Art in the Hollow June 7!
Artists, sculptors, performers wanted

Now is your chance to tap into your inner artist. Our area's biggest explosion of art and talent – Art in the Hollow – is Saturday, June 7 from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. We have room for more artists to display ($15 fee); tents required. There is no fee for performers, who will be selected based on talent, variety and local roots. As a community festival set in the heart of the neighborhood, this is an "unplugged" event.

Our newest attraction for both artists and audience is the temporary environmental sculpture contest. Entry is $10, and, concepts meeting safety criteria will all be erected the day of the festival. The three sculpture prizes are $300, $200 and $100. In keeping with the community feel of the festival, the awards will be made by a people’s panel based on votes the day of the festival. This is your chance to make a statement with public art! There is no previous experience or credentials required. Deadline is June 1; apply at www.artinthehollow.org.

Here is a sample of some of the submissions, in the words of the artists:

“My sculpture will be of Medeina, Goddess of the forest. She will be seven feet tall and her style will contain elements of the forest. What is unique about this sculpture is it will be comprised of many tiny solar panels. The power will be routed to her hands and torso, where charging stations will allow the public to charge their devices.”

Another artist says: Stone cairns have been used by many cultures for millennia to give direction to travelers or as markers of significant locations. This project involves the building of cairns from glass “stones” to mark (for a day) the heart of Swede Hollow. There will be a small performance aspect to the work, as the “stones” will be scattered in a small area and then the cairns constructed after the event opens. I am hoping that there will be water in the stream this year and that the cairns constructed after the event will be transfigured. 2014 marks the fifth year welcoming summer with this day-long event. The wonderland of the Hollow will come alive with environmental sculptures, strolling musicians, kids' activities, and “Wise Elders” of Swede Hollow who will share some of its intriguing history. Artists in a variety of media demonstrate and sell their works, and performers from around the globe grace our stage in the heart of magical Swede Hollow.

Scores of community members come together to make this happen, and volunteers are rewarded with a breakfast at the beginning of the day and a party with the artists afterward. For the first time this year, you will find, in a cozy hidden fairy den, our lovely, spritely “Spirit of Swede Hollow” who will be accepting suggestions for a proper name while describing her dream: the emerging Hamm Center for Healing Art.

For more information on volunteering to be a part of this wonderful celebration of talent, or to exhibit, perform, or enter the sculpture contest, call Karin DuPaul at 651-776-0550, or www.artinthehollow.org.

Below: Kids of all ages enjoyed the art activities at the 2013 Art in the Hollow event. This year’s Swede Hollow event will be Saturday, June 7, 10:00 am-5:00 pm.
Dayton’s Bluff offers 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 April we talked about pedestrian-friendly environments and making Dayton’s Bluff more walkable, and in May we discussed homelessness (see page 5 of this issue to learn a little from the discussion). Come join us on Thursday, June 5, at 6:30 pm as we ask, “What is an engaged community?”

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

Making It Happen on East 7th Street!

Tim Herman
Dayton’s Bluff resident
Executive Director of ESABRA

East 7th Street is on the rise as a direct result of bold, big vision and multiple economic development initiatives by the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council, led by Executive Director Deanna Abbott-Foster, her board, and staff. Those initiatives are bringing new businesses and development along a corridor that, for many years, sat with vacant buildings. Metro State University is building a Science Center, Student Center, and a new parking ramp; the St. Paul Port Authority is developing Beacon Bluff (30+ acres of former 3M property at 7th and Arcade Streets); Mississippi Market opens in 2015; Delfwood Gardens memory care facility just opened; CentroMex grocery store has new ownership; and a new coffee shop opens soon in the old cigar factory. East 7th Street has become a hot new corridor for developers to shop new businesses, entrepreneurial ideas, and innovation.

The annual Night Out on East 7th Street Business and Community Fair on Friday, June 20, from 5:00-8:00 pm, is a family event, with a Make It Happen board game and prizes, jump castle, free popcorn, musicians and dancers. Plan to eat out at one or more of the many great restaurants on East 7th Street, and get to know local businesses in our community.

529 Day: save for college

MN College Savings Plan release

May 29 is National College Savings Plan Awareness Day. A 529 College Savings Plan offers advantageous savings plan that encourages saving for future college costs.

Minnesota’s plan currently has more than 33,000 account holders, and Dayton’s Bluff residents hold 107 of these accounts.

