

Dayton's Bluff DISTRICT FORUM

Volume 25, No. 2

www.daytonsbuff.org

April 2012

Neighborhood Home Tour

by Karin DuPaul
Community Organizer,
Dayton's Bluff Community
Council

The annual Minneapolis and St. Paul Home Tour and the Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Home Tour will be held on **Saturday, April 28, from 10 am to 5 pm and Sunday, April 29, from 1 pm to 5 pm**. During the home tour, residents in both Minneapolis and St. Paul open their homes to the public to showcase city living. The Dayton's Bluff homes on the tour will include: 336 Maple Street, 326 Maple Street, 705 East 4th Street, 314 Bates, 1163 Reaney, 182 Mounds Blvd, 884 Mound Street, and 720 Wilson. Some of these homes

will also be highlighted on the Minneapolis and St. Paul Home Tour.

Dayton's Bluff has so many wonderful homes that each year we have six to eight homes on the combined tours. The tour shows off many of Dayton's Bluff great features: the location, Metro State, the parks, the views of the corridor and the outstanding housing options in Dayton's Bluff. Both tours are hosted by the Dayton's Bluff Community Council. Minneapolis/St. Paul tour brochures can be picked up at the Dayton's Bluff Library on East 7th Street in mid-April and Dayton's Bluff tour brochures can be picked up at any of the homes listed above during the hours of

the tour.

Many people come here year after year to see what's up in Dayton's Bluff. Some of the visitors like it so well that they have made Dayton's Bluff their home.

Volunteers are needed for the home tour. Tasks include greeting people at the door, giving out brochures and information about Dayton's Bluff, and helping the homeowners for a few hours either day. If you are interested, please email Karin@Daytons-Bluff.org or call Karin at 651-772-2075. For more information on the Minneapolis/St. Paul Home Tour visit www.mspometour.com; go to www.Dayton's-Bluff.org for more information about the Dayton's Bluff tour.

Follow-up on ICE Trainings on East 4th Street

by Sage Holben
Special to the Forum

On January 12, an ICE (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement) contingent, identified by a vehicle plate as being from North Dakota, conducted a training raid at a county-owned vacant house on East 4th Street in Dayton's Bluff. Neighbors driving through didn't know it was a practice, but thought it was an actual raid. That same day, a similar event occurred on East Conway Street. A second "raid" occurred on February 16. A neighbor, witness to both events, questioned a participant in the February "raid." The training group self-identified as being from Georgia.

Neighbors began asking more questions of the City of St. Paul, Ramsey County, and ICE.

This particular area of East 4th Street is part of

two City of St. Paul initiatives: "Invest St. Paul" and the "4th Street Preservation Project." Residents on 4th Street between Maria and Bates Avenues have experienced more than their fill of illegal activity and quality-of-life issues over the years. Roughly half the houses are vacant; some are city-owned and now being rehabbed for resale. On September 28, 2011, neighbors witnessed a fatal shooting at the intersection of 4th and Bates. Several years ago, two women, in separate incidents, were attacked outside their homes; two residents were robbed at gunpoint in front of or near their homes, one in broad daylight. Residents have witnessed raids on drug houses. These same neighbors were active in closing the drug houses and those owned by negligent owners; residents

have approached and encouraged occupants of visiting vehicles, dealing drugs, to move along. Residents have stopped the semi-trucks that were detouring from the 3rd Street truck route for prostitute and/or drug pick-ups at 4th and Maria. Long-term renters and home owners work together in raising the quality of life for this lower Dayton's Bluff neighborhood. With more vacant houses than residents on this block, the residents prove to be a small but mighty group.

The city and area builders have begun rehabbing several of the area's vacant houses and, with that, hope for more stability has surged. Hope has been expressed that some of the many immigrant families would choose to plant their roots here. This lower Dayton's (See Trainings, page 2)

Vea la página
4 para el
artículo
"Marcha por
los derechos
de los
inmigrantes
1ro de mayo."

New Neighborhood Food Co-op?

by Stephanie Harr
Dayton's Bluff Maven of Merrymaking

Are you interested in shopping at a new food co-op on the East Side? Come to an information sharing event on **Thursday, April 26, from 7 to 9:30 pm** at the Water and Oil Gallery. The gallery is located at 506 East Kenny Road, two blocks north of 7th Street at Payne Avenue and just north of the Minnesota Music Cafe. Talk with members of the steering committee who have been working on this project since last fall. Hear about the work that has been going on, share opinions about what you'd like to see, and enjoy beautiful artwork and music by local band, The May North. Light refreshments will be available.

For more information or to get involved, email east-coop@gmail.com or look for "St. Paul East Side Co Op" on Facebook.

Inside this Issue

What's happening – Know what's going on in Dayton's Bluff. **Pages 2 and 3.**

Opportunities – Ways to get involved in the community; chances to connect people with resources. **Pages 4, 5 and 6.**

People in your neighborhood – Who is making a difference on the East Side? **Pages 7 and 8.**
Contribute your own content at editor@daytonsbuff.org.

My First Year

by Deanna Foster, Executive Director, Dayton's Bluff Community Council

I have a few reflections to share upon completion of my first year working in Dayton's Bluff. This being an "April Fools" edition of the District Forum, I'd like to assure you that I've been the fool numerous times in the past year. I had so much to learn about the Community Council, the people and politics of the East Side, the geography of Dayton's Bluff (you really can't get there from here), the rich history and pride of the lifelong East Siders, and the remarkable diversity of the new residents (those who have lived here less than how many years? 30? 40?). Historically speaking, some foolishness is a real asset. Right here on the East Side, a 3M researcher said "*If I had thought about it, I wouldn't have done the experiment. The literature was full of examples that said you can't do this.*" That researcher was Spencer Silver, discussing the work that led to the unique adhesives for 3M Post-It Notepads.

So I'm thinking there's a lot more to believe in, a lot more things to try that everyone knows "can't be done." It's too soon to tell what will come of some of our ideas, but the Council is working hard to open up to change. We've established an Equity Committee that seeks to create a neighborhood free of systemic and institutional inequities. We do this by ensuring that equity be made a priority consideration in all decisions, work plans and actions of the Council and its partners. One of the goals for 2012 is to provide an equity

framework for the review and evaluation of the impact of Council programs and decisions on ethnic minorities and other underrepresented communities in Dayton's Bluff. This idea was unthinkable back in 1962, the same time the Beatles got this rejection from the Decca Recording Co.: "*We don't like their sound, and guitar music is on the way out.*" Let's hope we don't close the door to the talent right here, just because we don't like the music.

The Council is also rethinking our relationship to residents. We want to expand the leadership and voice of the community to include renters and others we don't often see at the table. This effort is not easy, especially for a historically homogeneous group, but we're willing to try. The main approach we're taking is to be open and welcoming to differences and unexpected talents and gifts that exist among us. Dayton's Bluff CAN (Community Asset Network) is an effort to talk with residents about their values, ideas and talents, rather than the inadequacies we see in them. The wisdom of that approach is well documented in a now-famous exchange: "*We went to Hewlett-Packard, and they said, 'Hey, we don't need you. You haven't got through college yet.'*" --Apple Computer Inc. founder Steve Jobs on attempts to get HP interested in his and Steve Wozniak's personal computer.

In my first year I realized, we may have the next Steve Jobs in our neighborhood.

**Dayton's Bluff
Community Council
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What's happening?

Stay up-to-date on events in Dayton's Bluff each month with the *Forum's* "What's happening" section. Report news to editor@daytonsbluff.org.

