

DISTRICT FORUM

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www.daytonsbluff.org

March 2011

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This issue of the *Forum* is four pages instead of the usual eight. We hope to return to our regular format for the April issue.

Community Calendar

Thursday, March 3, 6:30 pm
Community meeting

Monday, March 7, 21, 7:00 pm
Community council board of directors meetings

Wed. March 16, 6:30 pm
Friday, March 18, 9:30 am
Meet the police

For more information on these events: 651-772-2075 or karin@daytonsbluff.org

Take-a-Hike March 5

Take-a-Hike occurs on the first Saturday of most months. The next hike will be Saturday, March 5, at 10:30 am. Hikers meet at Indian Mounds Park at Earl Street and Mounds Boulevard.

Board Members Needed

The Dayton's Bluff Senior Block Nurse Program is a non-profit organization that coordinates in-home services for seniors residing in the Dayton's Bluff community.

If you are interested in becoming a member of its board, please contact Ted Schmidt at 651-778-3801 or ted.schmidt@bhshealth.org.

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Community Council**
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Wishes DO come true: 1 By Youth in your neighborhood

By Sage Holben

Have you been saying, "I'd like to paint the living room (or repair the fence/paint the garage), but don't have the time or money?"

1 By Youth has designated Saturday, April 30, as a Day of Service in Dayton's Bluff. Youth participants, grades 6-12, and recruited from youth groups and churches within 100 miles of Dayton's Bluff, will come together to participate in buffing up the bluff.

Local 1 By Youth coordinator Jeff Piehl has met with community partners from Metropolitan State University, the Dayton's Bluff community council, Dayton's Bluff Block Nurse Program and other community groups to establish teams: Projects, Hospitality, Public Relations, Funding, and Event Management. If you are interested in being a part of one of these teams, contact the council office at 651-772-2075.

The real stars of this project will be the residents who sign up to engage the youth (with adult supervision provided and at no cost to the resident) to paint the interiors or exteriors of their homes; repair fencing and other minor home or garage repair, landscaping or gardening, clean-up of parks, vacant lots, or around buildings. Churches, rec centers and other buildings are also eligible to receive services of 1 By Youth. Any reasonable project will be considered. 1 By Youth will provide the materials and equipment needed for the job.

Outdoor projects make a visible impact on the community's appearance; inside projects touch the hearts of those behind the doors. Get the suggested projects in early so that an assessment of materials and time needed can be made.

Interested residents can find a form on the council's website, www.daytonsbluff.org, or pick one up at the council office at 798 East 7th Street.

Strip Club restaurant to host gala fundraiser

The award-winning Strip Club restaurant is soon to host its second annual fundraiser for the Dayton's Bluff community council. Last year's event drew over 50 people to a five-course meal paired with wines and finished with dessert.

That turnout virtually filled the small club, and this year the goal is to serve 60 guests.

Organizer Stephanie Harr points out that the club is well-known for its locally-sourced food, and has been widely recognized as one of the best new restaurants in the Twin Cities.

The food is not all that impresses the Strip Club's patrons. It also boasts an 1885 facade and an ornate iron circular staircase leading to the second floor seating loft.

The event will be held at 6:00 pm, Tuesday, March 28. A portion of the \$100 cost is tax-deductible. For more information, contact Stephanie at 651-357-6293 or Harr.Stephanie@gmail.com. Make your reservation by calling the community council at 651-772-2075 or emailing karin@daytonsbluff.org.



Business Profile: Bluffside Daycare

Tabitha Benci DeRango runs Bluffside Daycare, located in Dayton's Bluff and named for the area in which it was founded. The daycare has been in operation since June of 2004.

Tabitha is an early childhood educator with a specialty in music and movement for the young child. When she was a new mother, Tabitha was inclined to be home with her own children, but she also wanted to keep teaching. Thus, Bluffside Daycare was born. The program is based on using creative arts in teaching. "I come up with intriguing themes and the children and I begin to design a room to help us learn through the intended theme. It is a very child-driven curriculum." Currently her daycare room houses an Arabian market, complete with scarf-draped market stall and traditional low Middle Eastern table surrounded by floor pillows. Her bookshelves display library books about camels, Scheherazade's tales and snake charmers.

The children enrolled in Bluffside Daycare make trips to the local library which helps to feed their curious natures. They learn the importance of practical life skills such as gardening and cooking as they dig in the daycare's vegetable and flower gardens and help Tabitha prepare snacks and meals. Also, on occasion, they pretend to travel to exciting destinations. Through research, mapping, and input from others, they learn about an area of their world. This summer Tabitha and the children will be "traveling" in a hot air balloon through the United States. Tabitha is very enthusiastic about her work in childcare. Bluffside Daycare is part of an intentional community of children and parents who all care about each other.

She says: "We become one big daycare family. There is such intense responsibility with this job, but also intense joy."

Tabitha is a founding member of the Dayton's Bluff Area Business Association and is completing a degree in Community Organization and Development at Metropolitan State University.

