

DAYTON'S BLUFF

District Forum

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July 2012

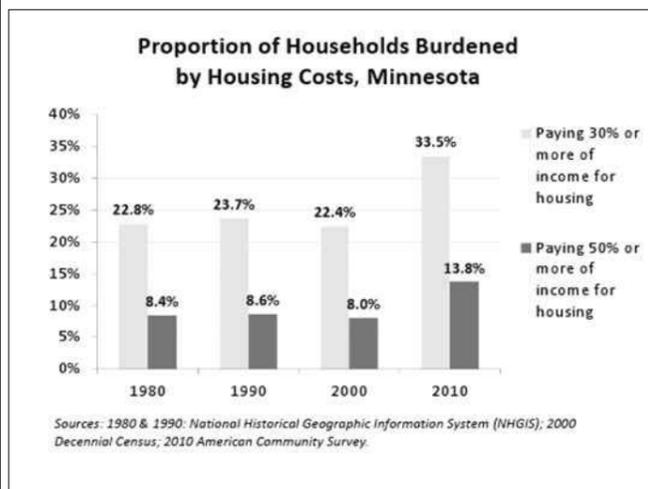
Community Council sponsors first Forum

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

On June 5, over 50 members of the neighborhood participated in a community discussion of housing related issues. The meeting was the first in a series of Forums that offer residents an opportunity to share their ideas, listen to each other and seek common ground for action that improves the quality of life for all in Dayton's Bluff.

The participants viewed a short presentation of housing statistics that painted a bleak picture of the status of housing foreclosures and vacancies on St. Paul's East Side. Related data that gives a picture of the impact of this national housing crisis on local neighbors created a thought-provoking look at the challenges we face in Dayton's Bluff.

A commonly recognized indicator of community, family and individual well-being is housing affordability. The generally accepted definition of affordability is for a household to pay no more than 30% of its annual income on housing. Families who pay more



for housing are considered cost-burdened and may have difficulty affording necessities such as food, clothing, transportation and medical care.

We also looked at the impact of housing-related issues on our students at Dayton's Bluff Elementary School, where homelessness and lack of stable housing lead to increased stress on families and students.

The Forum participants divided into six groups, each of whom discussed the Principles and Values that define our Vision for Housing in Dayton's Bluff. Each group discussed and completed the following three phrases:

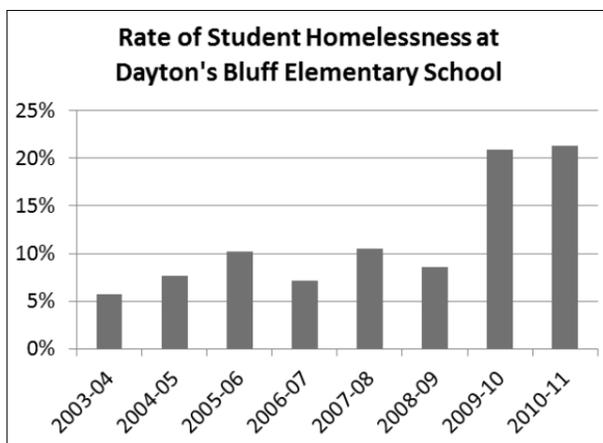
- "As a community we believe that everyone who lives here should..."
- "Every house/living situation should provide and/or be..."
- "Regardless of age, gender, culture, or abilities, each of us should be able to..."

The reports from each group expressing the top two or three values discussed in the group showed that there is truly a budding common vision for our community.

Many said how much they appreciated the time to discuss important issues with neighbors and the opportunity for everyone to be heard. There is a lot of enthusiasm for the follow-up Housing Forum that will be held this fall.

A number of participants volunteered to meet and put together a report that captures the conversations and provides a blueprint for next steps in our efforts to promote quality housing in Dayton's Bluff.

The Housing Forum was sponsored by Dayton's Bluff Community Council in partnership with East Side Family Centers of the Neighborhood House, Dayton's Bluff Elementary School, and Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Housing Services and was held at the Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center.



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Make it Happen on East 7th Street: UPDATE

by Tabitha Benci DeRango
Business Development Coordinator for
"Make it Happen"

held at the Dayton's Bluff Community Council office, 798 East 7th Street and participants can choose to attend at either 11:00 am or 5:00 pm; whichever suits your availability. For information

7th Street Night Out: A local Business Fair is a community celebration for all ages! Come to 7th Street from 5:00-8:00 pm and play "DB Monopoly" by visiting local businesses. Everyone will receive giveaways and a chance to win a top prize in a drawing at the end of the night. All our businesses will be street-side to greet and share goods and services information.

A \$500,000 investment in East 7th Street businesses received a recommendation for full funding by the Neighborhood STAR Board. The final step in the approval process is for the City Council and Mayor to support full funding. This program is sponsored by

the Dayton's Bluff Community Council and will support capital improvements for businesses in the Make it Happen district. The \$500,000 program requires a minimum dollar-for-dollar matching funds, thus ensuring a \$1,000,000 reinvestment in existing building exteriors and interiors. The resulting capital improvements will increase street attractiveness, enhance individual business appeal, draw new businesses to the area to fill vacancies, and help retain and grow the businesses currently operating.

The **Make it Happen business owners** will hold their first meeting on Thursday, June 28. The agenda includes discussion of the district assessment (which features input from over 60 local business owners) and helpful information about improving business signage and street appeal. The meeting is being

or copies of the Business Assessment, contact Tabitha Benci DeRango at 651-332-9069.

Cleanup/Fix-up work in the business district involves cooperation of businesses, resident volunteers and many city departments. Did you notice that the city crews painted the traffic bollards in the triangle at Arcade and East 7th Street? Next will be paint for the railing fences at this intersection. The St. Paul Forestry department came out to fix some failing brick work in the sidewalks and delivered mulch for our street planting project. Next they

will be back to trim the trees. Little things add up and it is great to begin to see the city crews at work in our neighborhood. Thanks, St. Paul!

Beautification/Greening involves many volunteers helping to remove weeds and replant flowers in the tree wells in the business district. Many businesses donated money, residents brought perennial plants from their gardens and Greening Minnesota donated some flats of annuals to add color. The local businesses are charged with keeping up with watering and maintenance. Mounds Park United Methodist Church's Urban C.R.O.S.S. group put in a full day and completed two blocks of plantings. It was very hard work and greatly appreciated. Thank you to all for participating in our business district beautification efforts.

