Dayton's Bluff ramps up for annual Home Tour

Karin DaPaul
Home tour coordinator
The annual Minneapolis and St. Paul Home Tour will be held on Saturday, April 26, from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm and Sunday, April 27, from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. During the home tour, residents in both Minneapolis and St. Paul open their homes to the public to showcase the great things about city living. One of the Dayton's Bluff homes on the tour is 702 East 7th Street (pictured at right), beautifully rehabbed and ready for a new family to move into Dayton's Bluff.

Dayton's Bluff has so many wonderful homes that each year we have six to eight homes on the tour. The tour shows off many of Dayton's Bluff great features: the location, Metro State, the parks, the growing business community, the views of the city and the Mississippi River, and the outstanding housing options in Dayton's Bluff. The tour is hosted by the Minneapolis/St. Paul Home Tour and Dayton’s Bluff Community Council. The tour brochures can be picked up at the Dayton's Bluff Library on East 7th Street in mid-April. 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. They like the variety of homes, the parks, the neighborhood people they meet in the homes. Some of the visitors like it so well that they have made Dayton’s Bluff their home.

Volunteers are still needed for the Dayton’s Bluff 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 each day. This is a chance to help market Dayton’s Bluff to visitors. If you are interested in helping out, please email karin@swede hollow.org or call Karin at 651-776-0550. For more information on the MSP home tour, visit www.msphometour.com, and visit www.daytonabluff.org for more information about the Dayton’s Bluff tour.

Community radio is coming to the East Side

Carla Rieble
Forum staff
Want to host your own radio show? In the not-too-distant future, Eastsiders will be able to tune in to 104.7 FM community radio based in Dayton’s Bluff and operated by you and your neighbors.

Do you speak Spanish, Hmong, Somali or Karen? Are you a hip-hop or spoken-word artist, or aspiring DJ? We need you to help shape our programming.

Last October, for the first time in over a decade, the Federal Communications Commission made it possible for local nonprofit organizations to apply for permission to create low power FM radio stations. The Dayton’s Bluff Community Council submitted its application and is expecting to receive final approval within the next couple of months. The plan is to work out of a studio at the new East Side Enterprise Center opening in June next door to the current Council office. The antenna and transmitter will be located at the 180 Degrees facilities on East 7th Street.

What does this mean for Dayton’s Bluff and the Eastside? The Council is organizing an advisory committee which met for the first time on March 12. Although the meeting was called on very short notice, we attracted people who had worked with Radio Favela in Brazil and Radio Liberacion in Nicaragua as well as at local stations.

The next meeting is scheduled for 6:30 pm on Tuesday, April 15, at the Council offices at 798 East 7th Street. Anyone who wants to be part of this exciting new venture is invited to attend.

The unanimous conclusion at the first meeting was that our community radio station has to be a reflection of our neighborhood. We know that at least one-third of the households in Dayton’s Bluff speak a language other than English, so we are committed to providing programming in some of those diverse languages. Other constituencies include our large communities of color, youth and our local artists, religious organizations and businesses. Eastside community radio is intended to be a voice for all.

Please consider adding your own special voice. Come to the meeting on April 15 to share your ideas at the new East Side Enterprise Center, or contact us at daytonsbluff@gmail.com or 651-772-2075 for more information.

Mark your calendars for summer fun!

Art in the Hollow, June 7
Romi Slowiak, Program director
Mark your calendars now for the Eastside's biggest explosion of art and talent: Art in the Hollow on Saturday, June 7. This marks the fifth year welcoming summer with day-long visual art demonstrations and sales, global performances, sculptures dotting the park, roaming musicians, kids art activities, and Wise Elders all in the heart of magical Swede Hollow Park. Scores of communauté gather your family and friends and make your way to East 7th Street where you will find business representatives out on the sidewalk to meet, greet and inform you of the richness of products and services available in the neighborhood. There will be deals offered for the evening, including lots of free stuff and extra fun for the kids. This is definitely an event for people of all ages!

Our walkable Make It Happen District along East 7th Street stretches from Metropolitan State University to the Beacon Bluff (3M) redevelopment site. Come to the district and look for the volunteers in their bright green Make It Happen t-shirts. The green color is reminiscent of the new growth and renewed energy that exists in the Dayton's Bluff business district.