TRAININGS (*cont'd from page 1*):

Bluff neighborhood is a pocket of diversity in income, education, and cultures. Besides white and African-American renters and owners, this area is also home to a dense immigrant population of Karen, Latino, Hmong, and Somali families, many of whom have left war-torn countries to build new lives in safety and security. ICE trainings strike more fear into already-vulnerable residents. Each ICE training creates a more formidable barrier in driving families out, destroying the possibility of rehabbed home sales, and most of all, in sending the message that people who live in this area hold no value; that the quality of life of our children and families has no value.

Initial contacts with the St. Paul Police Department, County Commissioner Rafael Ortega, and City Council President Kathy Lantry noted that that ICE, also known as "the Feds," had not notified the County Sheriff, SPPD, County Commissioners, or residents in the area of the planned training. One source indicated that the Feds had informed the East Side District Police just hours before the actual training. This contact appears to have been a simple statement and not following any communication protocol. Feds insisted they had sent out post-cards notifying residents. No residents verified receiving notification in any form. Furthermore, if notification were actually to be done by postcard, renters would not necessarily be noti-

fied, as the cards would go to property owners and not renters/residents. On March 6, a 4th Street resident presented the ICE activities to the City of St. Paul Human Rights and EEO Commission. The HRECO heard the plea from the struggling neighborhood and promised its support of a "cease and desist" demand to stop ICE trainings in residential areas of St. Paul.

On March 7, Ramsey County Homeland Security Director Judson Freed notified Sage Holben, East 4th Street resident and Community Council board member, that the "county has stopped allowing the use of its property until and unless we can work out a process to guarantee that incidents like this don't happen again." Mr. Freed made very clear that the County made only a piece of property available. This was in no way county approval or, as one Dayton's Bluff resident termed it, "sanctioning" of ICE activity. Neighbors and Community Council have been assured that Property Records and Revenue Department will stop allowing use of these properties until and unless a workable new process has been put into place.

In the meantime, Dayton's Bluff Community Council, in conjunction with the City of St. Paul Human Rights Commission, is writing a letter to appropriate departments demanding an unqualified "cease and desist" of ICE trainings in residential areas.

Lantry, Ramsey County respond to citizens' reactions to ICE trainings

After reading about the ICE raids in the March Forum, Dayton's Bluff resident Dr. Mary Ann Heidemann contacted City Council President Kathy Lantry and Ramsey County Manager Julie Kleinschmidt.

The exchange follows:

While reading the Dayton's Bluff District Forum newspaper, I was shocked to see the photo and article about recent Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) "Practice Raids" held in Dayton's Bluff during January and February. One of the "raids" was held on Conway, just a block away from my home.

I cannot imagine what [city and county officials] were thinking to allow this type of armed invasion of a residential neighborhood, with no warning or notice given to the residents.

I bought my home in Dayton's Bluff 15 months ago, and put a great deal of time and elbow grease into repairing, improving and re-occupying it. Hosting phony police raids around the corner from my house is not my idea of a thank you or welcome from the city or county.

I can't help but wonder what resident reaction [St. Paul and Ramsey County] would have received if an armed ICE practice raid had occurred in Cathedral Hill instead of Dayton's Bluff.

The whole affair is a demonstration of extremely poor judgment by those involved. Please help the city and county show more respect for the east side in the future. Thanks for your efforts to avoid a repeat performance.

Sincerely,
Dr. Mary Ann Heidemann

Dr. Heidemann,
I share all of your same concerns and I can tell you that my office knew nothing about this activity. The property where the exercise occurred is owned by Ramsey County (although St. Paul is just about to purchase it for redevelopment) and someone in their Property Records Division gave permission to ICE to use it. The St. Paul Police Department was given about 2 hours' no-

tice that this exercise was going to occur.

I have asked the Police Chief to insist that this sort of thing not take place in Ward 7. The District 4 Community Council has conferred with the St. Paul Human Rights Commission and they will be writing a joint letter to the Ramsey County Administrator, Julie Kleinschmidt, to ask Ramsey County to cease and desist these types of activities in St. Paul. I have communicated the situation, and my displeasure with it, to

Ramsey County: "...We will not be allowing any agency to utilize tax-forfeited properties for training purposes."

the county commissioner for the area, Rafael Ortega and asked him to intervene to make sure this does not occur in the future.

I am hopeful that all of these steps will ensure that this sort of training exercise NOT take place in our neighborhood again.

Thanks,
Kathy Lantry
President, Ward 7, St. Paul City Council

Response from Ramsey County:

In February 2012, the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency (ICE) held a training at a tax-forfeited property in the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood.

The property in this case is owned by the State of Minnesota as a tax forfeit property. Ramsey County is the agent for this property. In the past, Ramsey County has allowed other local, state and federal agencies to use tax-forfeited properties throughout the County for training purposes without incident.

This training can be important to law enforcement and fire agencies because it presents the opportunity for their officers to develop skills and practice tactical exercises, such as serving warrants, hostage negotiation, or confined space

entry. Continuous training ensures that residents are not injured or unnecessarily disrupted when these agencies have an actual emergency situation to which they are required to respond.

In this case, there was no live ammunition used in the exercise. ICE Agents were practicing a terrorism response protocol, not an immigration raid as some sources suggested.

We allowed Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to utilize this property for a training exercise based on our previous understanding with them. The County did not sponsor or "sanction" this training exercise — it was conducted by ICE, a Federal law enforcement agency. Specifically, the County instructed ICE to notify neighbors of the training prior to the activity.

Unfortunately, ICE did not notify neighbors.

As a result, we are reviewing our policies to better understand how to avoid a situation like this in the future, while still ensuring that these agencies have access to real-world training opportunities that ensure public safety. In the interim, we will not be allowing any agency to utilize tax-forfeited properties for training purposes.

Letter to the editor

Help, not hinder, authorities

"*What's happening?*" could not be a more accurate title for the article that I **can not** believe I just read! What's happening INDEED! I have been a resident on the East Side/Dayton's Bluff area for the majority of my 48 years. Up until December 2012, I was a homeowner. I worked for St. Paul Schools for nearly 27 of those years.

Are we now publishing helpful hints on how to evade the law? The Arts and Cultures Committee is now providing a how-to list on withholding information from law enforcement, how is this going to make our community "better?" Isn't it our civic duty to cooperate and assist our police and law enforcement officers in order to make our community more safe and crime-free?

How can you now be encouraging residents to "withhold information," to, more or less, hide in their homes, to "stay silent"? I am appalled. If, and I quote, "many Dayton's Bluff residents are frightened and intimidated by what appears to be a large-scale enforcement action...," what are they "frightened and intimidated" about? That they may be caught being "illegal"?

Our law enforcement has difficulty enough doing their job, trying to protect and serve, I'm sure they too will be pleased to now have more people providing no information when they ask questions, more people, (legal immigrants or not), closing doors in their faces, "staying silent," and possibly allowing more crimes to be committed.

What kind of message is this sending to our children? To our community as a whole? That it is all right to alienate (no pun intended) your morals and values if you are an immigrant in St. Paul? Don't concern yourself with what is right and just; don't make any effort to *improve* our community; let our city and state continue to be brought down by the effects of overpopulation, poverty, higher crime rates, joblessness, housing foreclosures, inadequate or nonexistent housing, and our overcrowded classrooms?

"If you are confronted by authorities, stay silent"? I must strongly disagree! And ask that as a community we join together to cooperate and assist our authorities in making our neighborhoods a safer, more friendly place to live.

