

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

Volume 27, No. 2
March 2014
www.daytonsbluff.org

"The Voice of the Community"

Dine out for Dayton's Bluff

Forum staff

It's time for one of the most anticipated events of the year: the fifth annual **Dayton's Bluff Community Council fundraising dinner at the Strip Club Meat and Fish restaurant**. On April 7, join your friends and neighbors for an elegant dining experience. On this one special night, the restaurant closes its doors to the rest of the world and becomes strictly a Dayton's Bluff supporter hangout.

One of the finest dining establishments in the city, The Strip Club Meat and Fish is already a hot spot for neighbors. Its gorgeous environs and reputation for great food and drinks draws patrons from all over the Twin Cities (and beyond). Since its opening more than seven years ago, the Strip Club has received accolades too numerous to count. It was named by City Pages as one of the most romantic restaurants in the Twin Cities and is located in St. Paul, named by *USA Today* as North America's "Best Romantic Get-away." Don't miss this romantic and fun-filled evening with friends and neighbors.

Demonstrating its commitment to the neighborhood, the restaurant is hosting a five-course dinner with wine pairings as a fundraiser for the Dayton's Bluff Community Council.

Deanna Foster, Executive Director of the Community Council, says this event is just one of the ways that the Council builds community spirit. "One of the special things about this event is that it supports a larger community gathering and dinner [that happens] in October of each year. We are committed to building a more inclusive agenda that welcomes all residents of Dayton's Bluff. The Strip Club Annual Fundraising Dinner is an important way for some of us to support all of us."

The restaurant can accommodate a maximum of 60 people, so don't wait to reserve your place. Advance ticket sales only. Send your payments to Dayton's Bluff Community Council, 798 East 7th Street, St. Paul, MN 55106 or call 651-772-2075 for more information.



Steve Trimble collection

Mound Park Elementary School was designed by the architectural firm Buechner and Jacobson; construction began in 1891. When Dayton's Bluff Elementary School was built, the Mound Park building became a recreation center. In the mid 1980s, the building was closed, purchased and turned into apartments. This apartment building will be featured on the Minneapolis/St. Paul Home Tour. Many Dayton's Bluff people are looking forward to seeing the inside of this historic building on April 26 and 27.

Home Tour

Karin DuPaul
Forum board

The annual Minneapolis and St. Paul Home Tour will be held on **Saturday, April 26, from 10:00 am-5:00 pm and Sunday, April 27, 1:00-5:00 pm**. During the home tour, residents in Minneapolis and St. Paul open their homes to the public to showcase city living. This year we have an apartment in the old Mound Park School building on the tour; many people have wondered what it looks like inside. Some Dayton's Bluff people attended school there years ago.

Neighborhood volunteers are needed to help out in Dayton's Bluff homes during home tour. Tasks include greeting people at the door, giving out brochures and information about Dayton's Bluff, and helping the homeowners for a few hours either day. This is a wonderful way to show off the great things about our community to visitors.

If you are interested in helping out, please email karin@swedehollow.org or call Karin at 651-776-0550.

Known for its beautiful homes, Dayton's Bluff has six to eight homes on the tour each year. 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, the outstanding housing options and the wonderful people in Dayton's Bluff. The tour is hosted by the Dayton's Bluff Community Council.

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

For more information on the Minneapolis/St. Paul Home Tour, visit www.msp.hometour.com; see www.daytonsbluff.org and the April issue of the Dayton's Bluff District Forum for more information about the Dayton's Bluff tour, or call 651-776-0550.

From the editor

New voices encourage pride of place on East Side – so let's listen

Meg Gronau, Forum editor

I picked up the February issue of National Geographic magazine and was thrilled to see a "personal geography" of the Twin Cities written by Garrison Keillor. Keillor's voice echoed through my childhood – my family has always loved NPR, and "A Prairie Home Companion" painted a picture of a kinder, gentler, slower-but-more-beautiful life

than what I'd experienced growing up in suburban Chicago. I went to college in Minnesota – my only prior experience of the state being "APHC" and rooting for the Twins in '87 and '91 – and I found my new home here, moving into a house on the East Side of St. Paul in 2001.

See "From the editor,"
continued on page 4

5th Annual Dayton's Bluff Fundraising Dinner

Monday, April 7, 6:00 pm

Elegant five-course dinner

Strip Club Meat & Fish

\$100 per person (\$40 tax deductible)

Proceeds benefit Dayton's Bluff
Community Council.

Advance ticket sales only.
For information, call 651-772-2075.

Are you a Friend of the Forum?
It's time to re-up! See page 8.

East Side transit group awarded for inclusion

Jose Morales, Jesus Ramirez
Dayton's Bluff Community Council

After six months of work on the east side of St. Paul, *Fostering an East Side Transit Equity Conversation* (FESTEC) will receive its first award. The Rosa Parks Diversity Leadership Award is given annually by the local Chapter of WTS International. Founded in 1977, WTS is dedicated to building the future of transportation through the overall advancement of women. The annual awards process recognizes local individuals or organizations, and local winners are placed in contention for the international award to be given later in the year.

