

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

"The Voice of the Community"



Photo by Robert Johnstone

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April 2005

Planning for Dayton's Bluff Future

Three community meetings are planned to get input from Dayton's Bluff residents on their vision for Dayton's Bluff for the next ten years. What changes do we want that will enhance livability on Dayton's Bluff in the future? The Community Meetings will give residents an opportunity to identify things people would like to see stay the same and those they would like changed over the next ten years.

The Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood survey, which was inserted in the March issue of the Forum, was the first step. Surveys are coming into the office everyday. We appreciate everyone who has taken the time to fill one out. Call our office if you did not get one and we will send you a copy.

"Survey" continues on page 2



Goodbye, Peace

One of the oldest church congregations in Dayton's Bluff will be closing its doors. Peace United Church of Christ, located at 940 Reaney Street, will be having a special programs to commemorate its history. It will feature personal comments of former leaders.

The event will be held at 2:00 in the afternoon on Sunday April 24, 2005. According to pastor Beth Benson, the date was chosen because it also commemorates the 125th anniversary of Peace United's existence. There will be refreshments in the Fellowship Hall after the celebration. ■

New Production Gets Downright "Ruthless!"

by Jefferson Fietek

The Historic Mounds Theatre presents "Ruthless! the Musical", winner of the N.Y. Outer Critics Circle Award for Best Off-Broadway Musical. It will run April 1st through 17th. This production is part of the Mounds Theatre's official theatre season.

"Ruthless! the Musical" was a huge hit Off-Broadway and is now being produced by the Mounds Theatre as their final show of their inaugural

season. The story is about an eight-year-old, Tina Denmark, who just knows she was born to play Pippi Longstocking in her elementary school play and is willing to do anything to win the lead. Anything... including murder!

"Ruthless! The Musical" is a hilarious dark comedy about the lengths to which a little girl would go to be a star. This musical spoof is full of absurd plot twists and multiple identities.

This fast-paced send-up parodies

such classics as "Gypsy", "The Bad Seed," "All About Eve" and a host of other shows that you may recognise. You won't be able to hold back the laughter; never has viciousness been so funny!

Joel Paley created the book/lyrics and Marvin Laird wrote the music. Jefferson Fietek is both the Director and Set Designer for the production. Benjamin Lacina serves as the production's Musical Director. The Costume Designer is Lisa Jayne

"Ruthless!" continues on page 2

McCollum Secures Hub Funding

Congresswoman Betty McCollum announced that she is extraordinarily pleased with the \$2 million included in the Transportation Equity Act (TEA-LU) for the development of a multi-modal transit hub and Union Depot in St. Paul. In addition, \$1.5 million is included to construct a trail link between Bruce Vento Regional Trail and the Mississippi River Corridor. The legislation also makes the Central Corridor light rail project eligible for further federal funding.

The St. Paul projects are among \$16 million for priority federal transportation projects in the East Metro area included in the House-passed legislation. TEA-LU is a six-year \$284 billion project authorizing funding for the nation's highway, public transportation and road safety projects through fiscal year 2009.

"These federal investments in St. Paul will help our community plan for our present and future transportation needs," said McCollum. "Building the Central Corridor and developing a transit hub at

the Union Depot will revitalize St. Paul, daily bringing thousands of people into Lowertown to do business, to sight-see, to patronize restaurants and stores and to enjoy the natural beauty of the river."

"As federal, state and local leaders, we are working together in a bipartisan spirit to meet the transportation needs in the East Metro area. These projects will not only improve the environment and quality of life for families, it will also create jobs and help our economy grow," said McCollum

The trail linkage project will create a pedestrian and bicycle connection between the existing Bruce Vento Regional Trail/Gateway State Trail to the Sam Morgan Trail and associated Mississippi River regional trail corridor. The link will create a safe connection for 134 miles of existing paved off street trail systems in four different directions - greatly enhancing the entire regional trail network's value as a method of non-motorized commuting. ■

Survey: Residents OK Smoking Ban

from the Saint Paul - Ramsey County Department of Public Health

It appears most residents are looking forward to breathing clean air in Ramsey County restaurants next month according to recent results of a secondhand smoke survey. Almost all of the non-smokers and almost half of the smokers surveyed said they would dine out at restaurants at least as often or more often if restaurants were smoke-free.

Additionally, most of those surveyed think secondhand smoke is harmful to adults and children and believe that restricting smoking in public places does not discriminate against smokers. "These results will help guide future public health programs aimed at reducing secondhand smoke in public places," said Rob Fulton, Director of the Saint Paul - Ramsey County Public Health.

"Smoking" continues on page 8

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Church Directory

First Lutheran Church

463 Maria Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55106
651-776-7210
1 block N. of Metro State

Sunday Worship - 8:00 & 10:15am

Sunday School - 9:00 am

Adult Forum - 9:00 am

Followship - 9:45 am

Nursery & Handicapped Accessible

ALL ARE WELCOME!

**List your church in
the Forum
Directory, call:
651-772-2075**



Bethlehem Lutheran

655 Forest Street
St. Paul, MN 55106
651-776-4737
Corner of Forest & Margaret

Saturday Evening Service
5:00 pm

Sunday Morning Service
9:00 am

Sunday School and Bible Hour
10:15-11:15 am

Hmong Service
Sunday 11:15 am



The democratic process in action at Harding High School. Photo by Tony Darras

Saint Paul Ward Caucuses

by Laurie Diethelm
and Gabriel Garbow

The Saint Paul ward caucuses were held on March 1, 2005. Ward 7 Democrats met at Harding High School while Republicans convened at Saint Paul College. Turnout was mixed. About two hundred Democrats turned out from the ward: more than expected, but still fewer than last year when the Presidential election was at stake.

According to Warren Anderson, one of the organizers of the Republican ward caucuses, about 100 people gathered from around the city for their general assembly. State Representative Jeff Johnson, Secretary of State Mary Kiffmeyer, U.S. House of Representatives candidate Obi Sium, and school board member Tom Conlon were the featured speakers for the assembly.

