East Side Radio holds first community meeting

Forum staff

If the first community meeting was any indication, the new East Side radio station should be broadcasting in at least four languages by the end of the year. Hmong, Somali, and Spanish speakers were among the 40-some people crowding the meeting room at the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council office on April 15.

On March 24, the Council was awarded a permit by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to begin construction on a low-power FM radio station and the group hopes to be on the air by the end of the year. The station’s frequency on the dial will be 104.7, but its call letters and name are yet to be determined. To try out some possible call letters, visit http://licensing.fcc.gov/prod/callsign/main.html and press “query,” then enter your request. The first letter has to be “W,” but the following three letters can be anything else. Be warned, though, most of the good call letters seem to be taken. Even without a name yet for the station, ideas for programming abounded at the community meeting. Suggestions included regular shows on disability issues, world music, East Side businesses, real estate, youth, locally-produced music, a bedtime story hour, seniors, soundscapes, gardening, radio diaries, industrial sound art, health (walking, transportation, preventive measures), how to make technology simple, Somali music, jazz, arts events, home repair, science, local employment, numerology, Dakota language, police department feedback, local history, local sports, Metropolitan State University students, community news and events, and local plays and performances.

Following the brainstorming, several embryonic committees were formed, including outreach, fundraising, and programming.

The next community meeting is planned for 6:15 pm, Tuesday, April 29, at the Council office, 798 East 7th Street. If you missed the notice or can’t attend, be sure to get on the mailing list for updates and meeting times. Email dbccfrontdesk@gmail.com or call 651-772-2075.

The map above shows the optimum broadcast range of the new East Side radio station. Interest has been high and another community meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 29 at 6:15 pm at 789 East 7th Street.

Dayton’s Bluff Community Council
Mission:

TO ADVANCE EQUITY . . .

The Council makes space for the difficult conversations and actions in support of racial justice. We seek to create a neighborhood free of systemic and institutional inequities by ensuring that equity be made a priority consideration in all decisions, work plans and actions of the Council and its partners.

• Dayton’s Bluff Living Wage and Fair Employment Policy - We actively encourage businesses to adopt practices outlined below.
• East Side Community Radio – Sponsor of a new low power FM station for local community programming.

. . . AND ENHANCE QUALITY OF LIFE . . .

We believe our community is enriched by neighbors knowing neighbors, broad participation in community events, growth of local business and access to resources to enrich the lives of all who live, work and do business in Dayton’s Bluff.

• Night Out on East 7th Street Business and Community Fair, June 20, 2014.
• Market on the Bluff – locally grown produce & crafts, Thursdays, 4:00 to 8:00 pm, at Maria near East 7th Street.
• Art on the Blocks – Youth voices through art.
• Make it Happen on East 7th Street - Business growth, STAR capital investment program.

. . . THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS . . .

We do our best work through partnerships that provide greater scale and impact.

• East Side Enterprise Center, LLC – a joint ownership partnership with the Latino Economic Development Center and featuring 12 programming partners that bring culturally focused economic and community development resources to the East Side.
• Fostering East Side Transit Equity Conversations (FESTEC) – a partnership of community groups and transit development government partners joined to ensure transit access for the East Side.
• Community University Partnership – grown out of the community pact with Metropolitan State University to ensure true partnership in multiple ways with the surrounding community.

. . . AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT.

Community engagement is the heart of the Community Council. We build the future together by working on common goals, driven by shared values and respect for the differences each person, community, age, gender and culture bring to our community table.

The council has the following standing committees actively working with the community: Arts and Cultures, Communications, Equity, Housing and Land use.

For more information about how you can be involved, visit the Council’s website at www.daytonsbluff.org or call 651-772-2075.
New Friends of Swede Hollow are welcome

The next Friends of Swede Hollow monthly meeting is on Wednesday, May 14, 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, a former Dayton's Bluff Community Council board member. Budget Towing will remove any junk car or truck – located anywhere in St. Paul – and dispose of it at no charge to the vehicle owner or the property owner where it is located. The vehicle owner will receive paperwork for a tax donation, and Roy will also make a small donation to the Community Council for each car he tows.