The Fostering an East Side Transit Equity Conversation (FESTEC) campaign was a six-month organizing blitz that took an historic approach to organizing for transit on the East Side of St. Paul. A steering committee of District Councils and other neighborhood groups hired nine organizers of color, many of whom live in the neighborhood. The organizers worked to bring forward the

voices of women, low-income, and communities of color to provide input to decisions made about transit on the East Side.

With this diverse organizing group, they were able to bring together a large town hall meeting. The meeting had over 75% people of color and good representation of elders, youth, women and men. They developed a set of four Transit Equity Principles to guide future transit projects, using an equity framework that made central the issues of under-represented communities.

One of the FESTEC Transit Equity Principles is "everyone benefits" – encouraging a concentration on historically under-served communities. This includes advocating for equity in project hiring, as well as protection for small business communities that might be impacted by transit projects.

The award is given for exhibiting extraordinary efforts in facilitating opportunities for professional women and minorities. FESTEC significantly contributed to promoting diversity, inclusion and multicultural awareness.

Dayton's Bluff
Community Council
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New Friends of Swede Hollow are welcome

The next Friends of Swede Hollow monthly meeting is on **Wednesday, March 12, at 6:30 pm**. Email karin@swedehollow.org or call 651-776-0550 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, an active 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 East Side 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 the 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, March 19, at 6:30 pm, and Friday, March 21, at 9:30 am**. The meetings are intended to address and listen to concerns about crime and other issues on the East Side.

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 February

we discussed planning and ideas for the Make it Happen Business and Community Fair to be held on June 20, 2014 (mark your calendars now!). Many great opportunities came from the discussion.

In March, we will be talking about 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. The beautiful aspect of these committees is that you too can be part of the action, helping make plans for many quality-of-life issues and fun events in the community.

Dayton's Bluff is home to many outstanding civic-minded neighbors who, over the years, have produced parks, community gardens, playgrounds, cultural events and so much more.

Come join in and see what we can "get up to" on the Bluff on **Thursday, March 6 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.

Plots available at Skidmore Garden

Skidmore Park Community Garden announces that garden plots are now available for the 2014 growing season! There are 24 raised-bed plots in this neighborhood park near the Earl Street Dairy Queen. Plots come in two sizes: 40 square feet and 64 square feet; the annual fee for all plots is \$25. The final deadline for all registrations is March 15. A mandatory orientation will take place on **Monday, April 14 from 6:00-7:00 pm** at the garden, 1084 East 4th Street. An indoor location for orientation will be announced, should the weather refuse to cooperate. Applications are available for download on the Skidmore Park Community Gardens

Facebook page, or you can pick one up at the Dayton's Bluff Community Council office at 798 East 7th Street. Plots are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis, so get your application in today! Spring will be here before you know it. Questions? Call the Dayton's Bluff Community Council at 651-772-2075.

Take-a-Hike March 1

Take-a-Hike occurs on the first Saturday of most months. The next hike will be **Saturday, March 1**. Hikers meet at **10:30 am** in Indian 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. Return transportation is available, if required. All are welcome.

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**. Starting March 9, please bring clean clothing and usable household items to the stage in the Fellowship Hall. We cannot accept electronics (TVs, computers, stereos) or furniture. If you have items that need to be picked up, please call the church office at 651-774-8736. Volunteers are needed to help set up on Thursday, March 27 and Friday, March 28 beginning at 5:00 pm, and on Saturday from 9:00 am-2:00 pm. All money received goes to mission projects here in our neighborhood, our nation, and abroad. Thanks in advance!

Mounds Park United Methodist Church is located at 1049 Euclid Street. Contact 651-774-8736 or secretary mpume@yahoo.com.

Upcoming opportunities at *Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center*



- **Free Rec Check program:** 1st-5th grades; registration is open to the public.
- **Dayton's Bluff Family Center Parenting Group:** every Friday, 9:00-11:00 am.
- **Basketball** season has started! We are hosting 8U games every Saturday, 11:00 am-2:00 pm.

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

● **Free Zumba!** Tuesdays, 5:30-6:30 pm in the dance room.

● **Judo:** Mondays, 6:00-7:30 pm.

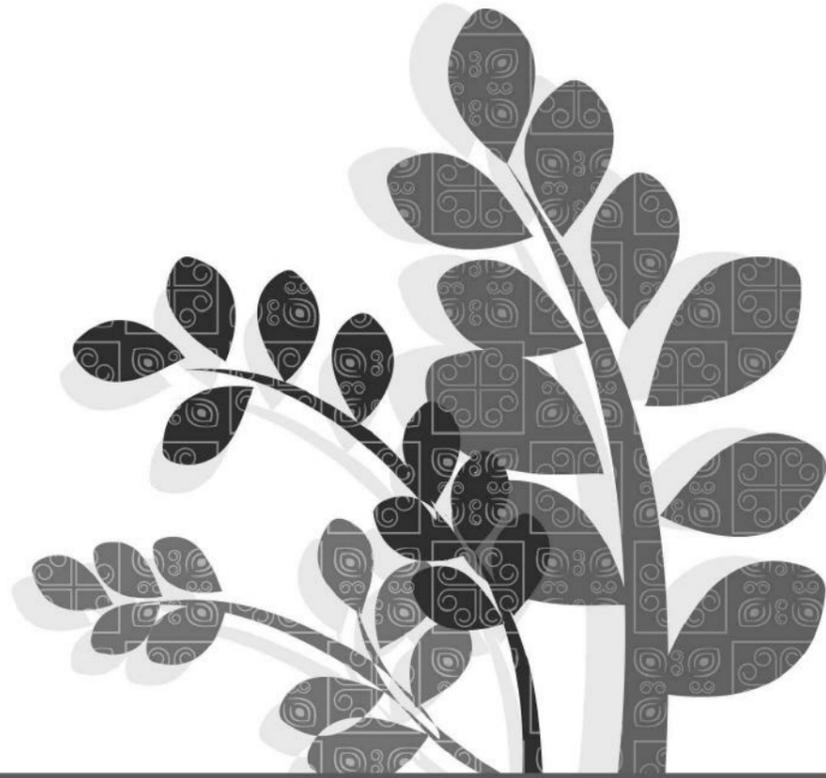
● **Seniors "500" card playing:** every Friday, 12:00-4:00 pm.