Make It Happen Night Out, June 20
DBCC release
It is that time again! On Friday, June 20, the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council presents the Make It Happen Night Out on East 7th Street. This Community and Business Fair is a fun way to involve residents in the growth of a vibrant Business District in our neighborhood and bring the community together for a memorable celebration.

 Gather your family and friends and make your way to East 7th Street where you will find business representatives out on the sidewalk to meet, greet and inform you of the richness of products and services available in the neighborhood. There will be deals offered for the evening, including lots of free stuff and extra fun for the kids. This is definitely an event for people of all ages!

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Dayton’s Bluff
Community Council
798 East 7th Street
St. Paul, MN 55106
ECRWSS
Postal Customer
NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TWIN CITIES MN
PERMIT NO. 3996
New Friends of Swede Hollow are welcome

The next Friends of Swede Hollow monthly meeting is on Wednesday, April 9, at 6:30 pm. Email karin@swedehollow.org or call 651-776-6550 for more information and the meeting’s location.

Get rid of your junk car; help Dayton’s Bluff Community Council

Budget Towing of Minnesota, Minnesota’s largest towing company, is owned by Roy Carlson, a former Dayton’s Bluff Community Council board member. Budget Towing will remove any junk car or truck – located anywhere in St. Paul – and dispose of it at no charge to the vehicle owner or the property owner where it is located. The vehicle owner will receive paperwork for a tax donation, and Roy will also make a small donation to the Community Council for each car he tows.

Just call 651-772-2075 to get a junk car out of the way – and help clean up Dayton’s Bluff.

Be your own boss

The next Dayton’s Bluff Neighborhood Microentrepreneur Class is starting in April 2014. Class size is limited, so register early. This program helps start-up and young businesses on the East Side. All Eastside entrepreneurs are welcome. Class training lasts 11 weeks and includes topics such as operations management, marketing, financial management, one-on-one assistance with creating a successful business, and preparing a business plan, plus 8 hours of one-on-one time with the instructor. Those who successfully complete the course and locate their businesses in target neighborhoods are eligible for ongoing business support services.

Some examples of businesses started by people who have previously taken this course include graphics, landscaping, photography, food service, restoration of wood furniture and works of art, custom floral design for weddings and events, and exterior and interior painting. The course is sponsored by Dayton’s Bluff Community Council and the Neighborhood Development Center. There is a small registration fee based on a sliding scale. Please call 651-772-2075 for an application.

Meet the police

The Eastern District Police will host their monthly meetings for community members at 722 Payne Avenue, at the corner of Minnehaha Avenue. The next meetings are Wednesday, April 16, at 6:30 pm, and Friday, April 18, at 9:30 am. The meetings are intended to address and listen to concerns about crime and other issues on the Eastside.

Dayton’s Bluff takes topics to Community Meetings

Every first Thursday of each month there is a community meeting held at the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council offices. Residents can bring issues to law- and code-enforcement officials for followup and discussion. It’s a great way to build relationships with the people who work to keep our neighborhood safe, clean, and drug-free. Each month we also explore a new topic with the community. In March, we discussed the District Council’s direction for 2014, the areas of work it’s involved in, and the many committees of the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council. In April we’ll talk about pedestrian-friendly environments and discuss what we can do to make Dayton’s Bluff more walkable. Come join in on Thursdays, April 3 at 6:30 pm.

If you are unable to join us, you can always call the office at 651-772-2075 for committee and volunteer schedules.

Mounds Park Church rummage sale March 29

Mounds Park United Methodist Church’s spring rummage sale will be Saturday, March 29 from 9:00 am-1:00 pm. All money received goes to mission projects in our neighbor hood, our nation, and abroad. Mounds Park United Methodist Church is located at 1049 Euclid Street. Contact secretary mpumc@yahoo.com. Or 651-774-8736.

April 12 cleanups at Mounds Park, Swede Hollow

On Saturday, April 12, over 1,000 volunteers will help pick up litter at many St. Paul parks. Join them! Cleanup at Indian Mounds Park is being organized by the Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR) and will begin at 8:30 am. There will also be environmental sustainability tables with up-to-date information on St. Paul’s recycling initiatives, compost drop-off sites and compost bin and/or rain barrel sales.

