok choy cabbage, and herbs for chicken and fish boiling. The garden was her place of meditation and joy and a way to feed the family. Even after moves to different homes, the one thing that remained the same was a garden.

Best Friend, by Margaret Anzevino. In the 1930s, her Italian family lived on Beaumont Street. She attended school with her long hair in pigtails, and at the age of twelve met Bobbi, beginning a 55 year friendship. The article focuses on their young lives with school, playing, and movies. "We loved our small lives," she concludes.

The Dragon of Lake Phalen, by Maivboon Vang. The one page poem begins "There is a dragon they say that resides in Lake Phalen" and continues to say how a younger brother was frightened by this tale at first and how they all enjoyed fishing in the local body of water.

The Place, by Joyce Garcia. Another short poetic piece about moving to Railroad Island at the age of 19, and experiences with many people and places. She still returns to Yarusso's and Morelli's after 28 years, even after moving away.

The 2016 Saint Paul Almanac would make a great birthday or holiday present. You can read it in area libraries, but if you want to own a copy or gift it, many St. Paul coffee houses have them, including Polly's Coffee Cove at 1382 Payne Avenue. If you are downtown, find them at the Black Dog at 308 Prince, near the Farmer's Market, or at the Subtext Book Store at 6 West 5th Street. It can also be ordered online at <http://saintpaulalmanac.org>. The cost from the Almanac web page is \$17.95, including tax, shipping, and handling.



Steve Trimble
The 2016 Saint Paul Almanac is now available.

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East Side Eating – Trimble's Taste Trek

Forum contributor Steve Trimble is attempting to eat at every locally-owned, sit-down restaurant on the East Side in 2015. He hopes to get the word out to the Dayton's Bluff community about the eating options here on our side of town. There are more restaurants than there is room for in the monthly paper, but at least 22 may now be found online at daytonsbuffdistrictforum.org: click on "East Side Eating" on the top of the home page.

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on Facebook!**

My daughter Meridel, now living in Chicago, was in town for the weekend along with her husband, Wes, and children, Lila and Sammy. They wanted to have breakfast on Labor Day before returning to the Windy City. We headed up Payne Avenue to the old Serlin's building, which once housed the legendary East Side restaurant. The interior has been totally remodeled. There are a dozen or so tables ranging from two to four seats and a larger one in the back corner. It is sparsely decorated with a few old maps of St. Paul. Kid's drawings were on one wall and my three year old granddaughter added her own.

Cook describes itself as having traditional American breakfast and lunch diner foods with some Korean fusion dishes for variety. They also say that everything is made from scratch or locally-sourced with preference for organic ingredients. Some of their "starters" are cinnamon rolls with a glaze or vanilla yogurt topped with Keikeu granola. They serve fresh orange juice and milk, as well as soy and almond substitutes and fresh seasonal fruit with whipped cream. They also feature River City Root Beer.

The "Cook Combo" has two eggs however you want them with hash browns, toast, and choice of sausage, Duroc bacon, or ham. You can "build your own omelet" with three eggs and your choice of 12 different ingredients including Duroc bacon, sausage, ham, sharp cheddar, green onion, roasted peppers, mushroom, Jalapeno peppers, tomatoes, and two ingredients that I had to Google: Fontina, a cheese made in the Alps, and Asiago, a crumbly Italian cow's milk cheese. All omelets are served with hash browns and toast.

Owner Eddie Wu has introduced some Korean inspired dishes and sometimes has pop-up dinners with a one-night-only menu. The restaurant has most often been busy and doesn't take reservations, but we got on a list and only had to wait for 20 minutes or so to get a table. I had two regular-old pancakes with scrambled eggs and Duroc bacon. Beer is available, but it was too early in the day for me. Meridel and family had regular pancakes and shared some of the



Steve Trimble

"Pancake partners" Meridel and her daughter, Lila, at Cook St. Paul.

Korean pancakes, which they liked. After finishing our stop on the Taste Trek, we left and bade farewell to the roomful of eaters, most of whom on this morning seemed to be hipsters.

Many thanks to our 2015 donors:

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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 \$1,522.83. Won't you help us?

Sincerely,

The *Dayton's Bluff District Forum*

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

Editor: Jennifer Gascoigne Associate Editor: Mark Gallagher Assistant Editor: Apryl Cave

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