

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

"The Voice of the Community"

Photo by Robert Johnstone

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December 2004

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Metropolitan State U hosts free holiday concert on Dec. 10

Metropolitan State University presents "Holiday Pops" as the first of a four-concert series of the Minnesota Sinfonia conducted by Jay Fishman, on **Friday, Dec. 10**, at 7 p.m. in the university's Auditorium, 700 East Seventh Street, Saint Paul. The concert is free and open to the public.

The Minnesota Sinfonia will perform holiday favorites. Featured guest soloist is Rose Marie Bart, cellist and winner in the junior division of the 2004 Young Artist Competition. She will perform Haydn's *Cello Concerto in C Major*.

Concert seating is first come, first served. For special accommodations call Disability and Special Services at 651-793-1540 (voice) or 651-772-7687 (TTY).

This concert is the first in a series of four free performances at Metropolitan State by the Minnesota Sinfonia, thanks to a grant from the Anna M. Heihnaier Charitable Foundation. The next concerts are on Fridays, Jan. 28, Feb. 11 and March 18.

Metropolitan State University, a member of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System, provides high-quality, affordable education programs for adults seeking baccalaureate and master's degrees. It is the only state university in the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

*Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year
to all the people of
Dayton's Bluff!*

A Christmas Story comes to life at the Mounds Theatre this December

The Mounds Theatre presents *A Christmas Story - Live!* Based on humorist Jean Shepherd's memoirs of growing up in the Midwest in the 1940s, it follows 9-year-old Ralphie Parker in his quest to get a genuine Red Ryder BB Gun under the tree for Christmas. Ralphie pleads his case before his mother, his teacher and even Santa Claus himself. The consistent response: "You'll shoot your eye out." All your favorite moments of the film are brought to life on stage, including the family's temperamental exploding furnace; Scut Farkus, the school bully; the boy's experiment with a wet tongue on a cold flagpole; the Little Orphan Annie decoder pin; Ralphie's father winning a lamp shaped like a woman's leg in a net stocking; Ralphie's fantasy scenarios and more.

The play is directed by Chad Allen, with scenic design by Don Eller, costume design by Sherry Johnson, and lighting design by Ursula Bowden.

WHEN:

- December 9 at 7:30 p.m.
- December 10 at 7:30 p.m.
- December 11 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
- December 12 at 2 p.m.
- December 16 at 7:30 p.m.
- December 17 at 7:30 p.m.
- December 18 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
- December 19 at 2 p.m.

WHERE:

The Mounds Theatre, 1029 Hudson Road, Saint Paul, MN 55106.

TICKET INFORMATION:

Ticket prices are \$15 for adults and \$10 for seniors (55+) and students.

Tickets may be reserved in advance by calling the Mounds Theatre Box Office at 651-772-2253. Also, a mail-in ticket order form can be found at www.moundstheatre.org.



Above: Kids, don't try this at home. Flick (left), played by Nickels Krause, gets into trouble after accepting a "triple dog dare" while Ralphie, played by Jake Erickson, looks on.

Below: Ralphie (Jake Erickson) is amazed by his father's "major award", a leg lamp that his mother doesn't appreciate nearly as much. Photos by Ben Lacina



Community Design Center Holiday Open House

You are invited to the Community Design Center's Annual Holiday Open House on **December 9**. At the Open House, youth in the Community Design Center's Garden Corp program will be selling a variety of products they have made by hand.

Products for sale include:

1. Herbal vinegars made with herbs grown in our 7 organic gardens in St. Paul's East Side. Vinegars come in 5 ounce bottles and are \$4 each. Types include: Champagne Vinegar with Thyme, White Wine Vinegar with Thyme, Red Wine Vinegar with Rosemary, Red Wine Vinegar with Sage.

2. Holiday wreaths. Flowers and herbs from our gardens are used to create the six-inch wreaths and are \$10 each.
3. Garden ornaments. These handsewn felt ornaments come in a variety of garden themes and are \$4 each.
4. Artistic note cards. Youth in our Environmental Art classes use our gardens for inspiration to create the batiks printed on these note cards. A set of five cards with envelopes is \$5.
5. "Fresh from the Garden Cookbooks". A collection of 32 delicious recipes from our staff, friends, local restaurants and chefs that are used in

our cooking and nutrition classes. Cookbooks are \$10.

Come meet our staff and youth interns! The Open House will take place on Thursday, December 9 from 2:00 to 7:00 p.m. at our office, 731 East 7th Street, Suite 100, St. Paul, MN 55106. We are located next to the Swede Hollow Café.

Light refreshments will be served. We look forward to seeing you and thank you for your support! If you are unable to attend and wish to purchase something please feel free to call us at (651) 228-7073.

Next Kinetic Kitchen dance at the Mounds Theatre on Dec. 4

The Mounds Theatre is proud to announce that the next Kinetic Kitchen dance performance is just around the corner. Mark your calendars now to attend, **Saturday December 4** at 8 p.m.

Featured in this performance will be Raneeramaswamy, Charmin Michelle, Joel Shapira, Penelope Freeh, Matthew Keefe, Brittany Fridenstine, and Lou Fancher.

Tickets cost \$10 a person. The Mounds Theatre at 1029 Hudson Road is taking reservations now. Call 651-772-2253. For updated information visit www.moundstheatre.org.

Here's a little more information on what to expect during the December 4th Kinetic Kitchen performance: "Nayika" - a collaboration of Jazz and Bharatantayam dance. According to Natyashastra (a text on Indian dance) written in the 4th and 5th century BC, women are classified according to age, experience, physical and mental situations, moods and sentiments. These heroines are called Nayikas.

Raneeramaswamy will collaborate with singer Charmin Michelle to present two genres of heroines to show how similar we all are when it comes to emotions and feelings. Guitarist Joel Shapira will accompany Ms. Michelle.

In "Nayika" the audience will be able to see one style of dance to two types of music, both Indian and Jazz.

Penelope Freeh is a longtime performer with the James Sewell Ballet. Her choreography fuses ballet, modern and quirky theatricality. Come see what the *New York Times* said "...has won the honors for sheer imagination."