Jeff Johnson requested support in his run for the office of Minnesota Attorney General. He listed three priorities in his campaign for office: 1) protecting kids from dangers ranging from drugs to sex predators; 2) protecting consumers, especially the elderly; and 3) promoting job growth and economic development, including limiting health-care costs and promoting tort reform.

Secretary of State Kiffmeyer encouraged Republicans to further their outreach efforts to people in Saint Paul. She said the values of Republicanism are strong throughout the state. Kiffmeyer also stated that people from areas such as Somalia, Cambodia, and Vietnam are naturally social and fiscal conservatives. "They are good friends for us as Republicans and as conservatives," said Kiffmeyer.

Obi Sium, who wants to run against U.S. Representative Betty McCollum in the 2006 election, was the final speaker for the general assembly. Sium was born in Eritrea and immigrated to the United States in 1973. Sium emphasized the importance of education, affordable health care, and the "rights of the unborn." He said he hoped to bring to the U.S. Congress a perspective from the other side of the world and stated that Saint Paul is changing. "There is a blend—a good color," said Sium.

After the general assembly closed, attendees retreated to their separate ward caucuses. The Dayton's Bluff area of Saint Paul falls under Ward 7, along with the Battlecreek neighborhood. Dayton's Bluff

residents Ryan Calvin and Adam Ford were among the nine participants of the ward caucus. When asked what they hoped to gain for the Dayton's Bluff area by attending the caucus, Ford responded that he wanted to influence policy that could affect the number of single family homes in the neighborhood. He would like the city to refuse permits to people who want to develop multi-family homes and require people who buy structures that were once single-family homes to return them to that state. Calvin said he hoped to encourage the development of a light-rail system in the area. He would like to see Saint Paul act as a pioneer in establishing this form of public transportation in the area. Both Ford and Calvin were designated as delegates to attend the city-wide caucus. Calvin was also elected Ward 7 Treasurer.

Meanwhile, at the Democrat's caucus, the cafeteria was packed with involved citizens debating the issues, drafting potential proposals, and snacking on refreshments. Unlike the Republican general assembly, Democrats met all over the city in separate ward caucuses. They sat at school lunch tables in their individual precincts, each precinct represented by seven to twenty or more Dems. Speeches were short, and the major business of the evening was electing delegates to go on to the city-wide caucus in April. This privilege was hotly contested, but coolly decided. Since there were many more ready-and-willing volunteers than openings for delegates, interested individuals were asked to line up on one side of the cafeteria. Then, those who would concede to act as alternate delegates, formed a separate line, until the number of delegates allowed was reached. Twenty-nine men and twenty-nine women will represent Ward 7 at the city-wide caucus and another fifty-eight will be on-call as alternates.

During both parties' ward meetings, participants discussed possible resolutions. And elected delegates to the city-wide caucuses. The passed resolutions will be discussed again at the city-wide caucus to determine if they will advance further. These resolutions could potentially create the basis for future legislative actions. The delegates were informed that they would be notified of the date and location of the city-wide caucus at a later time.



Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Entrepreneur Training graduate Dolly Eileen Spanber, Dale White instructor, and Kathy Moriarty, Program Coordinator at Dolly's graduation. Dolly's business is singing telegrams and entertainment.

"Ruthless!" from page 1:

Smith, the Lighting Designer is Chad Allen and the Choreographer is Cindy Gardner. Local actors comprising the cast are: Jen Anderson, Kelly Gilpatrick, Channing Jones, Jenna Lory, Courtney Miner, Robin Sorenson, Lorin W. Yenor.

"Ruthless! The Musical" will run for just two weeks this month only at The Mounds Theatre, 1029 Hudson Road, Saint Paul, MN 55106:

April	1	at	7:30PM
April	2	at	7:30PM
April	3	at	2:00PM
April	8	at	7:30PM
April	9	at	7:30PM
April	10	at	2:00PM
April	15	at	7:30PM
April	16	at	7:30PM
April	17	at	2:00PM

Ticket prices are \$15 for adults and \$10 for seniors (55+) and students. For reservations call the Mounds Theatre Box Office: 651-772-2253 or visit www.moundstheatre.org.

The money raised from the Mounds Theatre's production season goes to fund arts programs for at-risk youth. These programs teach youth the skills of acting, dancing, voice, improvisation and theatrical design. ■

"Survey" from page 1:

Now on to the second step, the Community Meetings. They will be held at the following locations:

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church
674 Johnson Parkway
Thursday, April 14, 2005 at 6:30 pm

Marian Center of Saint Paul
200 Earl Street
Saturday, April 16, 2005 at 9:30 am

Saint John's Lutheran Church
771 Margaret Street
Tuesday, April 26, 2005 at 6:30 pm

Come to one of the meetings and bring a neighbor. The District Plan Steering Committee of the Dayton's Bluff Community Council needs your thoughts and ideas. The committee is working on updating the Dayton's Bluff District Plan, which will become part of the city's Comprehensive Plan that directs future development, infrastructure priorities, funding allocations and policy decisions. It is the blueprint for the future of the City and the neighborhoods. Your input now will make a big difference in the future. For more information call Karin at 651-772-2075. ■



NIGHT OUT VS. CRIME

What's it all about? Having fun and promoting safe neighborhoods!

National Night Out is designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness, generate support for and participation in local anti-crime programs, and strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships. The day and evening are meant to send a message nationwide to criminals, letting them know that neighborhoods are organized to watch for and report suspicious activity to their local law enforcement agency.

National Night Out is an annual event held the first Tuesday of every August. This year it will be celebrated on August 2nd by communities working together to eliminate crime, increase safety, and getting to know their neighbors. Neighborhood events may include block club parties, neighborhood barbecues, potluck dinners, ice cream socials, community center events, garden tours, and more.

In recognition of National Night Out, Saint Paul's Eastside District Councils will be sponsoring the third annual poster contest for all ages! Our purpose is to inspire and promote crime prevention and a spirit of community that lasts the whole year.

Poster contest theme: **SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS!** What does neighborhood safety mean to you? Draw a picture of what a safe neighborhood looks like to you at home, school, or at neighborhood parks.