Dayton's Bluff
Community Council

**Make it
HAPPEN**

East 7th Street
**NIGHT
OUT**

A Local Business Fair
Family Fun • Food • Prizes

**Friday
August 17
5-8 PM**



Photo by Stefan Pomrenke

The *Wakan Tipi*, also known as Carver's Cave, in the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary, was defaced by graffiti. The vandalism has since been removed; see article on page 4.

Upcoming Events and Opportunities

Get connected; participate in community activities. editor@daytonsbluff.org

Monthly community meeting

The next Dayton's Bluff community meeting is **Thursday, July 5, from 6:30-8:00 pm** at the Dayton's Bluff Community Council office, 798 East 7th Street. The object is to work on community-building, as well as criminal and nuisance behavior, code enforcement issues and any other concerns or good things in the Bluff.

Don't miss the July meeting for your chance to win a 7modo 3-channel Digital Video Recorder Surveillance System, featuring:

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- Dynamic quad view and smart web viewer
- Smart motion detection
- User-friendly DVR menu with remote control
- Four-color security cameras

Please submit addresses of any problem properties to karin@daytonsbluff.org or 651-772-2075 before the meeting. All Dayton's Bluff residents are welcome to attend.

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@daytonsbluff.org.

Take-a-Hike July 7

Take-a-Hike occurs on the first Saturday of most months. The next hike will be **Saturday, July 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's next meeting will be **Friday, July 20, at 9:30 am** at 722 Payne Avenue at the corner of Minnehaha Avenue.

The second June meeting will be a potluck, on **Wednesday, July 18, at 6:30 pm**, held at East Side Heritage Park at Phalen Corridor and Neid Road. The meetings are intended to listen to and address concerns about crime and other issues on the Eastside.

Friends of Swede Hollow

Meetings are on the second Wednesday of the month. Please call to confirm the location. The next monthly meeting is on **Wednesday, July 11 at 6:30 pm at 622 Beaumont**. For more information, email swede-hollow@gmail.com or call 651-776-0550.

National Night Out

by Karin DuPaul

Community Organizer, Dayton's Bluff Community Council

Join one of the many celebrations—or plan your own!—in Dayton's Bluff on National Night Out (NNO), **Tuesday, August 7, 2012**. NNO, held on the first Tuesday each August, has been extraordinarily successful in promoting involvement in crime- and drug-prevention activities, strengthening police-community relations, and encouraging neighborhood camaraderie as part of the fight for safer streets.

Since 1984, "National Night Out—America's Night Out Against Crime" has grown to involve over 34 million people from more than 10,000 communities.

Neighbors, neighborhood groups, and block clubs are planning a variety of events, including a neighborhood barbecue, a potluck, an ice cream social, a live band, a volleyball game, or simply sitting on the front porch chatting with neighbors.



National Night Out is the only opportunity to secure a FREE permit to block off your street, and you must apply by **July 31**. You may also request a visit from the Police and Fire Departments. Would you like special units like the K-9 unit, the horse-mounted police, or the motorcycle patrol to visit your street?

For more information, help planning your NNO event, and registration forms email karin@daytonsbluff.org or call 651-772-2075.

You can also get information, application forms and other materials at www.stpaul.gov/index.aspx?NID=4552. A complete list of Dayton's Bluff National Night Out events will be printed in the August issue of the *Forum*.

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

- **Teen and Youth open gym**
Open gym space for teens and youth to participate in basketball, volleyball, dodge ball, etc. Teens age 13-18 must show a school ID to participate. Call 651-793-3885 for information.
- **Free Zumba class** on Thursday nights from 6:00-7:00 pm in the Dayton's Bluff Rec Center dance room.
- **Bluff Club (for boys and girls ages 11-14):** Make a difference in your neighborhood. The Bluff Club helps out at holiday parties and special events selling concessions and participating in teen opportunities! For more information please call Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center at 651-793-3885.
- **Night Moves basketball league at Harding High School**
There will be two leagues consisting of six teams each on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:00-8:30 pm. Players can still be accepted if roster space is available. Night moves will be held at the Harding High School field house. If you have questions, please call Dayton's Bluff Rec Center.
- **Free Summer Lunch program** will be offered again this summer for kids 18 and under from June 12 - August 24. We will offer hot lunch from noon-1:00 pm and snack from 4:00-5:00 pm.
- **Fall sports registration July 9-20**
We will be registering for soccer and flag football at the Dayton's Bluff Rec Center. Tackle football registrations will be at Conway Recreation Center (Harding Area) 651-501-6343 or Wilder Recreation Center (L.E.S.) 651-298-5727.
- **Community camp July 27 at Conway Recreation Center: "From the hood to the woods"** Community camp will teach families the basic fundamentals of camping. At your local recreation center, you will learn to set up a campsite and what to bring camping; make s'mores; play games; participate in a campfire program, and sleep under the stars. For more information, call 651-501-6343.
- **Rockin' Eastside 5k**
Sunday, July 29 at Phalen pavilion. Race begins at 8:30 am. \$25 registration fee includes a shirt and a drawing for door prizes. For more information please call 651-793-6600 or visit www.stpaul.gov/parks.
- **Movie Mondays**
We will show movies in the Dayton's Bluff Rec Center theater all summer long on Mondays. Ages 12 & under 4:15 pm - 6:00 pm and 13-18 6:15 pm - 8:00 pm. Requests for movies must be made by 4:00 pm each Friday. The movie with the most requests will be shown.

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

651-793-3885

Stop by and check us out!

This July at the Mounds Theatre

by *Raeann Ruth*
Executive Director of the Mounds Theatre

AMERICAN MEAT

On **July 17** from **7:00-9:30 pm**, the Historic Mounds Theatre is showing "American Meat," a pro-farmer look at chicken, hog and cattle production in America. Beginning with a history of our current industrial system, the feedlots and confinement operations are unveiled, not through hidden cameras, but through the eyes of the farmers who live and work there. From there, the story shifts to Polyface Farms, where the Salatin family has developed an alternative agricultural model based on rotational grazing and local distribution. Nationwide, a local-food movement of farmers, chefs, and everyday people has taken root...but could they ever feed us all?

The ticket price for "American Meat" is \$10 at the door.

WILD BURLESQUE KINGDOM

July 28 is Toil & Trouble's next production at the Historic Mounds Theatre! Wild Burlesque Kingdom takes you into the wild to observe burlesque performers in their natural environment: on stage! Join us as we perform acts dedicated to our furry, feathery, and scaly animal friends.