Dawn S. Keller



Photo by Greg Cosimini
The destruction of Dayton's Bluff continues as this house at 1002 Conway is razed in early March. This same house sold for \$250,000 in 2004 and has now been reduced to rubble, as have a number of others in our neighborhood.

Local political town hall meeting

Forum staff report

The Minnesota Legislature is now in session, and a crowd of 30 or more people came to hear state officials Senator John Harrington and Representative Sheldon Johnson, both DFL members, to talk and answer questions at the Progressive Baptist Church on Burns Avenue.

Rep. Johnson made the opening remarks, explaining that although there was a current positive budget forecast of \$323 million, the money was already dedicated to repaying the Minnesota schools and filling some "rainy-day" funds.

He also pointed out that this was a year when state bonds were allocated and covered what St. Paul was hoping to get, such as improvements for Como Zoo, a regional baseball park for the Saints, and a science building for Metropolitan State University.

Constitutional Amendments

Senator Harrington introduced the topics of various constitutional amendments that were being pushed by the majority Republicans: definition of marriage, the so-called "right to work," "required voter ID," and requiring 3/5 majority for statewide tax increases. Both he and Johnson were opposed to all of them.

While the Senator and Representative agreed on almost all of the issues, they diverged on the Vikings stadium debate. Johnson was clearly against using public money for the construction. Harrington was for it, favoring the Arden Hills site but adding that he was against including a Target Center fix-up as part of any agreement, since it would put the Xcel Energy Center at a competitive disadvantage.

Time was left for the audience to make their suggestions and voice concerns. Some of the issues they brought up included: the impact of cuts in health and human services; the lack of state funding for St. Paul schools; and opposition to any "raiding" of the "Legacy Funds."

One listener spoke out strongly on the recent state shutdown, calling it "a humiliation."

There may well be other gatherings in the future if you missed this meeting. This is a good time to personally contact your state legislators and let them know what you want or what is bothering you. Contact Representative Johnson at 651-296-4201 or email him at rep.sheldon.johnson@house.mn. Senator Harrington can be reached at 651-296-5285 or sen.john.harrington@senate.mn.

Dayton's Bluff Seniors

by Karin DuPaul

DBCC Community Organizer

The Dayton's Bluff Seniors (DBS) Living at Home/Block Nurse program, located at 463 Maria Ave, began in 2008 in partnership with the University of Minnesota. Our mission is to serve the community with health-related care to the elderly and the disabled. From a base office in the First Lutheran School at 8th Street and Maria Avenue, efforts focus on helping aging Dayton's Bluff residents live independently while remaining in their own homes as long as possible. The program initially supports elder independence through education to seniors and related care providers in the area of in-home safety, with special emphasis on fall prevention. Referrals come from family members, clinics, clients, and community service providers such as Senior Linkage and Merrick Community Services. DBS nursing staff then makes home visits to determine the individual's needs for specific safety and care resulting in recommendations for services and support.

Dayton's Bluff Seniors has established several ongoing programs to assist seniors and the disabled who live in the Dayton's Bluff Area. The five main programs are highlighted below.

· Love Grows Here Wellness Center – The Center is a collaborative of three community partners: First Lutheran Church, Metropolitan State University, and Dayton's Bluff Seniors. At this Center, participants learn the importance of wellness as it pertains to mind, body, and spirit through the use of alternative and traditional methods of pain and stress relief. Services offered include, but are not limited to the following: blood pressure checks, healing touch therapy/Reiki healings, chronic disease care, health education, nutritional education, medical triage and referrals, foot care, and community suppers. The intention of the Center is to support community members who

may not be able to afford these services, while training future community health care providers. For the uninsured and under-insured we desire to offer a community wellness model to support the transition from a life of homelessness and vulnerability to one of stability and safety.

· Parkway Gardens Wellness Center – This Center provides a safe and confidential place where seniors can learn to monitor their health and obtain advocacy, coaching, and referrals when needed.

· Project Awareness – This project provides senior healthcare and disease prevention education, and available resources and policy education. The goal is to educate the community, seniors, healthcare workers, and politicians about healthcare issues, needs, and overall economic and social benefits to families and the community alike.

· Project Destination – Utilizing a broad base of DBS community volunteers, this project provides seniors with transportation to and from doctor appointments, grocery stores, and various recreational opportunities.

· Wilson Hi-Rise Wellness Center – This new Center comprises a clinic set up within St. Paul Public Housing at 1300 Wilson Avenue. In partnership with the University of Minnesota, DBS brings foot care and wellness monitoring to the residents in the building, while providing valuable training for the nursing students assigned to participate.

For more information about the Dayton's Bluff Seniors Living at Home/Block Nurse Program, call Maryann Chowen, PHN and Executive Director at 651-776-7210 x 303.

From Raeann Ruth, Mounds Theatre Executive Director:

Durang! Durang! at the Mounds Theatre

Durang! Durang!, a double bill by playwright Christopher Durang, is being presented at the Mounds Theatre, 1029 Hudson Road, St. Paul on **April 13 at 7 pm and April 14 at 2 pm**.

Durang! Durang! illustrates the responsibilities of power in comic satire. Featured on the bill is *Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All for You* preceded by the curtain raiser, *The Actor's Nightmare*. The plays are produced by Metropolitan State University's Theater Underground, Student Life, and the Communications, Writing & Arts-Theater Program.

Both plays share a common premise: We receive scripts at birth, and then life is a matter of how you play the role. You can either follow a particular script (the dogma of *Sister Mary*) or else sample various ones (snippets of text from classical and modern drama of *The Actor's Nightmare*).

The featured play revolves around a nun, Sister Mary Ignatius, fixated on sin in all its forms. Delivering a cautionary lecture, her unwavering dogma, combined with the absurdist nature of the play, add elements of biting comedy. The play's stark criticism of Catholicism has led to controversy since it first premiered in 1979. Some conservative Catholics were offended by the play's stereotyping and attempts have been made to keep the play from being produced throughout its history—the protests reaching all the way to the National Endowment for the Arts and the U.S. Senate.

Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All for You will be preceded by *The Actor's Nightmare*, and the plight of George, a mild-mannered accountant and non-actor who gets thrown onstage with no knowledge of what play he's in. In an aside to the audience, he tells us that he has lost his faith (lost his lines) and so, spiritually and existentially, he has to wing it.

There is no charge to Metropolitan State students; general admission is \$5.

Educated rodents coming to the Mounds Theatre

The Historic Mounds Theatre is proud to present live on stage "The Amazing Maurice and His Educated Rodents." Stephen Briggs adapted this play from the novel by award-winning writer Terry Pratchett.

One rat, popping up here and there, squeaking loudly, and taking a bath in the cream, could be a plague all by himself. After a few days of this, it was amazing how glad people were to see the kid with his magical rat pipe. And they were amazing when the rats followed him out of town.

They'd have been really amazed if they'd ever found out that the rats and the piper met up with a cat somewhere outside of town and solemnly counted out the money.

The Amazing Maurice runs the perfect Pied Piper scam. This streetwise alley cat knows the value of cold, hard cash and can talk his way into and out of anything. But when Maurice and his cohorts decide to con the town of Bad Blintz, it will take more than fast talking to survive the danger that awaits. For this is a town where food is scarce and rats are hated, where cellars are lined with deadly traps, and where a terrifying evil lurks beneath the hunger-stricken streets....

Set in Terry Pratchett's widely popular Discworld, this masterfully crafted, gripping story is both compelling and funny. When one of the world's most acclaimed fantasy writers turns a classic fairy tale on its head, no one will ever look at the Pied Piper -- or rats -- the same way again!