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

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 Friday, May 16, at 9:30 am, and Wednesday, May 21, at 6:30 pm. 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 March, we discussed the District Council's direction for 2014, the areas of work it's involved in, and the many committees of the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council; in April we talked about pedestrian-friendly environments and making Dayton's Bluff more walkable. Come join in on Thursday, May 1 at 6:30 pm for a discussion on homelessness.

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

Eastside Transit Spotlight

On Tuesday, April 29, from 6:00-8:00 pm at the Dayton's Bluff Rec Center, join the Hiawatha Education Foundation for a transit event focusing exclusively on the Eastside.

The event features a powerful documentary film, Is the Gateway Corridor Hudson Road Alignment a Pure Illusion? This will be followed by short presentations of interviews with residents of the Eastside expressing their views on the Gateway Corridor Project, which largely seems to bypass the majority of Eastside residents. All are welcome for refreshments, snacks, popcorn and door prizes.

Take-a-Hike May 3

Take-a-Hike occurs on the first Saturday of most months. The next hike will be Saturday, May 3. Hikers meet at 10:30 am in Indian Mounds Park at Earl Street and Mounds Boulevard, and walk through local parks and trails, winding up at the new East Side Heritage Park. The hike is about two hours (four miles) with some moderately rough terrain. Enjoy stories of the history of the people and buildings of Dayton's Bluff! Return transportation is available, if required. New hikers are always welcome. For more information, call 651-776-0550.

Art in the Hollow June 7

Art in the Hollow is on Saturday, June 7, from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. There are still a few slots available for artists, artisans, and performers. Sign up on Facebook or www.artinthehollow.org. Everyone is welcome to come to Art in the Hollow and it is still FREE.

For more information, call Karin DaPaul at the Friends of Swede Hollow, 651-776-0550, or visit www.artinthehollow.org. Be sure to circle June 7 on your calendar!

St. Paul Public Library Bookmobile in May

Parkway Gardens, 1145 Hudson Road, 1:30-2:00 pm on Mondays, May 5 and 19.

Wilson Hi-Rise, 1300 Wilson Avenue, 12:30-1:00 pm on Mondays, May 5 and 19.

Ceremony Marian, 225 Frank Street, 2:30-3:00 pm on Monday, May 12.

For more information, visit www.sppl.org/bookmobile; call 651-266-7450.

Dayton's Bluff Dinner Event

The Dayton's Bluff Dinner Event is going to be held on the evening of Saturday, May 17. Our community event is held every other year (even number years). Our dinner has been very popular with our neighborhood residents with around 30-40 participants. The event is similar to a progressive-style dinner, while not every participant hosts an event, host homes are needed to make it a success! This evening is for Dayton's Bluff residents age 21+. Please contact Marjorie Smith for more information or to get registered for the May 17 event. Call 651-778-1075 or email mrg363@gmail.com; please be sure to reference the Dayton's Bluff Dinner Event in your email or voice message.

Mounds Park “Tree Trek”

The Mounds Park “Tree Trek,” a trail identifying 25 different species of trees in the park, will be enlightening for students, seniors, and everyone in between – another way to explore our important community attraction. This project is made possible by a donation from the Pohlad Foundation.

On Saturday, May 31, 11:30 am - 2:30 pm, there will be tree events with planting and putting in markers; you are welcome to help. There will be tours around the park and forestry experts from the city and the University of Minnesota to answer questions.

There will also be a free picnic, with food by Heavenly Day Cafe and Catering, a group from the First Lutheran Church. For more information, contact Tabitha DeFango at 651-772-2075 or Steve Trimble at steve.trimble@gmail.com.

Upcoming opportunities at Dayton’s Bluff Recreation Center

- Parent & Tot Time: ongoing, Wednesdays and Fridays, 10:00 am-1:00 pm.
- Judo: Mondays, 6:00-7:30 pm.
- Teen Room “Bluff Room”: 3:00-7:30 pm.
- Rummage Sale: April 26
- Open gyms 6:00-7:30 pm. Elementary school-age: Mondays & Wednesdays; Middle school-age: Tuesdays; High school-age: Thursdays.