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

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.

Meet with the police

The Eastern District Police will host their monthly meetings for community members at 722 Payne Avenue, at the corner of Payne and Minnehaha Avenues. The next meetings are Wednesday, June 18, at 6:30 pm, and Friday, June 20, at 9:30 am. The meetings, open to all, are intended to address and listen to concerns about crime and other issues on the East Side.

Forum monthly meeting

Would you like to contribute to this newspaper? Come to our next meeting, Monday, June 2, at 1:00 pm at 798 East 7th Street to meet the Forum board and staff.

Take-a-Hike June 7

Take-a-Hike occurs on the first Saturday-of most months. The next hike will be Saturday, June 7. Hikers meet at 10:30 am in Indian Mounds Park at East and Mounds Boulevard, and walk to the East Side Heritage Park. The hike is about two hours (four miles) with some moderately rough terrain. New hikers are always welcome. For more information, call 651-776-0550.

For more information about the programs and events of the Dayton’s Bluff Recreation Center, please call 651-793-3885 or stop by the center and check us out.

Upcoming opportunities at Dayton’s Bluff Recreation Center

- Jump Jam Double Dutch jump-roping, Monday through Thursday afternoons, June 23-August 14. Ages 5-18; FREE.

- Open gym: 6:00-7:30 pm. Elementary school-age: Mondays & Wednesdays; Middle school-age: Tuesdays; High school-age: Thursdays.

- Parent & Tot Time: ongoing. Wednesdays and Fridays, 10:00 am-1:00 pm.

- Judo: Mondays, 6:00-7:00 pm.

- Teen “Bluff Room”: 3:00-7:30 pm.

- Seniors “500” card playing: every Friday, 12:00-4:00 pm.

- Self-defense: Wednesdays, June 4-August 13, 6:00-7:45 pm.

- Free arts: June 18, 2:30-3:30 pm.

- Make It Happen: Friday, June 20.

- Summer Blast! June 16-August 21, Mondays through Thursdays, 12:00 noon-5:00 pm for 1st-5th grader; FREE.

- Movie Mondays: June 16, 6:00 pm.

The Dayton’s Bluff Rec Center is located at 800 Conway Street. 651-793-3885 Facebook: Dayton’s Bluff Recreation Center Stop by and check us out!
Tree trek becomes a reality
Steve Trimbble, Forum board

Get your cameras ready! On May 31, you can participate in the launch of a new Indian Mounds Park attraction. The Tree Trek is a walk through the park that takes you by more than two dozen different species of trees. On this day, some new, different trees will be planted. You can help with the planting, or place identification stakes that allow people with smart phones to access information about the tree.

The Tree Trek was developed with help from the St. Paul Forestry division of the city, the University of Minnesota Community Forestry Department, with funding from the Poblad Foundation. Field work discovered what different kinds of trees were in the park and what new species could be added to the diversity.

Do you remember when you or your children were asked to bring in several different kinds of leaves as a class project and wondered where to find them, even if you could identify them? Now, that will be much easier. Scout troops can earn merit badges and activity patches. Other people just might have fun following the trail and learning about the local fauna for an interesting, fun day.

Plan to be there on Saturday, May 31, starting at 11:00 am. You can get involved in the planting and marking, or just watch the beginning of a new park amenity. Forestry experts will be available to offer information and answer questions. After the actual work, there will be a celebratory barbecue at the park. For more information, call Tabitha Derango at 651-772-2075.

Mounds Park United Methodist Church

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

Sunday Mornings:
 Worship Service: 10:30-11:30 am. Coffee time: 11:30 am

June 8-14: Urban CROSS (Christians Reaching Out in Service in St. Paul), A Ministry of MPUMC. Youth from all over the state will be working on homes and yards in the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood.

June 11: Community Picnic in the Park (Sponsored by MPUMC). Please join us at Indian Mounds Regional Park from 5:30-8:30 pm. Hot dogs, chips and lemonade will be provided.

Free, 6:00 pm: Special appearances from the Winter Carnival's King Boreas and his Royal Court including the Senior Royalty.

7:00 pm: Raptor Education Program from the University of Minnesota. The Raptor Center will bring in a hawk and possibly other raptors.

Urban CROSS Youth Service Project

You can help still in need of tools, supplies, paint, painting equipment, printing, staff t-shirts, food for the Urban CROSS teams/staff. To make a financial donation, please contact Mounds Park Church at 651-774-8736.