Who can enter? **EVERYONE!** Be creative and design your poster using paints, crayons, colored pencils or magic markers. Posters need to be either 8" x 11" or 11" x 17". The poster contest features four entry categories: pre-kindergarten - 3rd grade, 4th - 6th grade, 7th - 12th grade and adult

Prizes will be awarded for posters in all categories. Every entry will receive a prize and special selected prizes will be awarded in each category.

All entries **MUST INCLUDE** name, age or category entry, gender, school/grade, full home address and phone number. Prizes will not be awarded to entries without this information. Entries will not be returned. They will become the property of contest sponsors and may be used for publicity purposes. The deadline for entries is **APRIL 18, 2005**. Sorry - no late entries will be accepted!

Bring or send the posters to: Dayton's Bluff District 4 Community Council, 798 East 7th Street, Saint Paul, MN 55106. For more

information call Karin at 651-772-2075.

NIGHT OUT PERMITS

Neighborhood groups and block clubs planning to celebrate National Night Out and wanting to have the event in the street should start the permit process early. Permit applications need to be in early. National Night Out is on Tuesday, August 2nd this year.

To make the process easier for community people, the Saint Paul Police Department has made it possible for all 19 Community Councils in Saint Paul to have a notary in their offices. Dayton's Bluff Community Council has a Notary Public on staff to help make the Street Use Petition process easier

The Police Department is also asking that neighborhood groups and block clubs get their requests for police to attend National Night Out events in to their community council early this year. Please call Karin at 651-772-2075 for more information.

PLANT SALE/EXCHANGE

The third annual Greening Dayton's Bluff Plant Sale and Exchange will be held on Saturday, May 14, 2004 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the corner of East 7th Street and Bates in the gardens outside the Swede Hollow Café. Plants for sale will include perennials and annuals.

If you have plants in your garden that you have too many of, or do not like them anymore, dig them up and bring them to the plant exchange and take home something you would rather have in your garden. For more information call Karin at 651-772-2075.

GARDEN ARTISTS NEEDED

The Greening Dayton's Bluff committee is looking for crafters and artists to display their wares at the Greening Dayton's Bluff Plant Sale and Exchange on Saturday, May 14. Space will be available to vendors of decorative and functional garden accessories such as birdfeeders, planters, trellises, birdhouses, or outdoor furniture. The event will be held at the Maria Bates Rain Garden Park on the corner of East 7th Street and Bates from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. To reserve space call Karin, at 651-772-2075.

NEED RECYCLING BINS?

You can pick them up at 798 East 7th Street at the corner of 7th and Margaret. Call 651-772-2075 to be sure someone is in the office. ■

Dayton's Bluff Community Recreation Calendar

800 Conway St. 651.793-3885 (please call for complete calendar)

JUDO (Ages 7-adult) Judo builds and develops balance, quick reactions, speed, stamina, flexibility, endurance, timing, accuracy of movements and techniques. \$15/month; 4 sessions/month; On-going

BOYS ONLY! Grandpas, dads, and sons, this is your day! We will build a great project and enjoy some tasty treats. Sun., Apr. 24; 1-2 pm; Fee: \$5/family

GIRLS ONLY! Grandmas, mothers, and daughters of all ages, come and enjoy a special afternoon tea party. Dress in your finest! The afternoon will include flower crafts, beaded jewelry, tea and treats. Sun., Apr. 10; 1-2 pm; Fee: \$5/family

AREA 5 VEHICLE FAIR (All ages) Calling all fans of big and little trucks, cars and other special equipment to join us for a fun exciting morning. Sat., Apr. 30; 10 am-1 pm; Fee: Free

SENIOR GROUP New players are always welcome. Fee for 500: \$12/year + weekly fee for kitty. Coffee & snacks served for \$1 each week.

STORY PUPPETS (Gr. K-3rd) Learn how to make a hand-held puppet and how to operate it so it seems to come to life! Apr. 21; 4-5:30 pm; Fee: \$38; 5 sessions

YOUTH ROOM Kids are welcome to come play foosball, ping pong, air hockey, watch TV or just hang out with friends. Mon.-Thurs; 6 - 8 pm; No Fee. On-going

KICKBOXING FITNESS (Ages 16 & up) Kick your health and fitness into gear, reduce stress, and build confidence! Apr. 6; 6:30-7:30 pm; Fee: \$40; 6 sessions

SPRING CLEANING GARAGE SALE It's Spring cleaning time. Have stuff you want to sell? Need a place to sell it? Let's fill the center gym with lots of good items. Reserve a table for only \$7 by April 22. Spread the word! Tables are 6'. Sat., May 7; 9:30 am - 3:00 pm

SONGWRITING Learn how to take those melodies that play in your head and put them down on paper. Mon., Apr. 18; 6-8:30 pm; Fee: \$25; 1 session

JUST THE BEGINNING (Gr. 4th-8th) The adventure of character dynamics, costuming, basic acting, and audition will be shared through authentic theatre games. May 3; 5-7 pm; Fee: \$32; 4 sessions

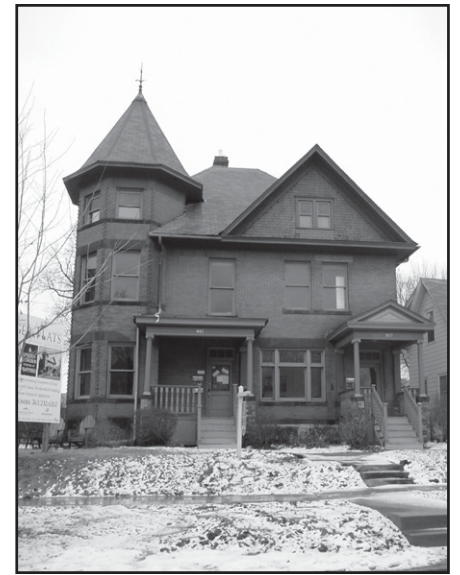
SUMMER SPORTS REGISTRATION Baseball, Softball, Nearball, T-ball, Mickey Mouse ball registration will be April 4-8. Ages 3 to 18. Call for more info.

