

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

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"The Voice of the Community"

Spring brings Margaret Park transformation

Jennifer Herman
Forum staff

Crews will break ground this spring for some much needed improvements at Margaret Park! In 2013 the Margaret Rec Center was demolished and the City of Saint Paul designated \$500,000 in the Capital Improvements Budget for improvements at the park.

Last summer Stewards Of Margaret Park (STOMP) worked with city staff to survey park users to learn what they liked about the park and where improvements were needed. City staffers used the data to create some design plans which have been refined during a series of community meetings over the winter.

The biggest need at Margaret is to replace the bathroom that was lost when the rec center was removed. The budget will allow for a single stall restroom to be constructed near the playground. Outside the restroom there will be a drinking fountain with a water bottle filler and bulletin boards for

posting community and park information. Bike racks will also be installed, making Margaret an easy stopping point for bikers using the Margaret bike route. The old parking lot will be removed and replaced with picnic tables, grills, rock gardens, pathways, shade trees, and fruit trees. The steps will be improved, the remainder of the old building will be removed, and the hill will be graded for even better sledding conditions. The light pole at the bottom of the hill will be removed and the field will be smoothed out and reseeded. Park benches and a Roger Tetu memorial butterfly garden will be installed at the corner of Margaret and Earl Street, while a new sign will grace the corner of Beech and Earl.

Overwhelmingly, kids and teens said they missed playing basketball in the rec center gym, so if the budget stretches far enough, a half-court basketball court will be constructed in the northeast corner of the field area. Residents have had tremendous input into the upcoming improvements and there is great anticipation for the spring and summer construction. To see more pictures of the plans and get construction updates, please visit www.facebook.com/stompmn/.



1. Restroom, 2. Picnic area, 3. Picnic table, 4. Trash/recycling, 5. Ornamental trees (7), 6. Planting beds, 7. Canopy trees (10), 8. open space, A. Existing play area, B. Existing ornamental fence, C. Existing retaining wall, D. Existing trees

Black Lives Matter St. Paul and Dayton's Bluff Community Council get community input on next police chief

Nicole Pressley
Communications Manager
Dayton's Bluff Community Council

St. Paul, like countless other American cities, faces a large challenge to change the culture of policing in order to build positive relationships with Black communities and communities of color. Both a movement and an affirmation, Black Lives Matter has made police brutality a national issue with local implications.

The stories about police brutality or misconduct are not new to some, but with the aid of daring activists and new technology like camera phones, it has become an issue that no one can ignore.

Late last year, St. Paul Chief of Police, Tom Smith, announced that he would be retiring at the end of 2016. The City

Council approved the appointment of a 32-person selection committee that will advise the Mayor and City Council on the selection of Smith's replacement. The city has called for public input and community members are taking this important opportunity to have their voices heard.

On President's day, activists from Black Lives Matter St. Paul and the Dayton's Bluff Community Council held a public meeting to discuss the selection committee process and their vision for a police chief and police force that works for their community. With over 20 residents in attendance, the group developed a lengthy list of improvements and reforms they would like to see a new police chief support. Attendees passionately called for mandatory body cameras, the demilitarization of the police, and a comprehensive plan to hire people of color who live in the community. Clear in all these recommendations was the desire for trust, safety, and accountability – qualities some believe are lacking in the current relationships with the department.

See "Police Chief," continued on page 4.

New community center eyed on East 5th Street

Carla Riehle
Forum Staff

Osman Egal is seeking the key to the community.

Elected in December as a new member of the Dayton's Bluff Community Council's Board of Directors, Egal is also the director of the Darul Uloom Islamic Center, which in June 2014 purchased the former St. John's Catholic Church on East 5th Street. Of the three buildings on the Center's campus, the mosque is used for prayer services by around 300 members of the congregation and the residence is used as a temporary landing place for new arrivals. The school, however, is not usable until badly needed repairs are made.

The "key" is Egal's metaphor for finding a means of turning the school into a multi-use facility for the community. He says that more than being the director of the Islamic Center, he is a member of the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood, and can see that our youth in particular are underserved. Since the recession, the City of St. Paul has

closed or turned over to other organizations 17 of its recreation centers and Egal believes that he can help to fill the vacuum. The school has a large gym that he wants to open up to neighborhood youth and which also houses a large number of individual spaces that could be used for small businesses or office space. A survey taken at an August festival on East 7th Street revealed that a coffee shop was the most popular choice for a new enterprise in the center.

St. Paul City Council member Jane Prince has made the community center project a top priority in view of the loss of the nearby Margaret Recreation Center several years ago. Other community members view the possibility as a powerful force for neighborhood unity and Prince sees great potential in bringing the community together to

work with Darul Uloom on its plans to redevelop the school into much needed recreational and gathering space. Osman Egal says that he has been encouraged by the reception he received door-knocking in the neighborhood as he sought support for his community council candidacy. He believes that one of his most important tasks is to reach out with his congregation to

neighbors and he invites anyone who would like to tour the center or observe a prayer service to contact him at talyan2001@yahoo.com.



Carla Riehle

Osman Egal, director of Darul Uloom Islamic Center and recently elected Dayton's Bluff Community Council board member.

Dayton's Bluff
Community Council
804 Margaret Street
St. Paul, MN 55106

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Community Calendar

Thursday, March 3

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Urban Education Forum

Metropolitan State University's School of Urban Education will present its first free forum and reception on Thursday, March 3, *Educating a Diverse Society through the Lens of Social Justice* with guest, Sonia Nieto. Sonia Nieto is a professor Emerita of Language, Literacy, and Culture at the College of Education, University of Massachusetts Amherst. Nieto is one of the leading authors and teachers in the field of multiculturalism. For session times and details, call 651-793-1300.

