

# Dayton's Bluff

# DISTRICT FORUM

Volume 23, No. 4

www.daytonsbluff.org

June 2010

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## Community Calendar

Thursday, June 3, 6:30 pm  
\*Community Meeting

Saturday, June 5, 10:30 am  
Dayton's Bluff Take-a-Hike  
(see page 5)

Monday, June 14  
\*Greenspace Committee 6:00 pm  
\*Council Meeting 7:00 pm

Monday, June 21  
\*Arts & Culture Comm. 6:15 pm  
\*Council Meeting 7:00 pm

Wednesday, June 16, 6:30 pm  
Friday, June 18, 9:30 am  
Eastern District Police Meeting  
722 Payne Avenue

\*Meetings at Council office  
798 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street

## Business association blooming

by Ed Lambert

District Council Executive Director

The new Dayton's Bluff Business Association, formed just last January, will have membership materials ready soon, and plans to have its web portal up this summer as well.

Some 20 local business people are working on the formative stages and are planning a Dayton's Bluff business fair for Tuesday, September 14, from 4:00 to 8:00 pm, at the Mounds Theatre near Earl Street and Hudson Road. Colleen Mikesh, the event chairperson, encourages local businesses to contact her to learn more about this exciting event called "Keys to the Community." The overall goal of the fair is to introduce and re-introduce local businesses to the community.

Colleen, a longtime business owner in Dayton's Bluff, has owned Colleen's Flower Cellar (www.colleensflowercellar.com) on Clarence Street for 25 years. You can reach her at 651-793-6966.



Colleen Mikesh, event chair of the upcoming business fair

The association is organizing a high profile, fun event that local businesses, especially new ones, will not want to miss. Call Colleen to reserve your space and help make the fair a big success.

For more information on the association or to get involved, contact its president, Susan Teitjen at 651-214-8088 or susanteitjen@msn.com.

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At 619 North Street, owner Katie Kalkman shows her home's imposing fireplace to two participants on the home tour

## Neighborhood Home Tour

by Angela duPaul

The 2010 Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Home Tour, held on April 24 and 25, was a great success with over 500 people participating. One house, at 723 Margaret Street, sold within the first four hours of the tour on Saturday.

A home near Mounds Park displayed the creativity of its owner, Robert Marino, an artist skilled in painting and carpentry. Each room has been transformed with a different paint effect. The master bedroom features a mural of the Italian countryside on all four walls. Marino is available to help other homeowners turn their own walls into unique works of art. See some of his work at www.robert-marino.com.

A fourplex near Swede Hollow is owned by a young woman who lives in one of the upper units. Her space demonstrates how a fresh and contemporary interior can be created in a Vic-

torian house. Another home, at 1002 East 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, was visited by the family that formerly lived there. They were impressed with the changes the new owners had made.

A house on Maple Street survived years of abuse as a rental property to become a lovingly restored family home today. Natural woodwork is present throughout. On Bates Avenue, a home has been resurrected from a recent fire. It is once again a colorful, cozy family home, retaining much of its Victorian charm. And a house on East 3<sup>rd</sup> sports a remodeled kitchen and a hot tub in the back yard.

The Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Home Tour is an event that is enjoyed by residents, visitors, and volunteers. Thank you to everyone who made it a great success.

See page 7 for information on the stories behind 619 North Street and other neighborhood historic homes.

## Dayton's Bluff

### "Best undiscovered neighborhood—2010"

Dayton's Bluff ranks high on *City Pages*' annual "best of" ratings, taking first place in the "best undiscovered neighborhood" category.

The Strip Club restaurant on Maria Avenue is the winner in two categories—St. Paul restaurant and best bartender. Dan Oskey is the "ever-gracious man behind the bar." Be sure to check out the video on the *City Pages* website where he shows off his handmade tonics and mixers.

The other winners are Swede Hollow Park ("best urban hike") and the Animal Ark thrift store ("best thrift store"), both on East 7<sup>th</sup> Street. And not to be forgotten are Mañana Salvadoran restaurant (reviewed on page 3) and the Dari-ette drive-in, both of which took top honors in 2009. See all the categories at <http://www.citypages.com/bestof>.

### City Pages says:

"As places like the Strip Club and Swede Hollow Café bring patrons to the other side of downtown St. Paul, people are getting exposed to the history, beauty, diversity, and culture of the neighborhood. Sitting high on land that overlooks the Mississippi River, Dayton's Bluff is full of gorgeous historic properties—Queen Anne Victorians, brownstones, and brick manors—available at a fraction of the price of many other city neighborhoods.

"The area is within walking distance of the St. Paul Farmers' Market and Mears Park, and is home to Swede Hollow Park, Indian Mounds Park, and the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary and Regional Trails. The Bluff also has a wealth of food culture. Italian, Salvadoran, Mexican, Hmong, Vietnamese, and Thai restaurants and markets, along with several incredible taco trucks, make the area a food-geek paradise. The neighborhood is also known for the intense community involvement of residents, evidenced by the multitude of programs promoting neighborhood improvement in the arts, housing, employment, and education."

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