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

Stop by and check us out!
May at the Historic Mounds Theatre

Raeann Ruth
Mounds Theatre Executive Director

Paracon 2014
Join us for a paranormal-filled day on Saturday May 3, beginning at 10:00 am. We have an amazing group of lectures ranging from psychics to UFOs, demonology to hypnosis, and many more. It will be an exciting day of meeting like-minded people who share the same interests as you and want to learn more. We have artisan vendors, specialty readers, silent auctions, and even a psychic gallery reading with people’s choice award winner Allison James. We will end the event with a special ghost hunting class and investigation at the theatre for an additional $25. This event is a fundraiser for the Historic Mounds Theatre. An all-day pass to the Mounds Paracon is $20.

Speaking schedule for Mounds Paracon:
Saturday May 3, 10:00am-7:30pm
10:00 am Andrea Deea
10:45 am Craig R. Lang
11:30 am Dawnette Springer Cook and Tamara Springer Gleason
12:00: lunch break
1:00 pm Sarah “Harmon” Soderlund
1:00-3:00 pm Alison James Gallery Reading (extra ticket needed)
1:45 pm Debra Nicholson
2:30 pm Bryan M. Dorn
3:15 pm Vic Nylan's Viktor the Mind-blowing Hypnotist show
4:30 pm Scotty Roberts
5:15 pm: Alison James
6:00 pm Jodi
6:45 pm John Savage
7:30-9:00 pm dinner break
Vendors stay open until 8:00 pm
9:00 pm-1:30am: Ghost hunt ($25 per person/limit of 25 participants).

The Mid-Life Crisis of Jesse Lee
“The Mid-Life Crisis of Jesse Lee” chronicles the adjustments a 60-year-old man makes to remain vital sexually. On a Friday night at his apartment, with his best friend of 40 years and his favorite call girl, he bears his soul to them about his childhood, his prodigal son, his failures, and triumphs.

A play not for the faint of heart, “The Mid-Life Crisis of Jesse Lee” is a brutal, honest, provocative look at how time waits for no one.

Written and directed by Paul Mabora
Performances are Friday, May 16 at 7:30 pm; Saturday, May 17 at 2:00 pm and 7:30 pm; and Sunday, May 18 at 7:30 pm. Tickets are $20.

Visit www.moundstheatre.org for more details and to buy advance tickets. Running time is 90 minutes.

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:
Adult Sunday School: 9:15-10:15 am
Kids’ and Youth Sunday School: 9:15-10:15 am
 Worship Service: 10:30-11:30 am
Coffee, juice and treats: 11:30 am-12:30 pm

Community Dinner and Movie Night:
Saturday, May 17 in the church hall. 4:30 pm board games; 5:15 pm free dinner; 6:30-8:00 pm movie (TBA) with free popcorn and lemonade. Concessions also available.

Urban CROSS seeks yard/home projects

Urban CROSS is also in need of donations. We always need tools, supplies, paint, painting equipment, printing, staff t-shirts, food for the neighborhoods BBQ: Saturday, May 3, 4:00-7:00 pm on the church lawn. (We will be inside in case of bad weather.) All are invited. Hot dogs, drinks, and sides provided. Bring a dish to share or just come to visit with your neighbors. There will be a bounce house and other activities for kids, and sno-cones. The police and fire departments may make an appearance. Urban CROSS staff will be on hand to help you fill out your work requests (see item below).

Contact MPUMC at 651-774-8736 or secretarympumc@yahoo.com.
As of April 7, 2014:

Single sort recycling – Put all of your recyclable materials into one bin or collection cart – separating is no longer required! Cardboard containers are accepted as of April 7. In addition to plastic bottles, yogurt, butter and produce containers, transparent deli and “to go” containers can be recycled with St. Paul’s residential recycling program.

Organics drop-off locations available – As of April, source-separated organics will be accepted at each St. Paul Ramsey County Yard Waste Site locations during regular site hours. For more information, search “composting” at www.stpaul.gov.

St. Paul recycling goes “all in”
East Side Freedom Library: A new life for a neighborhood institution

special to the Forum

The Arlington Hills Library on Greenbrier Street has been an important place for generations of East Siders. A Carnegie Library (built with money donated by Andrew Carnegie), its spacious great room has welcomed readers and learners of all ages since it opened in 1917. On March 14, 2014, this branch of the St. Paul Public Library system closed, and its collections and staff are moving three blocks to the new Arlington Hills Community Center at Payne and Maryland. The historic building will soon re-open as a new neighborhood institution, the East Side Freedom Library (ESFL).