The Friends of Swede Hollow are looking for volunteers to help clean up Swede Hollow Park from 9:00 am-12:00 noon. Meet in the parking lot at Greenbrier and Margaret, or at the bottom of the Drewry tunnel. For more information, email karin@swedehollow.org or call 651-776-6550.

This important event helps ensure the beauty, safety and environmental health of St. Paul. Search for “spring cleanup” at www.stpaul.gov.

Eastside Transit Spotlight

On Tuesday, April 29, from 6:00-8:00 pm at the Dayton’s Bluff Rec Center, join the Hiawatha Education Foundation for a transit event focusing exclusively on the Eastside. The event features a powerful documentary film, Is the Gateway Corridor Hudson Road Alignment a Pure Illusion? Will this be followed by short presentations of interviews with residents of the Eastside expressing their views on the Gateway Corridor Project, which largely seems to bypass the majority of Eastside residents. All are welcome for refreshments, snacks, popcorn and door prizes.

Upcoming opportunities at Dayton’s Bluff Recreation Center

- Cheer America: Mondays, 6:00-7:00pm.
- Anti-bullying summit: April 3, 11:00 am-4:00 pm. Kids in grades 3-8 can sign up through their school: Hazel Park, Farnsworth Upper, Dayton’s Bluff Elementary, John A. Johnson, American Indian Magnet, or Battle Creek Elementary/Highwood Hills.
- Teen Room “Bluff Room”: 3:00-7:30 pm.
- Rummage Sale: April 26 (sign up through your school).
- Open gym: 6:00-7:30 pm. Elementary school-age: Mondays; Middle school-age: Tuesdays; High school-age: Thursdays.
- Parent & Tot Time: ongoing, Wednesdays and Fridays, 10:00 am-1:00 pm.
- Judo: Mondays, 6:00-7:30 pm.
- Summer girls’ basketball: ages 9-12 (grades 3-6). Registration fee will apply; there is a cost for tournaments.
- Self-defense: Wednesdays, 6:00-7:45 pm.
- Senior “500” card playing: every Friday, 12:00-4:00 pm.

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

Stop by and check us out!
Continued from page 1:

Art in the Hollow: June 7 event seeks artists

Racenn Ruth
Mounds Theatre Executive Director

North American premiere of Rats’ Tales

“Fairy tales are often filled with shocking violence and harsh realities, and sometimes the end is open to interpretation. As a mother and child, I have found these stories to be both frightening and reassuring, and provide a map for navigating childhood through the intuitive and healing arts.”—Carol Ann Duffy

Rats’ Tales, by British Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy (adapted for the stage by Melly Still) will run one weekend only: April 3, 4 & 5 at 7:00 pm with a Saturday matinee on April 6 at 2:30 pm. Performances will be at the Historic Mounds Theatre. Originally presented at the Royal Exchange Theatre, in Manchester in 2012 to excellent reviews, this is the first performance of Rats’ Tales granted in the United States. David Hanrall directs.

Rats’ Tales weaves together original stories by Carol Ann Duffy with dark and enchanting fairy tales from around the world. The thematic thread that runs through the show explores the play of innocence lost, stories the children growing up, and growing old. One of the macabre and magical stories is about an outsider with mysterious powers who rides a town of vermin, and then entices all the children away; another tells of a mother so eaten up with jealousy that she steals her daughter’s invisibility. Others tell of strange children who becomes real, and on talent, variety, and local roots. As a community festival set in the heart of the neighborhood, this is an “un-plugged” event.

We are especially pleased to be partnering with Twin Cities Academy High School, who helped create this event. This year, students will create signs and staff the kids’ activity area. In a cozy hidden fairy den, guests may welcome our lovely, spritely “Spirit of Swede Hollow” who will be accepting suggestions for a proper name while handing out literature on her dream: the emerging Hamma’s Center for Healing Art.

For more information on volunteering for this wonderful celebration of community and talent, or to exhibit, perform, or enter the sculpture contest, call Karin DuPaul 651-776-0550, or consult our website at www.artinthehollow.org.