The evening's emcee will be Mrs. Smith, cat lover extraordinaire (recently featured on America's Got Talent)! Wild Burlesque Kingdom stars Lula Houpp Garou and Jett Adore of the Stage Door Johnnies, and features Cruel Valentine, Musette the Mistress of Mischief, Elektra Cute of Blackhearts Burlesque, Adrian Chip, Barney Dale, and the Toil & Trouble gals: Mona Montague, Opiumm Hayze, and Ulla Umlaut.

Shows are at **7:00 pm** and **10:00 pm**. Tickets are \$15 pre-order/\$20 at the door. VIP tickets are \$30 in advance or \$35 at the door. Buy tickets at www.brownpaperticket.com/event/254721. For more information visit www.toilandtroubleshow.com or www.moundstheatre.org.

TWILIGHT OF THE MISSISSIPPI

On **July 14**, the Historic Mounds Theatre presents "Twilight of the Mississippi," a feature-length documentary following the epic journey of a theatre troupe as they build a raft and travel down the Mississippi River. The film uses real footage from their trip to weave together a series of vignettes featuring people from various river towns creating a rich tapestry of modern life on the Mississippi. Winona LaDuke, the National Park Service, a Dakota activist, industrial farmers, fishermen, river rats, spiritualists, a shaman, street poets, pirates and the Army Corps of Engineers; here is the flowing movement, the tragedy, and absurd humor of America's back alley.

Admission is free. Check our website at www.moundstheatre.org for times.

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

Mark your calendar for family fun at the RAMSEY COUNTY FAIR July 11-15

from a Ramsey County press release

The 99th Annual Ramsey County Fair will feature five days of fun-filled activities at the County Fairgrounds near Aldrich Arena on White Bear Avenue at Frost in Maplewood. It has been the intent of the fair planners to make this annual county fair a participation experience as well as a spectator's experience. Youth and adults can compete in all of the educational exhibits (cooking, sewing, crafts, gardening, etc.) for ribbons and cash prizes. Winners in the talent contest will enter into the Minnesota State Fair competition. There will be a variety of entertainment: daily bands; kids can be "farmer for the day;" car show; kiddie pedal tractor pull; children's petting zoo; pig races; Agricadabra show; fireworks, carnival rides, parade and more. Commercial exhibitors, food vendors and carnival rides round out the fair activities. For a complete list of events and times, call the county fair office at 651-770-2626 or visit www.ramseycountyfair.com. Admission to the County Fair is free.

St. Bernard's BCT to perform at Mounds Theatre

by *Jenica Domanico, special to the Forum*

A new community theatre is starting to put roots down in Dayton's Bluff. With the support of The Historic Mounds Theatre, Bulldog Community Theatre will be producing its first full length stage production *The Importance of Being Earnest*, by Oscar Wilde, **June 29 and 30, and July 1**. The Bulldog Community Theatre (BCT) formed in the Spring of 2010 from the remnants of the drama department of the late Saint Bernard's High School of Rice Street. Knowing the school was soon to be no more, and having experienced the amazingly close-knit community of the theatre, a group formed to maintain that connection. The BCT is now made of many members, some who have no original connection with Saint Bernard's school. They are always looking for anyone interested in being involved with community theatre.

The Importance of Being Earnest, Oscar Wilde's most well-loved play, is a witty British romantic comedy where two women fall in love with two men, but each female meets some confusion as the man she loves is not who he portrayed himself to be. Social class, appearance, and social norms add to the confusion and miscommunications. The drama ensues with earnest affections and all find someone to embrace in the end.

"The good ended happily, and the bad unhappily." – Oscar Wilde, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, Act II

Show times are **7:30 pm on June 29 and 30, and 2:00 pm on July 1** at The Historic Mounds Theatre of 1029 Hudson Road, St. Paul, MN 55106. Tickets are \$12.00 for Adults and \$8.00 for Students. The Mounds Theatre will be providing refreshments and some community members will be selling their wares as well. If you are interested in helping the BCT theatre as an actor, board member, or donor please contact Andrea Shelton at 651-646-6846 or Ali Riehle at bulldogcommunitytheatre.design@gmail.com.

Open Eye Theatre Driveway series

Puppet Show performance at Indian Mounds Park

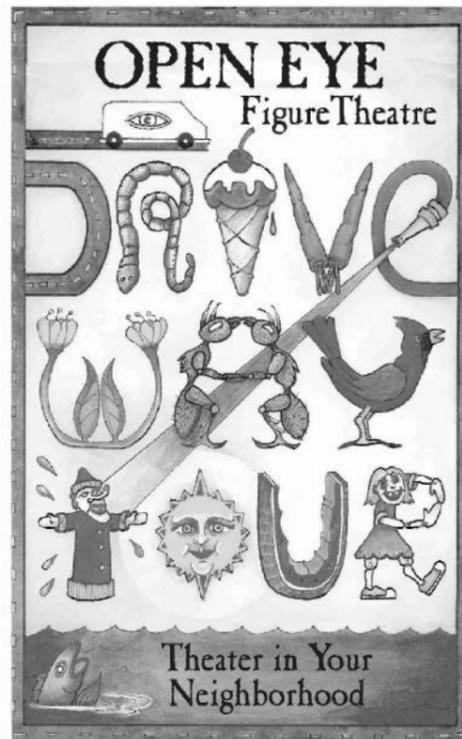
by *Holly Windingstad, Dayton's Bluff ECFE parent/volunteer*

Come young, Come not-so-young, come all puppet lovers to see one of a kind theatre!

Join us for *The Adventures of Juan Bobo* at Indian Mounds Park on **Friday, August 3**. The journey begins at **7:00 pm** by the main pavilion at the end of Earl Street. This show promises to entertain and delight audiences of all ages.

For Juan Bobo, the world is upside-down and he is going to do something to turn it right-side-up! Inspired by Puerto Rican folk stories, the show combines puppetry, music, Spanish and English in a delightful tale of riddles, silly devils, a missing pig and a village in need of a hero. The show was created by Michael Sommers and directed by Justin Spooner. Taking us on Juan's adventure will be puppeteers Zoey Sommers Haas, Nicky Rodriguez, and Justin Spooner, with accompaniment by John Lucking.

Celebrating the 10th annual season of the driveway tours, Open Eye brings original family-friendly theater directly into people's neighborhoods. Since 2003, the Driveway Tour has reached 40,000 people in more than 500 neighborhoods. All Driveway Tour performances are **free and open to the public**. But puppeteers can not live on applause alone, so a donation hat will be passed. This production is



It's a Puppet Show!

brought to you by Dayton's Bluff ECFE.

St. Paul Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) works to strengthen families and enhance the ability of all parents to provide the best possible environment for the healthy growth and development of their children. Fall class schedules are available at libraries, community centers, schools and by phone, 651-793-5411.