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

Stop by and check us out!



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Immigrant labor rights forum held at Sacred Heart

Forum staff

About 60 people attended an informational meeting on immigrant labor rights at Sacred Heart Church on Wednesday, January 29.

Rafael Espinosa, President of the Dayton's Bluff Community Council and union representative for United Food and Commercial Workers Local 1189, spoke about legal rights under federal law that all employees in this country are entitled to, regardless of their immigration status.

He explained that it's not uncommon for employers to take unfair advantage of immigrant workers who may be reluctant to complain. One of the atten-

dees described her own situation where she was required to work 60 hours per week for the same employer, but because it was at different locations, her boss told her she wasn't eligible for overtime pay. Rafael was able to suggest options for her to take action in this situation – and others like it – where individuals were unsure of their rights.

Another meeting on the new MN-Sure insurance program will be held soon, with a Spanish-speaking representative from the Minnesota State Department of Health. Please contact Rafael at 651-294-8971 for more information.

YAI presents OLIVER!

YAI release

Young Artists Initiative (YAI) kicks off its eleventh season with the timeless musical classic OLIVER!

Orphaned Oliver Twist goes from mistreatment in the London workhouses to falling in with a gang of pickpockets led by the roguish Fagin, the kindhearted Nancy, and the menacing Bill Sykes, before finally finding a home, in Lionel Bart's musical adaptation of the Charles Dickens novel.

YAI is a performing arts organization based on St. Paul's East Side that provides access to high quality arts programming, teaching and developing young artists in our community. We empower youth to increase their confidence, learn about their creative potential, and exceed their own and our audiences' expectations. We honor every young person for who he/she is, and

we build bridges among diverse communities in the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

This production features an all-youth cast of 26 and more than 10 youth crew members from around the Twin Cities. YAI is also partnering with the Neighborhood House food shelf to collect food donations at all of the performances.

Performances are held at the Wellstone Center, 179 Robie Street East, in St. Paul 55107, on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, **March 14-23**. Friday and Saturday shows are at 7:30; Sunday shows at 2:00 pm. General admission tickets are \$10.00 for adults, \$8.00 for seniors & \$6 for students. Tickets can be purchased online at www.youngartistsmn.org or at the performance. Ask about our "pay what you can" and ASL-interpreted performances.

Continued from page 1:

From the editor: Keillor, Soucheray don't know East Side

Now, I admire Keillor; in his book *Lake Wobegon Days* he speaks of the pain and passion of writing, and I identify with his wanting to reach just one person and make them understand. I feel his love for music; and my aunt once sang on APHC with her group The Hot Dishes.

So imagine my dismay when I saw Keillor's full-page, hand-drawn map of the Twin Cities. It's on page 68 of the print version of the magazine. The East Side of St. Paul – literally everything east of Union Depot – is blank, except for Lake Phalen, the words "blue collar," and the train tracks to Chicago.

And earlier this month, my attention was brought to the efforts of a young lady, Daisy Yang. Daisy is a Dayton's Bluff resident and a senior at Johnson High School.

Daisy and other members of the Johnson High School Student Council had read an August 2013 Twin Cities Pioneer Press column by Joe Soucheray. In the article, titled "We have to acknowledge evil in our midst,"

Soucheray responded to the August near-fatal beating of Ray Widstrand,

which occurred near Payne and Minnehaha, just north of Dayton's Bluff.

Soucheray, who attended high school on the East Side, is rightly horrified by the evil things that happen in the Twin Cities. He singled out the East Side of St. Paul and blames all of society for making excuses for the behavior of a few troubled youths.

"...so we build a few more rec centers," Soucheray wrote, "and we preach the meaningless mantra of inclusivity and diversity and self-esteem and entitlement and all the other gibberish that doesn't amount to a hill of beans and is only making matters worse, not better."

Well, first of all, WOW! Are we actually building new rec centers? That would be wonderful. Imagine, a public place where kids could go and hang out and recreate. Seems to me that we had some of those, back in the day. Of course the Dayton's Bluff Rec Center is a wonderful resource for the immediate neighborhood. But we are certainly not, as Soucheray claims, building new rec centers. We tore down Margaret. Eastview is under private management. Arlington is currently closed.

Daisy and her classmates took issue with Soucheray's portrayal of the East Side of St.