Mounds Park United Methodist Church

MPUMC release

Mounds Park United Methodist Church is located at 1049 Euclid Street, at the corner of Earl and Euclid.

Sunday Mornings


Palm Sunday (April 13) and Easter Sunday (April 20) Services: 10:30 am

Easter Egg Hunt: Saturday, April 19 at Indian Mounds Regional Park at 2:00 pm. Please come and join the fun.

Urban CROSS seeks yard/home projects

Urban CROSS (Christians Reaching Out in Service in St. Paul), a ministry of Mounds Park United Methodist Church, is ramping up for its fifth year.

During the second week of June, teams of youth demonstrate the love of God through serving the people of St. Paul’s residentialEastside.

We are looking for residents and non-profit organizations who could use a hand. If you have a project that you need help with, such as painting, yardwork, landscaping, cleanup, simple construction or repair, please contact us. We invite other youth from churches all over to join us for a week of an “Urban Makeover.”

Urban CROSS 2014

If you would like our help, please go to our website and fill out a form. The deadline for requests is May 15. Urban CROSS is also in need of donations. We always need tools, supplies, paint, painting equipment, printing, staff t-shirts, food for the teams/staff, and even scholarships for youth to come and to join us. To make a financial donation, please contact Mounds Park Church at 651-774-8736.

For more information about Urban CROSS, contact MPUMC Youth Director Eric Buck at 612-559-2369 or urbancross.stpaul@gmail.com, or visit moundsparkumc.org/urbancross.html.

CENTROMEX SUPERMERCADO

816 East 7th Street – OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK, 8:00 AM – 8:00 PM

Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays

• Fresh Meat – Fruit and Produce
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TAXPAYER PROGRAMS

10% off on meat Saturday & Sunday

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Dayton’s Bluff Neighborhood Housing Services
821 7th Street East St. Paul, MN 55109
651.774.6985-office
www.dbhhs.org

Fix up your home now!

We are a non-profit agency eager to help you accomplish your home repairs using the latest green rehab techniques that may lower your energy costs.

There is no cost assistance for eligible homeowners. We offer paycheck loans with low interest rates (1-3% and special programs that do not require payments. Call 651.774.6995 to see if you qualify.

Yog koy xav paub ntxiv hu rau 651-774-9064

Dayton’s Bluff Neighborhood Council Board of Directors:
3rd Monday each month, 7:00 pm

Land Use Committee:
1st Monday each month, 7:00 pm

Equity Committee:
1st Tuesday each month, 6:30 pm

Vacant Building Committee:
3rd Thursday each month, 6:30 pm

Ask about our Marketing, Greenspace, and Outreach Committees.

Meeting times may vary from this schedule. Call 651-772-2075 to confirm, and for more information.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1st Monday each month, 7:00 pm

Art and Culture Committee:
1st Thursday each month, 6:30 pm

Contact MPUMC at 651-774-8736 or secretarympumc@yahoo.com.
Meet a local artist at her birthday celebration: Diane May

My name is Diane Michele May and this year I turn 44 years old. That, in itself, is not such a great accomplishment; it just means I managed to survive one more Minnesota winter. But I would like to celebrate it anyway, and I am inviting everyone in Dayton’s Bluff to Swede Hollow Café on Thursday, April 3 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Look over my local artwork displayed there, eat a free pumpkin cookie, and talk about what we like about our neighborhood. The Swede Hollow Café is located at 725 7th Street East.

Thirteen years ago, my husband Mike and I were looking for a house to make into a home. My dad was a realtor and he found a house in Dayton’s Bluff he thought we should look at. Mike and I drooled over the list of amenities in the house: claw-foot tub, hardwood floors, built-in buffet, stained glass windows, etc.

We had been to the neighborhood one time, to have lunch at the Swede Hollow Café. I had read an article in the St. Paul Pioneer Press about the Café’s famous grilled quadruple-cheese sandwich and had to try it myself. I really admired the exposed brick on the wall of the restaurant and the nice view of downtown St. Paul from its big windows. So when my dad said there was a house for sale in Dayton’s Bluff, I knew where that was.