Bring your blanket or lawn chairs and get set for a night of giggles, boos, sighs and hijinks with Juan Bobo.

The Driveway Tour is made possible with funds provided by the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council from an appropriation by the Minnesota legislature, and the Target Foundation.

Dayton's Bluff garden tours

• The Beech/Margaret 654 Block Club Garden Tour will be held on **Tuesday, July 10**, starting at 983 East 5th Street at **6:30 pm**.

• The Wilson Area Garden Tour is on **Tuesday, July 17**, starting at 976 Wilson at **6:30 pm**.

• The Upper Swede Hollow Garden Tour will be on **Tuesday, July 17**, starting at 635 North Street at **6:30 pm**.

These are walking tours and will visit a number of

gardens with all kinds of plantings, some with statues, and creative art. The tour is a great way to see exceptional neighborhood gardens, get some new ideas for your garden, and meet other neighborhood gardeners. For more information, please email karin@daytonsbuff.org or call 651-772-2075.

MOUNDS PARK BARBER STYLISTS



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Photo by Stefan Pomrenke

View from Gateway Food Initiative Booth at the East Side Pride Event for local businesses at the American Indian Magnet School on May 24.

Carver's Cave graffiti and the U.S.-Dakota War

by Stefan Pomrenke, M.D.

Arts and Cultures Committee, Dayton's Bluff Community Council

Dayton's Bluff prides itself on history; our many waves of immigrant cultures have enriched us. But nearly all of us are immigrants; we were not here first. Dayton's Bluff is Dakota land.

Imnizaska (White Cliffs) is the Dakota name for Dayton's Bluff. I learned this while walking through the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary, an amazing space below the Kellogg/3rd Street bridge that can be accessed at 7th Street and Payne Avenue. As you continue past the prairie and tree stands you can see *Wakan Tipi* (Spirit House), or what others call Carver's Cave. This cave is sacred to the Dakota. I felt disgrace when I saw graffiti around the steel wall that currently encloses the cave. The Arts and Cultures Committee of the Dayton's Bluff Community Council contacted the Graffiti department at St. Paul. When I revisited the area two weeks ago, the graffiti was gone, and the cave opening was encircled by a garland of tobacco sachets in the colors of the Dakota medicine wheel, a symbol of healing and sacredness.

As we continue through the summer of 2012, may we somberly remember that this year is the 150th anniversary of what is called the U.S.-Dakota War in which 1,600 Dakota were taken prisoner to Fort Snelling; 300 died in the camp over the winter. The Minnesota History museum will open its newest exhibit on June 30: "Minnesota Tragedy: The U.S. Dakota War of 1862." As this comes one year after the 150th anniversary of the statehood of Minnesota, I believe this warrants deep reflection on who we are.

The Dayton's Bluff Community Council Arts and Cultures Committee invites members of the community to join them in a visit to the exhibit on **Tuesday, July 10**. We will be meeting at the community council office, 798 East 7th Street, at **6:00 pm**. Transportation will be provided for those who need it, and admission to the exhibit is free that evening.

As this is near the celebration of the independence of our nation, come reflect with the Dakota nation.

180 Degrees leader receives award for juvenile justice

from a Coalition for Juvenile Justice press release, with contributions by Meg Gronau, Forum editor

"Turning lives around to provide safer communities" is not just the mission statement for 180 Degrees, Inc.; it's also the life's work of Richard Gardell.

Richard J. ("Dick") Gardell, President/CEO of 180 Degrees, Inc. was honored by the Coalition for Juvenile Justice (CJJ) with the 2012 A. L. Carlisle Child Advocacy Award on Saturday, June 23, 2012, in Bethesda, Md.

The award is an honor given by the Coalition each year to a person who has dedicated his or her professional life to the betterment of youth, families and communities.

180 Degrees, located at the corner of East 7th Street and Johnson Parkway, is a company that helps adults and youth transition out of the justice system, offering counseling and employment programs for offenders and their families.

Richard Gardell has been a leader and a shaper of juvenile justice policy both in Minnesota and nationally since the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDP) was passed and became the foundation for national protections for youth in the late 1970s. He served both at the state and national levels from 1979 until 1992 and then took time to develop other aspects of his law enforcement career. He returned to the Minnesota Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee (JJAC) in 2002 and was appointed Chair of Minnesota's supervisory committee in 2008 and 2010.

Gardell has the ability to work collaboratively with both sides of the aisle for the benefit of protective laws for youth. He has worked on countless efforts to implement the core protections of JJDP into state law in Minnesota. For example, while serving as Chair of JJAC, he recently worked with a broad coalition to help Minnesota pass into law a statewide policy on Disproportionate Minority Contact within the justice system.

Serving the people of St. Paul as a law enforcement officer for over 30 years, he witnessed the challenges young people faced and worked to provide them with opportunities to succeed. He knows that all of our youth deserve second chances. As a coach, mentor, Scouting leader and good neighbor, he has touched the lives of hundreds of young people.

Sarah Walker is the Chief Operating Officer of 180 Degrees. She has worked closely with Gardell for the past five years.

"While he [is] grounded in a law enforcement background... he has a much more expansive and complex view of the criminal justice system," Walker said. "He has a huge amount of compassion for our clients and the amazing staff at 180 Degrees, Inc."

"The 180 culture today is ingrained with...leading by example," Walker said. "I can recall a time early on when we were preparing for an inspection and everyone was going to have to come work on Saturday. Richard joined the team and spent his weekend scrubbing walls with the rest of staff."

Walker went on:

"One of Richard's largest contributions to the organization has been in his unwavering commitment to diversity and to ensuring that our staff reflects the communities we serve. Today the employees of 180 Degrees, Inc. are truly reflective of the communities we serve, with the majority of our staff being people of color."

She also said: "When Richard was hired by the Board of Directors, 180 Degrees, Inc. was in financial and cultural turmoil. Today we are an extremely healthy organization that has tripled in size. Expanding to increase our services to our clients is something that we are proud of. Our expansion has allowed us to serve more youth and families on the East side and throughout Minnesota."

At times when everything looked bleak and without resolution, Gardell was always there to give an encouraging word. He finds that the current situation for re-authorization of the JJDP Act and restoring funding levels is similar to other hard-fought challenges and eventual successes. He simply does not give up. He exemplifies the quote, "success is not a destination but the journey."