East Side History: Dayton's Bluff, Payne Avenue and Arcade Street in the 1940s and '50s

Historian Steve Trimble will talk about the East Side's recent past in an upcoming forum based on his article in the Winter 2010 issue of *Ramsey County History* magazine.

Entitled "It Was Like Living in a Small Town; Three St. Paul Neighborhoods That Worked: Dayton's Bluff, Payne Avenue, and Arcade Street in the 1940s and '50s," the article looks at how these communities grew during and after World War II and how the expansion of major industries brought two decades of prosperity and change. Current and former residents of the East Side are invited to come and share their memories of the era; new residents will be interested in learning how the past has helped to shape the present. The event will be held at the Dayton's Bluff community council office, 798 East 7th Street, at 6:30 pm, Tuesday, March 8. It is free and open to the public; light refreshments will be served.



Metropolitan State employees volunteer at Meals on Wheels

by Harvey Meyer

With Metropolitan State University employees offering hands-on help to the local Meals on Wheels program, a lot of gratitude is going around. Gratitude on the part of the seniors and others who regularly receive meals from the university volunteers. And gratitude on the part of the employees themselves who have been delivering lower-cost meals to East Side homes the past three years.

"Meals on Wheels is so great because a relatively limited volunteer commitment makes a very significant difference in someone else's life," said Jodi Bantley, coordinator of community service learning at Metropolitan State. Bantley recently assumed coordination of Metropolitan State employees who volunteer for the Meals on Wheels program, which operates out of Merrick Community Services, 715 Edgerton Street.

"It's not that big a time commitment to deliver these meals to people who are home bound and can't make it to the grocery store or cook their meals," said Debra Murphy, administrative assistant in Metropolitan State's administration/finance. "You certainly feel good after delivering, and many of the people receiving the meals are certainly appreciative."

About 25 university employees regularly deliver hot, home-cooked meals, usually during their lunch hours, to people on the East Side and parts of south Maplewood. The average route has about 10 recipients. Jennifer Anton, Meals on Wheels coordinator at Merrick Community Services, said the Metropolitan State employees represent a sizable portion of her 300 or so volunteers. In total, the program serves about 375 people, mostly lower-income seniors, but also some with disabilities. The volunteers provide an important service by serving unprocessed, nutritious foods, including fresh fruits and vegetables, said Anton. The meals program offers well-balanced foods that meet each recipient's dietary requirements, she said. Anton said the volunteers help the recipients remain in their homes and maintain their independence. They also check up on the recipients' well-being, which offers comfort to their caregivers. On many occasions, she said, university employees have discovered people who fell in their homes and needed assistance. Beyond that, Anton said, both volunteers and recipients enjoy getting to know each other. Metropolitan State's Murphy observed that one woman on her route always offers her a piece of candy as a small token of her appreciation. "It's really nice that Metropolitan State went out and recruited us for this opportunity," said Murphy, adding that volunteering ties in with the university's long-term commitment to community. "It takes just a small amount of time, but it is so rewarding."

Harvey Meyer is an Academic Writer/Editor at Metropolitan State.



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The next session will start in April. Class size is limited, so do not wait to apply. For an application, call Karin at 651-772-2075 or email Karin @DaytonsBluff.org.

Skidmore Park Community Garden plots

Skidmore Park Community Garden, located on 4th Street near Earl, now has plots available for Dayton's Bluff residents.

Gardeners are expected to attend a garden orientation on Monday, April 11, from 6:00 to 7:30 pm and agree to garden rules. All plots are \$25 for the season. Questions can be directed to Kayla Brinkman at 651-280-9183 or KaylaBrinkman@gmail.com.

Applications are available at the Dayton's Bluff community council, 798 East 7th Street.



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Microentrepreneur small business classes

The Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Microentrepreneur Program is taking applications for the spring 2011 class.

The program helps start-up and young businesses on the East Side. All East Side entrepreneurs are welcome. The Dayton's Bluff community council and the Neighborhood Development Center have been hosting two such microentrepreneur classes each year since 1993.

Classroom training lasts eight weeks and includes topics such as operations management, marketing,

financial management, how to create a successful business and how to prepare a business plan. 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 the course include graphics, landscaping, photography, food service, restoration of wood furniture and works of art, custom floral design for weddings and events, and exterior and interior painting.

The registration fee is an income-based, sliding scale.

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Free tax assistance and FAFSA preparation

Metropolitan State University is providing tax assistance for low-income community members and FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) application assistance from March 8-10. For more information, contact the Center for Community Based Learning, 651-793-1285 or cbl.center@metrostate.edu.

Le Painter 

Kjel Farr

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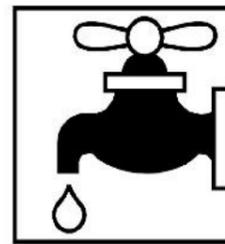
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Create your own rain garden

Rain gardens are specially designed and planted to capture rainwater and snowmelt so they can seep naturally into the ground.

On the East Side, neighborhood and environmental groups are working to encourage rain gardens as a way to "green" our communities and protect

the water quality of the Mississippi River.