(See "From the editor," continued on page 5)

Gateway Station Area Planning committee seeks members

The City of St. Paul is seeking applicants for the Gateway Station Area Planning steering committee. The committee will help city staff guide the plan process and transform community input into a detailed document for several planned BRT/LRT (bus/rail) stations along the Gateway Corridor on the

north side of I-94, including at Mounds Boulevard., Earl Street, and Etna Street. A range of citizen perspectives and backgrounds is sought. Please contact Bill Dermody, City Planner, for an application: 651-266-6617, bill.dermody@ci.stpaul.mn.us.

Coming to the Historic Mounds Theatre

Raeann Ruth
Mounds Theatre Executive Director

Empower Emporium: this Psychic and Wellness Faire will be held at the Mounds Theatre on **Saturday, March 15** from 11:00 am-5:00 pm. Activities include free classes, psychic readings, alternative health professionals, aura photos and more. Admission is \$5.

Toil & Trouble presents: Saturday Morning. Bringing "classy" back to mornings with cereal, mimosas, and a side of burlesque, *Toil & Trouble* presents Saturday Morning. Cartoons,

brunch, obnoxious toys, hangovers, and pajamas are only a small taste of the evening's offerings. Saturday Morning will have two performances on **Saturday, March 15** at 7:00 pm and 10:00 pm at The Historic Mounds Theater. General admission tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door. VIP tickets are \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door. Tickets are available through Brown Paper Tickets. Visit online at <http://tandtsaturdaymorning.bpt.me> or call 1-800-838-3006.

The Historic Mounds Theatre is located at 1029 Hudson Road: 651-772-2253; www.moundstheatre.org.



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St. Paul, MN 55106
651.774.6995-office
www.dbnhs.org



NeighborWorks
CHARTERED MEMBER

**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.

Board of Directors: 3 rd Monday each month, 7:00 pm	Vacant Building Committee: 3 rd Thursday each month, 6:30 pm
Land Use Committee: 1 st Monday each month, 7:00 pm	Arts and Cultures Committee: 1 st Thursday each month, 6:30 pm
Equity Committee: 1 st Tuesday 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.



Marissa Bianco

A beginners Level One morning ESL class at CLUES.

Teaching as a way to give back

Marissa Bianco, CLUES intern

CLUES is a non-profit organization with two locations in the Twin Cities: one on Lake Street in Minneapolis, and one right on the East Side of St. Paul, at 797 7th Street. CLUES offers a wide variety of services in both English and Spanish for people of all walks of life. Among the excellent mental health services, chemical health services and aging well services are the well-established adult ESL classes. ESL classes are free for students and are taught mainly by volunteers.

I have found teaching ESL to be an extremely rewarding experience and a great way to give back to the community. I'm CLUES' Educational Enrichment Services intern and I teach two ESL classes a week at CLUES. I was nervous when I first started. I had never had full control of a classroom before, but CLUES provides a curriculum, materials and various activities to help teachers build their lesson plans. It's a very supportive environment, offering much assistance to teachers. One thing that helped with teaching

was my students' focus. I found that CLUES students are motivated, focused, and really want to be there. My students are very hardworking and quite eager to learn.

It's remarkable to see a student's face light up when they understand a concept or when they relate to a topic being presented in class. I have students from all over the world: Mexico, Guatemala and Bhutan, to name only a few. My students' diverse nationalities and life experiences add unique perspectives to the class. It's safe to say that I have learned as much from them as they have from me.

CLUES is looking for more volunteers to teach. Classes are on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 10:00 am-12:30 pm, or 6:00-8:30 pm. Volunteers commit to teaching one class per week, for the entire term. For more information or to apply one can contact Caitlin Brickman, Human Resources and Volunteer Coordinator, by email at volunteer@clues.org or by phone at 651-379-4200. A general volunteer application can be found at www.clues.org on the "Volunteer" page.

Obb's adds on



Greg Cosimini

The new addition to Obb's Sports Bar & Grill is scheduled to open in early March. Built in the old parking lot, the addition will include a new dining room, bar, accessible restrooms and a game area.

Learn about the history of immigration to St. Paul

When did your family come to St. Paul? Has your family been here for generations, or did they just arrive? How do their experiences compare to those of other immigrants and migrants? How does our city's history look different when we examine it through the lens of the experiences of our diverse community groups?

Here's a chance to learn more about your own history, the histories of your neighbors, and to put them together like pieces of an historical puzzle.

St. Paul Public Schools Community Education is offering a six-session course on the history of immigration to St. Paul. It will be taught by Macalester History Professor Peter Rachleff, a long-time resident of Dayton's Bluff. For the past 30 years, Professor Rachleff has taught courses in labor, immigration, and African American, Asian American, and Latino history at Macalester College and Metropolitan State

University. The Community Education classes will rely on lectures, reading and discussing historical documents, viewing photographs, films, and maps, and tapping into oral histories and family stories.

The classes will meet on Thursday evenings at Harding High School from 6:30-8:00pm. There will be three classes in Part 1 (winter): February 27 (Irish and Germans); March 6 (Scandinavians); and March 13 (eastern Europeans) – and three classes in Part 2 (spring): April 10 (Mexicans and African Americans); April 17 (Latinos, southeast Asians, and Africans); and April 24 (a discussion of public policy and immigration reform).