Saturday, March 5

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Dayton's Bluff Take A Hike

Learn a little history of the East Side while hiking through Dayton's Bluff.

The hike starts at Indian Mounds Park at Earl Street and Mounds Boulevard and is about one and a half to two hours long. Hikers will have their choice of ending in Swede Hollow Park or East Side Heritage Park.

For more information email karin@swedehollow.org or call 651-776-0550.

Sunday, March 6

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Film Screening & Panel Discussion at Historic Fort Snelling

Join the Minnesota Historical Society for a very special event marking the 159th anniversary of the Supreme Court's infamous Dred Scott Decision and the struggle for citizenship. The program will include a film screening of the documentary "*14: Dred Scott, Wong Kim Ark, & Vanessa Lopez*," along with a panel discussion. Historic Fort Snelling is located at 200 Tower Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55111. For more information, visit mnhs.org/event/1128, or call 612-726-1171.

March 8-10

Time: 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

FREE tax help

Metropolitan State's Accounting Dept. and the Institute for Community Engagement and Scholarship sponsor free tax help sessions for students, working families who earned less than \$54,000 in 2015, people with disabilities, and senior citizens.

The tax sessions are held at the Library and Learning Center at 645 East Seventh Street, Saint Paul. No appointment is needed and walk-ins are welcome.

For more information on what to bring with you or if you need an interpreter, contact the Institute for Community Engagement and Scholarship at 651-699-4707.

Wednesday, March 9

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Friends of Swede Hollow

Watch over, restore, and celebrate the history of Swede Hollow Park. Come join the Swede Hollow community at their monthly meeting. Email karin@swedehollow.org or call 651-776-0550 for more information and the meeting's location.

Thursday, March 10

Time: 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Elder Cafe: PolkaSol

Back by popular demand, PolkaSol! Will play lots of polkas, waltzes and old time songs. A very interactive group, PolkaSol encourages listeners to join in the fun. Edler Cafe is a partnership between Dayton's Bluff Seniors and First Lutheran Church. The event is being held at 463 Maria Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55106. For more information call 651-237-7633 or visit daytonsbuffseniors.org.

Thursday, March 10

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Film Screening and Discussion at the East Side Freedom Library

The East Side Freedom Library will host a screening and discussion of *Eve's Bayou*, as part of Metro State's BIG READ program.

Visit eastsidefreedomlibrary.org for details on more upcoming events as they become available.

Saturday, March 12

Time: 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Community Forum on Immigration

Century College East Campus is holding a Community Forum for more information on DACA & DAPA/MN Dream Act and updates regarding immigration. For details or to register, text your name to phone number 612-516-0572.

March events and shows at the Mounds Theatre



Saturday, March 12: *IWI Wrestling Presents: Cloverleaf Chaos* is selling out quickly. The theatre has run out of chairs in the past few months. **Bell is at 7:30 p.m., doors open at 6:45 p.m.**

Saturday, March 19: Burlesque returns to the Mounds with *Clash of the Cult Classics: Kubric v. Carpenter*. This themed show pits the works of these two famous directors against each other in a burlesque battle. **On Friday, March 18,** there are plans to screen a film by one of the directors, movie and

details are to be determined. Check out moundstheatre.org for details as they become available.

Visit our website at moundstheatre.org for other events not listed here and to purchase tickets. The Historic Mounds Theatre is located at 1029 Hudson Road, St. Paul, MN 55106; 651-772-2253; historicmoundstheatre@gmail.com.

Saturday, March 12

Time: 12:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

The BIG READ Book Discussion & Performance by the Black Storytellers Alliance

Join the Dayton's Bluff Library for a book discussion on *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, based on the book by Zora Neale Hurston. The library is providing free copies of the book to anyone interested in attending.

The library will also be hosting a performance by the Black Storytellers Alliance for children. Children can expect an imaginative and dramatic performance based on *Their Eyes Were Watching God*.

Both events are sponsored by the BIG READ, a series of cultural events and discussions on issues of race, class, and gender. For specific times and more information about these and other events check sppl.org or call 651-793-1699. The Dayton's Bluff Library shares its home with Metropolitan State University at 645 E 7th Street.

Wednesday, March 16

Time: 9:30 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.

Police Community Meetings

The Eastern District Police will host their monthly meetings for community members at the Eastern District Police Office at 722 Payne Avenue, on the corner of Payne and Minnehaha Avenues. The next meetings are at **9:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.** Meetings are intended as a time to learn about, listen to, and address concerns about crime and other issues on the East Side.

The Saint Paul Police Eastern District is committed to maintaining and growing the quality of life for all residents. Bring your neighbors – it is a great time to talk about all neighborhood related issues.

Sunday, March 20

Time: 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Book Club Discussion

Come discuss the book that you just finished and hear what other people are reading. No need to stress out about whether you'll like the book club book – you pick your own book. Coffee, and a sweet treat provided by A Greener Read Used Bookstore. A Greener Read Bookstore is located at 506 Kenny Rd, Ste 150, Saint Paul, MN 55130.

Saturday, March 26

Time: 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Community Easter Egg Hunt

Starting at **2:00 p.m.** at the Indian Mounds Regional Park South Pavilion. There will be treats and games, and plenty of Easter Eggs hidden across the park. This event is hosted by Mounds Park United Methodist Church; children of all ages and their parents are welcome to participate.