Gardell was born and raised in St. Paul, and he continues to live here today. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Minnesota with a Major in Criminal Justice and a Minor in Public Affairs. He received his Masters in Criminal Justice from the University of Minnesota. He is also a graduate of the Southern Police Institute and the Harvard University Leadership Series. He and his wife Jackie are very involved in the lives of their five grandchildren.

Gardell received the national award at a celebratory luncheon on Saturday, June 23, during the Coalition for Juvenile Justice's Annual conference, "Improving Justice Outcomes for Youth and Families: Uniting Science, Policy and Practice."

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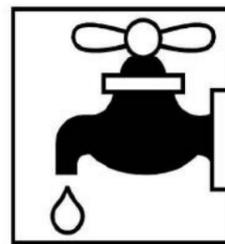


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www.dbnhs.org



3rd Annual Art in the Hollow

by Karin DuPaul
Community Organizer
Dayton's Bluff Community Council



Photo by Karin DuPaul

A scene from the opera "Swede Hollow": A Mexican resident of the Hollow explains to a city official that the water is pure and from the same water table that Hamm's Brewery used for about 100 years.

Shinporom Korean Traditional Drum Troupe. Rounding out the event was the world-premiere opera, "Swede Hollow," composed by Ann Millikan and directed by Scotty Reynolds, head of Mixed Precipitation, the group that features the picnic operettas. (The next picnic operetta in Swede Hollow will be Saturday, September 22; watch for more information in the next issue of the Forum!) "Swede Hollow," the opera, is about the lives of Swedish, Italian and Mexican immigrants who once lived in the hollow.

Thank you to all of the artists and everyone who helped make this happen. Funding and other support was provided by the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council through the Arts & Legacy Grant Fund; Friends of Swede Hollow; University Bank; State Supply; LaPalma; Marpe Development Company; Pepsico; HOPE Community Academy; Dayton's Bluff Community Council; East Side Arts Council; and individual donors.

To register for the 4th annual Art in the Hollow to be held in June 2013, contact ArtintheHollow@gmail.com or 651-776-0550. Track the progress on the 2013 event and share ideas and thoughts at www.artinthehollow.org and on Facebook. For more on Friends of Swede Hollow, visit www.swedehollow.org.

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Photo by Karin DuPaul

King and Queen of Polly's Coffee Cove and a singing harpist entertaining in the Drewry Tunnel during the 3rd annual Art in the Hollow.



Photo by Sage Holben

Dayton's Bluff residents of all ages gathered June 13 to learn about one another's gifts and talents.

Instead of "what do we need?" think: "what can I offer?"

special report to the Forum

"What would you like to teach someone? If you could snap your fingers and, in an instant, change something in your neighborhood/life, what would it be? What do you think of most during the day?"

These were some of the questions asked of adults and children who attended a Dayton's Bluff CAN (Community Asset Network) cookout on Wednesday evening, June 13. Sherry Johnson, facilitator of the DB CAN project, coordinated the second cookout of a series with 4th Street & Bates resident Sage Holben. The purpose of the localized get-together is to learn what talents ("gifts") people have and are willing to share with others; to share dreams people have for their lives; and then to weave these threads of interests, dreams, goals, and hopes together into a vibrant fabric of neighborhood, a common thread in the fabric being the insightful gifts and talents that each person offers.

When asked "what kind of person do you want to be when you grow up?", one very young man offered: "Being a grown-up isn't about age, or how tall you are. It's about the kind of person you are; how you act toward others." We can all learn something precious from this young man. If you want to know more about the Dayton's Bluff CAN project, call the Dayton's Bluff Community Council at 651-772-2075.

**We are seeking street musicians to take part in
7th Street Night Out: A local business fair on August 17.
Contact Tabitha Benci DeRango at 651-332-9069.**

The article below is part of a series of profiles of the members of the Dayton's Bluff Community Council.

Dan Stahley

Cuisine and convenience

by Danny Evans, Forum intern

Dayton's Bluff is a community many have come to know and love. This neighborhood has influenced the lives of those who reside and work here, including those on the Dayton's Bluff Community Council. These individuals have a feeling for how to make this community great. This includes DBCC member Dan Stahley, who discusses his opinion of Dayton's Bluff.

"My favorite thing about Dayton's Bluff is the great options for eating," Dan said. "I can get great authentic Hmong, Salvadoran, and Mexican food for a few bucks, and I also have the option of steak and cocktails at the best restaurant Minnesota." Stahley continued on about how he chose to reside here. "It was just a great value to live here," he said. "I have a great house and yard and my mortgage is several hundred dollars less than the cost

of renting. Also, it is very close to downtown—an eight-minute drive to my office in Lake Elmo."

Dan also has some goals as a member of the DBCC. "I would like to make it as easy as possible for businesses to locate and stay in the neighborhood. I would also like to find some solutions to the vacant home problem in the neighborhood." Lastly, Mr. Stahley stated what he would like Dayton's Bluff to look like by the years 2015 or 2020, "I look forward to seeing light rail or a street car extending down East 7th Street to connect the neighborhood with the rest of the city. I would also like to see more homeowners move into the neighborhood."

Whether it is looking for more people to live or work Dayton's Bluff, the DBCC will assist the community in reaching its goals. Dayton's Bluff has a bright future.

Neighbor profile: Helen Bradley

by Danny Evans, Forum intern

Lifelong St. Paul resident Helen Bradley knows St. John's Hospital well. In 1951 at the old St. John's Hospital in Dayton's Bluff, Helen gave birth to a lovely baby boy and stayed there for a few days to recuperate. Fast forward 60 years: Helen finds a bill from the 1951 birth of her first child. The bill was only \$111.85. She was truly surprised to find such a relic of the past. Helen explained to me about her history from that day in 1951, the new location of St. John's Hospital in Maplewood, and how Dayton's Bluff and the Eastside have played such an important role in her life.

First, Helen talked about what St. John's was like back in 1951. "The walls were thin," she said, "and the area where the labor room was really close to the room where the new moms were. There was no privacy as far as sound was concerned. There was also no bathroom in my room. The nurses declared, 'Don't waste your pains.' I had my second child in 1953 in the new maternity area."

Today, Metropolitan State University is on the site of old St. John's Hospital.

Helen then discussed her reaction to finding the old bill. "It really shows how inflation has risen," she said. "Back then a dollar was really worth a dollar." She also told me that her husband was on the police force and earned \$250.00 a month, so this bill was rather pricey. A labor and delivery bill today would cost thousands of dollars, but back then her bill was expensive. Helen told me that she had been to the new St. John's Hospital location in Maplewood because she had surgery at that location in 2006. This location opened in 1985.