We signed for the house on Valentine’s Day 2002 and, almost as soon as the ink was dry, started working on it. The house was built in 1908 and there were some structural things that needed to be addressed before the cosmetic.

Why was this radiator stone cold and that one piping hot? Why did our basement floor drain overflow with washing machine water only after doing back-to-back-to-back laundry? Was the scaffolding in the attic there because the previous owners wanted to eventually finish more space in the house, or was there another reason? I am happy to say after 12 years of living here (and for my birthday present last year), my husband, Mike, my son, David, and I painted the dining room (and it needed it when we moved in here!).

We had our home on display in the Minneapolis/St. Paul Home Tour in 2005 and then again on the Dayton’s Bluff Home Tour in 2008 when the house turned 100 years old. We celebrated the house’s birthday by serving cake with a picture of our home on it.

So, if you are not getting the picture yet, we like celebrating birthdays. And a birthday isn’t truly celebrated unless you have at least three parties—maybe even four.

If you went to my opening Art show at Kathy Lantry’s office last year, or the show they put on for me at the Metropolitan State University Administration wing, then you have already seen these original drawings and paintings of mine that will be on display for 2 months at Swede Hollow Café. So, as one of your local artists, I hope to see you Thursday night, April 3, at Swede Hollow Café. I have purchased 44 pumpkin cookies to share; fresh-brewed coffee will be compliments of the house; and there will be some food and drinks available to purchase. The Café is not usually open this late, but one of the new owners, Ruth Campbell (see story on page 5), has graciously arranged it for us. On that day, the store will close at its usual 3:00 pm closing time, but re-open at 6:30 pm for the show. Hope to see you there and to have your support as I continue to showcase the Eastside and all the great things about this neighborhood. And by the way, I am actively looking for more sponsors and patrons!


**First thoughts: Year of the Horse for Lao Minnesotans**

**Bryan Tao Worr**
Twin Cities Daily Planet

This April, we’ll be saying goodbye to 2556, the Year of the Snake, and “Sabaidee” to 2557, the Year of the Horse, the seventh animal on the traditional Lao lunar calendar.

Traditionally, China and other countries where horses are popular, the horse is considered good luck, known for its constant efforts to improve itself. Asia is full of positive qualities. The horse was a symbol of the energetic, the bright, the compassionate, the intelligent and the competent. There’s very little that people born in a Horse year cannot do, and many are considered independent.

Lao attitudes towards the horse are a little different from those of the Chinese. While Genghis Khan and his people rode the horses across the world to the edge of Europe, Lao culture has had a less-epic tradition with the horse over the years. Lao have few folk sayings connected to horses, and they could live among their countrymen – because it resembled their homeland.

Lao Minnesotans are getting ready to welcome this year of the Horse. Actors Ova Saopeng, Leilani Chan and Michelle Trinh will talk about the pending fate of Sochi, the Lao geography considering the time, care, and expense of keeping them in good health compared to other animals. However, many Lao know the tale of winged horses who take good spirits to the heavens and were born to be the mounts of heroes. The most famous of these is Manikab, traditionally considered an emblem of loyalty.

Knowing all of that, what’s coming up that we should be specifically watching for in 2557? 2557 will mark 660 years since the founding of Lan Xang, and 60 years since Laos was formally recognized by the United Nations and given independence.

Lao Minnesotans are getting ready to welcome the return of Refugee Nation to Intermedia Arts in April. The main actors Ova Saopeng, Leilani Chan and Lidet Viravong will be performing the piece **Sabaidee** to 2557, the Year of the Horse, continued on page 6.

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**A light in the Hollow: new owners continue delicious work**

Mark Gallagher
Forum staff

The Swede Hollow Café, located at 725 7th Street East in St. Paul, was established in July of 1997 in the historic Stutzmans Block Building, which was built in two stages from 1885 to 1889. The building was a dynamic part of the Dayton’s Bluff community until it fell into disarray in the early 1990s. In 1994, the building was purchased and restored by the Upper Swede Hollow Neighborhood Association (USHNA).

John and Ruth Campbell are the third owners of the Swede Hollow Café, named after the history-rich Swede Hollow, located behind the building. They also own a computer consulting business, John, who likes to drink coffee, was looking to do something a little different: he was interested in starting a mobile coffee cart. Ruth says, “John was talking to Wes, the previous owner of the Swede Hollow Café, and three weeks later, Wes approached John about buying the café, just as we were looking for another opportunity.”