Activities at the Dayton's Bluff Rec Center

The following programs are FREE (unless otherwise noted) and held at the Dayton's Bluff Rec Center, 800 Conway Street, St. Paul.

Rec Check After School Program: **Monday-Thursday, 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., and Friday 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.**

Tot Time: **Monday and Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. to noon.**

Judo: **Monday, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

Self Defense: **Wednesday, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., \$7.00 per session (scholarships available).**

Dayton's Bluff Soccer Club: **Thursday, 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

Family Food Box distribution takes place **every third Thursday of the month from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** Call (651) 793-3885 for more information and to register.

Neighborhood Announcements

Nellie Stone Johnson Scholarship Now Accepting Applications

The Nellie Stone Johnson Scholarship is accepting applications from now until June 1. Eligible students must be a racial minority and a union member, or be the child, grandchild, or spouse of a union member. Scholarships are awarded to both full-time and part-time students who will be attending a MnSCU tech, community college, or state university in the fall of 2016. Scholarship amounts are \$1,200 for full-time students and \$500 for part-time students.

Applications and additional information about the scholarship are available online at nelliestone.org or by calling 651-738-1404 or toll free 866-738-5238.

Attention Dayton's Bluff Gardeners!

Garden plots are now available at the new Skidmore Park Community Garden! Plots come in two sizes: 40 and 64 square feet for a fee of \$25/year. Applications and rules are available online at <http://bit.ly/bDQRI7> (Facebook) or at the District 4 Community Council office. Applications are due by April 8. One application per household. Plots are assigned in the order applications are received. To receive a garden plot assignment, you must attend orientation on **April 11 at 6:00 p.m.**, at the Skidmore Park Community Garden, 1085 E. 4th Street. Questions? Call 651-772-2075 or email johnbarbie@hotmail.com or jennifer.herman7@gmail.com.

Forrest Heating — Customer Service is Key

Mark Gallagher
Associate Editor

Charlie Forrest is a third-generation owner of Forrest Heating and Air Conditioning, which is located at 995 Burns Ave. in St. Paul. It has been at that location since Charlie's grandfather started the company in 1936. Forrest Heating and Air Conditioning has been in business for 80 years because of its strong work ethic and by striving to keep their customers warm in the winter and cool in the summer.

"My grandfather, Lionel, worked for American Standard, which was downtown St. Paul on Kellogg Boulevard," Charlie said. "They made radiators, boilers, and other things for the heating industry. There he learned plumbing and developed other skills that were necessary for the trade."

Lionel left American Standard and cultivated the knowledge he learned there to start Forrest Heating when Lionel was 23 years old. The business began with him repairing and installing heating systems.

"We didn't start doing air-conditioning until the late 1970s," Charlie said. "We were just heating contractors for the longest time, but we had many requests from our customers asking if we could install air-conditioning for them."

Charlie got his experience in the heating and air-conditioning trade the old-fashioned way — he worked for his dad, also named Charlie. "Since I was in grade school, I would go to work for my dad, and was always the 'gofer,'" Charlie said. "I would go to work for him three or four days a week in the summer when my dad and uncle would do boiler installs. I took over the business about five or six years ago, but before I took it over, I worked on and off at it for about 15 or 16 years."

"Right now there are just two of us working at the business," Charlie said. "I do all of the work out in the field, and Heidi takes care of all the scheduling and puts all of the estimates together. If I need help installing a unit, we have people we can call on short notice who can help us."

In addition to installing heating and air-conditioning units, Forrest Heating and Air Conditioning performs tests and inspections. "The cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis require some tests to be done — like carbon monoxide testing on rental property," Charlie said. "We also do boiler/furnace tests, which are

done when someone is trying to sell their house — that just ensures the boiler or furnace is in good working condition."

Forrest Heating and Air Conditioning has a very loyal customer base. Some families have been customers since their grandparent's generation. "Every year they have us come out and check the furnace or boiler," Charlie said. "I would say the majority of the houses we go to in St. Paul have boilers in them. When these houses were built 80 to 100 years ago, it was a lot easier to install a hot-water (boiler) system. Hot-water systems transfer the heat more efficiently to different rooms of a house with two or three stories."

Having an honest relationship with their customers is a very big deal for Forrest Heating and Air Conditioning. "There was this one customer who was told that he needed a boiler replaced," Charlie said. "When he called us for a second opinion, I was able to go out to his house and fix the boiler. I was taught quite a few years ago how to fix all these really old systems; there is not a lot of people that do that these days because they really don't have a lot of training in school."

Since it's a family business, other members of the family have worked at the company in various capacities. "My uncle, Brad, on my mom's side, worked for the business for 35 to 40 years as our main technician," Charlie said. "He started working there after he got out of the war in Vietnam. My mom used to do the book-work and answered all the phones for about forty years or so."

Charlie told a story about his grandpa that attests to Forrest Heating and Air Conditioning's philosophy about customer service. "Every morning my grandpa would get up, put on his overalls, and wait for my uncle Brad to get ready to go to work," Charlie said. "Then they would drive around all day to service calls. My grandpa knew all the customers, so he would sit and have a cup of coffee with the customer while my uncle was downstairs fixing the boiler."

Forrest Heating and Air Conditioning specializes in Existing Fuel Burning Safety Tests (aka Orsat test) for St. Paul and Minneapolis, remodeling jobs, boiler service, repairs and installation. They can be reached by calling 651-776-4585 or by going to forresthtg.com.