Later, Helen talked about how Dayton's Bluff had changed over the years. She said, "The people that live there have certainly changed over the years. People stayed in their neighborhood. There was one black family who was really nice, and we did not think of them as black. We thought of them as part of the community. The Italians, Germans, and Irish had their own areas of the neighborhood. There were two Catholic churches, Sacred Heart where the Germans attended and St. Johns where the Irish went. Despite their differences, they accepted each other. My husband's family was on the Eastside from the 1890s. Generation after generation has stayed in Dayton's Bluff and the Eastside.

"There is no place like home because I was born and raised in the Eastside and raised my children here too. My heart will always be in this area because my roots are here."

Finally, Helen discussed what she thought of the Dayton's Bluff District Forum. She stated loud and proud, "I like it because there are so many memories in it, and I get to relive them. I really enjoy reading the Steve Trimble articles."

Many things have changed since 1951. Helen raised two children, and the price of delivering a baby has skyrocketed. St. John's Hospital has since moved locations. However, one thing that has not changed is the community spirit of Dayton's Bluff and the East side.



Photo by Greg Cosimini

It's located at Burns Avenue and Johnson Parkway. It's 10 feet tall but only four feet square. And it's solar-powered. So, what is it?



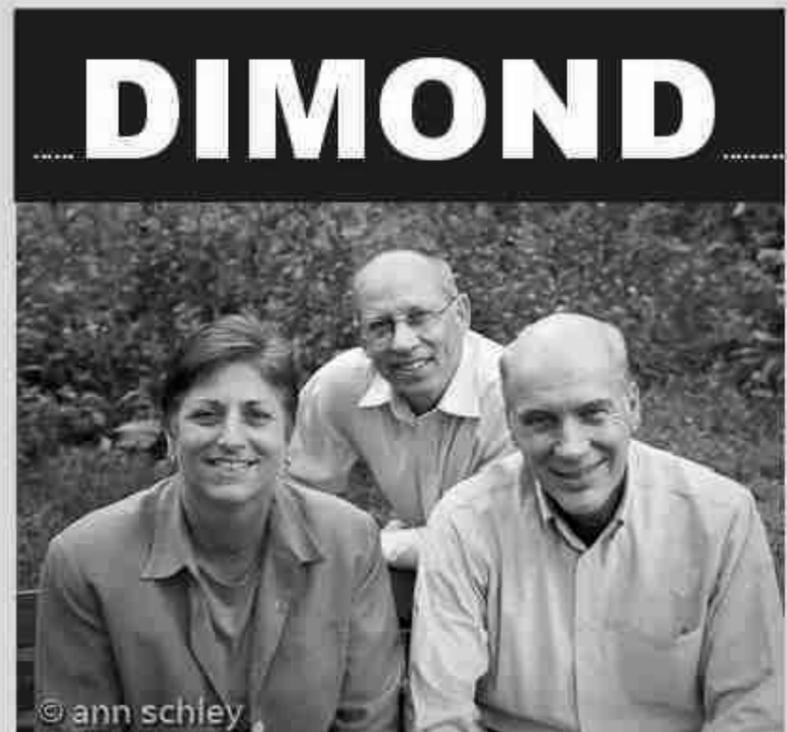
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History corner by Steve Trimble, Forum staff

Jottings of past July events

I was running out of ideas for a history article, but suddenly it occurred to me to look at some of the events that took place in our neighborhood in July. Some of them are interesting while others give people a chance to get a sense of Dayton's Bluff's development.

Perhaps the most dramatic July event took place on July 4, 1892. Percival Noble, an Englishman who lived at 258 Bates Avenue, decided to fly a British flag that day. John DeCourcy of 717 Conway Street ran across the Van Buren schoolyard to protest, pulled the flag down, folded it and handed it to its owner. As soon as DeCourcy left, the Union Jack went up again. Noble cut the rope to prevent it being taken down again.

DeCourcy returned and began climbing the pole. Noble attacked him with a horsewhip. Then Jack Morris, a resident of 705 Conway, arrived on the scene. He punched Noble, allowing DeCourcy to grab the whip himself and start flailing. Noble retreated into his house. Other neighbors arrived and tore pieces off the house's front porch.

Paddy Hines, of 721 Conway, pled for peace and called the police. A squad came on horseback and hauled everyone back to the nearby Margaret Street Station. The patriots wanted the Englishman arrested for defaming the Fourth of July, but no such action was taken. Noble and his family later packed up and moved to Winnipeg.

There has been a lot of recent discussion over the use of fireworks in Minnesota. As usual, this is nothing new. There were concerns over their safety and according to a chart provided by the *St. Paul Globe* on July 5, 1903, dozens of firework-related injuries were reported on Independence Day. The worst one in Dayton's Bluff may have been that suffered by Walter Jepson of 1145 Beech Street. He had "one eye destroyed and face filled with powder" from a "toy cannon."

Edgar Shold, who lived at 753 Reaney Avenue, was probably also in great pain from lacerations of his cheek, ear and scalp because of the explosion of a "cartridge." Two different folks had things shot through body parts. Arthur Wulff, who resided on Ocean Street near today's Johnson Parkway, had a projectile that shot through palm of his hand. Euclid Avenue's George Rode had a finger shot through by a "blank cartridge."

July events date back to the very beginnings of our community. One of them involved William Evans, who was probably the first European resident of Dayton's Bluff. He had been honorably discharged from Fort Snelling and married Mrs. Mortimer, another soldier's widow. On July 4, 1842, Evans was one of a group selected to lay out a road from his farm to the St. Croix River at Stillwater.

July railroad construction in 1869 had a hundred men "busily engaged digging off Dayton's Bluff, and grading just below the track of the St. Paul and Chicago Railway."

The historic Carver's Cave had apparently been damaged. "The pool... is gone," one writer commented, "and the limpid stream that flows through it now supplies a railroad tank. Its poetry and romance are destroyed by the necessities of our modern trade and material growth."

Recent immigrants picked up on the biggest July holiday. Starting in the 1880s, the Munch family, part of the local close-knit German community, always had a traditional Fourth of July party at 653 East 5th Street. The lawn was dotted with Japanese lanterns and carriages crowded in the turnaround.

The mid-summer month saw the beginnings of an important industrial concern in the neighborhood. The *Pioneer Press* reported that the Seeger Refrigerator Company had purchased the old Bohn plant at Arcade and Wells and would be opening there in July, 1910. The company planned to employ around 125 men.

One July birthday of note is that of Oscar Keller, born on July 30, 1878. He came to St. Paul from Wisconsin around 1902, lived at 308 Bates Avenue, and started a grocery store at 863 East 7th Street. He broke into politics in 1910 when he successfully ran for the City Council and was re-elected several times.