In the mid-to late 1800s, Swedish immigrants looking for new opportunities to settle chose the valley Svenska Dalen – since renamed Swede Hollow – because it resembled their homeland and they could live among their countrymen.

Nearly all of Swede Hollow Café’s menu items are made on-site. “Well, most everything here is made from scratch: the food, the baked goods, all of the soups, and all the quiche is made here in our kitchen,” Ruth says. “Some of the sandwich bread is from a vendor, but we make most of our bread here. We have a baker-cook that comes in at 5:00 am.”

The coffee beans come from Roastery 7, a wholesale coffee roaster in Brooklyn Center that roasts many types of coffee beans for their clients. “A lot of the coffee is grown Certified Organic and Fair Trade from a lot of different countries,” Ruth says. “We have different kinds of beans that come from Central and South America.”

The Swede Hollow Café gets consistently complimentary comments on restaurant rating Web sites. Many mention the daily specials. “The only thing that is set for a weekday special is that we always have our gumbo on Fridays,” Ruth says. “The soups and specials will vary depending on what we think might work that day. We don’t plan by the day, but we know what people like and what special sells, and we’ll repeat that special in a week. We always try to have lots of variety.”

Some of the biggest sellers on Swede Hollow Café’s menu are the rolls. “We make a lot more rolls in the summer,” Ruth says. “Bacon caramel is a unique combination, the sweet and the salt. It’s caramelized bacon so there is just caramel sauce, nuts, and we put some bacon pieces in the sauce.”

“Our quiche is another popular seller with both our eat-in customers and our catering clients, who are usually from the downtown area or the neighborhood,” Ruth says. “We have a wide variety of meat and veggie quiches for our customers to choose from, but there are no Swedish entries on the menu. We do get asked that quite a bit, but it’s just the [name of the] neighborhood.”

The Campbells were raised in Wisconsin. Then they lived on 6th Street on St. Paul’s Eastside for about 20 years, but currently live in Woodbury. “A good group of regular customers is the bread and butter of the Swede Hollow Café,” Ruth says. The regulars come in two or three times a week to enjoy a hot cup of coffee or tea, a quiche or sandwich for breakfast or lunch, and the ambiance of the cozy café.

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

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**“Kill the lazy vermin.” Genocide and the Dakota people of Minnesota**

Carla Richter
Forum staff

Jane Gray Swisshelm was a progressive woman in her day. She edited a newspaper in St. Cloud in the 1850s and ’60s and fought for women’s rights and against slavery. But according to a story on Minnesota Public Radio on September 26, 2002, she also called for the extermination of all Dakota Indians following the Dakota-U.S. War of 1862.

“Exterminate...these red-jawed tigers, whose fangs are dripping with the blood of the innocents,” one of her editors read; “kill the vermin” read another.

A plaque honoring Jane Gray Swisshelm still stands near St. Cloud University.

Last year the Minnesota Legislature passed a law recognizing April as Genocide Awareness and Prevention Month. In the spirit of that declaration, the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council is hosting a presentation by Dr. Chris Mato Nunna, who will talk about the continuing aftermath of the 1862 war and how official histories still fail to recognize the genocide that was meted out on Native peoples. He will also unveil plans for a “Fish-in” on Lake Phalen this May, in which Dakota people will exercise their rights under their 1805 treaty with the U.S.

The presentation will be held at 6:30 pm on Tuesday, April 22, at the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council office, 798 East 7th Street, in St. Paul. The event is free and open to the public.

Dr. Mato Nunna is a Dakota elder and historian, a retired professor from Southwest Minnesota State University and a Community Faculty member at Metropolitan State University.

Dayton’s Bluff is the site of the original village of Kaposia and home to the competent. There’s very little different from those of the Chinese. Among its positive qualities, the horse is considered good luck, known for its constant efforts to improve itself. In Asia, horse qualities are full of positive qualities. The horse was a symbol of the energetic, the bright, the compassionate, the intelligent and the competent. There’s very little that people born in a Horse year cannot do, and many are considered independent.