PARK CLEAN UP DAY Help clean up one of our 80+ parks, rec. centers and pathways. Celebration afterwards at Harriet Island. Sat., April 16; 9 am -12 pm

VOLUNTEER COACHES/INSTRUCTORS NEEDED Call for more information.

FIELD TRIPS

Please call for complete listing. ■



Home Tour

The 2005 Dayton's Bluff Home Tour will be held on Saturday, May 7th from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, May 8th from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. It is part of the Minneapolis - St. Paul Home Tour sponsored by the Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) and the City of Saint Paul. The Home Tour is free of charge and open to the public.

The Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Home Tour features beautiful homes, new condominiums and buildings being redeveloped into condominiums.

We can always use volunteers to help with the Home Tour. Volunteering consists of greeting people at the door to give out brochures and information about Dayton's Bluff, and helping the homeowners for a few hours either day. If you're interested, please call Karin at 651-772-2075. ■



HOMEWORK CENTER OPENS AT LIBRARY

The Homework Center at the Dayton's Bluff Branch Library is now open. It provides a quiet and comfortable place to study. It has computers, school supplies and Homework Helpers, too!

The Homework Center is located in the Dayton's Bluff Branch Library on the campus of Metropolitan State University, 645 East Seventh St.

Its hours are 4 to 7 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays and 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturdays. ■



Mayor Kelly and neighbors at the February 24th Street Beat meeting on Beech Street.

Ghost Writers

A ghostwriter (one word) is a person who writes something for someone else. A ghost writer (two words) is a spirit who writes his own story. The Mounds Theatre has at least two of these.

It started out simply enough. One morning a volunteer at the Mounds Theatre discovered a computer had been left on overnight and there was some gibberish on the screen. A few days later the same thing happened but there were a few recognizable words among the gibberish. No one thought much of it and the computer was kept off at night for a couple of weeks. Eventually the computer was left on again and the next morning a very discernable message was on the screen. It stated rather crudely, "DO NOT TURN OFF THIS (expletive deleted) COMPUTER. I'M TRYING TO GET SOME WORK DONE HERE!"

The first thought was that some hacker had worked his way into the computer. But there was no Internet connection so that seemed unlikely. Or it could have been the work of some prankster working in the building. Or, it could have been one of the ghosts that haunt the theatre. The skeptic in the group doubted this and set up a video surveillance system to watch the computer room at night.

The computer was left on that night with the video cameras monitoring the entire room. Sure enough, there was more text on the screen the following morning and when the videotapes were watched there was no doubt as to who the author was. It was a ghost. No one was seen entering or leaving the room but words could clearly be observed appearing on the monitor with no one typing on the keyboard. Boy, was the skeptic's face ever red.

This time there were several pages of text, and while the spelling and grammar weren't perfect, its content was obvious. It began, "The Ghosts of the Mounds Theatre, a play in three acts." Act 1, Scene 1 takes place in the darkened Mounds Theatre interior early in the year 2000. A group of neighbors are poking around the old building, wondering if it can be brought back to life. One of the people states that it is haunted. Some agree, others just laugh.

Scene 2 jumps back to 1922 when the theatre is newly opened. A young motion picture projectionist working in the theatre is falling in love with a beautiful actress who performs on stage in between silent movies. The play follows the lives and deaths of these two people and a number of other characters against the backdrop of the movies shown at the Mounds over the many decades of its existence.

Pages of the play appear at random times. Sometimes an entire scene will be on the computer the next morning; sometimes nothing appears for weeks at a time. It is also obvious that at least two, and possibly three spirits are working on the play. Definite differences in style, tone and grammar can be seen in their work. It appears one author is male, the other female and one might be a child. Theatre experts who have been studying the play think there might also be some professionals at work here. One expert thinks he recognizes the

influences of Rodgers and Hammerstein in some of the musical numbers, while another believes William Shakespeare himself might be lending a hand.

The play is still a work in progress. The first two acts are completed but the writers seem to be having difficulties midway through the third act. It has now returned to the present time with a play within a play titled, "Night of the Singing Dead." A number of rewrites of several scenes have appeared recently so hopefully the ghost writers' block has come to an end. A few days ago the sheet music and choreography stage directions for a tune called, "Why Can't Ghosts and Zombies Just Get Along?" were finished and the story now seems to be coming to a close.

A spokesperson for the Mounds Theatre was asked to comment on "The Ghosts of the Mounds Theatre." Her only comment was, "You'll laugh, you'll cry, you'll have to see for yourself when we present it." Asked when that would be, she said, "You know how writers are. It will be done when it's done. But I can tell you this: Ticket prices are \$15 for adults and \$10 for students and seniors. Group rates are also available. Make your reservations early. This is going to be big." ☺

Casino Gaming Comes to Mounds Park

Unless you don't subscribe to a newspaper and refuse to watch the news on evening television, you are aware that Governor Pawlenty is negotiating to establish a new metropolitan area casino. It will be a joint venture of at least three Native American bands and the state of Minnesota.

News reports have said that the location is up in the air and would be chosen after a bill passes the Legislature. But a Forum investigative team, using secret memos and transcripts of phone conversations has found that Indian Mounds Park will be the site of the new major gambling center.

Mounds Park was chosen for a number of reasons, including easy freeway access and the beautiful view. But its history as a Native burial ground played the biggest role. The Supreme Court recently ruled that old 1850's treaties allow Indian bands to still hunt and gather on ceded land. It turns out that the term "gathering" could refer to taking in betting money, so there is a strong legal basis for such a casino.

Construction is scheduled to begin this summer. Conversations with an unnamed St. Paul City Council member confirmed that there had been secret meetings, but refused to go into details. She did say that the neighborhood might receive a small financial stake in the venture.

Will the Mounds Park Casino become a reality? Both tribal representatives and local community leaders say you can bet on it. ☺

Streetcars Return

April 1, 2005 - Streetcars, or light rail transit trains as they are called today, will soon be traveling the streets of Dayton's Bluff once again, just as they did over 50 years ago.

The first two routes to be completed are: Hudson Road-Earl St.-Burns Ave. and E. 7th St.-Johnson Parkway. The former route will connect downtown with the SunRay area while the latter will terminate at Phalen Park.