Beth Cleary and Peter Rachleff, two Macalester professors who have made Dayton’s Bluff their home for fifteen years, have created the East Side Freedom Library, a non-profit corporation. They are supported by a diverse board of directors which includes neighborhood residents, educators, writers, and union activists. The ESFL’s team of advisors is expert in the preservation and renovation of historic buildings and the management of non-profits. The new entity is in the strategic alliance that includes the Minnesota Historical Society, the Minnesota Humanities Center, the Friends of the St. Paul Public Library, Metro State’s Institute for Community Engagement and Scholarship, and the University of Minnesota’s Immigration History Research Center. Rachleff and Cleary are also working closely with the St. Paul Public Schools and the Public Library System.

The ESFL will maintain close relationships with the city, leasing the building for 15 years, after which ESFL will have an option to purchase it. All the expenses of restoring, programming, and renovating the building, as well as all utilities, maintenance, and programming costs, will be the responsibility of the ESFL.

Cleary and Rachleff see their project in three parts: first, being responsible stewards of a building which is vital to the neighborhood and the city; second, assembling and organizing a rich body of collections which will focus on labor, immigration, and African American history and the ways that the arts have been used to tell the stories of people from those communities; and third, developing programs which use these collections to inform and inspire learners young and old, especially on the East Side, to understand their own communities’ histories and to appreciate the histories of their neighbors.

All three of these parts of the ESFL project will depend on the participation, involvement, and support of a wide range of community residents. The first stage in caring for the building is the redevelopment of the roof, which must happen before another winter sets in. This has been estimated at $70,000 by an experienced local roofing company. Cleary and Rachleff will soon announce a grassroots-based fund-raising campaign to help “raise the roof” on this project.

The collections, which may be used on-site but will not be available for circulation, will include the founders’ extensive personal libraries and their collection of African diasporic visual art and music. Fred Ho, a prominent Chinese-American jazz composer and musician, has donated his entire collection of books, materials, and recordings.

Cleary and Rachleff are in conversation with Marlin Heise, the founder of the Hmong Archives, about incorporating that rich collection of documents, maps, objects, and art into the ESFL. Other scholars have offered books and materials.

Neighborhood residents and organizations will also be invited to provide records and materials. Cleary and Rachleff will curate the collections, and no donations will be accepted until 2015.

On this solid foundation of the building and the collections, the ESFL founders intend to develop a range of programs including: the mentoring of neighborhood students undertaking History Day projects; helping neighborhood students with college and scholarship applications; teaching young people (and others) to conduct oral history interviews with neighborhood residents; offering workshops in poetry, writing, and story-telling, and creating events where neighborhood residents listen to each others’ stories, displaying art and providing workshops which analyze that art. There will also be a community engagement series on labor, immigration, East Side history and cultures, and other topics.

Cleary and Rachleff hope to create a lively new institution in an important historic building. They have ambitious dreams: to build bridges between the diverse groups of people who call the East Side home, and to raise the wider community’s appreciation of the past, present, and future of the East Side.

East Side Family Clinic wins Circle of Mothers grant

WSCHS release

West Side Community Health Services, Inc. (“West Side”) is pleased to announce it has received a $9,375 grant from the Minnesota Chapter of the March of Dimes Foundation for its Circle of Mothers (COM) program prenatal care program. West Side will use part of these funds to expand the program to its East Side Family Clinic (895 East 7th Street) site by the end of December 2014.

COM was developed specifically for West Side’s unique patient population by its nurse midwifery staff, and is intended to better provide West Side’s prenatal patients with high levels of access; cultural and linguistic competency; supportive services, such as social work; and linkage to community resources for expecting and parenting families.

According to Grace Grinnager, West Side’s COM Coordinator/Facilitator, “One of the most important facets of COM is the connections women make with one another. Not only do women ask questions and learn from one another’s experiences, they also form friendships that can last after the group ends. The camaraderie women form throughout the program goes hand in hand with our learning goals for each session. We want participants to leave COM with a stronger social network, ready to transition into motherhood with confidence.”

West Side provides comprehensive health care and social services with bilingual/bicultural staff on a sliding fee scale. More information at www.westsides.com.