You may register for Part 1 (\$30) or Part 2 (\$30), or, for a discount, Parts 1 and 2 together (\$50). Please call the Community Education office at 651-744-5094 to register. Call Professor Rachleff at 651-774-8687 with questions about the classes.

Continued from page 4:

From the editor:

Look beyond revered St. Paul writers for true East Side voices

Paul. They wrote him a letter, to which there was no response, but the Forum was so impressed with the youths' efforts that we're printing their letter here:

Dear Mr. Joe Soucheray,

The Johnson High School Student Council, which represents our student body's well-being, has read your editorials referring to the East Side, and we would like to respond. We disagree with your perspective that the East Side is full of "evil," as you called it.

It felt like you were targeting a specific cultural group, African Americans in particular, even if you didn't specifically mention it. The language you used felt offensive towards the youth of the East Side. For example, when you described the East Side youth as "fatherless," "feral," "evil," and "untamed," it stereotypes us. Yes, there are people who cause trouble to our community; however which community doesn't have trouble in it? We too are disgusted with the crime against Ray Widstrand. However, the youth of the East Side is generally non-violent. We're worried with how other communities think about us as a result of your column and others like it.

We also struggled with your sarcasm towards diversity and programs that help youth, like recreation centers. Rec centers are there for youth who need a place to go for a positive use of their time or enrichment activities. East Side youth have many achievements. Why would [companies like] 3M and Genesys Works [who come to Johnson High School as part of the "Step Program"] choose to work with "feral youth"? Several other examples of our strengths include youth who are Big Brothers and Sisters, volunteer with Habitat for Humanity, participate in College Possible and Upward Bound. The positive involvement is endless and includes students from every type of background. Diversity isn't ruining our neighborhood and in fact is the Pride of the East Side.

Come see us. Let us show you our community.

*Sincerely,
Johnson Student Council*

It makes me sad that Soucheray didn't respond to these intelligent, clear-headed kids. It makes me sad that Soucheray thinks that values like inclusivity, diversity and self-esteem

are "gibberish." Earlier this winter, when school was canceled for the cold and one Dayton's Bluff mom opened her home to anyone who needed child care (and wound up with 13 kids), I promise you that inclusivity, diversity, and self-esteem were treasured in that home, that day and every day.

It makes me sad that influential voices like Soucheray and Keillor can think only of the East Side as it was half a century ago, when uneducated, unskilled folks could still get a regular, "blue-collar" job in the neighborhood, buy a home, and receive benefits and pensions and living wages to support their families.

It makes me sad, because I've lived happily on the East Side for the last 12 years. We bought our house because it was affordable, not knowing anything about the area. When friends go house-hunting, we explain how great it is to be five minutes from downtown, 15 minutes from the airport, and the surprising peaceful quiet we've found on the East Side. But one by one they buy houses elsewhere, pulled by the allure of suburban life, but no doubt influenced by how the east side is regularly portrayed (or simply ignored) by respected characters like Keillor and Soucheray.

So I'm glad Daisy is taking a stand. Nope, the East Side is no longer the white, blue-collar neighborhood Soucheray grew up in. But it's not scary living alongside people different from you. It's marvelous and fascinating. People are people – kids are kids – parents are parents. We are all doing our best to get by in this crazy world, even as technology and the economy and other forces conspire against our success. As we find ourselves the first American generation to be less prosperous than our parents.

It would sure be nice to get young, vibrant voices like Daisy's out in the media. Voices – sorry, Joe – diverse voices who can share their East Side experiences, and stand up and speak out.

MOUNDS PARK BARBER STYLISTS



APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE
TUESDAY THRU SATURDAY

1043 HUDSON ROAD
SAINT PAUL, MN 55106

651-771-6980

Judy Lee

Energizing the East Side with ESABA in 2014



Twin Cities Daily Planet

ESABA Executive Director Tim Herman with the East Side Business and Community map, created by local artist Liz Harrell.

ESABA intern Ann Maki Abel

The East Side Area Business Association (ESABA) continues to energize the East Side, representing our ethnic diversity and business variety. We strive to equally include, represent, and support the voices of non- and for-profit organizations as well as industries of all sizes.

ESABA has a fresh mission statement for 2014: To create opportunities, educate, and advocate success for St. Paul's Diverse East Side Business Community.

ESABA members are committed to "Keep It Local" and to support each other's businesses.

Next, ESABA is dedicated to ed-

ucate members. Monthly Lunch and Learn events and workshops provide members the opportunity to share their expertise. In January, we learned the value and extent of security systems with ESABA Member Unity Security. Networking breakfasts and similar events are a way to connect, listen, and celebrate.

To fulfill the last part of the mission - advocating for strong businesses - ESABA is partnering with local organizations to open the East Side Enterprise Center.

ESABA's vision combats past negative press and stereotypes about the East Side, highlighting the East Side as a destination for food, culture, products, professional services, community resources, entrepreneurship, and innova-

tion.

This vision shows the East Side as an economic engine: an interconnected, diverse network of businesses and resources. ESABA plans joint events with other business associations, chambers of commerce, and various community organizations to help build a thriving East Side business community.