Dates: **April 27, 28, May 4, 5, 11, 12 at 7:30 pm**

April 29, May 6, 13 at 2 pm

Tickets: \$15 adults, \$10 senior and students and \$6 for children under 12. To purchase tickets please go to our website at www.moundstheatre.org.

The Historic Mounds Theatre is located at 1029 Hudson Road, St. Paul, MN 55106. 651-772-2253, www.moundstheatre.org.

Rummage Sale

Mounds Park United Methodist Church, Earl and Euclid Streets

Saturday, April 28, 9 am – 2 pm

Clothes \$5 per bag – Household items as marked

Something for Everyone!

Peace vigils to resume in April

As the weather warms and the days get longer, peace activists are starting to emerge from winter's hibernation. On **Tuesdays, April 3, 10, 17 and 24, at 5 pm**, Eastside Neighbors for Peace will resume their peace vigils at the corner of East 6th Street and Mounds Boulevard. The group will focus on the new threats to peace from Washington's saber-rattling aimed at Iran. Picket signs will be available, or bring your own. All are welcome.

You can find **Eastside Neighbors for Peace** on Facebook.

Bridging Cultural Understanding at Metro State

This school year, Metropolitan State University has presented a series of introductions to various cultural communities. Each session has covered a brief history of that month's selected culture, as well as information about traditions, names, identity, communication, family structures, belief systems, and health.

One session remains, highlighting the LGBTQ Community, on **April 11 from 11:30 am-1 pm**. The event is free and open to the public; light refreshments or dessert will be provided. No RSVP required; call 651-793-1542 for more information.



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Opportunities

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***Dayton's Bluff Seniors******Spaghetti Dinner & Silent Auction Benefit***

Saturday, April 21st at 5:00pm at 463 Maria Avenue, St. Paul, MN

Advance ticket purchase appreciated~ \$12-\$15 suggested donation

A benefit for Dayton's Bluff Seniors LAH/BNP

Please join us for:

Music by: Ella Reid***The May North******The Barra Band******Door Prize Drawing***

For questions call: 651-776-0550 Karin

Looking for more April fun?

Check out the Forum's Facebook page.

Happy April from the Dayton's Bluff District Forum!

Wind generator design finalized

by Craig Go Simminy – Special to the Forum

April 1, 2012 – After a series of contentious discussions, a design for the new Metro State University wind generator to be built in Dayton's Bluff has been finalized.

"Getting a design acceptable to all the groups involved wasn't easy," said a spokesperson for the city of Saint Paul, "what with environmentalists, historic preservationists, code inspectors, engineers, members of Occupy Dayton's Bluff, and even some real people all putting in their two cents worth."

That may be the understatement of the century, as anyone who has viewed the YouTube videos from some of the meetings can attest.

What they came up with was a tried and true design of European origin. The wind generator will blend in with the architecture of the neighborhood, is relatively quiet, bird-friendly, and could become a major tourist attraction if anyone decides to build a miniature golf course around it.

An engineer on the project stated, "This is what happens when something is designed by committee. Let's put it this way. It will barely generate enough electricity to operate a flashlight but it does position Dayton's Bluff to meet the demands of the 18th century should there ever be a need around here to pump water or grind corn. You've got to see this thing to believe it."

The readers are asked to do just that. Please look at the photo accompanying this article and ask yourself, "Would I want a thing like that in my backyard?" Call or email one of your elected officials and tell them what you think about it before construction begins on April 1.

***Marcha por los derechos de los inmigrantes
1ro de mayo***

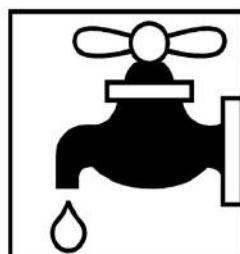
El Comité de Artes y Culturas del Consejo Comunitario de Dayton's Bluff está respaldando la Marcha por los derechos de los inmigrantes este año. Es una organización de varias en una amplia coalición que apoya los derechos de los inmigrantes y todos los trabajadores. La marcha se llevará a cabo el martes, 1ro de mayo, Día Internacional del Trabajador. La Coalición Primero de Mayo también incluye el Comité por los Derechos de los Inmigrantes (MIRAc), Centro por la Tierra, Energía y Democracia (CEED), Centro de Trabajadores Unidos en la Lucha (CTUL), Comité Salvadoreño de Minnesota, y Mujeres en Liderazgo. La marcha empezará en Lake Street y Nicollet Avenue en el sur de Minneapolis a las **3:30 pm**. Si quiere ir juntos con vecinos del barrio, llámele a Kelly Lundeen en 715-933-1941.

Más información aquí: www.mirac1.wordpress.com

March for Immigrant Rights May 1

The Arts and Cultures Committee of Dayton's Bluff Community Council is endorsing the March for Immigrant Rights this year. It is one of several organizations in a broad coalition that supports immigrants' and all workers' rights which will take place on Tuesday, May 1st, International Worker's Day. The May 1st Coalition includes Minnesota Immigrant Rights Action Committee (MIRAc), Center for Earth, Energy and Democracy (CEED), Center of Workers United in Struggle (CTUL), Comité Salvadoreño de Minnesota, and Mujeres en Liderazgo. The march will start on Lake Street and Nicollet Avenue in South Minneapolis at **3:30 pm**. If you would like to accompany neighbors from the East side, call Kelly Lundeen at (715) 933-1941.

For more information: www.mirac1.wordpress.com

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Dayton's Bluff
Neighborhood Housing Services
823 7th Street East
St. Paul, MN 55106
651.774.6995-office
www.dbnhs.org



Happy April from the Dayton's Bluff District Forum!

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by Craig Go Simminy – Special to the Forum

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That may be the understatement of the century, as anyone who has viewed the YouTube videos from some of the meetings can attest.

What they came up with was a tried and true design of European origin. The wind generator will blend in with the architecture of the neighborhood, is relatively quiet, bird-friendly, and could become a major tourist attraction if anyone decides to build a miniature golf course around it.

An engineer on the project stated, "This is what happens when something is designed by committee. Let's put it this way. It will barely generate enough electricity to operate a flashlight but it does position Dayton's Bluff to meet the demands of the 18th century should there ever be a need around here to pump water or grind corn. You've got to see this thing to believe it."

The readers are asked to do just that. Please look at the photo accompanying this article and ask yourself, "Would I want a thing like that in my backyard?" Call or email one of your elected officials and tell them what you think about it before construction begins on April 1.

A boisterous buffet of beetle burgers

by Treve Cymbal – Special to the Forum

Remember the swarm of Japanese Beetles that devastated a lot of St. Paul plants last summer? As many of you already know, this swarm of the invasive species has a voracious appetite. At first they were focusing in on roses, but showed that they were just as apt to feast on grape vines and eventually even trees. If your yards have been hit by these hungry insects, it's your chance to fight—or perhaps the word should be "bite" – back.

An anthropologist from Metropolitan State University has discovered that these pests have been used as food by at least one indigenous group in Asia. "The Ainu of Japan consider the insects as a delicacy and they appear in much of their cuisine."

Metro State is also currently researching the culinary possibilities of Emerald Ash Borers.

A taste test has been held at the local college using several historic recipes and it has been determined that while this kind of food seems unusual to western tongues, the Japanese Beetles are quite edible. "When prepared properly they are a crunchy, tangy and really tasty," one student said between bites.

So instead of just picking Japanese Beetles off your plants and crushing them or putting them into soapy water, you can use them as condiments, salad ingredients or special appetizers.