Hmong-Lao veterans memorial nearly a reality

Young Hawj, Minnesota State Senator

The proposed Hmong-Lao Veterans Memorial has been on a long journey. Plans for a memorial were first suggested nearly a decade ago. Finally, after overcoming numerous setbacks, the fundraising goal of $150,000 was met just last weekend. I was proud to be there during the final gift presentation ceremony and the planting of the first tree. I am hopeful the funding necessary to complete the memorial will be raised soon enough so that we can soon re-open as a neighborhood institution.

The Hmong-Lao Veterans Memorial is not only the first of its kind in Minnesota; it symbolizes the right to be here in Minnesota and is designed to be all-inclusive, representing six different groups of people who fought during the war. This symbol is long overdue, and it’s my hope we can finish it soon before even more veterans who served in the war are gone. Many first-generation soldiers who came to America after the war have already left us; it’s important to the Hmong and Lao people to show them our respect before it’s too late.

The Minnesota Hmong-Lao Veterans Memorial Committee should be commended for their years of hard work. The site for the future memorial is ready and waiting, just south of the Vietnam Memorial among the Capitol grounds in St. Paul. The required money has been raised for the cost of the memorial, and the only thing we wait for now is to be included in the bonding bill.

This is great news for many in our community!
Refreshed Centromex Supermercado an oasis of fresh foods in Dayton's Bluff

by Diane May, local artist and community advocate

The new owners of the Centromex Supermercado, Rosa and Henry Garnica, were too “shy” for me to take their photograph, so they asked me to photograph the outside of their business instead. They bought the Centromex six months ago, and wanted the neighborhood to know that it is under “new management, lighter, and clean” with a wide array of fresh fruits and vegetables.

And what a variety of produce it is! We can no longer say that Dayton’s Bluff is a fresh fruit and vegetable desert with the Centromex offering all it does. Cilantro, limes, oranges, tomatillos, and 3 different chili peppers kick off the start of the wall of produce. Rosa helped by giving me the Spanish equivalent for the rest of the aisle’s offerings: ajo (garlic), aguacate (avocado), yerba buena (mint), jitomate (tomato), nopal (cactus leaves), ejote (green beans), calabacita (a soft zucchini), papa (potatoes), zapahoria (carrots), and cebolla blanca y amarilla (white and yellow onions).

Then came a vegetable I had never seen before. Rosa and I trekked over to the medicine counter for an explanation from Henry. “It’s a chayote,” he said. “A zucchini you use in soup.” “Oh! OK,” from me, and then back to the produce section to look at the fresh corn, radishes, cabbage, and lettuce.

On the tiered shelf above the wall of vegetables, I saw both green and red salsas and apples. Across the aisle and away from the refrigeration there was fresh pineapple, coconut, bananas, and two different kinds of mangoes. Next to that table of fruits was a very large grouping of dried chilies, tamarinds, and corn husks. Finishing that side of the aisle was a three-wall unit display of Mexican spices that I can’t even begin to tell you in this space what it all contained. I did make a mental note that there was a large bag of dried bay leaves I will probably pick up in the future...and pumpkin seeds.

Henry wanted me to mention that they sell fresh meat such as chicken, pork, and tilapia. He also mentioned they increased the dairy and cheese offerings when they took over the store.

In the future, Henry would like to add a café in the back of the store. It’s not that large of a space, but a few café tables would fit very nicely, and I could easily envision his future goal.

Plus, Rosa and Henry are committed people; they shared with me that they have been married for 25 years.
Memorial Day memories

Steve Trimble, Forum historian

Memorial Day is on Monday, May 26 this year. The holiday, originally called “Decoration Day,” was first observed in St. Paul on May 1, 1868, when local Civil War veterans decorated the graves of around 60 deceased Union soldiers, mostly in Oakland Cemetery.

There are many former residents of our neighborhood who are buried in Oakland. Lyman Dayton is there, although that wasn’t always the case. When he died in 1865, as sometimes was done in those days on large estates, he was laid to rest on his estate grounds in Conway and Maria. When the land was sold for a house, his remains were placed in an underground vault in Oakland Cemetery. Then, in 1995, the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council raised funds and purchased a headstone for his grave. Anyone interested in putting some Memorial Day flowers by the headstone of the person who gave this community its name?