For more information about Urban CROSS, urbanCROSS.stpaul@gmail.com, www.moundsparkumc.org/urban cross.html. You may reach Eric Buck, Youth Director at 612-559-2368.

Contact MPUMC at 651-774-8736 or secretarympumc@yahoo.com.

A capital idea! Capitol City Tri brings national exposure to East Side
Trudy Marshall and Tim Herman

The East Side Area Business Association (ESABA) and the local-based Best of the US Amateur Championship Triathlon have joined forces to bring a national signature event to St. Paul’s East Side on Sunday, June 22.

East Side resident, event co-founder and Director Trudy Marshall says that Best of the US, ESABA, and the city of St. Paul are so happy together they've changed the race name and, with great pleasure, introduce the Capitol City Triathlon (formerly the Best of the US Sprint). The Best of the US Tri Series was founded in 2005 and has been in 7 different states across the US and has now found its permanent home at Lake Phalen.

The sprint race will still host the BOUS Championship, said Director Trudy Marshall. “But the sprint is for everyone, and we wanted the name to reflect that. Our goal is to create an instant classic. We’re celebrating all of Minnesota’s – and particularly St. Paul’s – treasures: its incredible parks; its dynamism and energy; its diversity; people and businesses, small and large, coming together for fitness and recreation. We Minnesotans are so blessed! What an awesome place we have to work and play.” Visit www.capitolcitytri.com to register or information. For sponsorship opportunities, contact Tim Herman at tim@esaba.org or 612-205-5693.

Free, fresh produce giveaways

Neighborhood House release
Neighborhood House, in collaboration with community partners, will be offering free, fresh produce once a month this summer.

Friday, June 26 at Dayton's Bluff Elementary School (202 Bates Avenue). Kids age 10-17 are invited to Margaret Park every Wednesday from June 25-August 20, for fun activities with an emphasis on teamwork, sportsmanship, and new friendships.

Each day will start with soccer from 10:30 am-12:00 noon. Lunch will be served from noon until 1:00 pm, and participants will have fun with art, making a mural in the park from 1:00-3:00 pm. To register, call Greg DeMar at 651-335-1091 or just register in person at the event. This opportunity is sponsored by St. Paul Eastside SDA Church, STOMP, and Dayton’s Bluff Community Council.

Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church

Our Saviour’s Church release

Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church is celebrating its centennial this year. Throughout the church’s 100-year history, the congregation has been an East Side institution – from our humble beginnings as a storefront on 7th Street, to our decades-long location on Earl Street and Minnehaha Avenue, to our current site on Johnson Parkway. The congregation invites our neighbors to join us to celebrate our centennial at an ice cream social on Sunday, June 1, from 5:00-7:00 pm. The party will be held on the church’s front lawn. Local musician and storyteller Jack Pearson will be our special guest entertainer.

Our Saviour’s is located at 674 Johnson Parkway. For more information, call the church at 651-774-2396.

Free summer youth program at Margaret Park

When you or your children were asked to bring in several different kinds of leaves as a class project and wondered where to find them, even if you could identify them? Now, that will be much easier. Scout troops can earn merit badges and activity patches. Other people just might have fun following the trail and learning about the local fauna for an interesting, fun day.

Plan to be there on Saturday, May 31, starting at 11:00 am. You can get involved in the planting and marking, or just watch the beginning of a new park amenity. Forestry experts will be available to offer information and answer questions. After the actual work, there will be a celebratory barbecue at the park. For more information, call Tabitha Derango at 651-772-2075.

Women’s Expo at the Historic Mounds Mound

Racann Ruth
Mounds Mound Executive Director

The Historic Mounds Mound presents the 1st Annual Women’s Expo on Saturday, June 14 from 10:00 am-6:00 pm. Join us for a fantastic day just for women! Whether you are single or married, a career woman or stay-at-home mom; there will be something for you. This one-day event will feature vendors along with classes. Women will have the opportunity to shop with vendors and gather information from area businesses and organizations. Come to be empowered through education, networking, knowledge, and improved health opportunities.

Vendors will showcase their latest products and services in health, nutrition, financial planning, beauty, fashion and more! A $5 donation will be accepted at the door. Visit www.moundsmound.org for other events coming in June. The Historic Mounds Mound is located at 1029 Hudson Road, 651-772-2253.