It might be best to use tested recipes, which can be obtained from Karin DuPaul at the Dayton's Bluff Community Council at 798 East 7th Street. She can mail them out. If you are interested, the youth garden workers of the local Community Design Center will be giving a workshop on the preparation and use of Japanese Beetles at the Community Council offices on **April 1 at 6:00 pm**. Space is limited, so to register, please call Karin at 651-774-2096.



Dayton's Bluff Spring Dinner

Want to get to know folks and connect with people in our area? It's our annual neighborhood party that moves from location to location! We are looking for participants, including hosts and homes to be our buffet dining sites. Typically, the evening is divided into three events: appetizers, desserts, plus one home for the all-participant session that is the finale. The first dinner was held about 18 years ago with about a dozen people attending and since then, this event has become very popular! Now we have about 50+ people participate.

Whether you are a longtime resident or a newcomer to Dayton's Bluff, your participation is necessary for the event to take shape and make it the vibrant affair that it has become. It's a great way to meet, greet and mingle with your neighbors!

The Dayton's Bluff Spring Dinner will be held on **Saturday, May 19**. Participants should be 21 years and up and a resident of the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood. Interested? Contact Marjorie Smith, event coordinator, at 651-778-1075.

Small business classes

The Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Microentrepreneur Program is taking applications for the **spring 2012** class, which will start in **May**.

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

Classroom training lasts ten weeks and includes topics such as operations management, marketing, financial management, how to create a successful business and how to prepare a business plan. In addition, each student will have eight hours of one-on-one time with the instructor to work on individual business concepts. Those who successfully complete the course and locate their businesses in target neighborhoods are eligible for ongoing business support services.

The registration fee is based on a sliding scale. Class size is limited, so don't wait to apply. For an application, email karin@daytonsbuff.org or call her at 651-772-2075.

Monthly Community Meeting

The next Dayton's Bluff community meeting is **Thursday, April 5, from 6:30 - 8 pm** at the Dayton's Bluff Community Council office, 798 E. 7th Street. The council holds a community meeting on the first Thursday of most months. The object is to work on community-building, as well as problem properties, criminal and nuisance behavior, code enforcement issues and any other issues, concerns or good things going on in the Bluff.

Each month, neighbors and block club members have good discussions with code inspectors and police share good discussions about how to make Dayton's Bluff a better place to live.

If addresses of problem properties are submitted before the meeting, they will be sent to police and code enforcement officers who will research the properties and bring relevant information to the meeting. All Dayton's Bluff residents are welcome to attend. Contact karin@daytonsbuff.org; 651-772-2075.

Take-a-Hike April 7

Take-a-Hike occurs on the first Saturday of most months. The next hike will be **Saturday, April 7**. Hikers meet at **10:30 am** in Mounds Park at Earl Street and Mounds Boulevard, and walk to East Side Heritage Park. The hike is about two hours (four miles) with some moderately rough terrain. Transportation to Indian Mounds Park is available, if required. All are welcome.

Meet the police

The Eastern District Police hosts its monthly meetings for community members at 722 Payne Avenue at the corner of Minnehaha Avenue.

The next meetings are on **Friday, April 20, at 9:30 am, and Wednesday, April 18, at 6:30 pm**. The meetings are intended to listen to and address concerns about crime and other issues on the east side.

Friends of Swede Hollow

Meetings are on the second Wednesday of the month, generally at Water & Oil Gallery, 506 Kenny Road, or at members' homes. Please call for location. The next monthly meeting is on **Wednesday, April 11**, starting at **6:30 pm**. For more information, email swede hollow@gmail.com or call 651-776-0550.

Donate your junk car

Budget Towing of Minnesota will remove your junker and dispose of it at no charge to you. The vehicle owner receives a tax deduction, and the Dayton's Bluff Community Council will receive a donation. Call 651-772-2075 or email june@daytonsbuff.org.

Home Tour

The Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Home Tour and the Minneapolis/St. Paul Home Tour will take place on **Saturday, April 28, from 10 am-5 pm, and Sunday, April 29, from 1-5 pm**. We are looking for volunteers to help with the Home Tour. If you are interested in helping, or for more information, please contact Karin: 651-772-2075 or karin@daytonsbuff.org.

Seeking donations

The *Forum* runs on a shoestring budget, so we'd be delighted if you included us in your monetary contributions. If you value this community resource, consider donating a few dollars. We are a 501(c)(3) registered nonprofit, so your donation is tax-deductible. Call 651-772-2075 for more information. And thank you!

WANTED: Forum Board Members/Treasurer

The *Forum* needs fresh faces for our board. Put in as little or as much time as you wish! Please email editor@daytonsbuff.org or call 651-772-2075 for more information.

Bloggers wanted

Do you blog about Dayton's Bluff? Let us add you to our blog roll! Email editor@daytonsbuff.org with details.

Annual parks clean-up

Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary, Indian Mounds Park, Swede Hollow Park, as well as the recreation centers are looking for volunteers to help clean up.

Or you can get some of your neighbors together and clean up your neighborhood and the city will pick up the trash.

Clean-up day is **April 14, 2012 from 9:00 am to noon**. St. Paul Parks and Recreation Department is hosting an annual Citywide Clean-up event. Groups or individuals can sign up at www.st-paul.gov/parks/environment (registration is not required, but is preferred).

Each spring, approximately 1,000 community volunteers unite to remove tons of trash from St. Paul's parks, natural areas, recreation centers, and neighborhoods. This important event helps ensure the beauty, safety and environmental health of St. Paul.

Volunteers pick up their supplies at one of four Kickoff Celebrations across the city or email karin@daytonsbuff.org or call 651-772-2075 before **April 10** and she will pick up the supplies for you.

Gardening Workshop

"The Dos and Don'ts of Buying Plants and Seeds On Line" Learn how to make the right choices when purchasing plants and seeds on line. **Tuesday April 10 at 6:30 pm** at 798 East 7th Street. Email karin@daytonsbuff.org or call Karin at 651-772-2075 to register.

Metro Paint-A-Thon

Is your house screaming for a new paint job?

The Metro Paint-A-Thon is here again to help senior citizens and people with physical disabilities in order to continue to live independently in their own homes. No matter what the challenges, they are committed to providing the same highly-quality service, FREE of charge to eligible homeowners in Metro area. The Metro Paint-A-Thon scraped, primed and painted around 150 houses each year.

To get an application for yourself or for a neighbor, please download at www.paintathon.gmcc.org. Questions? Please contact Molly Chandler at 612-276-1579 or mchandler@gmcc.org.

Wilder Foundation

Opportunities

Entrenamiento de Liderazgo Latino

Tenemos el gusto de anunciar el Programa de Liderazgo Latino para latinos que quieren aumentar sus habilidades y conexiones para involucrarse más en la comunidad. El programa es parte del Programa de Liderazgo en el Vecindario del la Fundación Amherst H. Wilder que tiene 15 años de existencia en St. Paul.

Para más información sobre el programa y el formulario de inscripción, visita www.wilder.org/wcc.0.html.

Puede entregar el formulario antes del final del día el 17 de abril de 2012.

El programa es en español y es totalmente gratis. Esto incluye comida; el cuidado de niños y el transporte (estos dos últimos con un uso limitado). Abajo hay información sobre el programa en inglés. Por favor, ayúdanos a compartir esta información con mujeres latinas con niños en las escuelas públicas de St. Paul que puedan tener interés en ello. Si tiene alguna pregunta sobre el programa, por favor, llame o escriba a Pierre Cejudo en la Oficina del Distrito de las Escuelas Públicas de St. Paul al pierre.cejudo@spps.org o 651-767-8194.