The last piece of the vision directs the East Side as a business community supportive of entrepreneurship and innovation. Opportunities stem from the ESABA's commitment to embrace cross-cultural representation and advocacy for the entire community.

Please, join us. Energize the East Side with ESABA in 2014. Connect at 798 East 7th Street, 612-205-5693; tim@ESABA.org; www.ESABA.org.

AUDITIONS

Young Artists Initiative is holding auditions for our teen production of *In the Heights*. Auditions are the week of March 23, 2014.

No need to reserve an appointment; just show up! YAI's Teen Theater Experience is open to actors ages 12-18. No experience necessary. Actors should prepare a 30-second monologue (a short speech or poem you have memorized) and about 45 seconds of a song you know and love (preferably a show tune). If you are cast in a role, there is a \$100 participation fee; financial assistance is available for all YAI programs. All actors receive a free souvenir T-shirt and photo DVD!

Rehearsals begin Sunday, May 18, and run Sunday through Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 9 p.m. in Saint Paul. (There may be an occasional Saturday morning rehearsal as well, TBD.)

Auditions and rehearsals will be held at:
First Lutheran Church, 463 Maria Ave St. Paul, MN 55106

You must be able to attend all performances:

PERFORMANCE DATES & TIMES:

- Thursdays, July 10 & 17, 2014 at 7:30 PM
- Fridays, July 11 & 18, 2014 at 7:30 PM
- Saturdays, July 12 & 19, 2014 at 2 PM & 7:30 PM
- Sundays, July 13 & 20, 2014 at 2 PM

Performances at *The Performance Space @ Neighborhood House*
Located within the Paul and Sheila Wellstone Center
179 Robie Street East, Saint Paul, MN 55107

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Dayton's Bluff District Forum

798 East 7th Street, St. Paul, MN 55106
Phone: 651-772-2075 Fax: 651-774-3510 E-mail: editor@daytonsbuff.org

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Board of Directors: Greg Cosimini, Karin DuPaul, Jennifer Herman, Steve Trimble
Editor/Layout: Meg Gronau Editorial Assistant: Mark Gallagher
Next issue: April 2014. Deadline for material: March 10, 2014.

Dayton's Bluff 1914

Steve Trimble, Forum historian

I visited the Minnesota Historical society's microfilm room for this month's article. Once again, I decided to see what was happening in Dayton's Bluff a century ago by looking at a weekly newspaper called the *St. Paul Enterprise* that covered this and other East Side neighborhoods.

I was surprised by the large number of political ads, until I remembered that city elections used to be held in April. There were also many more elective offices that today are appointed by the mayor. I was pleased to see several ads by Oscar Keller (pictured at right). He joined the city council in 1910 and went on to serve as an Independent Republican in Congress from 1919 to 1927. His strong support of unionism meant he ran as a different kind of Republican.

There were always lots of small items in what newspapers at that time called the Society pages. Here's a few examples of what was in the March 10, 1913 issue. An "old fashioned spelling bee" was going to be held at the Mounds Park School. Also, "Mrs. Albert H. Johnston was going to give dramatic readings" at the school. I have no idea what she performed or even what "dramatic readings" were thought to be at the time.

One interesting thing is that the school is being called "Mounds Park," rather than "Mound Park" as it was originally called. So the name change came sometime before 1913. Don't believe it? Drive by the old edifice on Pacific – the inscription above the doors leaves out the "S."

The Dayton's Bluff Grove No. 15 Woodman Circle was also slated to "entertain at cards next Tuesday evening in Odd Fellows Hall on East 7th Street." The "Tuesday Thimble Bee meets next Wednesday afternoon with Mrs. Edward Strate of Plum Street."

The "Men's Club of the Atlantic Church," – the building still stands at the northeast corner of Conway and Bates – "are giving supper followed by an entertainment this evening." A fact (perhaps somewhat unusual) was added: "the supper is to be prepared entirely by the men." Lyngblomsten No. 5, a Norwegian organization, "will hold its March meeting with Mrs. John Mattson of 729 East 6th Street. Mrs. Mattson expects to leave soon for a trip to Norway."

Weddings were usually given a little more space. Such was the case of bride-to-be Miss Lillian Saunders, who married Mr. Allen Holmes of Prince Albert, Canada. There was a reception sponsored by the Ladies Aid Society of the Holman church., which is now the Ecclesia Condomiums at 243 Bates Avenue. It was held at the home of Mrs. George Nienaber of East 5th Street. "The rooms were prettily decorated, red being used in the living rooms and pink being

the color for the dining room. Miss Anna Blom gave vocal solos; Mrs. Gordon Beulke and Miss Mary Atkins gave piano numbers."

Now and then there were sizable articles, one of the most interesting ones in a March 8 issue of the *Enterprise*. In it, Mrs. Paul Reagan told the neighborhood Monday Club how she and her husband bought their first car 15 years earlier.

They were in a small town where no one had ever seen an automobile. They bought a steam-powered model – there were several in the early days of automobiling. There was one seat "large enough to hold two people; just back of the seat was the tank holding the water and the boiler... Instead of the steering wheel of modern times, it had a crooked rod extending at the front from the center of the floor to the hand of the driver."