One of the more interesting soldiers buried in Oakland Cemetery in 1871 was Nathaniel McLean. He was born in New Jersey in 1787 and moved to Ohio where he was elected to three terms in that state’s Legislature. Then it was off to Minnesota in 1849, the same year as Lyman and Maria Dayton. He published one of the first newspapers in St. Paul, successfully dallied in real estate, and served as Ramsey County Commissioner.

His soldiering happened long before the American Civil War. In 1812, he was a First Lieutenant in the Ohio Militia during the War of 1812, and is possibly the only combatant from that conflict to be buried at Oakland Cemetery. In 1855, he won a McLean township in today’s Mounds Park area, and McLean Street is named for him. He and his wife Hester had 11 children. One early writer described him as a “tall, slender gentleman, a little lame in his older years, rapid talker, a truthful, honest, kind man.”

Another soldier, a member of the Dayton’s Bluff Burger family – no, not Warren – is also interred in Oakland Cemetery. Joseph Burger was a captain in Company H of the 2nd Minnesota, but it was as a teenage private that he was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for actions on February 15, 1863 at Nolensville, Tennessee. His citation reads that he “was one of a detachment of 16 men who heroically defended a wagon train against the attack of 125 cavalry and repulsed the attack, and saved the train.”

After the war, Burger came to Minnesota and married Mary Colter. He built a house at 700 Plum Street. While they were not part of the community’s upper crust, a newspaper commented in an article on the couple’s golden anniversary, “they provided for their children property, which although not constituting great wealth, was sufficient for their advancement.”

Since this column started out with the first Decoration Day and veterans, I would be remiss if I didn’t mention an interesting woman who should be remembered on Memorial Day. Her name is Mary Colter.

She was born elsewhere, but raised in St. Paul, graduated from Central High School and attended California School of Design in San Francisco. She returned to Minnesota and was a high school teacher of arts and crafts at Mechanic Arts High School for 15 years. She lived in Dayton’s Bluff for a time, but did leave St. Paul. Fred Harvey of Harvey House fame asked her to start designing 21 of his railroad and tourist area projects.

Colter is now remembered as “the architect of the Southwest” for her rough-hewn designs, combining Spanish and Native American influences in a modern manner. Her five structures on the south rim of the Grand Canyon and buildings below are most well-known; however, Colter considered La Posada her masterpiece. When it was closed by the Santa Fe railroad in 1957 she remarked, “there is such a thing a living too long.” Mary Elizabeth Colter died shortly thereafter in 1958, and her body was sent back to St. Paul where she now rests in a small family plot. Like the others in this article, she deserves to be remembered and to have her grave decorated on May 26.

Mark Gallagher
Forum editorial assistant

The mission of 180 Degrees is turning lives around to ensure safer communities. It was the brainchild of Robbie Robertson, a former inmate of the Minnesota prison system.

180 Degrees works with a wide range of clients in order to help them receive the services and community support necessary for them to turn their lives around.

180 Degrees was incorporated in 1971 and opened the doors to its first halfway house in Minneapolis in 1973. They are in their 41st year of serving adults but have served juveniles for nearly two decades.

“We work with kids who are on probation or come in contact with the criminal justice system, to help them find a different path.” CEO Dick Gardell says. “We work with young kids who have human service, health, and child protection issues to help them stay in school, manage their behavior problems, and become successful members of our community.”

The East Side campus of 180 Degrees, at 1301 East 7th Street, opened in December of 2011. The building houses a mental health clinic, an evening learning center, and a mentoring program; plus, it is the future home of a chemical health clinic. In addition, the campus has an outside therapeutic garden to help clients to grow and connect to the community.

“Mental health and the chemical health care we are open to the public,” Gardell says. “Anyone can walk in at any time and say they need some help. We are going to provide assistance as best we can where appropriate.” Some of the other programs require referrals in order to participate; that is done purposefully so as not to mix populations.

“We are developing a building we affectionately call The Barn,” Gardell says. “It is a large pole barn that was used to store lumber, but a substantial portion of it is being converted into a vocational training center that will house a wood shop and home economics kinds of things. Dayton’s Bluff received authorization to start a community radio station that will be placing its radio antenna and locating a studio in our vocational training center. We look forward to working with the station; it will be a great opportunity for our kids to learn the radio industry.”