Latino Leadership Training

We are pleased to announce the Latino Leadership Program for Latinos who want to strengthen their skills and connections to get more involved in the community. It is part of the Amherst H. Wilder Foundation's Neighborhood Leadership Programs, which have been in existence for over 15 years in St. Paul.

For a flyer and application for the program: www.wilder.org/wcc.0.html. This information is in Spanish since the program is for Spanish-speaking men and women. We would greatly appreciate your help sharing the flyer and application with individuals who may be interested in this program. Please note, it is coming up quickly and **applications are due Tuesday, April 17**.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact PattiJo Verdeja at the Amherst H. Wilder Foundation at 651-280-2457 or pattijo.verdeja@wilder.org or to speak with a Spanish speaker please call Pierre Cejudo at the St. Paul Public Schools District Office at 651-767-8194 or pierre.cejudo@spps.org.

To learn more about Wilder's leadership programs and for an application, visit www.wilder.org/wcc.0.html.

Mounds Park United Methodist Church Easter Egg Hunt

When: **Saturday, April 7, at 2 pm**

Where: Indian Mounds Park; Egg Hunt will be at the pavilion located at the end of Earl Street.

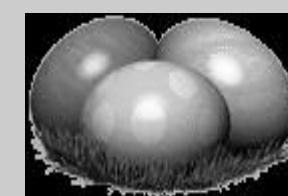
Who: One area for children six years of age and younger and a separate area for 7- to 12-year-olds.

Sponsored by Mounds Park UMC Venture Crew and Youth Group.



Please also join us for worship on **Easter Sunday, April 8, at 10:30 am** at Mounds Park United Methodist Church, 1049 Euclid Street.

Children will carry lilies up to the altar at the beginning of the service. All are welcome.



Call for artists

by Karin DuPaul, DBCC Community Organizer

Art in the Hollow will be **June 2, starting at 10 am** in Swede Hollow Park. Enter from Payne and Beaumont east to Drewry Lane. Artists and performing artists are welcome to apply at www.artinthehollow.org and find us at www.facebook.com/artinthehollow.

Swede Hollow Park – just a mile from downtown St. Paul – feels 100 years away.

This, the first neighborhood in St. Paul's immigrant history, lies languorously all spring waiting to bloom in June with open air artists and performers. Our tradition of nurturing and showcasing local talent continues with the honor of premiering award-winning composer Ann Millikan's (www.annmillikan.com) 40-minute opera. Weaving back and forth through time in sound and song, "SWEDE HOLLOW" unfolds an original musical perspective of Mexican, Italian and Swedish lives on the land that holds their memories.

Free and open to artists and audience alike, this event – guided by Friends of Swede Hollow and its Advisory Panel –

showcases emerging and established artists living in and representing past and current cultural communities. Visual artists continue a rich Swede Hollow tradition of painting *Plein Air* – in the open air – alongside a panoply of media ranging from sculptors and weavers to glassblowers and photographers. On-site creation is our goal: Artists in Action! the result. Throughout the day on stage, Hmong and Native Dancers, Italian accordionists, Mexican Mariachis, and Swedish fiddlers are joined by African-American R & B, American Bluegrass music, and Hmong spoken-word poets. Audiences have come down to discover a deeper beauty, finding art at its roots.

Art in the Hollow is sponsored by: Friends of Swede Hollow, University Bank, Metropolitan Regional Arts Council though the Arts and Legacy Grant Fund, local business and individuals. All ages are welcome; it is FREE and handicapped-accessible. For more information contact Romi Slowiak, Project Manager at Romi@artinthehollow.org or 763-913-4382.



Photo courtesy of Karin DuPaul

A strolling mariachi band entertained the crowd at the 2011 Art in the Hollow.

LANDMARK CENTER

The Landmark Center in downtown St. Paul presents its Urban Expedition series on **Sundays from 1-3 pm**. Admission is free; free parking is available on the street and in the Macy's parking lot. **April 15: India** (Co-sponsored by India Association of Minnesota (IAM)); **April 29: Norway** (Featuring the music, dance and culture of Norway). Also, the "Uncle Sam Worked Here" history conversation series returns to the Landmark Center this spring with three free public programs on **Saturday mornings: March 31, April 14 and April 21 at 9:30 am**. Reserve your spot: 651-292-3063 or ksmith@landmarkcenter.org.



Instead of watching TV, make TV!

If you have the **desire to produce television** to express yourself, to get your point across, to help your neighbors, or to change your community for the better, we can help!

SPNN
Saint Paul Neighborhood Network

(651) 224-5153
www.spnn.org

375 Jackson St., Ste 250
Saint Paul, MN 55101

Art Open Fundraiser

by Tabitha Benci DeRango

Every once in a while an idea forms itself into sheer brilliance! Whether in art or in life!

Come and explore with us and help send Emma Wunrow to her dream art school, The Rhode Island School of Design (RISD).



An original painting by Emma Wunrow.

Emma is my neighbor. She has lived in the Dayton's Bluff area all her life. She has been a wonderful presence for us since we moved into the community over eight years ago.

Please join us and explore Emma's and other youth artists' works. Have a mocktail and purchase some art for yourself and for gifts for others. You will be promoting the dream of this young girl and you'll have a treasured piece of art.

April 13 is the day, and 5 to 9 pm is the time.

Emma is special to us because she has formed lasting bonds with many children in our community, including my own. She has volunteered her time and used her skills to paint a mural at a home for battered women and children. She has also recently completed a

mural of a whomping willow in my daughter's room that will be on display at the sale.

She attended the Perpich Center for Arts Education in her last two years of high school. Her art career started there. Perpich pushed Emma to develop a diverse portfolio of works in mediums including acrylic, oil, graphite, and charcoal. That portfolio earned her an acceptance letter from RISD, one of the country's top art schools. Her studies include portraits and self-portraits. She has also produced landscapes, still lifes, and surrealism.

The sale will be held at the DeRango residence (*à la* art gallery for the evening), located directly across from St. John's Catholic Church on 5th Street East.

We look forward to seeing you.

Vacant Home Tour

Are you concerned about vacant homes on your block, on your street and in your neighborhood?

A group of neighbors are too and are doing something about it! On Sunday, May 6, from 1 - 5

pm, the Dayton's Bluff Community Council's Vacant Building Committee is hosting the 2012 Dayton's Bluff Vacant Home Tour.

The purpose of the tour is to let potential home owners know about the opportunities that exist to acquire and restore a home in the community of Dayton's Bluff. The Vacant Building Committee is working with the City of St. Paul, the St. Paul Area Association of Realtors, area housing advocates and Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Ambassadors. However, to ensure a successful 2012 Dayton's Bluff Vacant Home Tour, we need your help:

Homes - Identify a vacant home on your block that could be restored and would be appropriate for the 2012 Dayton's Bluff Vacant Home Tour.

Publicity - Promote the Tour on your website, blog, social media page and/or assist with creating and distributing the advertising necessary to ensure a successful 2012 Dayton's Bluff Vacant Home Tour.

Sponsorships - To help cover expenses, make a contribution to the 2012 Dayton's Bluff Vacant Home Tour.

Neighborhood Ambassadors - Represent the Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood at one of the homes during the 2012 Dayton's Bluff Vacant Home Tour.

Pick one, or all four! and contact Karin DuPaul, Dayton's Bluff Community Council – Community Organizer

651-772-2075 or karin@dayton's-bluff.org or Brad Griffith - Vacant Building Co-Chair 651-263-2830 or brad@bradgriffith-realtor.com

Together we can make a difference in Dayton's Bluff.