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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 homebuyers. We offer payback 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 loj xav pab ntix hv rau 651-774-9064

Dayton’s Bluff Neighborhood Housing Services
823 7th Street East
St. Paul, MN 55109
651-774-6995-office
www.dbhhs.org

Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church centennial ice cream social June 1

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Ever think, “Someone should do something...”? You ARE someone...in Dayton’s Bluff.

Join us at our Community Council meetings. All are open to the public and held at the Community Council office at 798 East 7th Street.

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

Vacant Building Committee: 3rd Thursday each month, 6:30 pm
Arts and Cultures Committee: 1st Thursday each month, 6:30 pm
Ask about our Marketing, Greenspace, and Outreach Committees.

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

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Meetings
SPPD Community Response Team at work
Senior Commander Joseph Neuberger
Eastern Patrol District
St. Paul Police

In reviewing our 2013 crime statistics, surveying East Side citizens and officers, I have committed officers and funding to a full-time “Community Response Team” (CRT). Our after- noon shift will assign four officers to this team. They started working in this capacity in April and will continue through the summer.

Expectations for the team include:
- Partner with residents, community groups, and businesses to get input on their perception of crime trends, and offer guidance on crime prevention strategies.
- Build relationships to share information and prevent crime.
- Use social media to keep the citizens informed of gangs and problem locations on the East Side.
- Conduct pedestrian and traffic stops based on criminal/suspicious behaviors; generate arrests, citations, or field interviews.
- Assist in information-gathering for prosecution, effective patrol assignments, and proactive efforts of the East District.
- Build relationships and partner with Metro Transit regarding transit-related issues.

- Liaison with FORCE and Crime Prevention/Multi-Housing for intel sharing, info dissemination, and aggressive follow-up on problem properties.
- Respond to in-progress calls involving large groups and probable gang-related incidents/shootings, etc.
- Work in both uniform/squad and plain clothes/raid gear/unmarked vehicles, flex their shift hours to address criminal behaviors.
- Focus on what was formerly identified as the IL3CP area, but be flexible enough to move as crime trends and needs of the community dictate.

Commander McRae is coordinating with the city attorney and county attorney, who will also be aware of the project, much like the very successful 2012 IL3CP effort. This project will be a highly-visible, flexible, proactive response to crime and concerns of East Side residents.

For more information visit Facebook: Saint Paul Police-Eastern District.

In St. Paul, the curfew law is as follows: Age 15 or younger must be home by 10:00 pm every day, unless out with a parent. Ages 16 and 17 must be home by 12:00 midnight, unless out with a parent. The police will pick up juveniles and ticket them if they violate curfew.

Neither the City of St. Paul nor the Saint Paul Police Department endorses the use of curfews or any method that results in the arrest of children/teens.

East Side Enterprise Center project moves forward
Dayton’s Bluff Community Council

The East Side Enterprise Center, opening later this summer, will serve as an economic development hub for East Side residents. The Center promises to offer a range of programs including job training and placement, micro-enterprise development, access to personal and business loans, a fresh-produce warehouse for immigrant farmers, and other services aimed at improving family income and assets.

“This is a first step in working across ethnic boundaries,” said John Floiry, Special Project Manager for the Latino Economic Development Center. “The East Side Enterprise Center is a multi-ethnic partnership that is designing programs to support business development that is rooted in this community. Community members are the best people to motivate potential entrepreneurs and communicate with them in their own languages and cultural traditions.”

The East Side Enterprise Center is also unique in its approach to governance. “We host listening sessions so the community members can help build this out,” said Jay Bad Heart Bull, President of the Native American Community Development Institute (NACDI) and one of the 13 founding program partners. “We’re not trying to find the answer; we’re here to experience something. We have the principle of respect and we have some common goals. When it changes, we change. We have to be agile to meet the needs of the community.”

This centralized place, where a community can meet and build economic power, comes at an opportune moment. The East Side is riding high on a wave of renewed interest and investment, but more is needed.

“We’re a business development center but we’re also about social justice and business is the way to achieve social justice,” said Deanna Abbott-Fos-tet, Executive Director of Dayton’s Bluff Community Council.

The East Side Enterprise Center will be housed in the former Pabst Grocery Store building, built in 1885, at 804 Margaret Street East. It is a local- ly-based, equity model for economic development, promoting job quality and access and increasing opportunities for education and training that lead to a productive workforce. Warehouse space at the Center will provide a facility for area farmers to display, store, and package their produce.