The anchor of the campus will be a youth center that is being built right now. The second floor will house a shelter for boys who have been victims of the sex-trafficking industry. “The shelter will serve girls, ages 10 to 17, who are in need of protection from a predator, in need of a place to heal, and in need of a place to learn the skills of a man,” Gardell says.

“We engage our alumni and try to make sure they feel connected,” Gardell says. “Certainly for our young people, we try to stay connected through their high school diploma, at least. A high school diploma is so important to the success of the individual.”

Sia Lo, board member and Administrator of Dellwood Gardens tells of a time when he was at a 180 Degrees fundraiser for the youth center. “Our speaker was this astronaut who tells his story of hope and perseverance. He got into all kinds of trouble and was headed down the wrong path, but he was able to find the ability to overcome obstacles through his tenacity. He became a NASA pilot. He turned his life around because he had a support system and there were people in his life who helped him push him in the right direction.”

Sia Lo was sought out by 180 Degrees to diversify their board. He says, “I think one of the functions of the youth center of 180 Degrees is to be a lighthouse. Youth that are lost and out there need help, and 180 Degrees is that lighthouse for those young people.”

Mary Colter

Mark Gallagher is a professional writer and editor. You may reach him at refinededitorial@gmail.com.
The April 7 Dayton’s Bluff Community Council Strip Club fundraiser, pictured above, was a success. The funds raised at this dinner will pay for our community dinner in October that is free for everyone to attend.

180 Degrees receives $50k grant for trafficked youth

Women’s Foundation of Minnesota

180 Degrees, located at 1301 East 7th Street (see article, page 7), has received a $50,000 grant from the Women’s Foundation of Minnesota to hire a housing and services director to supervise programming at their new 12-bed therapeutic housing facility for trafficked youth. The program is scheduled to open in August, 2014.

The Women’s Foundation of Minnesota is a statewide community foundation that invests in social change to achieve equality for all women and girls in Minnesota. The Foundation makes grants, conducts and reports research, advocates public policy, builds women’s philanthropy, and educates the public about the successes and challenges of Minnesota’s women and girls. Founded in 1983, it is the oldest statewide women’s foundation in the country.

The organization has awarded 13 grants totaling $405,000 and extended two grants from last year’s cohort through its MN Girls Are Not For Sale Fund. The fund is a five-year, $5 million campaign to end the sex trafficking of Minnesota girls through grantmaking, research, and public education.

Over the next year, grantees will educate and lobby for policies that support sex trafficked youth, implement sustainable housing and services, and implement protocols and practices for law enforcement and the judicial system. More at wfmn.org.

Happy birthday, Sofia!

Sofia Morales, daughter of Dayton’s Bluff residents Kelly Lundeen and José Morales, celebrated her first birthday on Saturday, March 5.

Siblings carry on family gourmet tradition at Otro Cocina on Payne Avenue

Jose Luis Morales
Dayton’s Bluff resident
Adapted from the Twin Cities Daily Planet

Miguel Linares and his sister Maria “Piti” Capouch inherited their father’s philosophy and gourmet Mexican recipes. Now their Otro Cocina Mexican restaurant features both.

“[Otro Cocina] is a museum of fine dining. It is culinary art, a way of presenting our culture through food. Otro Cocina is not only tacos or burritos. Our food is a rich wealth of flavors to the palate,” the duo says.

Otro Cocina opened in January, though it has not yet had an official grand opening. Winter specialties include soups, such as mushroom, pumpkin, pumpkin flower, Tlalpeño, pasta, and lentil. Tortilla soup, Xochilt Hadin, and Mexican salad are some of the most popular dishes. Flan is prepared by professional flan specialist Bradley Capouch. Seasonal and holiday specials are also available.

“We inherited the philosophy of consistency from our father Juan Linares, the best banquet chef in Mexico who once served Pope John Paul II,” Linares and Capouch say. “[He] said that if it was possible to do something good once, you had to be able to do it the same way always. The recipes we inherited have not changed.”

Otro Cocina is located at 1193 Payne Avenue and is open Monday through Saturday, 9:00 am-6:00 pm, and Saturday, 9:00 am-3:00 pm. For more information, visit www.otrococina.com.

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