The cost of the system will be surprisingly low. "This isn't one of those new fancy-shmancy systems like they have in Minneapolis," noted third



assistant deputy mayor Marjorie Olson-Anderson-Eichenwald who is the city liaison with Metro Transit. "Ours is built out of parts from old streetcars lines from around the world. We bought a couple of dozen streetcars on Ebay from a city in Mexico. Imagine our surprise when we stripped off the old paint and discovered they had been originally used right here in St. Paul. What goes around comes around."

Another cost saving came from the tracks themselves. Many of the old tracks were never removed, just paved over. The ones on Hudson Road in particular pop up almost every spring along with the yearly crop of potholes. Rather than covering them up again, they were just left to emerge on their own.

Electricity to run the system is being generated by a unique form of wind power. Olson-Anderson-Eichenwald explains: "Wind is not reliable, but traffic is. We are setting up wind generators all along I-94. The back drafts from vehicles will power the windmills. The slow downs at rush

Bluff Goes Buff

Thanks to an extensive undercover operation, a group of investigative reporters have broken a major local news story. It appears that the soon-to-open Vento Nature Sanctuary at the foot of Dayton's Bluff will include a clothing-optional beach.

Officials from the City Development Department unveiled the decision and explained that there is a lot of competition in the travel industry today. "We need to do whatever we can to attract visitors to the Capital City and this new beach gives greater diversity to our current array of tourist attractions."

The immediate reaction was one of disbelief on the part of some and anger on the part of others. "I didn't spend the last several years putting in appropriate river-plain natural-

hour are more than compensated for by traffic moving at 70 to 80 mph during the day. Big trucks speeding during the midday hours will be our greatest source of power."

The Hudson Road route solves another problem. People nearby have been complaining ever since their bus route, which it should be noted followed an old streetcar route, was switched a few years ago from Hudson Road on the north side of I-94 to Pacific on the south side. It was decided that rather than run a couple of extra buses on Hudson Road, the city would install a streetcar line instead. "Sure it will cost a bit more,"

commented Olson-Anderson-Eichenwald, "but it will look way cooler. Besides, it's being built with federal tax dollars so it's basically free."

The 7th St. route almost didn't happen. It was supposed to run along the new Phalen Corridor, which unfortunately dead-ends at Arcade for the time being. Instead of waiting for it's completion sometime in the future, it was decided to build it on 7th St. now and then tear it out and move it over by the Phalen Corridor when that project is completed. Once again, as long as federal money is being used, it won't cost local taxpayers anything.

Test runs of the streetcar system have already begun. Make sure to look for the brightly painted yellow and red cars as they pass by and wave to the motorman. The system will not have any signals or semaphores at intersections so as Olson-Anderson-Eichenwald advises, "Be careful and use common sense when walking or driving near the streetcar tracks. If that fails, make sure you have good auto and medical insurance." ☺

community native plants in the area so unclothed people could galavant among them," one disgruntled area resident commented.

However, there were strong supporters of the project. The East Side chapter of Minn-Tan, a nudist association was thrilled with the news. "We have recreational parks, passive parks, even parks for dog running in the city," said group spokesman Seymour Butts. "It's about time that an oppressed group like ourselves have a place to express our own naturist philosophy."

The Dayton's Bluff Council has decided to hold a public hearing on the proposed nude beach. "We will be covering the area with flyers," a member said. "We need to get to the bottom of this, all the way to the naked truth." A Council press release said "the neighborhood needs to strip this issue down to the bare facts and not be misled by any cover-ups." ☺

Candyland Splits Family

After months of fighting a protracted struggle over how to properly play the popular board game "Candyland," an East Side couple have decided to call it quits. They had tried pastoral advice, family systems therapy and even repeated consultations with the management of Hasbro, Games.

It all started when Candyland appeared under the Christmas tree. The easy to play game is usually considered great family fun, and initially it was. But after a few days ugly competition began to creep into the East Fourth Street home. Arguments started to replace smiles around the dining room table. The parents were dragged into the fray.

"Mommy always took my baby brother's side," said little Madison. "It was supposed to be my turn to have the yellow board piece, but she let little bratso have it. It's not fair."

Younger brother Jackson had another view of the problem. "Madison wasn't playing fair. She said she was Lord Licorice," the disgruntled boy said. "But a girl can't be that. She needs to be Princess Lolly or Queen Frostine."

While arguing among themselves, both agreed twenty-two month old Ian was a big problem. "He smudges everything with peanut butter and jelly fingerprints," one of them said. Ian was unable to speak to the issue, but did angrily shake a plastic gingerbread man at his siblings.

The father, along with one of the older children has moved out and filed for divorce, citing irreconcilable recreational differences. "The last straw was when my wife got lost in the lollipop woods and refused to give up her turn," he shouted to a reporter.

The two youngest children will remain with the angry mother, who strongly feels that she is the one who has been the victim of foul play. "I've never seen such a cheater," she said, referring to her estranged mate. "He moved his piece when no one was looking. I hope he falls into the molasses swamp." ☺



Paint-By-Number Major

Many of the readers are aware that Metropolitan State University opened a new library last fall. There is also a sizeable space reserved for an art gallery to display the works of students and others. But the big news is that, thanks to a major donation from the Woolworth's Foundation, the building will include a new special collection of paint-by-number art pieces.

The bulk of the collection will come from an anonymous St. Paul collector who also made a major financial donation. The art department will also have an endowment to collect, preserve and interpret this important artistic form that emerged into prominence in the 1950's. A resident faculty member proudly pointed out that "this will be the largest such

collection in the nation."

"The days of finding paint-by-number works at the Goodwill are over," said the donor in a letter. "Most are now traded on ebay or sold at auction houses such as Christie's. I feel fortunate that I began gathering mine many years ago when prices were low. Now I want to share my good fortune with the University."