Do you want to help the environment and beautify your yard? Restoration Ecologist Shawn Tracy and other local experts will be hosting a workshop designed to provide advice tailored to your property and your interests. They will help you

- design a rain garden that is right for your yard;
- choose plants that do well and look good in rain gardens;
- apply for funds to help with the cost of installation.

The workshop is scheduled for Thursday, March 10, at 6:30 pm, at the community council office, 798 East 7th Street.

Please RSVP by March 7 to Karin DuPaul at Karin@daytonsbuff.org or 651-772-2075. The workshop is free but registration is required.

Our Youth. Our Community.

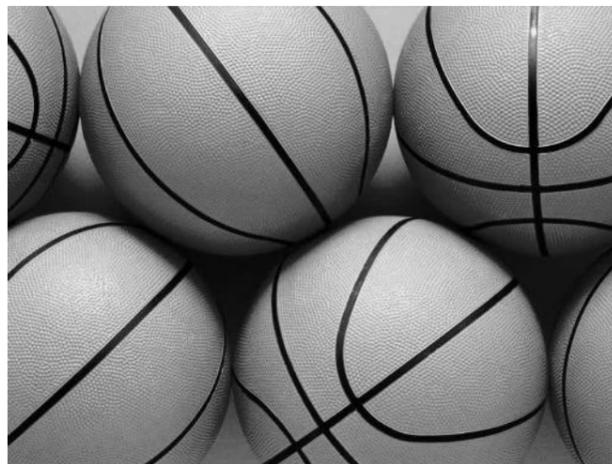
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Earl and Hudson businesses

By Greg Cosimini

It may have been a long, cold and snowy winter but there was a lot of activity in the Earl-Hudson business district. Here are a few things you may have missed while hibernating.

Greg "Chip" Olson is the new owner of the Mounds Park Lounge at 1067 Hudson Road. He promises to keep the beer mugs frosty and the live music flowing on Friday and Saturday nights.

A half block to the west at 1045

Hudson Road, Paul's Lounge has become the St. Paul Saloon under the new ownership of Nick Heidenreich. The interior has been remodeled and pulltabs are now available. Nick hopes to build an outside patio next to the Saloon this summer.

East River Eats has opened next door to the St. Paul Saloon. Owner Max McKee provides a variety of sandwiches to Saloon patrons. Take-out orders can be placed with the bartender in the St. Paul Saloon and picked up at the bar when ready. East River Eats is open from 11 am to 11 pm daily.

Down the street at the Mounds

Theatre, 1029 Hudson Road, "Knot-areel Getaway Cruise" is back by popular demand. This musical dinner theatre production will run from March 5 through June 25 with a total of 28 performances. The Mounds was recently granted one of the new liquor licenses created by the city of St. Paul for performing venues. Visit www.moundstheatre.org for more details.

Around the corner at 396 Earl, Eastside Fashion is now open for business. It sells brand name clothing as well as shoes and jewelry. For more information call 651-493-3745 or email EastsideFashion@gmail.com.

Be sure to visit our local businesses now that spring has almost sprung.

Dayton's Bluff Home Tour

This is the 15th year that the Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Home Tour is part of the Minneapolis, Saint Paul Home Tour. Dayton's Bluff has many wonderful houses of all ages, sizes and shapes.

The tour takes place Saturday, April 30, and Sunday, May 1. This year there are eight wonderful homes on the tour. Watch for the April issue which will have the list of homes on the tour.

For more information about the home tour or if you would like to help during the tour, email Karin@DaytonsBluff.org or call Karin at 651-772-2075.

Near East Side Small Area Plan Task Force set to convene March 29

In November 2010, the St. Paul Planning Commission passed a resolution initiating the Near East Side Small Area Task Force and planning process. The resolution states that the focus of the plan is on commercial-industrial redevelopment and the employment base, accompanied by an investigation into the status of housing within the study area and the transition between commercial development and surrounding residential uses.

The task force will be co-chaired by a planning commissioner and neighborhood representative, and include stakeholder representation from the Dayton's Bluff community council, the Payne-Phalen District Five Planning Council, commercial property and business owners, local educational/service institutions and community development corporations.

Task force meeting dates are set for Tuesday evenings, March 29, April 19, May 17, June 14, September 20, October 19 and November 29.

The meetings will generally be held at the Dayton's Bluff community council offices, located at 798 East 7th Street. For more information, please contact Luis Pereira, City of Saint Paul Department of Planning and Economic Development, at 651-266-6591 or luis.pereira@ci.stpaul.mn.us, or visit www.stpaul.gov/index.aspx?NID=3441 for process updates.

Dayton's Bluff Community Council invites you to...



SAVE BIG
on your energy bills and get cash back on home energy improvements.

- Attend a Saint Paul Community Energy Workshop
No need to RSVP.

Wednesday, February 16th 6:30-8:00 PM Arlington Hills Presbyterian Church 1275 Magnolia Ave East	Tuesday, March 22 6:30-8:30 PM Dayton's Bluff Rec Center 800 Conway St	Thursday, March 31 7:00 - 9:00 PM All City Central HS Auditorium 275 N Lexington Parkway
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Dayton's Bluff District Forum

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Editor and Layout: Danyelle Bennett
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