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**Carla Richter is a professional writer and editor. She can be reached at refineditorial@gmail.com.**
Continued from page 5:  

Year of the Horse: A reflection of Lao culture

Previous horse years Lao Minnesotans observed were 1978, 1990, and 2002. In each of those years, there were many changes for us in our diaspora. Some are very convinced of the accuracy of this traditional belief; others are not.

Many Lao Minnesotans do well remembering that old Shakespeare quote: “The fault…is not in our stars, but in ourselves.” But a New Year is always a good time to look back and see the bigger picture of your experience: Where you’ve been and where you might go. What lessons have you learned, what memories have you made, what dreams have unfolded. If nothing else, we recommend you see the horse as a symbol of a journey this year.

Dayton’s Bluff Night at the Minnesota RollerGirls

Join your neighbors for a fun night of hard-hitting women’s roller derby in downtown St. Paul! On Saturday, April 19, a group from Dayton’s Bluff will be attending the Minnesota RollerGirls’ home team championship bout at 7:00 pm at the Roy Wilkins Auditorium.

The Minnesota RollerGirls, now in their tenth year, are the Twin Cities’ premier roller derby league, drawing upwards of 4,000 fans for their home games. With four home teams, mascots, a halftime band and many activities, roller derby is fun for the whole family! Roller derby has evolved into a legitimate, full-contact sport. The women practice up to nine hours per week. MNRG has three skaters who live in Dayton’s Bluff, and three more from the Eastside. Come see these talented athletes in action on April 19!

Tickets are $14-16 (kids 9 and under get in free) and should be purchased in advance from the Xcel Energy Center box office, HealthSource at 1754 Old Hudson Road, or online at Ticketmaster.com. The Dayton’s Bluff fan contingent will be meeting at Alary’s Bar at 5:30 pm before heading over to the game.

Search Facebook for the event “Dayton’s Bluff Night at the Minnesota RollerGirls.” Visit www.mnrollergirls.com for more information on the league.

You may qualify for a Property Tax Refund

To qualify for a Homestead Credit Refund (for Homeowners) or a Renter’s Property Tax Refund, you must be a full- or part-year resident of Minnesota for the year, and you can’t be claimed as a dependent by another taxpayer. Eligibility is also based on your household income and property taxes paid on your principal residence in Minnesota, as outlined below.

RENTERS: Your household income for 2013 must be less than $57,170 (for 2012, less than $56,220). The maximum refund is $2,000.

You must have lived in a building that was subject to property taxes or “payments in lieu of property taxes.” If you’re not sure about your building, contact your landlord.

HOMEOWNERS: You may be eligible for one or both of the following refunds if you owned and lived in your home on Jan 2, 2013.

Regular Homestead Credit Refund (for Homeowners) and Renter’s Property Tax Refund: Your household income for 2013 must be less than $105,500 (for 2012, less than $103,730). The maximum refund is $2,580.

Special Homestead Credit Refund (for Homeowners) and Renter’s Property Tax Refund: There is no income limit, but net property tax on your homestead property must have increased by more than 12 percent from 2013 to 2014. The increase must be at least $100. The maximum refund is $1,000.

Your home or mobile home must be classified with your county as “homestead” (the home you live in for tax purposes). Properties that are classified as “relative homestead” don’t qualify.

To apply, complete Form MPR

This form is available at public libraries and at other locations where state tax forms are distributed. You can also file electronically for free. It can also be found electronically at the MN Dept. of Revenue website: www.revenue.state.mn.us/forms_and_instructions/mpr_13.pdf

Claims based on property taxes payable in 2013 or rent paid in 2013 must be filed prior to August 15, 2014.

Questions? Contact the Dept. of Revenue at: (651) 296-3781

You can also check the status of your refund by calling: (651) 296-4444 or visit: www.revenue.state.mn.us

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Dayton’s Bluff District Forum

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Phone: 651-772-2075  Fax: 651-774-3510  E-mail: editor@daytonsbluff.org

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Board of Directors: Greg Cosimini, Karin DaPual, Jennifer Herman, Steve Trimble
Editor/Layout: Meg Gronau
Editorial Assistant: Mark Gallagher

History corner

War, embezzlement, and the big white house on the bluff

Steve Trimble
Forum historian

There has recently been a lot of interest in the American Civil War, the money in the Minnesota State Treasurer, and white-collar crime. Here’s a little-known story about a former prominent resident, from the Dayton’s Bluff neighborhood’s past that, in a way, contains all three.