Swedes in the Hollow
Karin DuPaul, Forum board

Kay Baker, a member of the St. Paul Rotary Club, brought four members of the Rotary International Group Study Exchange from Sweden to visit Swede Hollow Park in late in April. The visitors hoped to see the place where Swedish immigrants came to live in St. Paul in the mid 1800s.

At the park, Dayton’s Bluff historian Steve Trouble read some stories from an article he wrote for the Ramsey County History magazine about Mike Sanchelli, whose Italian immigrant family came to St. Paul to start a new life in America, and how the children in the families loved living in the peaceful valley along Phalen Creek.

Dick Sherwood told the visitors about his grandfather Eric Marelus, who came from Sweden to America to start a new life for his family in Swede Hollow in 1879. Eric’s brother back in Sweden died, and Eric inherited an old building, now known as the Old Apothecary Shop in Visibly, Sweden. Eric went back to Sweden and sold the building. Then he returned to Swede Hollow and used the money to build his new home at 863 York Avenue and the family moved “up on the street,” which was the goal of most residents of Swede Hollow. Today, the Old Apothecary Shop is on the National Register of Historic places in Sweden.

Karin Malm, one of the Swedish visitors, mentioned that she had recently visited the Old Apothecary Shop before her trip to America.

Volunteer nets grant for Seniors
Rhonda Battisto
Executive Director
Dayton’s Bluff Seniors

In recognition of Ann Barnes’ commitment to the community and for her outstanding service, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota has contributed $250 to Dayton’s Bluff Seniors’ project, much like the very successful 2014 Rotary International Group Study Exchange from Sweden to visit Swede Hollow Park in late in April. The volunteers hoped to see the place where Swedish immigrants came to live in St. Paul in the mid 1800s.

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SPPD Community Response Team at work.

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Did you know?

In 2009 the U.S. Congress defined a homeless person as anyone who:
1. Lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence; AND 2. Has a primary nighttime residence that is supervised, publicly or privately-operated temporary living accommodation, including emergency shelters, transitional housing, and battered women’s shelters; OR 3. Has a nighttime residence in any place not meant for human habitation, such as under bridges or in cars.

On any given night in Minnesota:
- About 14,000 people are homeless
- Nearly 40,000 Minnesotans experience homelessness in a year

Who are the homeless?

The homeless are families:
- Nearly half of homeless adults have children. One in three have at least one child with them.
- Children of two-parent families comprise 22 percent from 2009-2012.
- Children with their parents represent the fastest-growing segment of the Minnesota homeless population today – a 26 percent increase from 2009-2012.
- The homeless are children and youth: many of them are young enough to be in elementary school.
- In 2012, the Minnesota Department of Education reported serving 9,000 homeless children. Services that were previously restricted to homeless students now serve homeless students, reports serving 9,000 children.

What are the causes of homelessness?

- Nearly half of homeless adults lost their housing because they could not afford the rent or mortgage and/or they lost a job or work hours.
- Only 17 percent of homeless adults reported a drinking or drug problem as the reason they left their last home/permanent housing became homeless.

Surprising facts about homeless adults:
- 77 percent of homeless adults have at least a high school education; 34 percent have attended at least some college.
- 8 in 10 homeless adults have some type of health insurance coverage.
- Nearly one-third of homeless adults have a mental illness.
- 51 percent of homeless adults report a chronic health condition such as high blood pressure, heart problems, asthma, respiratory problems, and diabetes.
- 22 percent of homeless adults have been diagnosed with a substance abuse disorder, which is a decrease from 27 percent in 2006.

Surprising facts about homeless children/youth:
- 60 percent of homeless youth have a parent who has been incarcerated.
- More than half (55%) of all homeless youth have been abused or neglected.
- 29% of homeless youth are parents, and one out of five has at least one child with them.

The above data comes from the Homelessness in Minnesota 2012 Study by Wilder Research and is available online (www.wildersearch.org). Some of these facts were presented at the May Community Meeting at the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council and neighbors began a community conversation about the challenges of homelessness. Though this issue is difficult and complex, some things are clear: First, the overwhelming number of people of color, two significant groups in Dayton’s Bluff, are being deeply impacted by homelessness. Therefore, this isn’t someone else’s issue – it’s our issue. In fact, Project REACH, which serves homeless St. Paul Public School students, reports serving 9 percent of the current students at Dayton’s Bluff Elementary. Second, the major causes of homelessness have more to do with economics and affordable housing than personal choices. Therefore, tackling this issue is a community responsibility rather than just a personal responsibility. The community conversation must continue, as there is more to be learned and understood, and well-thought-out strategies need to be implemented.