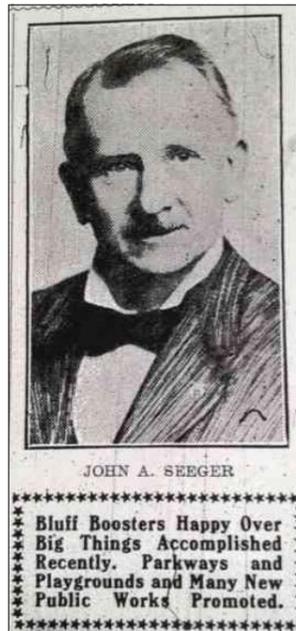
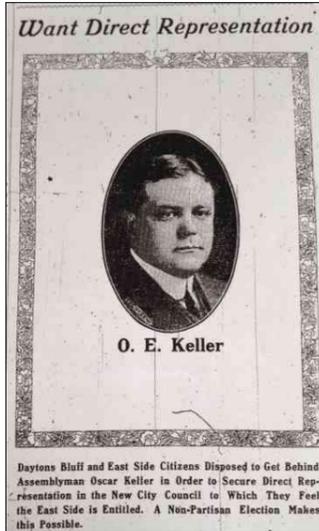
It worked well on flat roads, but they wanted to try it on a hill. "The hill was a very little larger than the one on Case Street, near our present place of residence," she said. To their "surprise and joy, it climbed easily to the top, leaving the would-be pusher far behind." Then they decided to risk a long journey to see relatives in Iowa. The car needed a lot of water to provide power on a hundred mile trip "and every pond, stream, pump and rain barrel along the way was called upon to contribute." Interestingly, they also needed gasoline, but it was only used to heat the water.

In 1915 the Dayton's Bluff Commercial Club was an important force in the neighborhood, providing a place "for social exchange and community leadership." The group is now defunct, but its club house lives on at 770 East 7th Street and is currently owned by an Ethiopian church.

One of the highlights at a March meeting was a speaker from the Associated Charities of the city who "outlined its plan for the uplift of the dependent citizens of the community." Commercial Club President John Seeger (pictured above), the owner of a refrigerator factory, proposed a neighborhood "clean up campaign," saying that the city of St Paul "will haul away rubbish collected buy individuals" and urged members of the Club "to spread the word around and take an active interest in the work of cleaning up Dayton's Bluff."

The Commercial Club (see ad at left) tended to do what our Community Council does today but with enough members to do the work of ten active committees a century ago. Among others, there were committees for entertainment, finance committee, industry, nuisance, parks and playgrounds, publicity and street railway.

Our residents a hundred years ago were quite involved in neighborhood development. Makes you want to get more active yourself, doesn't it?



1914 St. Paul Enterprise

2013 Dayton's Bluff Honor Roll Honorees Announced

St. Paul's 17 district councils held their annual volunteer awards event on January 31, at St. Thomas University. The awards recognize people from all over the city who have given outstanding service to the community over a long period of time. Each of St. Paul's 17 district councils has the opportunity to add three new people/groups each year since the 1980s. Congratulations and thank you to all the people who work hard to make Dayton's Bluff the best it can be.



Rich DuPaul

Front, from left: Angela DuPaul, Diane May, Karin DuPaul, Linda Charpentier, and Sage Holben. Back: Anita Bendickson, Tabitha Benci Derango, Charlette Kelly, Cleo Kelly, Brad Griffith, Karen Griffith, Kathy Lantry and Deanna Abbott-Foster.

2013 Honor Roll Honorees

Anita Bendickson

Anita shows amazing commitment to the neighborhood and business district and is a wonderful role model for young women. She is the highest-ranking female Black Belt in the United States and she teaches self-defense. Anita sews her own line of activewear clothing. She hosts community events at their karate dojo. Anita and her husband have had their business, Midwest Karate, at 762 East 7th Street since 1975; the couple also lives in the building.

Sage Holben

Sage is a past board president and has been a board member since 2009. She serves on numerous committees. She is a willing volunteer who helps with cleanups, home tours, and other events. She is often working with neighborhood kids on projects like a Little Free Library and talking with the kids in her neighborhood. In warm weather, she hosts movie nights on her front porch.

Cleo Kelly

Cleo has done an excellent job of restoring the building at 800 Margaret Street, which he has owned since 1990. He replaced the old tile roof and the round-topped window on the second floor and recently finished restoring the first floor facade. Over the years, he has helped all of his tenants, even taking a resident to the doctor, store, and to work on occasion. He is a very responsible landlord and building owner.