Mark Gallagher is the associate editor of the Dayton's Bluff District Forum and a graduate of Metropolitan State University. Mark can be reached at refineEditorial@gmail.com



Mark Gallagher

Charlie Forrest of Forrest Heating and Air Conditioning, a family-owned East Side business since 1936.

Almost Famous

Nick Duncan
Forum Staff

For a few days in late January and early February, the usual winter tranquility of the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary was interrupted by an army of hopeful treasure hunters.

Clues for the 2016 St. Paul Pioneer Press Saint Paul Winter Carnival Medallion Hunt including references to former Pioneer Press buildings, nearby beer and crowds, fishing, flowing water, dog parks, and lily ponds drew hundreds of people to the Sanctuary.

Unfortunately, all was for naught. The medallion was found on February 2, more than 12 miles away near Bald Eagle Lake in White Bear Lake. No word yet on if White Bear Lake will be hiding its Manitou Days medallion in Dayton's Bluff.



Nick Duncan

Maybe next year, buddy.

even my dog could have rolled.

Getting There From Here

Andy Twedt
Special to the Forum

Back in the days before all the little farms in the St. Paul area became housing developments, I knew a jovial old farmer named Ted. With his field bordering a busy road, drivers would sometimes spot him and stop to ask for directions, whereupon Ted would reply, "You can't get there from here." Then he'd chuckle and smile and provide the directions they sought. Some of the drivers must have shaken their heads as they drove away.

Now that I'm an old lady (this "Andy" is female) I'm reminded of Ted's jest. Elders who have neither a car nor family and who can't afford taxi cabs really "can't get there from here." Get where? Where they need to go! There are city buses, of course, but a very elderly person would have to be a former gymnast to board a bus and deal with the fussy fare machine without having to grab the driver's leg for balance. And few could dangle for long from an overhead strap on a jam-packed inner-city bus. At the first big lurch, they'd need to put two hands on the strap, which could propel a bag of groceries into someone's lap.

And that's in nice weather, when St. Paul prides itself on being the nation's "most livable city." In the wintertime, when neither the city nor the area transit commission does any bus-stop maintenance whatsoever, getting on and off may be downright dangerous or impossible. In "real" Minnesota winters, with snowfall many times heavier than the current winter's accumulation, the bus stops become great mounds of ice. I slipped off of one a couple of years ago and rolled under the bus. Recalling a cousin whose knee was crushed when she slid under a Minneapolis bus, I came rolling back out faster than

There are safe, low-cost medical transportation services such as Metro Mobility, but Metro requires that an applicant be unable to board a city bus, though getting off is the greater challenge. Clutching packages and cane in the gray, mid-winter twilight, old people tentatively lean out the door only to face a tall, icy hump and not even a driver's leg to grab. When I once lost my balance that way, a powerful young man grabbed me and stood me up by the armpits. Since I'm no lightweight, I said I hoped he hadn't acquired a hernia, but he said he was fine. I've learned that St. Paul has a lot of nice, helpful young men. And they come in all colors. Though I'm white, black men of all ages have been especially kind. Had I been treated as they've often been treated, I might not be as forgiving.

I had always counted on the "Boomers" to make things right. My own late 1950s/early 1960s generation would never have dared march down the street waving placards that said, "GET OUT OF VIETNAM YOU IDIOTS" or "FLOWER POWER!" or "MAKE LOVE, NOT WAR." (Our parents would have fainted at that last slogan.) Those fearless Boomers will begin to encounter the challenges of age, along with the not-so-subtle "ageism" in our increasingly youth-oriented society. When they notice that there is no safe, non-profit, metro-wide transportation system for the elderly and that the bus stops are neglected in even the most inclement weather, they may march on City Hall or the Capitol waving their placards and canes and dried-up flowers.

In the meantime, a young friend and fellow East-Sider referred me to Dayton's Bluff Seniors, a program that, along with providing other senior services, recruits volunteer drivers. Their phone number is 651-237-7633. We'll get there yet, Ted, from right here.

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

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Next issue: April 2016. Deadline for material: March 10, 2016.

Dayton's Bluff in the 1950s: Eichenwald Street

Joan Perrault
Special to the Forum

During the 1950s, Dayton's Bluff was a stimulating, boisterous place to grow up. Lots of children lived in the neighborhood, several schools were within walking distance, tap, ballet, baton, and tumbling classes at the Commercial Club were affordable, penny candy was cheap at the corner pharmacy, and our happy, loving home was filled with the smell of freshly baked bread, which Mom made every Monday.

How we longed for that smell of yeast after we grew up. For decades, my siblings and I reminisced, wishing we could revisit our childhood -- if only for a moment. We have such a small pile of black and white photos, which are crinkled and torn, to help trigger memories of that carefree time in our lives. What would it be like to go back in time?

We left the neighborhood in 1960, and moved to the suburbs. Our parents were hearing wonderful stories about the safe streets outside of the city, schools where all the kids had respectful manners and amazing grades, free band and orchestra instruments and lessons, heated school buses for the ride to school, mothers in their day dresses with toddlers pulling at their hems, meeting for "coffee klatches" each weekday morning at 10:00 a.m. while the fathers were away working, earning the household income. And brand new rambler homes! No more worries about the ancient furnace in the basement, no ice build-up on the kitchen windows during winter, no more leaky roofs or drafty hallways.