When he sided with workers in the famous 1917 streetcar strike, the arch-conservative Minnesota Commission of Public Safety called for Keller's removal from office for "inciting a riot and sedition" after he gave a fiery speech.

In 1919, when the incumbent fourth district congressman died, Keller won the seat on July 1, 1919, and served through 1926. The local labor paper called him "a non-conformist from the start," who "took an aggressive stand on many public questions on the people's side."

The Dayton's Bluff Commercial Club's annual picnic in 1924 was held at Lake Phalen in late July. After a morning baseball game, there was a putting green contest. The group also sent up balloons bearing tickets for a chance at \$150 in gold. Other commercial clubs in the city were invited, so they were expecting around 15,000 people.

One of the more modern July accomplishments was the launching of what was hoped to be an annual celebration. Named "The Festival on the Bluff," it started in July of 1979, thanks to the financial support of a local arts group and the volunteer labor of many hard-working residents. It lasted for several years and was one of the first neighborhood festivals in St. Paul.

So what are you going to be involved in this month? How about doing something that would be worth mentioning in a history column of the future. Maybe start planning a revival of the festival or organize a huge community potluck event. Let us know.



Photo courtesy of the US Library of Congress

Oscar Keller, US Representative from Minnesota and Dayton's Bluff resident, born July 30, 1878.

Breaths of Life

by Sage Holben
Dayton's Bluff resident

I held my breath as I lay in the lake water...I learned to float.
I held my breath as I waited for the high school boy to call...we dated.
I held my breath as I waited to hear if I had passed my driving test...I did.
I held my breath as I waited for the pastor to pronounce us 'husband and wife'...he did, and we were, for fourteen years.
I held my breath as I waited to hear the extent of my 5 year old son's concussion...he would be OK.
I held my breath as we waited to hear whether our offer on our home purchase would be accepted...it was home for almost ten years.
I held my breath as I waited to hear the results of my six year old's EEG...seizures disappeared with short term medication.
I held my breath as I waited for my intoxicated husband to arrive home...he did, at 3am.
I held my breath as I waited through the night for the police to come and tell me he had hit someone on his drive home...they never did.
I held my breath as I waited for the judge to grant our divorce...he did.
I held my breath on a harried trip to visit my dying mother...she lived for three more years.
I held my breath as I cleaned maggots from a friend's retreat refrigerator, closed for two years...he thanked me.
I held my breath as the airy, delicate torte cooled for the evening dinner party...it was beautiful.
I held my breath as my car spun on black ice...it never touched another car or the bridge guard rails.
I held my breath for the mammogram....and for the next.
I held my breath for the biopsy results...and the doctor called...and it was good news.

Letter to the editor

Thanks, Mr. Trimble

Many, many thanks for the great article about Walter ("Walt," "Wally," "Pole," "Sonny," "Moose") Moryn ("*Remembering Walter "Moose" Moryn*, June issue).

After the Moryn family moved from Johnson Brothers, they lived at 266 Clarence Street. Their house was one of the largest in the neighborhood and was, at that time, the house next to Obb's Bar. Since then, two more houses have been built between the Moryn house and Obb's.

Walt was then—and still is—my number one sports idol! I grew up just a few houses north, on the corner of Clarence and McLean, and was four years younger than Walt. Because of the age difference, I never had the chance to play with or against Walt. Probably good that I never played against him!

The "us" kids of the neighborhood would play touch football on McLean Street alongside where I lived. When Walt would come walking home from football practice, he would ask us if he could punt our football. We of course agreed, but were always fearful that he would burst the ball!

Walt had a crush on a cute blonde girl who lived just a few houses from the Moryns, but because she was a member of First Lutheran and he a member of St. John's Roman Catholic, her mother would not allow them to go together.

Walt was a very good basketball player for Harding and developed a great hook shot. That was probably even before George Miken! The St. Paul high school games were played at the Hamline Field House and my father would take me to the games just to see Walt play.

I saw many games when Walt played for the Saints and then followed his career, especially when he was with the Dodgers and Cubs. I made sure that my son had a Walt Moryn baseball card in his collection.

After Walt's death I discovered that Walt's picture was not on the "Wall of Fame" at the new Harding High School. I called the Athletic Director and the picture was soon up on the wall.

In 1961, when Walt retired, his widowed mother was still living at 266 Clarence Street.

Your article sure gave me a time to reminisce about one of the greatest Harding High School athletes.

Gene Wandersee
Dayton's Bluff resident

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Thank you!

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

Dayton's Bluff loses long-time resident Joe Russo

by Greg Cosimini, Forum staff

Joe Russo passed away peacefully on April 28 at the age of 86. Over the years, he was well known around the East Side of St. Paul as a barber, a singer, a storyteller, and of course, an Italian.

Although born in Dayton's Bluff, Joe lived near Payne Avenue for part of his childhood until his family eventually moved back to our neighborhood. Joe spent the rest of his life on 3rd Street near Earl. It was easy to spot his house; it was the one flying the Italian flag out front.

Joe had stories concerning just about everything, including his days growing up in Dayton's Bluff. Some of them involved the Mounds Theatre. He and his friend used to hang out at the Mounds and became friends

with one of the managers. If a movie wasn't sold out he would let them in for free.

The old Harding High School was just east of Joe's home. He not only attended school there but was also captain of the football team. Unfortunately World War II came along and Joe was drafted when he turned 18. Even though he didn't get to finish high school before going off to war, he was allowed to complete the football season because he was stationed locally for a few months.

Joe ended up being deployed in the Pacific and had a number of harrowing tales to tell about his time there and some of the perilous landings he and his comrades made on various islands. He said those experiences really helped put into perspective all of life's other challenges.



Photo courtesy of the Russo family

After the war, Joe became a barber. Actually, he first became a cosmetologist because the barber schools were all full, but he did eventually go to barber school. He started his career renting a chair at a barbershop on lower Payne Avenue and then bought his own barbershop nearby where he worked for many years. It was there that "Joe the Barber" honed his haircutting and storytelling skills. Some of his old customers talk about Joe and his barbershop to this day. The shop still exists but it is now a flower shop.

Joe and his wife MaryAnn were active members of St. John's Catholic Church and their children attended St. John's School. Joe was a member of various parish groups and was appointed a trustee when Father Pingatore became pastor in 2000.

But Joe was best known at St. John's for his singing. He was a member of both the main choir and the Gregorian Chant Schola. For many years he soloed on the first verse of "Silent Night" during Communion at Christmas Eve Mass.