Besides housing the permanent collection, the school will develop a class curriculum for a major in paint-by-number art as well a collaborative course with St. Paul Technical College in paint by number design. There will also be visiting shows from other popular art archives in Japan and Albania. The first show, which will be free and open to the public, will open in late April. It will feature completed renditions of the Statue of Liberty, Wildlife in the Woods and the Mona Lisa. ☺

Japanese Firm Buys Brewery

In one of the most startling acts of his administration, Mayor Randy Kelly recently signed the papers that turned ownership of the old Hamm's Brewery to a syndicate of Japanese businessmen. "It was a wonderful chance to find a reuse for the site and to revive the East Side tradition of producing alcohol for human consumption."

The group of investors are from the city of Nagasaki, which has had a relationship with the city of St. Paul for several decades. Because of this, the top shelf product will be called "Sister City Sake". The second tier brand names will include "Maria Dayton's Revenge," "East Side Pride" and "Old Pirate," after a recent owner, who outbid the inept Port Authority for ownership of the buildings.

Reacting to the news at a Legislative hearing, the Right of the Rural Caucus called for state subsidies to promote rice production on Minnesota family farms. Representative of the Dakota and Ojibway nations were initially thrilled by the news until they were told that wild rice is not an ingredient of sake.

Some additional details have started to leak out. Besides the traditional huge subsidies, the investors have insisted on certain community changes. The Karate center at the corner of East Seventh and Eichenwald will become a Sumo Wrestling training center, the Swede Hollow Cafe will see a conversion into a sushi shop, and the Neighborhood Housing Center had to agree to build five hundred units of affordable housing constructed from bamboo and rice paper with oriental style toilet pits.

The new owners had also been negotiating with the city planning to take over the old Schmidt Brewery since it would be close to the Mall of America. However, because of the experience with the ethanol production at that site, the neighborhood did not have a yen for the proposal. ☺

Dayton's Bluff to Do Away With Sidewalks

April 1, 2005 - Dayton's Bluff has been chosen as the first neighborhood in St. Paul to have its sidewalks removed. Although the initial work will cost taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars, the project is expected to save millions over the years to come.

According to Fred Framlick of the St. Paul Public Works Department, sidewalks are an artifact of the past and do not belong in 21st century Saint Paul. "Sidewalks were a necessity when people actually walked from one place to another. No one does that anymore," stated Framlick. "Suburbs don't have sidewalks," he continued, "and look how well they are doing."

Sidewalks and boulevards will be torn out and replaced by wider streets. This will allow for parking on both sides and two full driving lanes, even in winter. Snow will be plowed directly into front yards. Some people might complain about this at first but once they realize the time and effort they save by not having to shovel their front sidewalks, they will see the wisdom of this plan. "Corner lot owners should be ecstatic," added Framlick.

Widening the streets will necessitate the removal of all boulevard streetlights and trees. This won't make much difference from a lighting standpoint since most of the trees have overgrown

the streetlights anyway. "Dark sky" advocates, such as St. Paul's two remaining amateur astronomers, couldn't be happier. "We couldn't be happier," they were quoted as saying.

Dayton's Bluff received the honor of being the initial test site for this project for a number of reasons. First of all, the boulevard trees that were planted over the last 20 to 30 years to replace the elms destroyed by Dutch elm disease are now big enough that their roots are breaking up the sidewalks next to them. This will make sidewalk removal that much easier.

Second, this neighborhood has the highest per capita percentage of pickup trucks, SUVs and school

buses as any in the city. Wider streets are particularly needed here.

Third, no one will miss the sidewalks. Many aren't shoveled in winter forcing the few people who have to walk somewhere, to walk in the street anyway. This even occurs in summer. Either people don't realize that the sidewalks are ice-free by then, or else they just enjoy the thrill of watching cars swerve to avoid hitting them, especially after dark.

Although no details are available yet, even bigger changes are in store for the city after the last of the sidewalks have been eliminated. "Suburbs don't have alleys either," says Framlick with a twinkle in his eye. "But they have cul-de-sacs." ☺

College is Asset to East Side

by Wilson G. Bradshaw

President, Metropolitan State University
At Metropolitan State University, active involvement in Twin Cities-area communities is no passing fad; civic engagement is woven into the institution's fabric.

The university's deep-seated commitment to the community began with its foundation more than 30 years ago as an institution for urban, working adults. One of its seven strategic goals calls for Metropolitan State to serve diverse communities. The intention was - and is - to serve the public good, leveraging human, financial, and other resources to address community concerns.

In 1991, Metropolitan State became a charter member of both the National and Minnesota Campus Compact movements. Minnesota Campus Compact comprises 48 college and university presidents committed to promoting community service.

The university's next step forward was the 1996 establishment of the Center for Community-Based Learning. More recently, the university joined the American Democracy Project, a national initiative that aims to make civic engagement a central learning outcome and thus reinforces Metropolitan State's service heritage.

Community-based learning flourishes at the university. Metropolitan State offers group internships benefiting community organizations, community-based research and development initiatives, and relationships with more than 120 community groups. Of special note: More than 20 percent of university courses feature a community-oriented component.

A recent university wide "civic engagement audit" showed that 75 percent of Metropolitan State staff and administrators connect with the community - a rate 50 percent higher than the national average. Another recent study by Minnesota Campus Compact revealed that the university scored above the statewide average on a majority of civic-engagement indicators.

Many of Metropolitan State's group and individual internships connect with more than 30 community partners

offering students community-building opportunities and resources. In fact, the university has won state and national attention for sustained community partnerships and multidimensional approaches to community development.

Central to the university's successful alliances are its respect for partner organizations, shared values and mutual interests. Community partners have an active role in choosing which community-oriented projects the university will pursue and how the resulting information will be used.

Project SHINE (Students Helping in the Naturalization of Elders), an initiative undertaken with Minneapolis Community and Technical College whereby students tutor mostly elder

immigrants and refugees in English and help them prepare for their citizenship exam, represents one of the university's most successful community-based service-learning efforts. About 280 students have provided 5,800-plus hours of tutoring to nearly 1,800 people at numerous community-based partner organizations. Significantly, surveys show Project SHINE augments students' understanding of diverse cultures.