It was a coincidence, really, that brought us back to the front door of our childhood home just a few short weeks ago. In November, local historians announced that they would be sharing their knowledge about Dayton's Bluff, which would be held at the old Mounds

Theatre. As soon as I heard that the theater was reportedly haunted, I decided to attend. Their presentations were informative. Several historians displayed their photos, postcards, and books, and were happy to share their stories. The historian that caught my attention was Karin DuPaul, expert on the Hamms Brewery family. And because my childhood home belonged to William Figge, first brewmaster and president of Hamms, I quickly searched her out after the presentation. And what a bit of luck for me, she was well acquainted with Marge Bleakmore, current owner of the Figge Home.

After a few emails with Karin and emotional phone calls with Marge, we were able to schedule a visit to our childhood home! I was breathless with excitement as I called my brother, Marty, to share the news about our impending visit. I got busy, preparing a sketch of the floor plan from my 10-year-old little girl memory. I was filled with dreamy wonder, hoping the magnificent home would remember me, as I remembered it.

At 10 o'clock on that designated Saturday in December, we stood on the street, admiring the exhausted, weary exterior of our childhood home. Marge was expecting us, and Karin was meeting us there.

Marge, a widow, was kind and gracious. She let us roam through her home for nearly an hour, looking, remembering, pausing at the impact our visit was having on the heart and soul of who we once were. After our tour, Marge, Karin, Marty, and I had pastries, coffee, and juice, enjoying and appreciating Marge's hospitality, sharing stories and

pictures. And of course we had a wonderful story of the chandelier in the dining room where we were sitting. I recognized it immediately. Marty's black and white stuffed animal from babyhood, named "Firedog" had been tossed up into the bowl of that chandelier nearly sixty decades earlier, got singed by the hot bulbs and started smoking. He still has Firedog in his small pile of possessions from childhood. But the story that touched me the most was when Marty walked out of the front parlor that day, carrying a long,



Karin DuPaul

Standing are Joan and brother Marty, visiting their childhood home at 402 Eichenwald. Seated is Marge Bleakmore, the current homeowner.

narrow tile from the fireplace. One of his first memories as a little boy was of Grandpa giving him pennies and nickels -- very important childhood treasures which he hid under that very tile. Even though the mantle and surround had been replaced over the decades, that tile remained, and was still loose. Can you ever go home again? Thanks to Karin and Marge, we did.

And my favorite memory from Eichenwald? The ghosts. I was too young to be fearful of them, as they began their personal appearances when I was as young as four years old. I grew up with them in the Figge house, year after year, room after room. Starting in 1954 in the library, my first spirit was a

beautiful woman, dressed in white, hands in a prayerful pose with a pious expression on her face. Every night I saw her. I came to enjoy her soft presence in my sleepy state. My mother was kind in her suggestions that I invite the woman for lunch.

But many months later, the spirit took on the presence of a man in the second floor sun-room -- 20 windows! Who ever had the opportunity to live and sleep in such a grand room? There were four beds, each suspended from the ceiling with four thick, gritty metal cables that smelled of oil. We took our naps in that room almost every day, and sometimes slept there all night. It was so fun to lay on the suspended beds, push off from the wall with our little feet, and sway for at least a minute.

That fearful night started out so gentle, with the summer breeze blowing in the windows. We were in our cotton pajamas, ready for bed, snuggled under light blankets after bedtime story time. But as we were dozing off, unexpectedly the room took on an eerie silence. Moments later, the spirit of a man appeared. He sat on the edge of one of the beds on the other side of the room, took off his shoes and top hat, laid his head down on the pillow, and covered up with the light colored spread. I never saw his face, and did not know if he was human or spirit. My fear was overwhelming. Too frightened to move, I laid there for hours.

I must have fallen asleep, as the next morning I awoke with a tear-stained face, sheets wrapped around my tiny damp body, the sun streaming in. The ghost was nowhere in sight, but the wrinkled bedspread was proof that he did exist, and that he had been there! The next morning, my mother confirmed my worst fear -- there was no other adult in the house that night! Father was working the night shift. I never slept in the most beautiful room again.

Oops, did I neglect to mention the secret passageway from the second floor to the basement? Perhaps next time.

Hmong Archives find permanent home at East Side Freedom Library

Carla Riehle
Forum Staff

February 10 was an auspicious day for Hmong community members and others who gathered at the East Side Freedom Library to celebrate two important events. The first was the siting of a permanent location for the Hmong Archives; the second was the finalization of an association agreement between the library and the archives. The East Side's legislative delegation, Representatives Tim Mahoney and Sheldon Johnson and Senator Fong Hawj, and Ramsey County Commissioner Jim McDonough were there to honor the occasion and the legislators promised to do their best in the next legislative session to obtain funding for both the library and the archives. Kou Xiong, Hmong Archives co-chair, addressed the gathering, paying special tribute to former state representative Steve Trimble who was particularly helpful in passing legislation to aid new Hmong immigrants when he was in office.

It's been a long trek for the archives to arrive at the ESFL. According to HmongArchives.org, "Hmong Archives has moved as often, if not as far, as Hmong people." Starting in 1999 with its first home at Metro State, over a nine-year period it moved to Minnehaha Mall in Frogtown, to

Concordia and then to a spot above Hmong ABC on University Avenue. Its last stop before the ESFL was the home of the archives' co-founder, Marlin Heise, where it was difficult to encourage use by the public. Since "most Hmong American families came to this country with very minimal worldly possessions other than clothing and a few documents" according to the website, gathering the collection has been a difficult process.