Looking for a little taste from the Nutcracker season? Then you won't want to miss the Grand Pas de Deux from "The Nutcracker". This performance will showcase Brittany Fridenstine as the Sugar Plum Fairy and Matthew Keefe as her Cavalier. (Costumes provided by Lakeville City Ballet and James Sewell Ballet.)

Lou Fancher will present two sections from her "Plunge" dance on film series. These works were originally commissioned through the Walker Art Center and the Southern Theater. Plunge will take the viewer through an underwater dance experience.

A look back



First Lutheran Church is celebrating its 150th anniversary this year. The present church at 8th St. and Maria Ave. was built in 1917. This photo was taken in 1928 from the Wolfangel yard in what is now the church parking lot. Also shown is 5 year old Joe Cosimini and his dog Fido. They lived around the corner. Photo courtesy of the Cosimini family photo archive.

Greening Dayton's Bluff 2005 planning meeting

A Greening Dayton's Bluff 2005 planning meeting will be held on **Tuesday, January 11, 2005** at the Dayton's Bluff Community Council offices at 798 East 7th Street at 6:30 p.m. Please come and learn more about Greening Dayton's Bluff and help plan activities for the new year. Some of the greening things that happened in 2004 included gardening workshops, spring plant swap, free public spaces plants, garden tour, buckthorn removal, and discounts for Greening Dayton's Bluff members. For more information call Karin at 651-772-2075.

Grocery Give-Away

A Grocery Give-Away will take place on **Saturday, December 18** from 10:30 to noon at Mounds Park United Methodist Church, Euclid and Earl. Free produce, dry goods and bread items will be given to anyone who can use them. No registration or sign-up necessary. Sponsored by United Methodist churches on the East Side.

Church Directory

First Lutheran Church

463 Maria Ave.

St. Paul, MN 55106

651-776-7210

Located one block north of Metropolitan State University

Sunday Services:

8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.

9:00 a.m. Christian

Education for children and adults

9:45 a.m. Fellowship

Christmas Services:

4:30 p.m. Family Worship

10:00 p.m. Bell Prelude

10:30 p.m. Worship/

Communion

All are welcome!



To place your church in the Forum directory call 651 772-2075

Be Your Own Boss

Have you ever wanted to start your own business? Or, have you started one and are realizing that you need more education to make it successful? If so, sign up for the Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Entrepreneur Training and Support Program. This program helps start-up and young businesses on the East Side. All East Side entrepreneurs are welcome. The next class will start in March.

Class training lasts approximately 16 weeks and includes topics such as operations management, marketing, financial management, one to one assistance with creating a successful business, and preparing a business plan. Those who successfully complete the course and locate their businesses in target neighborhoods are eligible for ongoing business support services.

Some of the businesses that people who took the course have started include graphics, photography, food service, restoration of wood furniture and works of art, custom floral design for weddings and events, and exterior and interior painting. The Dayton's Bluff Community Council and the Neighborhood Development Center sponsor the course. There is a small registration fee based on a sliding fee scale. The next session will start in March 2005 and class size is limited.

Please call Karin at 772-2075 for an application.

Volunteer opportunity! Be an interpreter

Assist human services staff to effectively and efficiently serve non-English speaking clients by translating and reverse translating Hmong, Somali, Oromo, or Spanish and English and perform related duties as assigned.

Volunteers must be at least 16 years of age. Contact Ramsey County Community Human Services—Volunteer Services at 651-266-4090 for additional information or e-mail to volunteerservices@co.ramsey.mn.us.

Dayton's Bluff Take a Hike

Dayton's Bluff Take a Hike meets on the first Saturday of every month at 10:30 a.m. in Indian Mounds Park at Earl Street and Mounds Blvd. Join us on **December 4** for the next hike.

We hike from Mounds Park through Swede Hollow Park and then walk the length of the Bruce Vento Recreational Trail to its end, near Phalen Park.

The hike is about 6 miles with some moderately rough terrain. Transportation will be available near Johnson Parkway and Maryland to return to Mounds Park or you may hike back if you wish.

Join recreational trail supporters and explore this recreational trail. The paved trail runs from East 7th Street and Payne Avenue through Swede Hollow to Phalen Park. Dayton's Bluff Take a Hike started in December of 1990 and over the years hundreds of people have attended these events.

Take a Hike will continue throughout the winter on the first Saturday of the month. For more information, call 776-0550.

Junk cars? Free towing!

If you have a junk car that you'd like to get rid of, we'll pick it up for free!

A tax-deductible donation is a good way to be rid of that junk car. Your donation benefits the community as a whole. Please call the Dayton's Bluff District 4 Community Council at 651-772-2075 to get more information and to schedule towing. Towing provided by Budget Tire and Towing, 846 Earl Street.

Great River School open house

Great River School (GRS) will host a Recruiting Open House on Sunday, **December 5** from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at 1326 Energy Park Drive, St. Paul, MN 55108. All current and prospective junior and senior high students are invited. GRS currently has openings in grades 8-10. There will be openings in grades 7-11 in Fall 2005. For more information call 651-305-2780 or visit www.greatriverschool.org.

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

798 East 7th Street

Saint Paul, MN 55106

Phone: 651-772-2075

FAX: 651-774-3510

E-mail: KarinDD@msn.com

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Board of Directors: Allen Clausen, Greg Cosimini, Robert Johnstone, Debra Vos, and Karin DuPaul. Editor: Greg Cosimini. Layout by Greg Cosimini.

Next issue: March 2005. Deadline for material: February 10, 2005.

Rowing the Boat: A monthly column from Mounds Park --

Thoughts on recycling plastic, paper and presidents

By *Mary Petrie*

Eureka and George W. Bush have me thinking about recycling these days. And no, these two entities don't have much in common other than the way they've nestled together in my brain.