MOUNDS PARK BARBER STYLISTS

APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE
TUESDAY THRU SATURDAY



651-771-6980
Judy Lee

1043 HUDSON ROAD
SAINT PAUL, MN 55106

Dayton's Bluff bits from a century ago

by Steve Trimble, Forum staff

So what was going on in Dayton's Bluff a century ago? I decided to check the St. Paul *Daily News* to find out. At least to see some of what was happening--things that the newspapers of the time thought were worth mentioning.

Like today, daily life was not usually covered. Things done by groups, businesses, schools, government matters as well as weddings, births and deaths and unusual occurrences, frequently social disturbances. What I found is a mere fraction of what happened, but newspapers are one of the few ways to understand our past and, hopefully, to allow this knowledge to inform people's actions today.

One of the first things I discovered in the April 1912 issues of the *Daily News* is that things that groups today think are new ideas have been around a long time. Take the project of St. Paul's Home Garden Club. They were a charitable group that promoted the growing plants in backyards, schools and plots around the city.

Their focus was on "practical vegetable gardens" and they already had found "a number of lots" in Dayton's Bluff and other areas and had raised money to give out free seeds. Some of the groups getting the seeds included the Old People's Home, the Detention Home for Boys and the local Home for the Friendless—I still am amazed at that last name was ever used. They also wanted to help out what they called "the worthy poor."

There was one difference back then. They limited their search for gardening sites to vacant lots and unlike some of the groups today, did not press the St. Paul Parks Department to allow "privatizing" of city parks for personal use of public land. It might be interesting to jump forward in the paper and see how the program worked out.

At least one community was developed in the Spring of 1912. The paper reported that a new "temporary detention" home for girls at 665 East 7th Street was getting ready for its May 1 opening. The Juvenile Court Committee of The Guild of Catholic Women was keeping a close look at the institution.

They wanted to get a teacher and school equipment just like the boys' home had. Looks like there was some gender discrimination at the time. The Guild committed some of its efforts to sewing clothes for the Catholic girls who needed them. They did mention, however, that there was a Protestant and Jewish organization they would look after the needs of others. I wonder if similar groups tend to the need of incarcerated girls today?

In the middle of the month there was less room for neighborhood events, because the ocean liner *Titanic* sunk in the Atlantic on April 15, 1912. Stories about the fateful event filled the pages for many issues. No one from Dayton's Bluff was directly affected, but a few St. Paul people appeared in the items. A good deal of space was given to the April 26 arrival in the city of a group of survivors.

There apparently was still enough column space available to include mentions of crime in the neighborhood--the sort of things that newspapers seem to love to report. There was the case of Mrs. Theresa Martin of 52 Phalen Creek, who pled guilty to petty larceny. She had been arrested for shoplifting five pairs of boys' trousers from a downtown store. She told the court she had a new baby and four other children, which may be the reason that the judge showed mercy and suspended the fifty dollar fine.

Soon after, the paper reported that Dudley Mack had been arrested on suspicion that he stole William Hamm's automobile. After the brewery owner discovered it was gone, the car turned up abandoned in front of the Viceroy Café at 7th and Cedar. Two weeks later it was announced that Mack had been freed since no one had witnessed him taking part in the crime.

A third event in early April, which the paper referred to as "a neighborhood row," occurred near Earl Street. A couple living at 901 Hudson walked down to number 916 where, for some reason, they were refused entrance. A fight ensued, fists flew; one of the women was dragged by her hair. There were arrests, but no one went to jail. The judge dismissed the charges because the "evidence was so conflicting."

I probably could have filed up a whole article with information from the classifieds of the St. Paul *Daily News*, but I also didn't want to ignore them as a source of historical information, in this case on rental property. Here's an example of local ads in the April 13, 1912 issue of the newspaper. "Flat—upper duplex; just remodeled; modern except heat; walking distance. Key at 361 Maria," one of them read. The term "walking distance" probably meant that you could live there and easily hoof it downtown.

Two other locations were a little outside "walking distance." "A nice bright front bedroom, everything modern, use of telephone, \$8 per month; also small front bedroom, same as above \$6 per month. 964 Hastings." The other stated "Four rooms, upstairs flat, modern except heat. 1354 Reaney St. Call after 6 pm." Once again the "modern" except for heat. I'm not sure what that meant. Any ideas, readers?

Like today, obituaries were a part of local newspaper. Unless you were "important" the notices were short. One caught my eye and I did a little extra research. It concerned Henry Gehring's death from uraemic poisoning. I looked that up and it was defined as an illness accompanying kidney failure. A baseball almanac revealed that Gehring was 26 years old when he broke into the big leagues on July 16, 1907 with the Washington Senators.

He pitched for them for two years, but at the time the 31-year-old died in April, 1912 he was playing for the Kansas City Americans of the American Association. His wife rushed from their 739 Conway home on a train to Kansas City to be with Henry. He died in her arms. The funeral services were from the residence and the services at the German Reformed Church at Reaney and Forest.

The other death of note was that of Andrew Stolpestad of 406 Maple. The prominent real estate agent died of pneumonia on April 9, 1912. As was traditional a hundred years ago, a funeral was "held from the residence," followed by services at the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church. Coincidentally, the next issue of Ramsey County History will contain an article on the Stolpestad family written by his grandson Jim. Maybe we can get him to give a talk somewhere in Dayton's Bluff.

VIEW FROM MY PORCH: Look beyond the Blue

by Sage Holben, Special to the Forum

St. Paul Police Department, on Wednesday, March 7, graduated the 18th session of its Citizen Police Academy (CPA). I'm proud to say I am one of the new graduates. The academy, funded by the Chief's own budget, offers St. Paul residents, age 21 and older, an opportunity to receive a micro version of officer training. It's interesting to learn of other participants' experiences and expectations as the course evolves. The ultimate goal is that the participant will gain knowledge of an officer's training; a better understanding of policies and procedures that govern the actions of St. Paul police officers; and for the department to gain a better perspective of issues important to residents and to open communication between the department and residents.

Additionally, for residents who wish to serve on the SPP Citizen Internal Affairs Review Commission, CPA participation is a prerequisite. Many opportunities for volunteer involvement are available for youth and adults and do not require Citizen Police Academy training. A call to Don Luna at 651-266-5583 or an email to don.luna@ci.stpaul.mn.us will start the process to registering for a future CPA or for one of the many other opportunities.



A visit to the SPPD website gives a listing of class sessions (6:30-9:30 for 11 Wednesday evenings). Our instructors were officers and leaders in their fields. Classes included learning the why and how of carrying out actions; how policies are applied; how and when force is applied, defensive tactics; making the decision of when to shoot or not to shoot; patrol and criminal investigation procedures; dispelling the NCI crime lab myths and learning the realities; bike and horse patrol, ordinance disposal (includes bombs); community policing, SWAT, Internal Affairs, narcotics and gangs, and so much more! Classroom teaching always had ample time for questions and answers.

Of course, 'hands-on' training was the most fun! Like kids of all ages, we like to be active and display what we learn! We spent time on the training room mats working our way through scenarios common to officers who have to make split-second decisions when interacting with a person and the real threats involved. It's not like TV, folks! We used laser guns to test our "shoot/don't shoot" reactions to scenarios based on real life events. I learned quite a bit about myself and how quickly I do or don't react in shooting someone. We learned techniques in using the baton on someone threatening us, and physical tactical maneuvers using only our body parts. I will have to admit, my favorite sessions were on the gun range, firing an M-16, and the taser session. I was tased with three different methods. (I love being in the library and saying "I was tased three times" as someone walks by. I wonder what they think as they give me a surprised look). A note to others: this is all volunteer and each person decides whether s/he wants to physically participate in an activity. Truthfully, the most frightening part of this was being fingerprinted. I felt as if I were giving up a part of myself. I got over the tasing, but not the fingerprinting.