With its permanent home now at the ESFL at 1105 Greenbrier Street, the archives contain about 6,000 volumes, along with a number of artifacts, photos and paintings for a total of 187,000 items. ESFL co-director Peter Rachleff says there are 2,000 textiles that presently need cataloging and volunteer help is needed. Visitors are welcome to visit the archives and the library. Please call 651-230-3294 to find out about visiting hours or visit the archive website, HmongArchives.org.

The East Side Freedom Library lists a full calendar of events at eastsidefreedomlibrary.org and will be open to the public at those times to visit the Hmong Archives and the other collections. Visitors will also want to check out the just completed mural that lines the downstairs stairway. Artist Jackie Yang has created a timeline of initial inhabitants and immigrants from Minnesota from the days of the Dakota to the present. He is pictured alongside a frame that features his grandfather and his mother in their home before they were forced to flee to the United States. A professional muralist, Jackie Yang can be reached at ger_paintwork9@hotmail.

Continued from page 1:

Police Chief

For St. Paul's East Side, a neighborhood with a majority of people of color, accounts of interactions with police can range from heroic to horrific. Both residents and the officers from the Eastern District praise programs like Safe Summer Nights, a free community cookout, and their monthly community meeting at the police station as positive and informative. However, at this most recent meeting, residents seemed to have a vision of improved police/community relationships that focused more on policy than parties.

If you would like to share your ideas for the next St. Paul police chief, you can send an email to nextchief@ci.stpaul.mn.us. The city will also host two public forums where community members will have a chance to speak with the chief finalists. The first forum is at Central High School Auditorium on March 29, 6:30-8:30 p.m. and the second is at Johnson High School Auditorium on March 31, 6:30 -8:30 p.m.



Nicole Pressley

Activists from Black Lives Matter St. Paul and the Dayton's Bluff Community Council met to discuss their vision for a new police chief.

Home Tour Volunteers are needed

*Karin DuPaul
Forum staff*

The annual Minneapolis and Saint Paul Home Tour will be held on **Saturday, April 30, from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, and Sunday, May 1, from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm.**

During the home tour, residents in both cities open their homes to the public to showcase city living and the fact that cities are great places to live. Dayton's Bluff has a number of wonderful homes on the tour each year. The tour also shows off the many great features of Dayton's Bluff: Metropolitan State University, Mississippi Market, our parks, the growing business community, views of the city and the Mississippi River, outstanding housing options, and of course, the wonderful people of Dayton's Bluff.

We need volunteers to be neighbor-

hood ambassadors to help the home owners with signing visitors in and telling them about Dayton's Bluff.

On Sunday evening after the tour is over an "After the Home Tour Supper Party" will be held for the families whose homes are on the tour and all volunteers. It is a great way to meet other people of Dayton's Bluff who have a passion for our community.

Many people from all over come to see the Dayton's Bluff homes year after year because there is always something different, homes that are beautiful, and delightful new ideas for their own homes. Some visitors like it so well that they have made our neighborhood their new home.

For more information on the Minneapolis and Saint Paul Home Tour, visit msphometour.com or daytonsbluff.org, and read about it in the *Dayton's Bluff District Forum*. To nominate a home to be on the tour or to volunteer, email Karin@SwedeHollow.org or call 651-776-0550.



Karin DuPaul

Dayton's Bluff resident, Gary, in front of his beautiful home, to be featured on the 2016 Minneapolis and Saint Paul Home Tour.

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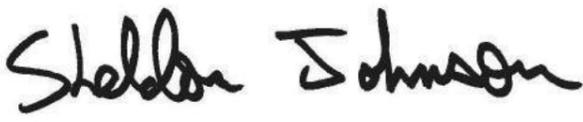
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Today, it's almost impossible for children to succeed in school or people to apply for jobs without access to the internet. For more information on obtaining low cost internet visit:

www.InternetEssentials.com



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Women's History Month: Memories from Dayton's Bluff

Steve Trimble
Forum Historian

March is Women's History Month. While it would be impossible to write a complete story of the women from our neighborhood, here is at least a stab at outline for discussing the topic and telling the stories of a few of our female residents throughout the years. They were a diverse group whose contributions were varied. Some were prominent — the so-called "women worthies" whose names often appeared in newspapers, while others carried on more anonymously.

The Mdewakanton Dakota people were early residents of "Imniza Ska" or White Cliffs, their name for St. Paul. A group lived underneath the bluffs along the Mississippi in a village named Kaposia for many years. In the late 1870s, a Dakota woman named "Berry Picker" was born there. She was well known "for her kind disposition as well as for her bravery." She later became known as "Old Bets" and died in St. Paul in 1873.

An early local women's history site still stands at 735 East Seventh Street. In 1867, a group of women founded the "Home for the Friendless" to provide shelter for destitute women and children." In 1917, a building with six double and 39 single rooms was

constructed. Mercifully, in 1935, the name was changed to "The Protestant Home" and the term "inmate" was replaced by "resident."

In the late 1880s and early twentieth



Minnesota Historical Society

"Old Bets," circa 1860s.

century many women — mostly middle class ones who had some free time, were involved in women's clubs. There were dozens in the neighborhood and someone should find more about them.

In the spring of 1901, Mrs. Larpen-tour of Eichenwald Street entertained the Ladies Afternoon Club on a Thursday. In December, 1928, Mrs. F. A. Defiel gave a talk to the women of the Dayton's Bluff Study Club titled "The Origins of Christmas Legends and Customs of Different People."