Actually, my ruminations can be traced back one step further. As someone with a couple of degrees in English Literature, I've heard more than my fair share of scholars and writers proclaim: there are no new narratives. The theory is that there are a handful of stories and we simply recycle them. While the specifics vary (who comes of age or what country is ransacked or whose husband/wife cheated or who died or who was born or who risked everything for love), we as a species keep playing out, and writing about, the same dramas over and again.

I've always resisted this idea. What about me, cries Ego? Aren't I something else? Even better, aren't we each unique? If there were nothing new under the sun, wouldn't we all be bored silly by now?

But a few weeks ago, I became inexplicably enamored with the idea of recycling. Thanks to Eureka first, then George W.

I was dutifully sorting bottles into bags of white, brown and green when I wondered how long the glass in my bin would circulate through the world. Suddenly, I was taken with the idea that this white Annie's Goddess Salad Dressing bottle and that brown sticky Eden Tamari would appear in somebody's pantry as jars and bottles of baby foods, vitamins or wine. Ecologically speaking, it would be wonderful if there was nothing new under the sun, just the same old garbage used over and over again. This was hardly cosmic awakening or epiphany; I had my moment of whimsy, crammed two weeks worth of newspapers into the blue bin and moved on.

The next day, I received a letter from Eureka Recycling. I took this as some sort of sign from Above. Perhaps what I mistook for fancy and distraction was indeed a larger message? I was onto something with my recycling ruminations. Here was proof, instant messaging of sorts.

The letter alerted me to the fact that the very nature of recycling was changing: no longer would I have to separate glass by color! I could finally toss our plastic milk jugs curbside (only

plastic bottles, no food tubs or take-outs). Indeed, the whole system had changed. In the brave new world of St. Paul recycling, all glass bottles, metal cans and nicely flattened plastic bottles could go in a single bag without further sorting. Newspaper, junk mail, and corrugated cardboard could go in another. My responsibilities were freshly defined, my commitment to responsible recycling strengthened!

How apropos, then, to be ruminating on garbage as election results rolled in. Perhaps President Bush has indeed has his sign from Above, his guiding principles sent more from Heaven than gleaned from the harsh realities of hearth. What's good enough for the leader of the free world is good enough for me: now I know that my interest in recycling was positively prescient. I am suddenly awash in a world where recycling seems like the lay of the land, rather than one's weekly duty. Maybe we are indeed out of new narratives, recycling the same stories, this time as a nation.

Consider – we've recycled an administration. There will be some churning and changeover, and we'll have the Bush Administration anew. The nation may even be witness to—or caught within—the recycling of a family's dreams and Freudian dramas, as George W. surpasses his father in electoral success and military endurance. Sex and love seem to be on the political table in a way those topics haven't been since the 1960s: we've cycled through Free Love to Legislated Love, it seems. There's an ominous Other abroad, a Middle-Eastern face as chilly as any Cold War Russian mug. Infiltration could happen any second! Nobody's drilling schoolchildren in the fine art of scrambling under their desks, but we've bought gas masks in record numbers. Protest music of the sixties – all guitar and voice and sad lament—has been replaced by Eminem's jabs and the voice of hip-hop. Young people demonstrate on college campuses and the simple word 'peace' begins to feel like a political slogan. I don't think marriage has been holier since June handed out lollipops to The Beaver and his buddies.

We swing to the Right and then to the Left. This cycle seems unending, as does the fear and rhetoric that follows both sides of the pendulum.

Clinton betrayed all moral codes; Bush restored them. Reagan stood tall, a firm hand and father figure to wipe up the psychological residue left by Carter's Iranian hostage failures. The social programs that boomed under Bill will be ransacked by George W. In Minnesota, the pundits predict: more Republicans reside here now – no wait, our real identity is Democratic! Yes, times they are a-changin', and fast.

So here we are, vividly cycling through war and protest, left and right, one more time. I now take solace in the idea that there's nothing new under the sun: each ideological arc will eventually end and something different will rise in its stead. Civic struggle, however, never ends and neither does responsibility. We must look toward hearth, after all; moral issues captured our electoral imagination and those lessons begin at home. In my house these days, we're calling war a moral issue. In all fairness, I don't think there's an elected official on either side of the aisle who wouldn't agree with that statement: I just wish this particular concern got more airplay.

Although I like a righteous tirade as much – if not more – than the next person, my entire cyclical thesis would make such protestations less potent. The tide will turn and turn again. These days, I'm hoping that's so. In the meantime, one keeps on recycling all these stories, dreams, ideologies and fears – oh, and don't forget the tangible stuff we set out on the curb.

Don't forget: curbside recycling has changed! Recycle into two categories: papers and bottles/cans. All paper (newspaper, cardboard, junk mail, cereal boxes, etc.) goes into one pile. Flattened plastic bottles (not take out containers or yogurt tubs), steel and aluminum cans, and glass bottles go in another. Don't waste your time sorting things further, as the trucks only store in those two categories; the rest of the sorting is done at the plant! Flatten those milk bottles, please. Need additional blue bins? Call the Dayton's Bluff District Council at 772-2075. Questions? Thank goodness for Eureka's Recycling Hotline: 651-222-7678.

Mary Petrie is a Mounds Park neighborhood resident who will be writing about life in the neighborhood and ways to improve the quality of family life.



National American Miss Minnesota Cover Girl

Christina Jackson, a 6 year old girl from Dayton's Bluff in St. Paul, was crowned National American Miss Minnesota Cover Girl on August 15, 2004. Christina is the sister of Devon and daughter of Charles & Crystal Jackson.

Christina went to Disneyland in Anaheim CA. in November to proudly represent the state of Minnesota in the National Competitions.

Christina attends Sheridan Elementary where she gets her ambition to become a teacher. Sheridan has received the St. Paul Schools Superintendent's Academic Award for continuous School Improvement 5 years in a row. Sheridan Elementary has been a strong supporter in Christina's success as she learns skills to assist her in her competitions.

Christina demonstrates her ability to conduct herself in an interview, speak publicly with confidence and lead others in having the courage to work toward their dreams no matter how large they might seem. Christina received support from many family members, friends and local businesses in the State Competition and many have continued their support to send her to the Nationals. Christina hopes to do well in the Nationals and make Minnesota shine.

