Purple pride
Nick Duncan
Forum Contributor

September 27 was a beautiful day on Dayton's Bluff. There had been strong winds 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 met 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 Weisser, 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.

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 warn 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.

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.

Dayton's Bluff
Community Council
804 Margaret Street
St. Paul, MN 55106

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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 Brueggeman. Gary’s book focuses on Minnesota’s oldest murder mystery. Signed copies will be for sale. Make your reservations at 651-237-6373. 463 Maria Ave. St. Paul, MN.

Saturday, November 14
Time: 2:00-4:00 p.m.
Poetry Workshop

Kristin Johnson, award-winning au-
thor of numerous picture books, mys-
teries, 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 its 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 cor-
er 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 ad-
dress people’s concerns about crime and other issues on the East Side. Saint Paul Police Eastern District is committed to maintaining and grow-
ning the quality of life for all our resi-
dents. Bring your neighbors, it is a great way to talk about all neighbor-
hood 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 tele-
sopes, including two giant 20-inch reflectors! The fun begins in Metro State Library Room 302 and is intend-
ed 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 sp-
pl.org or call 651-793-1699.

The Dayton’s Bluff Library shares its 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 Novem-
ber for low cost weeknight fun. Check our website for details.

Saturday, November 21: The Mounds Theatre is hosting a Klingon Christmas Carol. Door 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 ta-
bles on stage above the ring are avail-
able in advance online.

Remember, anyone who has an event, even as simple as watching their fa-
vorite show on the giant screen, can contact the Mounds Theatre with sugges-
tions!

Rehearsals for A Klingon Christmas Carol, under the direction of Bill Stitel-
er, 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 avail-
able. The Historic Mounds Theatre is lo-
cated at 1029 Hudson Road. Call 651-
772-2253; or email historicmoundsthe-
atre@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. Classes running last eight weeks and includes topics such as oper-
ations management, marketing, finan-
cial 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 in-
structor.

Those who successfully complete the course and locate their businesses in tar-
et neighborhoods are eligible for ongo-
ing business support services. Some ex-
amples of businesses started by people who have previously taken this course include graphics, landscaping, photogra-
phy, 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 in-
dependently in their homes.

For more information, contact Michele Streitz at 651-400-1650 or email vol-
tee@daytonbluffseniors.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 infor-
mation 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 advis-
or and community faculty member, but not nursing faculty. Bonnie taught in in-
dividualized 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!

The East Side Learning Center provides free one-on-one literacy tutoring to K-3 students in neighborhoods 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 our community, the East Side Learning Center always welcomes new tutors. Contact Trisha Clinesmith at trisha-clinesmith@bps.org, or at 651-793-7364.

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 neighborhoods 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.

Better than ice cream

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 island of 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 discouraged fazed as their confidence grew.

The task of reading slipped from the ‘impossible’ to the ‘challenging but doable’ range, and the armchair-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 in neighborhoods 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.

You are looking for an opportunity to change a young child’s life forever and to make a real difference in our community, the East Side Learning Center always welcomes new tutors. Contact Trisha Clinesmith at trisha-clinesmith@bps.org, or at 651-793-7364.
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 started; she graduated in 2005 with a Bachelor’s Degree in Print Journalism. Her dream was to become a journalist.

The University of Minnesota School of Journalism was Gascoigne’s next educational step; she graduated in 2005 with a Bachelor’s Degree in Print Journalism. Her dream started taking shape when she secured an internship writing for the Forum while attending the University of Minnesota.

“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, “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 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.
Unto a good land – they came

A walking tour of the historic Swede Hollow immigrant settlement

Karin DuPaul
Forum Staff

On October 11, Jim Sazevich, (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.

Sazevich 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. Sazevich 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.

Jean C. Morris

Nick Doten

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

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816 EAST 7TH STREET, SAINT PAUL MN 55106
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Rep. Sheldon Johnson wants you to know about:

DAYTON’S BLUFF SENIORS

Empowering seniors to live safely and independently in their own homes

Today’s seniors are more engaged in their communities than ever before and want to live independently where they choose as long as possible. Keeping Dayton’s Bluff’s seniors healthy and safe in their homes is a key component of their mission.

DBS helps seniors live full and rewarding lives -- in the home and community they want -- for as long as possible and as well as possible. Their teams of volunteers, students and community members provide a wide range of services and activities that give the necessary support and resources to our elderly neighbors -- wherever they call home.

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.

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/678
www.sheldonjohnson.com

Paid for by the Volunteers for Johnson Committee; 2031 Howard St. S., St. Paul, MN 55119
City prepares to revitalize “dead” park
Jennifer Herman
Forum Staff

Visitors to Margaret Park this summer described the space as dead, trashed, rundown, unfriendly, bare bones, and neglected. Dave Ronzoni and Bianca Perez 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 and the concrete steps by the parking lot will be repaired or replaced. The Earl Street entrance 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 re-opening 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.stpaulgov/index.aspx?ind=5731.

School Board Hears Proposal to Rename Harding H.S. for St. Paul Teacher/Architect Mary Colter
Patrick Hill
Special to the Forum


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 in the tone 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 selected a number of lesser types selected from the “Ohio Gang”, friends and political operatives from his Ohio days. They would be his political ruin.

Harding married until his death at 12 years old 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 illegiti- mate children. In others, extractions were paid. These were common enough that it is alleged his political cronies had even established a fund in which to pay the bribes.

The most recent revelations are found in a cache of letters that were sealed in the Library of Congress for 50 years by agreement with her family, and just released. 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.

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@dayton bluff.org along with your name and mailing address. We will contact the US Postal Service on your behalf.

New MSU Student Center
Metropolitan State University reaches another building milestone this season with the upcoming opening of the new Student Center. The temporary 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 constructed by Adolphson & 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 a flexible space to meet various program- ming needs including those which support student services, classroom space, and an inviting and healthy offering of lounge areas. In addition to informal lounge areas, there are also study and breakout spaces and a casual dining venue.

Construction of the facility started in the winter of 2014, and in the past month completed its interior and exterior finishes. The furniture and equipment will round out the final construction activities just before opening its doors to students, faculty, and staff.

Colter died in 1958 and her body was brought back to the Twin Cities to the family in Oakland Cemetery.

In promoting the recognition of Mary Colter, Trout-Oertel explained “Not only was Colter an architect, a teacher and ground-breaker, but perhaps I may be remembered with the Santa Fe Railroad to open up the West and the Harvey Company, a hospitality company that part- nered with the Santa Fe Railroad to open up the West.”

“Colter is best known for the iconic buildings she designed at the Grand Canyon including Hopi House, Phantom Ranch, Watchtower, Hermit’s Rest and oth- ers. 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 materi- als and building techniques so that she could repre- sent 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 ele- mentary and secondary education for generations. Yet they have never been recognized in the names of any Saint Paul High Schools. Warren Harding by virtue of his political and personal failures, and ab- sence of connection to Minnesota, is an unworthy namesake for any St. Paul high school, particularly one of our most values institutions.

Mary Colter considered Saint Paul her hometown; she attended school here and taught here for 15 years; she went on to earn a 50-year academic recognition as one of America’s first 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 who would like our youth to emulate. And she’s one of ours” observed Hill.
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**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 dates, birthdays and quotings 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. 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. 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.

Reminiscence of Mike Sanchelli. This, I am proud to say, is an article that I wrote. 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 peppers, and turned professional. He won a lot, lost a few, and still returns to Yarusso’s and Morelli’s after 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 vendors sell it right after the release. The cost from the Almanac web page is $17.95, including tax, shipping, and handling.

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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 Keikie 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 to 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 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.