Jennifer Herman, Forum board

June 2014 Dayton’s Bluff District Forum

Homlessness...right here

Homelessness...right here

Homelessness...right here

Interview with Alan Grafing

Sage Holten
Dayton’s Bluff Community Council

“Time for breakfast, fellas,” is the typical 6:30 am lights-on/wake-up at Union Gospel Mission, home of Bethel Hotel and many services for men who are homeless. Alan Grafing summarized his experience: “My son will always come first. With my own apartment again, he can have dad help him. I’ve learned that rent will always be paid first. I want my child to be happy...I put Legos together, he played with them – we both had fun...but the rent needed to be paid first. I want to cook for my son. I have learned fragility in purchasing food and things for my son. I’ve learned the difference between needs and wants. It wasn’t for my son. I would have had a different path and it scares me to think what could have been.”

Bethel Hotel at the Union Gospel Mission (UGM) has been Alan’s home for eight months. A friend recommended UGM when Alan lost his apartment. Like so many, the spiritual quickly came from losing his job to losing his apartment. For $6 a night Alan reserves a ‘paid bed’ in a room with 33 other men. This is an alternative to a shelter which dictates massages. He and the ‘bed’ cut the rug around 9:30 pm – among other specific requirements – or a private room at a cost of roughly $180 to $200. For a weekly fee, a shelter resident can rent and other men try to get a locker. Some men use their cars to hold their possessions, while others may carry their possessions with them throughout the day.

Life for Alan was once as normal as any one’s. He grew up one of four siblings, with his mother and Navy father. One sister is a Horan and the other one is in Wisconsin; his brother and parents have all died of cancer. Alan is an Army paratrooper veteran and has been divorced for five years. He has been working in Minnesota and caring for his ill mother. After his mother died, he moved to the Twin Cities so he wouldn’t have to commute to see his son. His son lives in the Twin Cities, but will leave after two months.

A year later, he lost his apartment after trying to pay his rent on white, while still trying to stay in the facility through his 401k and unemployment. He went to court, attempting to keep his apartment. His apartment management wanted him to lose his apartment, but not optional. These programs include help finding transitional housing; helping people earn their GED; and classes on anger management and budgeting.

A social worker employed by UGM is present and available every day,” notes Alan, “and they are easy to access. A podiatry group offers foot care help monthly, for any foot-related problems, including foot care. A local dentist offers their services on the premises, by East Side Clinic, Dr. Como, and dental students. UGM helps men to get their lives back on track.”

Alan talked about other men from the Mission and Dorothy Day, enjoys the fellowship and computer access they find at Metropolis State University and the co-existing Dayton’s Bluff branch of the St. Paul Public Library. Other options for shelter residents, having to be physically out of the shelter for most of the day, are the Daily Union Gospel Mission saying, “It’s a natural fit for me; I’m a spiritual person, and UGM has a lot of programs that can help.”

If a person has a free bed rather than a paid room, a few of the UGM offers are free, with others partial, but optional. These programs include helping men recently out of prison, including help finding transitional housing; helping men earn their GED; and classes on anger management and budgeting.

“A social worker employed by UGM is present and available every day,” notes Alan, “and they are easy to access. A podiatry group offers foot care help monthly, for any foot-related problems, including foot care. A local dentist offers their services on the premises, by East Side Clinic, Dr. Como, and dental students. UGM helps men to get their lives back on track.”

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Note: Since this writing, Alan has found full-time employment and is looking for an apartment where he can cook for his son.

Dayton’s Bluff District Forum

This special report was inspired by the May community meeting at the Dayton’s Bluff District Council office. See page 2 for information on the June community meeting and its topic: What is an engaged community?
Small-town girl to university president: MSU’s Hammersmith to retire

Mark Gallagher, Forum staff
dehuseditor@gmail.com

The president of Metropolitan State University (MSU), Dr. Sue Hammersmith, took a different route than most of today’s young people to start her educational journey. She went to a three-room school with privies out back and no library.