She hopes to meet many Minnesota Officials, and participate in fundraisers and parades during her rein as Minnesota State Cover Girl. She participated in events in the Anoka County Halloween Festival in October and will seek many other opportunities to represent Minnesota throughout the year. Christina sends a special thanks to her family, friends, East Side supporters and supporters from other communities.

Christina's supporters include: Roy's Service Station: 3rd & Maria; Fred Carpenter DDS, Orthodontist: 1514 White Bear Avenue; Taree Leach, Intuitive Counseling: 651-628-9451; Jackson's Cleaning: 651-774-6178; Dave's Auto Body: 323 Maria; Adams Food & Fuel (Mobil): 1390 3rd Street; IBR Reality: 1032 Grand Avenue; Benshoff Construction: 974 Arcade; Grandma's Pantry Catering: 763-639-3039; Sheridan Elementary School: 525 N. White Bear Ave. 651-293-8745.

Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary

The 27-acre floodplain at the foot of Dayton's Bluff is in the midst of being transformed into the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary, Saint Paul's newest park. Land for the sanctuary was purchased in November 2002, and a community partnership known as the Lower Phalen Creek Project has been working with Saint Paul Parks and Recreation on a multi-year effort to restore the area's native ecosystems.

Left: The Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary under construction near 4th and Commercial Streets.



Photo by Karin DuPaul

A Short History of Dayton's Bluff *By Steve Trimble*

Chapter 5: The 1860s and early 1870s

The home construction and business in general in the Dayton's Bluff area increased during the 1860s and early 1870s. People began building homes and businesses beyond the edge of the bluff. Most of the houses were still within what has been called "the walking city," but a few people ventured further out, relying on horse drawn carriages to get them to town and back.

William and Harriet Wakefield were among those who dwelt in what were called "country estates." The two came from Rhode Island in 1857 and bought a plot of four acres from Lyman Dayton. William supported the family by being a bookkeeper and selling real estate. According to a contemporary it was "a very lovely and desirable home" and "one of the beautiful residences of the city."

An 1886 historian described William as a "slender man, unpretentious.... Very conscientious in his beliefs, and always anxious to do right." The writer said that the Wakefields had adorned their area with "beautiful trees, and it is a very lovely and very desirable place."

Their two story early Italianate frame house was constructed sometime around 1860, though the exact date is uncertain. "What Cheer Lawn," as they called their home, sat in the middle of the holdings in a beautifully landscaped lawn that was surrounded by a high board fence in later years.

The recently restored house still stands at 963 Wakefield—the street name was changed from Birch in 1892. One of its unique features is the fact that it sits at an angle to the sidewalk and other homes. This is because it was built to face the old Territorial Road that cut across today's grid pattern.

In 1861, a man named William Branch built a house at the northeast corner of today's Bates and Wilson. "A medium-sized man, cool and collected, and possessed of considerable ability," as one writer described him, he was originally a mason or a carpenter by trade. In either case, he ended up a contractor for large jobs such as grading the first forty miles of the Superior and Mississippi Railroad that ran below Dayton's Bluff.

Branch was interested in politics and had been part of the Territorial Legislature. He was a Republican member of the city council from 1856 until 1861 and simultaneously served as a county commissioner in 1858 and 1859. Branch was elected to the State Legislature in 1866.

When Branch died at the age of 50, his obituary said he "did not have the advantages of much education when young," but was "endowed by nature with a great deal [of] shrewdness, hard common sense, practical judgment and business sense." According to an 1880's writer, "he owned a home on Dayton's Bluff, and in his former grounds his body now reposes."

An 1864 newspaper notice of Branch's activities reveals the exist-

ence of two other outlying residences. Discussing the fact that Branch had received the contract for the construction of the first twenty miles of the Superior Railroad, it noted that the route ran from downtown along the west bank of "Phelan's Creek." It then followed the natural grade "and then meets up with Dr. Patterson's Villa in the prairie."

As the line continued, it ran about a hundred yards in front of Dr. Post's residence - somewhere near today's Earl and East Seventh - "and then follows along the Stillwater road for a mile." It crossed the creek four different times. "It seems," the paper concluded, "as if the valley of Phelan's Creek were just made for such a road."

While it is relatively easy to find mentions of houses from this era, detailed descriptions are rare. One of the best features the home of H. L. Dousman, who built an elegant home on the bluff in 1872. Originally from Prairie du Chien, he was a partner in the American Fur Company. A Milwaukee paper wrote the following exposition on the Dousman mansion:

"The building is of liberal proportions covering an area of some 8,000 square feet, and will be of two lofty stories, on heavy cut-stone foundations, and capped by a lofty Gothic... roof, the whole thing having an altitude of forty-eight feet from the ground to the crest line of the roof, exclusive of the campanie or tower, which is to be about eighty feet high.

"The arrangement of the rooms comprises the porch, sixteen feet square, being base of tower; a central hall, fifteen by fifty feet, with family rooms, library and dining room, and garden entrances on the right side, and conservatory, drawing room, billiard room and side hall, leading to the porte cochre (or carriage porch) on the left side, with steward's room and vault for silver, servant's hall, kitchen... at the rear, all admirably arranged and of generous proportions.

"The grand stairway leading to the second floor is at the rear of the main hall, with landings, and over it, in the ceiling of the second story, is a domed skylight, suitably enriched.

"The second story of the house is divided into chambers, with ample dressing rooms, bath rooms, & etc., attached. The lofty... story in the roof being devoted to servants' rooms and storage.

"From this floor a spiral iron stairway will run to the apex of the lower roof. The house will be warmed by steam throughout, and a very perfect system of ventilation introduced, and of course all modern appliances for comfort and elegances are provided for. The building will be substantially fireproof and very thoroughly built.

"The exterior walls are to be of brick, dressed liberally with cut stone for caps, sills, belts, cornices and ornaments, and the roof will be of slate. The casings and interior wood work being of dark, rich native woods, and the walls harmoniously tinted, to cor-

respond with in tone, and the ceilings frescoed.