Many women's activities also revolved around area churches. In November, 1901, the Ladies Aid Society of the Bates Avenue M.E. Church had a turkey supper and Christmas sale. As a

display for the celebration, "there will be handkerchiefs from every state in the nation."

Women from less prosperous families often worked outside the home. Christine Waldock, for instance, ended her education after completing the eighth grade at Sacred Heart School. She began working at Foot-Schulze, a large manufacturing company. She became aware of the labor movement and was one of the longest members of the Garment Workers Union Local 171, often serving as its recording secretary.

Others responded to the need for childcare for working mothers. In 1930, Miss Ruth Alice Smith opened a play-ground for pre-school and kindergarten children in her back yard at 741 East Fifth where mothers could leave their children for an entire afternoon every day except Sunday.

Here are a few short sketches of women whose stories need to be researched and more fully written: Ebba Kirschbaum, who lived for a time in Dayton's Bluff died in 1984 at the age of 87. She was the last licensed traditional midwife and attended over 1,600 home births starting in 1935; Ilma Scheffer of 267 Maria Avenue, taught dancing in her home during the 1920s. She also ran a downtown restaurant appropriately named Café Ilma.

Mai Vang was the first Hmong to be on the board of the St. Paul Farmer's Market; Margaret "Mike" Sieland began playing softball at the Margaret Recreation Center and ended up being the director at Margaret for several decades

and is in the Minnesota Sports Hall of Fame; Clara Bergmeier lived for many years at 614 North Fountain. She published the local daily German newspaper, the *Volkszeitung* from 1908 to 1923.

Annice E. Keller, the widow of a prominent businessman, built eight houses on 6th Street, often called "Keller's Row," just east of Eichenwald in the late 1880s; Marion Carpenter was one of the first women to become an official White House photographer. She died in 2002 at the age of 82 in her Dayton's Bluff home; JoAnn Cardenas Enos, raised in Dayton's Bluff and a Harding High graduate, was a Latina political activist and community advocate throughout her life; Meta Siebold of 6th Street was a teacher who published "Happy Songs for Happy Children."

Magdalena Rau graduated from nursing training in 1908. She was hired to be the Superintendent of the new St. John's Hospital in Dayton's Bluff and remained there for 42 years; Emily Borth was a long time Girl Scout leader in Dayton's Bluff who is still remembered fondly by many former troop members.

Many more names could be added. Our women's history includes people from all walks of life — mothers, nurses, teachers, artists, club members, business owners, and workers. They deserve to be remembered. Your grandmother has a story. Will you take the time to discover it and share it with your family? And perhaps share it with the community by writing something about her for this paper.

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Zoo Siab Txais Tos

Bienvenida Salvete **Welcome** Soo Dhawaadda



East Side Eating – Trimble's Taste Trek

2015 was a banner year for new businesses in Dayton's Bluff. Our neighborhood welcomed many notable additions including, most recently, Mississippi Market. Steve Trimble extended his Taste Trek to include the newest go-to spot to grab coffee, lunch, or your entire week's grocery list.

Mississippi Market
740 E 7th Street
(651) 771-5061
Open daily: 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
msmarket.coop

While attending an event at Indian Mounds Park, I was given a Mississippi Market coupon for two dollars off a ten-dollar purchase. It was good until September 30, so I had to hustle off see what was there for lunch. The co-op was a long-time dream that was originally spearheaded by a local group. Then Mississippi Market – which had two other stores – stepped up and the hopes were finally realized this year. I knew that that the recently-opened natural food co-op has a deli and juice

bar in addition to groceries so I wanted to check things out. There are five tables with four chairs each and counter seating for ten with a long window that has a clear view of Maple Street. They also have a classroom for public cooking classes, but today I was focused on the Taste Trek.

I found many tasty options, including salad makings on a buffet. You choose your own and the weight determines the cost. The hot bar is also a weight-based buffet item. On the day I was there I saw Ethiopian cabbage and carrots, chicken tikka masala, baked salmon patties, roast chicken pilaf, Kung Pao chicken, and even a childhood favorite, mac and cheese. There are several panini sandwiches. Among them, I saw a "Creole Club" made with creole yams, a salmon cake sandwich, and a roast beef and blue cheese. There is also a soup bar with different offerings through the week.

Some of the choices at the juice bar include an "Apple Zinger," as well as café au lait, tea, and smoothies like cherry-lime. Yes, the Market emphasizes healthy food, but that doesn't mean no sweets. Try peanut butter cookies, apple turnovers, muffins, scones, and more.

I zeroed in on a Cubano sandwich that was made with Beeler's ham, Swiss cheese, a pickle spear, and homemade mustard on a "New French" focaccia roll.

I also accompanied it with a small "Mango Dreams Peachy" smoothie that had added soy milk and cinnamon.

When I went to the eating area I ran into the director of the Dayton's Bluff Block Nurse program and one of my fellow board members and we had a nice chat.



Steve Trimble

Mississippi Market employees at work in the deli area of the newest Mississippi Market location at 740 E 7th Street.

The Saint Paul East Side Optimist Club: "One more thing to do"

Ann Polachek
President, East Side Optimist Club

A summary of the Saint Paul East Side Optimist Club's activities for 2015 was published in the December Forum. With that, we thought that was the end of projects for the year until we were made aware of Mr. Mel Hartman's T.L.C. (Tender Loving Care) Toys in Andover, Minnesota. His organization is a 501(c)(3), and is supported by corporate sponsors, individuals, and from the sale of its toys.