“We didn’t have anything in the way of science and art,” Dr. Hammersmith says. “I never got to take an art class in school.”

Dr. Hammersmith was raised in a poor, conservative area of southern Indiana, where education was not valued and few people went to college. But Hammersmith’s parents believed in the value of a college education and the importance of respecting fellow human beings.

With that philosophy as a benchmark, Hammersmith says, “I believe in the worth and dignity of every human being, and I’ve always felt that working in public higher education and being able to make a difference in other people’s lives was the greatest privilege I would ever get.”

The Hammersmith family mantra of respect for every human being encouraged her to put herself in other people’s shoes to understand where those people were coming from. “When I went to Indiana University, it opened a door to the whole world,” Hammersmith says.

Growing up on a farm contributed to Hammersmith’s academic journey by forcing her to learn practical problem-solving and a “can-do” attitude. “Problems come up,” Hammersmith says, “and you have to solve them with the resources at hand, in the time frame you have – and that has been really useful for me.”

MSU’s enrollment has increased about 20 percent on Dr. Hammersmith’s watch. She attributes that to two things: “We’re very fortunate to be in the urban location, this is where the population growth is. Also, we have developed methods of adding classes as they’re needed. I think it’s easier now for students to get the classes they need to move on toward graduation in a timely manner.”

Hammersmith came to MSU in 2008 and will retire on June 31. She departs the university with many fond memories. During her tenure, President Hammersmith made some tough decisions about MSU, but her decision to retire wasn’t predicated on them.

“In higher education, there are always tough things to deal with,” she says. “I turned 65 last summer, and I got a new grandson. I feel like I got some of the big things accomplished.”

For Dr. Hammersmith, the best part of being MSU’s president has been the inspiring students, faculty, and staff, and the university’s commitment to meet every student where they are in their educational journey.

The first three months of Dr. Hammersmith’s retirement will be spent on a honeymoon with her husband. “The day we got married, we had four kids in our house,” she says. “I had two little girls and he had two boys in middle school, so we never really had time to be on our own.

“One of the first things we’re going to do is celebrate being here in the Twin Cities and having the freedom to relax and enjoy. I’m also going to be able to contribute more of my personal time helping with civil rights and diversity issues.”

Keep Your Child Healthy with Medical and Dental Checkups

Children and teens up to age 21 who are enrolled in Medical Assistance or MinnesotaCare can receive well child checkups and screening through Child and Teen Checkups.

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- Your doctor or clinic

CHECKUPS INCLUDE:

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- Every two years after age 6

For more information, contact your local county Child and Teen Checkups Program, call 651.266.2420

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Board of Directors: Greg Cosimini, Karin DuPaul, Jennifer Herman, Steve Trimble
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Although Oakland and Calvary cemeteries are the oldest of their kind in St. Paul and St. Anthony, a lot of people from Dayton’s Bluff, some of the community’s deceased residents are in other locations and need to be further researched. One example is Oscar Keller, whose remains were received by Elizabeth Cemetery. Oscar Keller, owner of a grocery store on East 7th Street, broke into politics in 1910 when he ran for the City Assembly. After he bought himself a Socialist ticket, he was a radical who aligned himself with the local labor movement and openly favored more far-reaching economic solutions. With strong support from Labor, he was successful and was re-elected naturally three times. In 1919, when the incumbent Fourth District congressional died, he declared to re-run for his seat. He did not win his party’s nomination, but entered the primary as an “Independent Republican” and won the seat. He was reelected in 1920 and began introducing a number of far-reaching proposals. He began his greatest battle in Congress in 1922 when he called for the impeachment of US Attorney General Harry M. Daugherty for “high crimes and misdemeanors” in office for issuing injunctions against striking railroad workers. Keller eventually was attacked by fellow Republicans as a socialist and was defeated in a three-way race.

These examples are only a small part of the stories which could be recovered with further research. Maybe some of you readers have some stories about your own family members who lived in our community and who are now in a local cemetery maybe Forest Lawn? Write in and let the Forum know.

Incidentally, no one has taken me up on my plea for some one to create a local neighborhood walking tour for Oakland Cemetery, featuring those who once walked around in our neighborhood.
Full speed ahead for East Side Community Radio

Carla Riehle
Dayton’s Bluff District Council

The East Side’s new community radio station is on track to be on the air by the end of the year. Slated to broadcast as a low-power FM (LPFM) station on 104.7 FM, the transmitter and antenna will be located atop a large storage barn on the campus of youth service organization 180 Degrees, at Johnson Parkway and East 7th Street. The studio location is still being scouted; organizers are seeking a spot on the East Side that will allow for simultaneous recording and live broadcasting. A storefront site would be a definite plus.