"The style of the building is a modification of the medieval domestic architecture now somewhat used by our more educated architects, as embodying most of the requirements for taste and convenience, where a liberal expenditure is allowed."

Descriptions of daily life in the 1860s and 1870s are also hard to find. But a biographer of James J. Hill, the railroad baron, was able to dig up information that sheds some light on the matter, although it may not be typical.

For a short time, the Hill family lived in the neighborhood. They were waiting for the completion of a home in Lowertown and stayed in Dayton's Bluff from 1876 to 1877. They resided in what a son called "a country place." It was a roomy stone structure of white brick that stood on seven acres in today's Mounds Park area. The outbuildings included a horse barn, cow barn, chicken house and icehouse, and there was a large garden.

Even though it was on a street with some neighbors, water came from a well. There was plumbing, but not furnace or lighting. Instead, stoves and kerosene lamps provided heat and lighting. "I remember the spacious garden for fruits and vegetables the wagon departing for town in the morning with my father and the two elder children, often followed by a goat," one family member recalled. "There were many railroad tracks to be crossed, then unspanned by any bridge, but life was full of hazards in those days."

While living on Dayton's Bluff, the Hill family had the luxury of a grand piano, but produced most of their own fruit and vegetables, milk and eggs. There were five children, however one of them, a frail girl named Katie, died that summer. Another daughter, Charlotte, was born while the family was living on the Bluff.

Even though many new homes were being built during the 1860s and 1870s, Dayton's Bluff still had a lot of empty land. St. Paul residents often used the open spaces for recreation. In early 1863, for instance, a newspaper said that on Friday a "Grand Shooting Match" would be held in the neighborhood. Sponsored by a man named Mueller, the event featured prizes of turkeys and chickens. There had been a similar match in the same unnamed site around Christmas time.

A few years later a local paper reported that a baseball team named the "North Stars" had been reorganized and would be playing their summer games on what was described as the "new grounds" on Dayton's Bluff. The first game was to be held on June 14, 1867.

Perhaps the liveliest use of open land in the neighborhood was that made by a man named William Grube. He was a German immigrant who originally lived in the New Ulm colony but couldn't stand the hardships there. He moved to St. Paul in 1853 and, according to one historian, "bought a good

deal of land on Dayton's Bluff." In his early life he taught himself stone cutting and "he seems to be a genius at almost everything, but more especially in the accumulation of property,"

In 1873 the *Daily Press* reported "William Grube will open a fine park tomorrow at the end of Seventh street on Dayton's Bluff, and the Great Western Band has been engaged for a concert at the Park lasting from 2 to 7 p.m. Mr. Grube has created an attractive place, and the opening will be well conducted and successful."

The 1860s and early 1870s brought important changes to Dayton's Bluff. More elegant homes and numerous smaller residences began to fill the landscape. The area's development even affected one of the venerable neighborhood landmarks. In July 1869, the St. Paul *Daily Press* had a headline that read "Digging off the Bluff." According to the article around a hundred men "are now busily engaged digging off Dayton's Bluff, and grading just below the track of the St. Paul and Chicago Railway."

Another source said that the railroad had "condemned for their use the strip of land along the river bank" which included the "cliff in which is the cave." They dug it down and almost entirely destroyed it. "But a shallow cavity now remains to mark its site. The pool or lake is gone," the writer commented, "and the limpid stream that flows through it now supplies a railroad tank. Its poetry and romance are destroyed by the necessities of our modern trade and material growth."

Give the gift that keeps on growing - a tree

The gift of a tree is a unique and caring way to recognize any special occasion. Perfect for that special someone, the hard to buy for business associate, or to commemorate a special occasion.

The Friends of the Parks and Trails of St. Paul and Ramsey County, a Minnesota nonprofit, make it easy to do your shopping. No gift-wrapping is involved and a beautiful hand stamped card announcing your gift will be sent by the Friends to the recipient. The gift will be enjoyed and appreciated for years to come. The gift can be given in two ways.

The first option is to purchase a tree that is given directly to the recipient. In addition to sending a card when the tree gift is purchased, the Friends will send a notice next spring on when to pick up the tree in Saint Paul.

The second option is to have a tree planted in a local park in honor of the recipient or occasion. Most parks in Dakota and Ramsey Counties are eligible to accept these trees. In addition to the card, the Friends will notify the recipient of the exact location of the tree after it is planted in 2005.

Trees cost \$50.00 each. Send a check to Friends of the Parks, 1621 Beechwood Ave., St. Paul, MN 55116. Include the name and address of the person you wish to receive the card. Be sure to list how the donor should be named on the card, whether the tree is for the recipient or for a park (designate the park). For more information or an order form call 651-698-454 or check the Friend's web site at www.friendsoftheparks.org.

Jackson Katz will speak on violence, media and masculinity

Jackson Katz is a former all-star football player and founder and director of Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) Strategies, an organization that provides gender violence prevention training and materials. He is also the creator of an educational video, *Tough Guise: Violence, Media and the Crisis in Masculinity*. Katz has lectured at hundreds of schools and colleges across the nation and has appeared on Good Morning America, ABC News 20120 and the CBS Evening News. To find out more about Jackson Katz visit www.lacksonkatz.com.

Event Information

December 8th, 7 - 9 p.m.

Harding High School Auditorium

A presentation open to the public on American Manhood and Violence Against Women (Q & A to follow)
FREE Admission

December 9th, 8 - 11 a.m.

Metropolitan State University's Great Hall

A workshop for educators and others who work with youth on building skills in violence prevention.

Registration Fee: \$20

December 9th, 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Metropolitan State University's Ecolab Community Room

A lunch meeting for people who work with men and young men who abuse.
Registration Fee: \$10

For more information and registration forms, call 651-241-5862 or email Moira.Lynch@allina.com

This event is sponsored by Eastside Peacemakers, Partners for Violence Prevention, Hennepin County Initiative for Violence-Free Families, Domestic Abuse Project, the Sexual Violence Prevention Program of the Minnesota Department of Health, Ramsey County Initiative for Violence-Free Families and Communities, Harding High School, and the Community Violence Prevention Institute at Metropolitan State University.