Joe didn't start singing until after he retired, and only then after a great deal of persuasion by his son Marty. And yet his tenor voice sounded remarkably well trained. Besides his choir work at St. John's, he also regularly sang the National Anthem at Parkway Little League.

Joe Russo was preceded in death by his wife of 59 years, MaryAnn. He is survived by his children, 13 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren. His visitation and Mass of Christian burial were held at St. John's Catholic Church on May 4.

Tami Durant

From bareback rider to Brit Lit professor

by Mark Gallagher, Forum intern

As a little girl, Tammy Durant wanted to be a bareback circus rider or a veterinarian. She had dreams of working on exotic animals at the San Diego Zoo and helping to save endangered species. Tammy didn't get a scholarship to the circus, but managed to secure science scholarships to become a vet.

In order to help her learn the ways of being a veterinarian, she got a summer internship with a local vet and volunteered to help him through the four summers between her college years. Being a vet's assistant helped Tammy decide that she did not want to be a vet.

"I was just a hick kid that figured if you went to college and got an English degree, you'd probably end up a high school English teacher," she says. "I didn't want to be a high school English teacher, but I didn't know you could be a professor."

Tammy was a voracious reader. "I read so much I disappeared for entire summers. I used to bribe my little sister because our Mom would only let us check out so many books. My little sister used to like to play Barbie dolls, so I used to tell her that I would play Barbie dolls with her if she would pick out some of the books that I wanted. When we'd go to the library, I would make her get all the books I wanted to read. That was pretty evil!"

When asked which children's book was her favorite, she replied, "The one I was reading."

Reading is still part of her daily regimen. Tammy says her family reads a chapter at the end of supper. "We have a big tradition in our home of reading aloud together, so that way we have stuff to talk about and share experiences because we don't watch TV."

Tammy got a bachelor's degree with a double major in English and Art History

from Center College in Kentucky. "It likes to call itself the premier liberal college in Kentucky," she says, "but that's like calling Metro State the Harvard of Dayton's Bluff."

The University of Kentucky was Tammy's home for her graduate degrees: a Master's degree and a PhD in Literature. She has been a Professor of British Literature at the St. Paul campus of Metropolitan State University for the past seven years.

Tammy was offered a position at Metropolitan State University and another university but chose Metropolitan State because, she says, "The five other department members were so welcoming to me—so interested in me. They seemed like they'd be amazing colleagues to spend the rest of your life with. I could see myself being quite happy here."

Living in the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood seems to suit Professor Durant and her family just fine. She uses the Dayton's Bluff library; her daughter goes there for story hour and attends the French immersion school a short distance away. Tammy says, "So we go down to Swede Hollow, down to The Strip Club sometimes to eat. It is one of the best restaurants in town." Her husband, David, says they have great steaks.

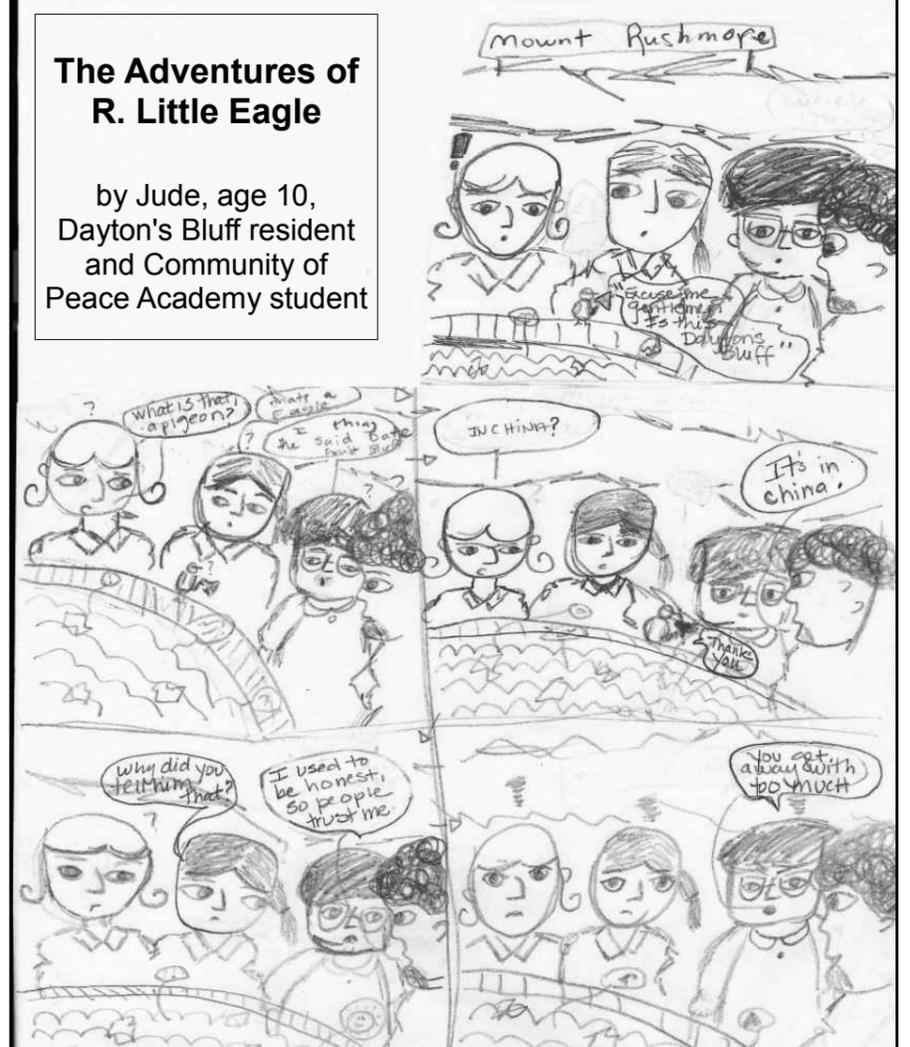
Tammy lives close to Metro State so she can walk to work. "Our house has an interesting history," she says, "It was a rental property and is just one of the brilliant, heartwarming stories of Dayton's Bluff. There are thousands—they are a dime a dozen. I thought the city would be cold and lonely and everybody would be strangers, brusque in their city ways. It's not true. I see more of my neighbors here than I ever did in Kentucky."

Mark Gallagher is a professional writer and editor and a graduate of Metropolitan State University.

Reach him at refineEditorial@gmail.com.

The Adventures of R. Little Eagle

by Jude, age 10,
Dayton's Bluff resident
and Community of
Peace Academy student



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