Throughout the year, Mel and his "elves" are busy making heirloom quality wooden toys that have been designed to be safe for children. The toys consist of a variety of trucks, automobiles, trains, stools, rocking chairs, cradles, dolls, caterpillars, kaleidoscopes, and treasure boxes –

just to mention a few.

When we contacted him we learned that he needed help in distributing 8,000 toys in time for Christmas that his organization was donating to children in need.

Among us, we determined that there was "one more thing to do." Our members rallied. They drove out to the warehouse in Ham Lake where they loaded up several cartons of toys and delivered them directly to seven non-profits, to the tune of 742 toys.

We contacted four other nonprofits and made them aware of the program. They too, made the trip to Ham Lake. Subsequently, they distributed 1,000 toys.

Within our organization we had 70 extra toys to deploy. Members delivered 61 to families. From the remaining nine, \$232.00 in donations were collected on behalf of TLC.

For us, it was a very special way to end the year. I recommend readers to check out tlctoys.org and read their story – it's truly a remarkable one.



Lizz Paulson

Ann Polachek and Fred Kaphingst outside of Polly's Coffee Cove with a collection of wooden toys made by Mel Hartman's T.L.C. Toys. Photo by Lizz Paulson, Vice President of the Saint Paul East Side Optimist Club.

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Have Forum, will travel

Several readers sent us pictures of themselves reading our newspaper on their travels. If you'd like to do the same, please email photos to editor@daytonsbluff.org.



Lucas Roberto and his cousin, Maggie, wouldn't dream of visiting the Boundary Waters Canoe Area without their copy of the *Dayton's Bluff District Forum*.



Francisco Balderrama reads his *Forum* in the New York City subway.



Chris Lollie, a newly elected member of the Dayton's Bluff Board of Directors, has reached a settlement with the City of St. Paul for his lawsuit alleging excessive force by the police. His case garnered public attention in August 2014 after he posted video of his interaction with police who he said targeted him for sitting in a public skyway area because he is black, and then proceeded to taser and arrest him. Lollie sued for \$500,000 and has reportedly settled for \$100,000.

2015 Neighborhood Honor Roll annual celebration

*Karin DuPaul
Forum staff*

The 2015 Saint Paul Neighborhood Honor Roll honorees were announced on January 29, 2016 at the annual celebration of St. Paul's volunteers at the University of Saint Thomas. Mayor Chris Coleman gave an inspiring talk about citizen participation and the things that are accomplished because of it.

The event gives attendees an opportunity to learn about and talk to dedicated people from all of Saint Paul's neighborhoods. The Honor Roll started in the 1980s and plaques with all of the names hang on the walls of the third floor of Saint Paul City Hall. Honorees are citizens and organizations that do outstanding ongoing service in their neighborhoods over a long period of time.

Each year, Saint Paul's 17 District Councils can add up to three names to the Neighborhood Honor Roll. If you know of a good candidate for next year's Honor Roll, contact the Dayton's Bluff Community Council at 651-772-2075. Your candidate may be added in 2017.

Added to the Honor Roll this year was WEQY 104.7, the radio station being operated by Benjamin James, Thom Derus – DJ Dom Terrace, Shay "Glorius" Martin – DJ Huh What, and Nick "Mastermind" Mohammad. Ben, Thom, and Nick volunteered many hours on the technical team. They helped design the build-out of the station, deciding on equipment needed and setting up both the broadcast and production studios. "Glo" spends many hours creating playlists and show formats.

Yes, I will become a *Friend of the Forum*. My tax-deductible check is enclosed, for:

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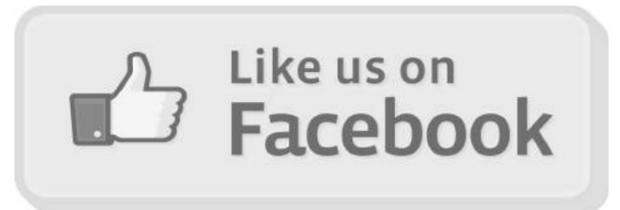
Make checks out to *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* and mail to 804 Margaret Street, St. Paul, MN 55106.

For more information, contact 651-776-0550 or editor@daytonsbluff.org.

Thank you for your support!

Many thanks to our 2015-2016 donors:

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Are you receiving your copy of the *Forum* each month?

If you live in the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood, you should receive your copy of the *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* within the first two weeks of each month.

If you live within the neighborhood and feel you have missed delivery, please email editor@daytonsbluff.org along with your name and mailing address. We will contact the US Postal Service on your behalf.

If you do not live within the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood but enjoy reading the *Forum*, you can pick up a copy at many neighborhood locations, including the Dayton's Bluff Community Council offices at 804 Margaret Street, or email editor@daytonsbluff.org to have the *Forum* mailed to you for a yearly fee of \$15.

Friends of the *Forum*

Dear Reader,

The *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* has been a volunteer-run newspaper since the 1970s, and has always operated on a minimal budget.

For the past three years we have been soliciting donations through our *Friends of the Forum* program. Thanks to the donations of readers like you, we have been able to keep the paper up and running.

If you value this community source of information, please consider filling out the form at right. Any amount is appreciated; you may also make memorial donations, or include the *Forum* in your legacy planning.

If you have been our *Friend* in the past, please renew your membership with a donation in 2016.

Our goal for the year is \$2,000; as of this printing we have raised \$465. Won't you help us?

Sincerely,
The *Dayton's Bluff District Forum*

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