Marian Center was once again transformed into the Land of Oz



Photos by Robert Johnstone

It was a real treat to see the HealthEast Care Center & Residence – Marian of St. Paul transformed into the Land of Oz. Several hundred children turned out for the seventh annual Halloween event on Thursday, Oct. 28.

It's become a tradition on St. Paul's East Side every Halloween. "More than 600 children came from all over St. Paul," said Jeff Thorne, Administrator at HealthEast Care Center & Residence – Marian of St. Paul. "This holiday tradition just keeps getting bigger and better each year."

The children, who were dressed in their favorite costumes, walked down the yellow brick road collecting treats from the residents, some dressed in Halloween costumes themselves. The kids followed the yellow brick road

down to the Land of Oz. Their eyes opened wide and they were all smiles when they walked in and saw Dorothy, the Tin Man, the good witch Glenda and all the other characters from the Wizard of Oz.

Staff, volunteers and residents look forward to decorating the facility every year and dressing up like characters from the Wizard of Oz. They recreate Dorothy's house, the cornfield with the scarecrow and of course, Oz.

A special thanks goes out to the wonderful volunteers and staff who spent countless hours in setting up this annual event.

It's a Halloween tradition on St. Paul's East Side that the seniors look forward to as much as the kids.



Best Dayton's Bluff garden of 2004

By Karin DuPaul

The winners of the 2004 Dayton's Bluff Garden Contest are Sandy and Frank Ritter, Conway Street residents who have been gardening in Dayton's Bluff for over 30 years. Their three children attended Dayton's Bluff Elementary and Harding High School. The Ritter's gardens were nominated by a number of people, including two people who do not live in Dayton's Bluff.

About 12 years ago they expanded their gardens into the lot next door. When the condemned house next door was torn down, they purchased the lot. Since that time they turned a muddy vacant lot into a beautiful multitude of plants. They also have a number of very nice sitting areas great for entertaining, a beautiful pond, bonfire ring, lots of yard art, and space for the family dogs, Rosey and Storm.

Their gardens are a combination of vegetable, fruit and flowering plants.

Fruit trees include apple, plum and peach. They eat and can the fruits. Their peaches are delicious and their canned peaches with brandy and cinnamon are outstanding. They also grow raspberries and strawberries. This year they planted 28 tomato plants; many bearing huge tomatoes. They have 25 rose bushes in many beautiful colors. Some of their other flowering plants include daffodils, tulips, peonies, hostas, bleeding hearts and many kinds of lilies. The layout of the gardens and the colors are outstanding. Next summer we are planning to have the Ritter's garden on one of our neighborhood garden tours.

The Garden Contest is a project of Greening Dayton's Bluff and the Greenspace Committee of the Dayton's Bluff District 4 Community Council. A special thanks goes to the judges of the garden contest. To get involved with these groups call Karin at 651-772-2075.



Above and at right: The winning entry in the 2004 Dayton's Bluff Garden Contest belongs to Sandy and Frank Ritter, Conway Street residents who have been gardening in Dayton's Bluff for over 30 years. Photos by Karin DuPaul

Have a gardener on your Christmas list?

Visit the Community Design Center's Annual Holiday Open House on Dec. 9th. Youth in the Community Design Center's Garden Corp program will be selling a variety of products they have made by hand. See details on page 1.

*The Clothes Line --***Put on your thinking cap**

Minnesota Historical Society
Mixed blood (Indian and French) fur trader around 1870.

By Sarah Ryan

Before the woodlands of this area became Dayton's Bluff, plentiful vegetation and wildlife had sustained human life here for generations. The local Mdewakanton Dakota hunted deer, buffalo, beaver, and other fur-bearing animals. They used parts of these animals for medicinal purposes, ate the meat, and preserved the hides for use as shelter and clothing. Their hunting skills and the wealth of resources at their command attracted the interests of European fur traders.

Tall wide brimmed hats worn by Swedish military officers were the inspiration for the fashion craze that made the fur trade so lucrative. These hats, which were crafted from fur felt, became popular among status-conscious men in Western Europe during the late 15th century. The most dashing styles were trimmed with flowing ostrich feathers; the more practical tri-corners, the more dignified top hats, later bowlers and cowboy hats were all popular during various periods of the fur trade. Through a labor-intensive process that required large amounts of water and the neurotoxin mercury oxide, a four-pound stack of pelts could be reduced to a quantity of felt sufficient to make a single fur hat.

Beaver fur, because of unique natural qualities that make it especially suitable for compressing into soft water-resistant mats, was the most popular material for hatters felt. The dam-building semi-aquatic rodent with long front teeth, webbed hind feet, a paddle-like tail, and thick brown fur was once plentiful throughout northern Asia and Europe, but by the 16th century beaver had been hunted to near extinction on the eastern side of the Atlantic Ocean.

When Europeans began to arrive in North America around 1500, they discovered a fresh supply of beaver and other fur pelts that could bring high prices in European markets. They began to trade manufactured items like the textiles, tools, and guns they had brought with them from home for pelts supplied by Native Americans. Beaver pelt coats that had been worn by Native Americans for at least one season were especially sought after. Wearing the coat with the fur side next to the body eventually caused the longer

hairs to fall out of the pelt, leaving only the soft under-fur that hatters preferred. For a time, pelts served as a form of currency.

The intensely competitive fur trade rapidly changed the face of North America. Between 1754 and 1763, the British Army fought the French and their Native American allies for possession of the northern lands east of the Mississippi. This conflict, known as the French and Indian War, resulted in a British victory that unseated France as the principal force on the supply side of the fur trade and transferred control of the area in which we now live to the British. Jonathan Carver, who had served as a British army captain during the French and Indian War, famously visited this area in 1766 to assess its potential for supplying pelts. By that time, local Dakota bands had been engaged in the fur trade for at least 100 years.