The university's most concentrated involvement is with numerous organizations on the East Side, where Metropolitan State is headquartered. There, the university partners with groups ranging from city planning

"College" continues on page 8

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ECFE Supporters Visit Capitol

Thursday, Feb. 24, 2005 was *Voices for Children Advocacy Day* at the Minnesota State Legislature. The theme of the rally this year was "100% Ready for Kindergarten - No Child Starts Behind." The Ready for K call to action said, "Half of all Minnesota kids are left behind because they start kindergarten without being fully prepared. When kids start off behind, they struggle to catch up. Sadly, many don't. Call and tell your legislator this is a problem we can fix." This message was symbolized by the front half of a school bus parked in front of the Capitol steps on a flatbed truck.

A group of moms, dads, kids, and staff from the Dayton's Bluff Early Childhood Family Education Program got on a big yellow school bus (a whole one) that morning to add their voices to the demand for better state funding for programs such as quality child care, Head Start, School Readiness, and especially Early Childhood Family Education.

Every child had helped prepare a message for a legislator who represents his or her parents. Among other things, every message said, "Please support Early Childhood Family Education - I want to be ready for kindergarten." The group also delivered close to 100 signatures in support of a petition to be presented to Gov. Pawlenty later that day.

Some of the parents who made this trip were empowered by their very first visit to the Capitol. Some liked



helping older preschoolers begin to understand where Minnesota law is made. Some were excited by being part of a huge group with a common purpose. And some really liked the Teddy Bear Band.

After the rally the Dayton's Bluff contingent reloaded for the trip back to Dayton's Bluff. Some of the riders took advantage of the opportunity to sing *The Wheels on the Bus*. (The bus driver joined in on some of the verses!) Safely back at school parents and kids enjoyed a pizza lunch provided, like the bus, by the Dayton's Bluff ECFE Advisory Council. And we ate it all up! ■

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

Marian of Saint Paul is seeking caring and compassionate individuals of all ages and/or groups to spend some time with our elders. Whether you have an hour or two, or several hours of time you are able to donate per month, we'd love to hear from you. Here are some of the opportunities we have to offer:

- Beauty Shop escorts*
- Chiropractic Clinic Receptionist*
- Visiting or reading to our elders*
- Dining Room assistants*
- Chapel Service ushers*
- Recreation program assistants for individual or group activities*
- Musical entertainers (singers, persons who play the piano or organ, or any musical instrument)*
- Grocery shopping helpers*
- And much more!***

By volunteering at Marian of Saint Paul, you will be contributing to the community and helping the "quality of life" of our elders. They need your help and support! Volunteering is very rewarding to people of all ages ... and it's fun!

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

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Don't Let Ignorance Shape Our Future!

by Nachee Lee, Executive Director, Dayton's Bluff Community Council

I was recently invited to attend a Civic Engagement Conference hosted by Metropolitan State University. About 50 to 70 people and three panelists attended the conference. It was good to see people taking an interest in community engagement. The panelists presented results from an attitudinal survey to the assembled group. The survey revealed some very angering and troubling ideas about how some Minnesotans define and view community.

The survey was conducted by the MSU College of Management to find out what perceptions Twin Cities' people have about new immigrants coming to Minnesota following the September 11, 2001 tragedy. The survey posed questions to Twin Cities' residents, asking them whether our Twin Cities area should remain open and welcoming to new immigrants following September 11th. Results of the survey showed that 70.4 percent agreed or somewhat agreed in 2002 that it should. Shockingly, by 2005 this response had dropped to 62.3 percent! Clearly, attitudes towards immigrants are dramatically changing in Minnesota. Obviously, people are allowing their fears to dominate their views, as more people associate immigrants as threats to our society.

These discouraging statistics trouble me deeply, and I feel all Minnesotans should be concerned. I began to question more how my non-immigrant friends and neighbors feel about me.

They might put up nice and welcoming smiles, but deep down inside – do they feel differently about me? Do they not want me here but instead want me to leave? In spite of my efforts to be a good and productive citizen, are people judging me? In fact, one of the panelists agreed that this attitude does exist.

As a new American who holds more than one job and is doing my best to be productive in this society, I find this response from my fellow citizens both absurd and bigoted. It's not just unfairly discrediting to immigrants and revealing of some people's shallow views. This attitude is very distressing to immigrants working hard to become successful and to contribute actively as citizens.

I'd like to reiterate and remind people that from day one, this country's current wealth and success was built from the efforts of hard working immigrants! We should never forget that. We should also never forget that this wealth was shamefully built from the labor of Black slaves toiling in cotton fields or the Chinese workers who laid the nation's railroad tracks.

A word of wisdom and a reminder to all - keep an open mind and be a responsible member of our society. Start learning the truth of our history, embrace the opportunities presented in our current reality, and create a vision of a country in which all belong.

Re-learn the basics. Stop judging groups from one person's actions; this applies to race, gender, age, first language, sexual orientation, and cultural heritage. We all are responsible for teaching and living these basic concepts of fairness and respect for all. ■

Alison McGhee

by J. Wittenberg

It was a cold February afternoon when I talked with acclaimed Minnesota author Alison McGhee. I huddled rather close to the radiator as the sun came through the windows of an ancient manor. I found Alison to have a pleasant manner and a pleasing voice, as I learned of this novelist's previous three novels titled: *Rainlight*, *Shadow Baby*, and *Was It Beautiful?*

Ms. McGhee is a very busy woman and it was a challenge for the two of us to get together for this article. I was diligent, however, for I have long wished the residents of Dayton's Bluff to be made more aware of this talented writer's work. Alison is originally from upstate New York and told me how essential environment has been in her fictional works, and how all three of her previous novels are set in a fictional interpretation of her childhood home, in the foothills of the Adirondack Mountains.

This artist's work has dealt with themes of loss and we talked at length of the importance of writing about our own emotional truths. "I think it is important that the writer has experienced the emotion that they are writing about," Alison said. Of her own creative process, she has written, "I like to sit by myself in a room, spinning out sentences and paragraphs and stories. Writing is my only church."