Dayton's Bluff members of the Neighborhood Honor Roll

- | | | |
|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| All Artoli | Denise Erler | Catherine Piccolo |
| John Barbie | Chris Geurts | Eugene Piccolo |
| Anita Bendickson | Charlie Golden | Jane Prince |
| Julie Benick | Amy Handford | Steve Randell |
| June Bennett | Stephanie Harr | Joan Rodriguez |
| Glen Blomgren | Sage Holben | Raeann Ruth |
| Paul Broderson | Rob Huberty | Roger Schaefer |
| Eric & Amy Buck | Beth Hyser | Jody Seidel |
| Alice Burdick | Bette Johnson | Margaret Sieland |
| Carol Carey | Teri Keller | Margie Smith |
| Cliff Carey | Cleo Kelly | Maxine Smith |
| Maryann Chowen | Ed Krahmer | Carlos Stewart |
| Al Cläusen | Deanna Layer | Ed Szalapski |
| Mary Ann Cogelow | Diane May | Dick Taylor |
| Jean Comstock | Matt Mazanec | Susan Tietjen |
| Greg Cosimini | Sharon McCrea | Steve Trimble |
| Donovan Cummings | Wayde Moen | Lorraine Venaas |
| Carrie Dimmick | Colin Moore | Mike Voss |
| Margaret Doren | Mary Moore | Wilfred Weber |
| Steve Duerre | Dave Murphy | Juanita Westman |
| Jacob Dorer | Ruth Murphy | Wayne Wittmann |
| Angela DuPaul | Christine Nelson | Lisa Young |
| Karin DuPaul | Susan Omoto | Sandi Younkinn |

This space prepared and paid for by the Lantry for Council Volunteer Committee
25 East Sandra Lane, St Paul MN 55119

Sledding and smiles at Margaret Park

Jennifer Herman, Forum board

Recently, Margaret Park has not been a positive, fun place. When the city turned over programming to another organization, youth felt displaced from their Rec Center, and their frustration became evident. Neighbors were frustrated about trash and vandalism, and young families didn't feel safe bringing their little ones to play at the tot lot. The community's sense of loss deepened when the Rec Center was demolished. But Saturday, January 25 signaled a positive new beginning for Margaret Park.

The day dawned bright and quite cold, but a heated tent provided shelter. Heavenly Day Cafe catered in hotdogs, chips,

cookies and hot cocoa. Parks and Rec supplied bales of hay to sit on and the Dayton's Bluff Community Council (with funding from the Pohlad Foundation) provided 45 colorful sleds. Children and families (at least 200 of them!) came pouring in from far and wide to take part in the first annual sledding event on the new sledding hill at Margaret Park.

All afternoon, happy shouts and laughter could be heard. The sleds were given away as drawing- and sled-race prizes. Despite the cold, the crowd was reluctant to leave. How great it was to see Margaret Park transformed into a fun, joyful place where folks long to linger!

Jennifer Herman photo



East Sider crowned King Winter

Jennifer Herman, Forum board

When a friend first approached life-long East Sider Greg Pluff about applying for the position of King Winter, he wasn't too sure about taking on this new role. After all, he is a busy grandfather, he owns his own business as a wedding officiant (ceremoniesbygreg.com), is Chairman of the Trustees at Mounds Park United Methodist Church, is groundskeeper at the church and the parsonage, helps organize a summer community outreach called Urban CROSS (Christians Reaching Out in Service in St. Paul), is an active member of ESABA (East Side Area Business Association), and tends a plot at Skidmore Park Community Gardens – to mention just a few

Photo courtesy of St. Paul Winter Carnival

things! But his friend knew Greg's love for people and his heart for volunteering made him a perfect candidate for the role of King Winter.

Even though Greg had successfully completed all of the steps of the application process, he really had no idea what to expect when he stepped on the stage for the Winter Carnival Senior Royalty coronation ceremony. He was completely surprised when St. Paul Chief of Police Tom Smith crowned him King Winter! The rest of the night was full of pomp and circumstance, a banquet, and bunches of photos, but the best part was seeing the pride and excitement on the faces of his grandchildren.

King Winter LVI Greg Pluff is joined in his court by Queen of the Northlands

in his court by Queen of the Northlands Gerry Schulz of White Bear Lake; the first ever female Prime Minister, Mary Lou Vining-Berg of Cottage Grove; Lady-in-Waiting Katie Follmer of South St. Paul; and Princess of the Four Winds Cindy Thrasher of St. Paul. Though a typical court has six members, Greg says the five members of his court make an exceptional team and all look forward to their duties. The Senior Royalty will represent the Winter Carnival and St. Paul Parks and Recreation in about 150 appearances this year at area festivals, parades, community events, senior centers, and care facilities. Contact Greg (grgplf@gmail.com) to submit a request for the Senior Royalty to attend your event. Be sure to ask King Winter to bring his scepter to knight someone special!

Friends of the Forum

Dear Reader,

The *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* has been around since the late 1970s. It's 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.

In May 2013, we thought we'd try to get 100 residents to become *Friends of the Forum* and agree to make annual tax-exempt donations to help the paper continue to mail out neighborhood news on a monthly basis.

We are nearly halfway to that goal. We raised \$2,800 in 2013 and, as you can see, we are delighted to be able to bring you the *Forum* again this month.

If you value this community source of information, please consider filling out the form at right and enclose a check. Any amount is appreciated.

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, Steve Trimble
Editor: Meg Gronau
Editorial Assistant: Mark Gallagher

Yes, I will become a *Friend of the Forum*.

My tax-deductible check is enclosed, for (circle amount):

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Click on "donate" and type in "Hopewell Communications."

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For more information, call 651-772-2075 or email editor@daytonsbluff.org.

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*Names with an asterisk have already renewed their membership for 2014. If your name appears here, please renew your membership today. Don't see your name? Become a *Friend of the Forum* by filling out the form at left!