Although the French had dominated the early period of the North American fur trade and colonial settlers had established their own hat-making operations, most of the pelts gathered during the height the fur trade were shipped to hatters in Great Britain. Benjamin Franklin successfully exploited this apparent imbalance when he visited France in 1775. He charmed the Parisians with his rustic American ways and forged a military alliance that proved invaluable to the Yankees during the Revolutionary War. Before embarking on this diplomatic mission, Franklin put on a coonskin cap and left his tri-corner hat at home.

Ten years after Carver's visit, control of the fur trade began to shift again. The colonies of New England won their independence from King George in 1776 and in 1819 the United States established Fort Snelling on the west side of the Mississippi. Under Fort Snelling's protection, the area directly across the river became the major fur-trading town of Mendota. By the 1830s, over-hunting and deforestation were fueling ethnic rivalries and competition for the dwindling supply of pelts in this increasingly populous area. Just down stream, the Mdewakanton village of Kaposia relocated to the river's west bank and a retired French fur trader known as Pig's Eye took up near their former residence with his still. The city of St. Paul was incorporated in 1847.

The man in the photo, identified only as a mixed blood fur trader, is wearing a cap made of a single pelt used almost whole. Less refined than hats made of felt, fur caps like these had come to represent the American spirit of independence. But by the 1870s, significant declines in North American beaver populations on both sides of the Mississippi were signaling the end of an era. Years of unmanaged fur harvesting combined with the loss of natural habitat to logging, agriculture, and urban development had driven the beaver to the edge of extinction on a third continent.

Sarah Ryan lives in Dayton's Bluff. You can reach her by e-mail at sr@lakecast.com or send mail to the Dayton's Bluff District Forum office, 798 E. 7th Street, 55106.

Tanya Johnson - a political artist

By J. Wittenberg

It was a fine autumnal day when I met the Dayton's Bluff artist named Tanya Johnson. The sun was out and all seemed right with the world. The view from the Bluff was fine as the sun hinted at closing out the day in dramatic fashion.

Alas, Ms. Johnson was feeling "gloomy" from the recent election results and who could blame her. Happily, after a time, she found some solace in our own Betty McCollum once again winning the day. A lone bright spot, we both agreed, and at least one victory for decency. Ms. Johnson found it curious that with all the mean-spiritedness and selfishness so prevalent in today's politics, that someone who has done so much good for so many should actually *prevail* in an election! We both agreed – will wonders ever cease?

Such topics were acutely apropos, as Ms. Johnson makes much in the way of political art. Only recently this Dayton's Bluff artist has shown her work upon the walls of the Minneapolis Institute of Art, as part of their ongoing daring political exhibit.

Ms. Johnson lamented how conservative our state has been leaning; so contrary to how historically progressive our state has traditionally been with figures like Humphrey, Mondale, and Wellstone. She mused upon our late, great senator and said: "We'll never have another like him. We could have used him now, more than ever...in these terrible times, where social programs, after-school programs, the arts,

and empathy are being hung out to dry. But I guess these are not *moral* enough."

In gazing at some of Ms. Johnson's collage work, I may discern how dark these last four years have been to her and to many, and where as far as the eye may see, one may take no joy. In her faces there are eyes and mouths burned or scorched out. These are images that predict a day of reckoning. Indeed, they speak of censorship and intolerance. Besides found images, her collages include charcoal and acrylic paint. Upon the wall, with all the other art so cramped on display, I feel her work would be better served in being seen all by itself, away from the deluge surrounding it.

Ms. Johnson is self-taught and is not overly keen on promoting herself. Indeed, I approached her upon learning she was from Dayton's Bluff. Presently, her work is not for sale, but one can take home a feeling of the despair that has come over many of our citizens over the last four years "Thankfully, a person's right for free expression is still relatively intact. But there are other rights which may soon be slipping away," Ms. Johnson said.

Her work holds a powerful message, one which is being seen, and deservedly so. Of her own creations, Ms. Johnson said, "It does not predict a bright future, but perhaps it can bring some awareness and hope that wholesale change is so important to remove us from the downward course on which some have so recklessly desired to take us."

Johnson Parkway Place to open in 2005

Photo by Greg Cosimini

Johnson Parkway Place, the senior rental complex being built near Johnson Parkway and Hudson Road, is on track for completion in 2005.



Photo by Fred Kaphingst

Meanwhile, the four houses moved from Hudson Road near Frank St. to the east end of the site were demolished in October. There goes the last one.

CLUES opens its new offices



Top: The new CLUES office building at 797 E. 7th St. **Above:** CLUES staff members Barbara Pena, Stacy Opitz, Fanny Gutierrez and Dr. Luz Sanchez at the front desk in the new building. Photos by Karin DuPaul

Chicanos Latinos Unidos En Servicio (CLUES) opened its doors on Monday, November 1st at its new offices located at 797 East 7th Street. This location will allow CLUES to meet the needs of over 14,000 Latinos now living on the East Side while maintaining a presence on the West Side, the traditional home of Latinos in Minnesota. CLUES will keep its Elder Services at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church and provide ESL classes at the offices of the St. Paul Red Cross, both located on the West Side.

Half of the building will house four of its five services: Mental Health, Chemical Health, Education and Employment. The focal point at CLUES new site will be the Latino Learning Institute as a reflection of our commitment to improving literacy and the educational attainment of Latino children and adults. Part of the first floor will be leased to a local healthcare organization that will operate a primary healthcare clinic.

BWBR Architects designed the new two-story, 21,500 square foot building that is located in the heart of St. Paul's growing Latino community. Kraus Anderson Construction Company constructed the building and Sterns & Associates, LLC managed the project.

CLUES Latino Learning Institute is always looking for new committed volunteers. Classes are held in the morning and evening and Spanish is not a requirement. The new quarter begins in January 2005. For more information, please contact Alejandra Reyes at 651-379-4229.