The title of this piece is important to me. Throughout our sessions we were building relationships. We also were receiving and sharing some insight and getting to know the human side of people who sometimes appear as never smiling, iron-clad robots. I'll never forget my feelings during the RNC as I walked the downtown streets and many times faced what appeared to be four or five Darth Vaders who appeared ready to lunge at me given the slightest threat. It'll probably happen again in my lifetime. However, at our last class session was an officer who shared why he chose this profession. Like so many, though certainly, not all, he wears the blue because he wanted to make a positive difference in people's lives. I am glad to say I have met many, many St. Paul police who make a positive difference, and only two or three who have made a negative impression. This officer encouraged us to remember we are all human; have good days and bad days. We don't know what's happened in another's life just before our paths cross, but we can keep a positive perspective if we "look beyond the Blue" and see the person.

Don Luna, I hope your phone doesn't stop ringing with requests to participate in CPA! Call Don at 651-266-5583 to register for a Citizen Police Academy training.

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People in your neighborhood

People make up the fabric of Dayton's Bluff. Who makes a difference to you? Email editor@daytonsbuff.org.

Upcoming opportunities at... Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center



**The Dayton's Bluff Rec Center is located at
800 Conway Street.**

Stop by and check us out!

Congratulations to the 12 & under Boys Dayton's Bluff Basketball Team who won the City Championship!!!

The players are: Matthew Martinez, Jedi Nzah Thao, Kshai Harris McCalister, Kendall Norman, Salvador Torres, Michael Brown, JaeQuan Willis, Expedit StanRypa, Dayvonn Jackson, Rayzonn Jackson, Josh Bhupram, Jaide Pressley.

Register for Summer Sports the first week in April.

Free Zumba Classes at Dayton's Bluff every **Thursday 6-7 pm** in our dance room.

Yearly Fitness memberships for St. Paul Residents \$30 yearly (Dayton's Bluff has a fitness center).

Girls group meets every **Thursday 7-8 pm**.

For more information please contact 651-793-3885.

Lunch with the Bunny at Battle Creek Recreation Center on **March 31 from 11-1pm**. \$3 per person for pre-registration or \$4 per person at the door. Please contact 651-501-6347 for more information.

Meet the Editor: Meg Gronau

by June Bennett, DBCC Administrative Assistant

"I have always loved to write," says Meg Gronau, Editor of the Dayton's Bluff District Forum. "I even try to have fun writing the grocery list."

Writing is how Meg became involved with the *Forum*. Back in 2008, she was attending and volunteering at ECFE at Dayton's Bluff, and wrote a *Forum* article about retiring ECFE parent educator Mary Ann Cogelow.

"It sort of snowballed from there," Meg said. "Beloved teachers kept retiring, and I kept writing about them for the *Forum*. When I saw the opening for an editor, I thought it might be something I could do."

Meg wrote and edited for her high school and college newspapers. She grew up in a suburb of Chicago and attended Winona State University, where she graduated with a degree in Mass Communications and met her husband, Joel. After graduation Meg wrote marketing copy for the Spiegel catalog, Consumers Digest, and Liberty Check Printing Company, while also working at project management and editing.



In 2000 Meg got a job coaching the Spring Lake Park High School dance line and she and Joel moved from Chicagoland to St. Paul. In 2001 they bought their house on the East Side. Meg loves to dance and has a lot of experience teaching it. She choreographs and teaches ballet, tap, jazz, and hip hop; musical theatre and show choir; and swing, Latin and ballroom dancing. She currently teaches for Mayer Arts and Ashland Productions. She and Joel also have two young children.

But that is not all – last year Meg decided to try out for the Minnesota RollerGirls' roller derby. And, yes, she made it. She loves the exercise and the competition.

She has been with the *Forum* now for a full year, and we are very pleased to have her. So let's keep her busy with the ads and stories of Dayton's Bluff!

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

798 East 7th Street, St. Paul, MN 55106

Phone: 651-772-2075 Fax: 651-774-3510

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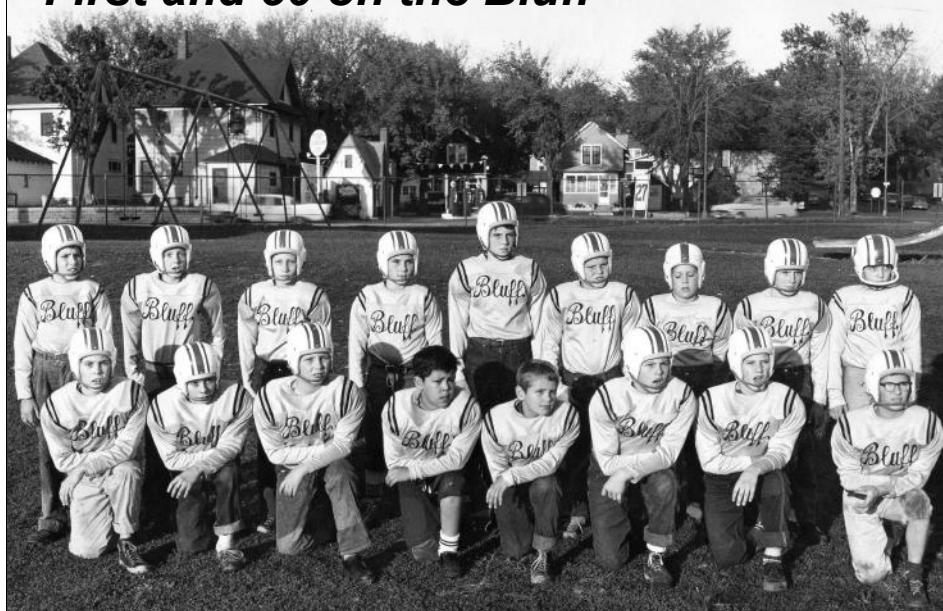
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First and 50 on the Bluff



Jim Rasmussen of Bates Avenue writes:

I was cleaning my attic when I came across an old picture of when I played Pee Wee football for Bluff playground. I think the picture is from around 1961 or 1962. People just love the picture, if for nothing else than the gas station in the background with the 27-cents-a-gallon sign. I am unable to remember everyone's name in the picture, but it would be fun to have a campaign to name everyone in it.

*Here's who Jim remembers: front row, left to right: Don Henderson, Chopper Black, Jim Rasmussen, Randy Yanis, Jim Humphry, Dave ?, ?, Klaus Kruchek; back row: ?, Joe Magnuson, Junior Stack, Bob Connelly, Gordie ?, and the last four are unidentified. Readers, do you recognize any faces? A larger image is posted on the *Forum* facebook page.*

Email Jim at lesjames@comcast.net; perhaps a reunion is in order.

Where in Dayton's Bluff?



The photo at left must've been quite a stumper; it remained unidentified by *Forum* readers. It's at 971 4th Street. So let's try this again! Can you identify the photo at right? The *Forum* regrets our lack of color capability, but we assure you that, in real life, the image is bright with primary colors.

Can you find it in Dayton's Bluff? Submit your answer to editor@daytonsbuff.org by midnight on April 10 for the chance to win a pack of postcards.