Ms. McGhee went to college in Vermont and arrived here in the Land of 10,000 Lakes in 1987 where she received her advanced degree at the University of Minnesota in 1993. Alison is Associate Professor and Coordinator of Creative Writing at Metropolitan State, and has worked at this rich Dayton's Bluff resource for eleven years. She speaks kindly of her students there, saying they are hard working, very dedicated and devoted to their craft, especially considering many work full time in addition to their coursework.

From her descriptions, I feel she is very nurturing towards her students, and very supportive and encouraging. The writing students at Metropolitan State, I believe, are very fortunate to have her. She has written: "The classroom process has always seemed alchemical to me," and that it has helped her grow as a professional writer. Of advice for budding writers she says, "Work on becoming a good writer first, and publishing second." Alison has won an abundance of awards, including the City Pages 'Artist of the Year' in 2003!

When I asked her about the state of literacy and literature in Minnesota, Alison said she had just read that the Gopher State was rated the most literary in the country! She's amazed at all the publishing opportunities, grants, coffeehouse readings, and other forums there are for the thousands upon thousands of writers that are out there in the tundra. And it

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is true, there's a writer or two or three on every block and in every nook and cranny, but sometimes you just have to ferret them out. Thankfully, your *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* is doing its utmost to drag them into the light of day. And I feel some assurance that we've already featured one or two future Pulitzer Prize winners. I've also been told that to be featured in the *Forum* is a good omen.

Alison has also written a children's novel called *Snap* and revealed that her next novel, due for release in the

autumn, is called *All Rivers Flow to the Sea*.

As usual, this is where I recommend this talented author to burgeon your own personal library. Her books are available at all the chain booksellers and those even more worthy of your business such as Amazon books. You will also find her titles in the libraries, and so please visit the new facility in Dayton's Bluff and check out a novel by Alison McGhee, and learn first hand why this author has received her much deserved accolades. ■

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Trinity Catholic School announced that Best Buy has awarded a \$2,500 te@ch award to the school for integrating interactive technology into the curriculum. The funds will be used to enhance the Trinity Catholic School Science program and the Minnesota Science Museum Partnership. The money will be used to support the integration of technology into the Trinity- Science Museum partnership. Trinity students will be able to enhance their science program by giving them the ability to graphically show progression of a particular science experiment through the use of digital and time-lapse photography.

"Thanks to Best Buy Company our students will be able to gain the maximum benefit from our exciting, hands on learning partnership with the Minnesota Science Museum," said Principal Sandra Krekeler.

Best Buy started te@ch in October 2003 to reward schools that creatively integrate interactive technology into their curricula. All accredited, public and private nonprofit elementary, middle and secondary schools located within 25 miles of a Best Buy store were eligible to apply. Awards of \$2,500 were given to nearly 1,200 schools to sustain or enhance existing educational programs. Best Buy's te@ch program has awarded \$3 million to schools nationwide.

"Today, teachers across the country are using technology in new and creative ways; we want to support and recognize their efforts to make learning fun and easy," said Paula Prahl, VP of Public Affairs for Best Buy. "The te@ch program helps innovative educators enhance their curricula. By committing dollars to the communities in which we work and live, we can more fully support our employees, our customers, and their families."

Trinity Catholic School is a collaborative effort of St. Paul's East Side churches - Sacred Heart, St. Casimir and St. Patrick. Trinity serves a culturally diverse student population and reflects the long tradition of the East Side by welcoming immigrants. For further information contact Trinity Catholic School at 651-776-2763.

Visit www.BestBuy.com and click on Community Relations for more information on Best Buy Children's Foundation and the education and technology-based partnerships and programs it supports.

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"College" from page 7
councils to communities-of-color task forces to neighborhood associations. Faculty, students and staff chair and facilitate meetings and provide planning, research and technical support in affordable housing, youth development, job development, and placement and workforce readiness.

The oldest university partnership is with Dayton's Bluff Achievement Plus Elementary School. Successful strategies there have included family literacy, reading and philosophy-for-children initiatives, peer mediation, environmental education, and a college-awareness program for kids.

The university's ties with the East Side's ethnically diverse and low-income neighborhoods are anchored by a new 86,000-square-foot library that opened last fall. The Saint Paul Campus contains a branch of the Saint Paul Public Library, making Metropolitan State Minnesota's first college or university to embrace a public library.

The combined impact of these initiatives promises to elevate Metropolitan State's community engagement to a level sustained by the leading urban universities.

The civic commitment makes Metropolitan State a dependable ally for the East Side. Through attention to economic development, crime prevention, affordable housing, health care, and other social services, the university will continue to be the place "where life and learning meet."

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"Smoking" from page 1:

Key Secondhand Smoke Survey Findings:

- * The majority of Ramsey County residents would prefer to limit smoking in public places.
- * 74% of smokers and 94% of non-smokers find secondhand smoke annoying.
- * 63% of residents believe that restrictions on smoking in public places do not discriminate against smokers.
- * 89% of residents believe that smoking should be limited around the entrances to stores and public buildings.
- * 71% of residents believe that smoking should be limited at outdoor recreation areas, like parks or fairgrounds.

600 Ramsey County residents were chosen at random to participate in the mail-in survey last fall as part of a survey project between nine local public health agencies and researchers at the University of Minnesota. The survey project was funded by the Minnesota Department of Health.

According to Phyllis Pirie, Ph.D., a former University of Minnesota

researcher who coordinated the survey, "Minnesota residents continue to demonstrate strong support for controlling exposure to secondhand smoke, particularly among children."

The majority of residents agree that adults should not smoke around children and that kids are more likely to become smokers if adults around them smoke. The vast majority also agreed that smoking should be limited or banned entirely at outdoor (K-12) school events, like sporting events. The secondhand smoke survey was also conducted in: the Greater St. Cloud area, Dodge, Houston, McLeod, Nobles, Rock, Sibley, and Wabasha counties.

Ramsey County's smoke-free ordinance goes into effect March 31st, 2005 and requires all licensed food establishments to ban smoking or face fines. For more information about the Ramsey County Smoke-Free Ordinance visit <http://www.co.ramsey.mn.us/ph> and for complete survey results visit <http://www.epi.umn.edu/research/SHSstudy>.