CLUES is Minnesota's premier Latino social and behavioral health services agency. Our mission is to "en-

hance the quality of life of the Chicano Latino community in Minnesota." We provide a continuum of five core services: Mental Health, Chemical Health, Education, Employment and Elder Wellness.

Recent recognitions include:
2004 - Ranked among the top 25 Hispanic nonprofits in the United States by *Hispanic Business Magazine*
2003 - National Healthcare Affiliate of the Year - Helen Trías Rodríguez Award *National Council of La Raza*
2002 - Outstanding Community Organization of the Year Award - *La Prensa de Minnesota*



CLUES needs your help in building a brighter future for Minnesota's Latino community!

Volunteer Tutors are needed for the following classes:

Spanish Literacy Classes
English as a Second Language (ESL) Classes
Citizenship Classes
Computer Classes
Child supervision services assistant

The minimum time commitment for volunteer tutors is three hours per week for an eight-week period. Classes are held in the morning and evening and the new quarter begins in late January. Spanish is not a requirement. For more information, contact Alejandra Reyes at 651-379-4229.

Dayton's Bluff Rec Center December Events

Dayton's Bluff Community
Recreation Center
800 Conway St.
(651) 793-3885
Director: Jody Griffin
jody.griffin@ci.stpaul.mn.us

STORYTELLING WITH ANIMALS & THE VISITOR FROM THE NORTH - SANTA!

(Kindergarten through 6th grade) Homeward Bound Theatre Company will offer "Storytelling with Animals". Many fables and fairy tales use animals to teach us lessons about life and relationships. Stories will include live animals (rabbits, turtles, etc.) to help listeners better understand the worlds they come from. We will also be having an extra special guest - Santa! Pictures will be available for a nominal fee. Parents can bring their own camera. Children will have an opportunity to sign up to receive a letter from Santa too.

Thursday December 16; 5-7 pm; \$3

SINGIN' THE BLUES

(Grades 9-12) Participants will experience the history of the blues and learn to "Blues Up" any song. Instructor: Homeward Bound Theater
Tuesday, December 7; 6-7:30 pm; \$39; 4 sessions

HOLIDAY COOKIES

(Ages 7-15) Join us as we make cookies to celebrate the holidays. Bring a container to hold your cookies.
Mon., Dec. 20; 3-4:30 pm; \$3; 1 session

SOX WAX CANDLE MAKING

(Ages 14-adult) Sox Wax is a sustainable alternative for making candles. You will create two soy wax candles with the aromatherapy scents of your choosing. These are great gifts!
Wed., Dec. 8; 6-8:30 pm; \$8 + \$10 supply fee

HOLIDAY ORNAMENT EXCHANGE

Adults are invited to meet and exchange holiday ornaments with one another and share holiday stories. Please register by Dec. 9. The number of ornaments to share will be determined by how many people register.
Wed., Dec. 15; 6:30-7:30 pm; Free; 1 session

PARENT & TOT PLAY TIME

(Ages 5 & under) This unstructured time is for parents & daycare providers & their kids to play in our gymnasium. Tumbling mats, small wheeled bikes, scooters and balls will be available. Dayton's Bluff welcomes donations of new or gently used toys for this age group.
Mon., Wed. & Fridays; 10 am - 12 noon; Free; On-going

MOVIES FOR TINY TODDLERS

(Ages 2-5 yrs.) Bring the little ones to the center theater for a viewing of

their favorite movie/show on our big 20' x 20' screen.
Tuesday's through Dec.; 10:30 am - 12 pm; Free; 10 sessions

ST. PAUL WINTER CARNIVAL JUNIOR ROYALTY

St. Paul teens, grades 7-9, may represent the City of St. Paul at Events and parades throughout the metro area. Through a judging process teens will be selected as King Frost, Queen of the Snowflakes, or as member of the Royal Court. Deadline to register is Dec. 17. Teens must either live in St. Paul or go to school in St. Paul to be eligible. Call the Recreation Center for more details.

2005 EVENTS

The 2005 Winter/Spring program will be available in the middle of December. It will list activities that run from January through May. It can be picked up at the Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center or found on our web site at www.ci.stpaul.mn.us/depts/parks.

Dayton's Bluff teacher receives national award

It's not every day that U.S. Education Secretary Rod Paige sends someone to a teacher's classroom to express gratitude for a job well done.

But that's exactly what happened to Brandon Phillips early this fall when Kristine Cohn, a regional representative for the U.S. Department of Education, stopped by Dayton's Bluff Achievement Plus Elementary School to tell him that he's been named an American Star of Teaching.

"It's very nice to have your work recognized by the U. S. Department of Education," said Phillips. "But the real reward is being able to help my students learn and grow."


The award is an effort by national education leaders to recognize effective classroom teachers who are successful in improving the academic performance of their students, and are making a real difference in their students' lives.

A colleague nominated Phillips for the award, and he is the only Minnesota teacher recognized. American Stars of Teaching have been identified in every state and the District of Columbia.

This article was originally published in the November 2004 issue of SPSS Today.

*Happy New Year
from the staff of the
Dayton's Bluff
District Forum!
Watch for our next
issue in
March 2005.*

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Passion for Caring and Service

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Holiday Boutique, Craft and Bake Sale at Marian of Saint Paul was a big success




HealthEast Senior Care - Marian of Saint Paul held its annual Holiday Boutique, Craft and Bake Sale on November 19th. Photos by Robert Johnstone

Volunteering at the Marian Center

We are seeking caring individuals of all ages to spend some time with our Elders doing the following:
Visiting or reading to our Elders
Beauty Shop Helpers
Chapel Services Helpers
Recreation Programs Assistants for Arts and Crafts and/or Group Activities
Musical Entertainers
Men's Discussion Group Leader
Grocery Shopping Helper

Are you a High School student? You can get credit for volunteering! Many schools require a number of hours in "Community Service". By volunteering at our facility you will get extra credit, gain experience in Senior Care, contribute to the community and have fun ... all at the same time.

If you are interested in joining our team of volunteers, please contact Robert Johnstone, Volunteer Services Coordinator at (651) 793-2116.