It’s estimated that it will take at least $20,000 to procure equipment for a studio and erect an antenna and transmitter. The Dayton’s Bluff District Council has applied for a City of St. Paul Neighborhood STAR grant for some of these costs, and it’s hoped that a matching grant from other foundations and underwriters will provide the basics, but monetary and equipment donations will still be needed.

The East Side has revealed an amazing wealth of radio talent and experience among its residents who have volunteered to help with the station. Kathryn Harris is acting as interim station manager and is working on a marketing and start-up plan intended to take the station through the first year of operation. Kathryn’s experience includes stints as on-air announcer and account executive at Twin Cities radio stations and she has operated her own media company. Rob Sebo Lubke, Mark Heitman and Thom Derus are planning antenna construction; Ben James, a decades-long radio veteran, has offered to conduct training for new broadcasters.

Although the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council is currently the LPFM permit holder, East Side Community Radio is intended to include and serve the entire East Side of St. Paul. Under FCC regulations, only single nonprofit entities were allowed to apply in the brief window that opened in October 2013, and the Council scrambled to take advantage of the opportunity. As soon as allowed by the FCC, the radio station’s formal governing structure will be expanded to reflect that constitution.

Contact nicole@daytonsbluff.org to be added to the email informational list, or call 651-772-2075. If you would like to make a contribution, you can contact Nicole or visit www.givemmn.org and type in “Dayton’s Bluff District Four Community Council.” Make sure to indicate “East Side radio” in the dedication blank.

Friends of the Forum

Dear Reader,

The Dayton’s Bluff District Forum began in the late 1970s and remains a volunteer-run newspaper that has always operated on a minimal budget, but we now face a “new normal” of an uncertain future due to economic difficulties.

Thanks to the generous contributions of nearly 50 individuals and businesses, we raised $2800 in 2013, enough to keep the paper running for now. If you value this community source of information, please consider filling out the form at right and enclosing a check. Any amount is appreciated; you may also make memorial donations or include the Forum in your legacy planning.

Already a Friend? It’s time to renew your membership for 2014. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Dayton’s Bluff District Forum
Board: Greg Cosimini, Karin DuPaul, Jennifer Herman, Carla Riehle, Steve Trimble
Editor: Meg Gronau
Editorial Assistant: Mark Gallagher

Minneapolis/St. Paul Home Tour

Above: home residents, visitors, and volunteers all made the Dayton’s Bluff Home Tour a success once again.

Karin DuPaul
Forum board

Hundreds of people toured seven homes in Dayton’s Bluff on April 26 and 27. Visitors included Dayton’s Bluff residents and people from all over the Metro area — and beyond. Many visitors come back to Dayton’s Bluff every year to see our wonderful homes and visit with our residents.

This year’s tour featured a variety of house sizes and styles. Visitors admired beautiful woodwork, large-scale home restorations, and beautiful new kitchens, among other new and period features.

Several owner-occupied homes were on the tour. One was 702 East 3rd Street, which was totally redone by the Dayton’s Bluff Neighborhood Housing Services; another was 1097 McLean Avenue, completely rehabbed by the owner. Both formerly-vacant buildings, with beautiful Victorian features, are for sale.

The old Mounds Park Elementary School building, now upscale apartments, was a popular stop for visitors, including many former students, teachers, and inquisitive neighborhood residents.

At the end of the tour, homeowners and volunteers attended a party at Flat Earth Brewery. Everyone relaxed and enjoyed the unique historic space, brewery tour, good conversation, and food. Many people are looking forward to next year’s Home Tour.

Thirty-eight volunteers helped make the tour run smoothly. Thanks goes out to them — some who help every year — and to the homeowners who opened their homes for the tour. Special thanks to Dellwood Gardens for meeting space, and Flat Earth Brewery for hosting the afterparty. We also need to say thanks for the delicious food donated by Yaruso Brothers, Manana Restaurant, Obb’s Sport Bar and Grill, Culver’s, and Checkered Pizza Board. And thanks to the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council for participating in the Minneapolis/St. Paul Home Tour each year.