Emil Munch was born in Prussia in December of 1832 and immigrated to the United States at the age of 18. It’s unclear when he moved to our neighborhood in St. Paul, but for five years he lived in Taylors Falls, Minnesota in 1852, and moved to Pine County after. He served in the Minnesota House of Representatives for the Pine County area from 1860-1861, but enlisted in the First Minnesota Artillery Battery on October 16, 1861 and was chosen captain the following month.

He experienced some bad times during the conflict. While fighting at Shiloh, one of the bloodiest battles of the war, his horse was shot out from under him. While Emil tried to remove the saddle, he was severely wounded in the thigh. As a result of the wound and subsequent exposure while on march, Munch resigned his commission in December of 1862. When he returned to our state, Munch joined the Minnesota State Militia as a brigadier general. During May through July 1863 he was involved in the aftermath of the Union’s Dakotas War. Governor Alexander Ramsey sent him to go to the western counties to get the settlers ready to defend themselves if their areas came under attack. In this commission, he helped fortify settlements.

In August 1863 he was back in the Union army. He had accepted an appointment to the Veteran Reserve Corps, unfortunately named the Invalid Corps. Munch reenlisted with the unit at Camp Douglas, Illinois, until the war’s end. His duties largely involved serving on court martial and guarding military prisons.

Munch returned to St. Paul in 1865 and married Bertha Seeger, a member of a prominent German American family living in Dayton’s Bluff. In 1871, Emil Munch was living at a house at 334 Mounds Boulevard (now 652 East 5th Street). It is usually listed as the Gustav Munch house, but at least one of the Minnesota Historical Society’s photographs label it the Emil Munch house. At this time, I’m not sure where Emil fits in.

The house, an 1869 Italianate frame structure, still stands and is the last remaining west-facing home on the crest of the bluff. It’s the one with the white columns—added sometime in the 1940s—that make it look like the plantation home Tara from Gone With the Wind.

Like many other Civil War Veterans, Emil became involved in politics. He served as deputy state treasurer and was elected Minnesota state treasurer from 1868 to 1872. After these two terms, Munch was succeeded by his father-in-law and neighbor William Seeger. Unfortunately, during his father-in-law’s tenure, “The Great Defalcation” was uncovered in the winter of 1873. (I looked up “defalcation,” and it is an archaic term for embezzlement.)

As investigations showed, Munch had purchased timberland and saw-mill operations using “enforced loans” he made to the state, $112,000 would be said to have been embezzled.

No criminal prosecution was made. Munch’s bondmen, including two major bankers and the head of a major whole dry goods firm, made the treasury whole. Emil moved to Lakeland in Washington County, where he engaged in the lumber business. He went to near Afton, Minnesota in 1875 and took charge of a flour mill. According to one later source, he and brother Adolph—a long-time Dayton’s Bluff resident—also had a boat building enterprise there. Emil Munch died on August 30, 1887 and is buried in Oakland Cemetery.
Happy birthday, Harrison!

Harrison Younkin Viswanathan, above, turns five on April 4. A third-generation Dayton’s Bluff resident, he is looking forward to the snow melting, and the new Mounds Park playground.

Rest in peace, Dorothy Day

Carla Biehle
Chair, Dayton’s Bluff Equity Committee

The dust has settled on the proposal by Catholic Charities to site a new Dorothy Day Center on the Eastside. Unfortunately, Dorothy Day herself might have shuddered at how the discussion unfolded. A pacifist and anarchist, Day advocated “disobedience” to move the center from the natural world,” Garvey says. “The works...are a reminder that we are...a part of this natural world.”

The exhibit continues through July 24. Gallery hours are Mondays-Thursdays, 11:00 am-7:00 pm; Fridays and Saturdays, 11:00 am-4:00 pm. The gallery is located in the Library and Learning Center, 645 East 7th Street.

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