

# Dayton's Bluff DISTRICT FORUM

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## Neighborhood Newspaper Needs Your Help

by Steve Trimble

The price of almost everything has gone up and the cost of producing a paper is no exception. The Dayton's Bluff District Forum has never asked for donations before, but there's a first time for everything.

If you value having a monthly newspaper full of local news, specialty articles, announcements and other community-building efforts, we hope you will consider sending in a tax-deductible donation. Any amount, large or small, will be welcome.

We'll publish your name as a supporter (unless you want to stay anonymous) and anyone who sends in at least twenty-five dollars will be given a free gift subscription that can be mailed to a friend or former resident who now lives outside of Dayton's Bluff.

Checks should be made payable to Dayton's Bluff District Forum. Mail to:

District Forum  
 c/o Karin DuPaul  
 798 East Seventh Street  
 St. Paul, MN 55106.



Around two hundred neighborhood actives attended the Neighborhood Honor Roll Celebration at Metropolitan State University on January 13th.

## What Future for E. 7th Street?

by Karin DuPaul

Come to a meeting for Dayton's Bluff residents to look at and discuss what East 7th Street should look like in the years to come. This will be a visioning and dreaming opportunity for residents who live in the area. The meeting will be in the Eco room on the 3rd floor of the Metropolitan State University/Dayton's Bluff Library, 645 East 7th Street on Thursday, March 9, 2006, 6:30 p.m.

East 7th Street is our main commercial street with around 24,000 vehicles traveling on it each day. It is one of the main connections to downtown Saint Paul. East 7th is the home of Metropolitan State University, 3M's East Side campus, the Mexican consulate, the Swede Hollow Café, Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Housing Service, Dayton's Bluff Community Council, and many other businesses. It is a very important part of our neighborhood.

In October a similar meeting, the

East 7th Street Vision Workshop for business owners, was held at Metropolitan State U. Business owners expressed what they liked, did not like, and what they felt would improve the business climate in Dayton's Bluff.

Before the October meeting fifty-seven of the sixty-three current businesses along East 7th responded to a survey. When asked how they would rate East 7th as a place for business, 83 percent said it is good, average or excellent. So we are lucky that most of the businesses feel that it is a good area to do business. The ones who felt the location is poor stated that there is limited parking, and are concerned about crime, safety, and the poor appearance of some buildings. All of this will be discussed at the meeting.

Come to the meeting and help plan for East 7th Street's future. For more information email Karin@DaytonsBluff.org or call 651-772-2075.



Jess and Jovita Cardoza: owners of Novedades La Michoacana - a shop that sells wedding and prom dresses, clothing, and decorative items at 806 E. 7th Street.

## Neighborhood Honor Roll Celebration

Over two hundred people from all over Saint Paul filled the Great Hall at Metropolitan State University on January 13th to celebrate volunteerism in our neighborhoods. This is the first time the event was held in Dayton's Bluff. Some of the people attending have volunteered in their neighborhoods for many years. Every year each Community Council can nominate three people from their district to be added to the Neighborhood Honor Roll who have done an outstanding job of helping improve the neighborhood over a long period of time. The actual Honor Roll is located on the 3rd floor of City Hall. The annual event is sponsored by the nineteen community councils in Saint Paul. The Dayton's Bluff Honor Roll additions are:

**Charlie Golden** started a block club on East 4th Street in 1998 and she has been active in our Good Neighbor Code Enforcement Program and crime preservation in her area. She has also helped with Greening Dayton's Bluff projects.

**Joan Rodriguez** started the 654 Block in 1996. **Deanna Layer** restarted the Beech/Margaret Block Club in 1997.

Joan and Deanna combined the 2 groups and became co-leaders of the Beech/Margaret 654 Block. Their group has been meeting for 10 years. They have partnered with Bethlehem Lutheran Church and hold their meetings at the church. They also host a very nice National Night Out event each year in the church parking

"Honor Roll" continues on page 8

## “Hmong! The CIA's Secret Army”

The Center for Hmong Arts and Talent (CHAT) presents the play “HMONG! The CIA's Secret Army” at the Mounds Theatre this March and April.

Every immigrant population has a compelling story behind their travels, transitions, their homeland and traditions, but the one thing that separates the Hmong-experience from the rest is their direct tie as U.S. allies during the Vietnam War. While many Americans understand that the Hmong are refugees from the Vietnam War, few understand the depth of the relationship that the Hmong had with the CIA and the US government.

“Hmong! The CIA's Secret Army: is a powerful play that tells the war-torn love story of a 13-year-old Hmong boy named Meng Thao who was recruited by the CIA to fight the secret wars of Laos. He is separated from his family and his

beloved girlfriend Pa Vang. Meng, caught in a war he does not understand, wants nothing more than to return to his beloved Pa. It is a story of love, family, war and ultimately, immigration to Saint Paul. Details:

When: March 18 - April 15

Tuesdays: 9 a.m. & 12 p.m.

Wednesdays: 7 p.m.

Thursdays: 9 a.m. & 12:30 p.m.

Fridays: 8 p.m.

Saturdays: 8 p.m.

Sundays: 2 p.m. & 6 p.m.

Where: Mounds Theatre, 1029 Hudson Road, Saint Paul, MN 55106

Tickets: \$12 Adults; \$8 Youth (12 and under)

Group rates available.

Please call 651-644-6969 for reservations.

For more information visit [www.aboutchat.org](http://www.aboutchat.org) or [www.moundstheatre.org](http://www.moundstheatre.org).

## Men explore Midlife at Benedictine Center

Once they reach middle age, men may begin to question the purpose of their lives. They have mastered all their goals and realize their achievements do not make them happy. Or they may realize they'll never meet their goals and wonder if their lives have any meaning.

The Benedictine Center is offering an opportunity for men to come together and experience a “quiet place” where they may address these issues. On March 24 & 25, it is holding an overnight retreat called “Men, Meditation, Midlife and Merton,” presented by David Sagula, Ph.D., a psychologist and experienced retreat leader.

This retreat will draw on the writings of Thomas Merton and explore how men may find a deeper meaning in everyday life. Merton once wrote, *I have no idea where I'm going*. “And that's a good place to be,” Sagula explains. “When you find yourself wondering what it's all about, you're in the perfect place for starting the next phase of life's journey.”

Participants will also explore the role meditation and mindfulness can play in helping them live lives that are centered and peaceful. No prior experience with meditation is necessary.

The cost for this retreat is \$75, which includes room and meals. For more information, or to register online, go to [www.stpaulsmonastery.org](http://www.stpaulsmonastery.org) and follow the Benedictine Center link; or call 651-777-7251; or email [benedictinecenter@stpaulsmonastery.org](mailto:benedictinecenter@stpaulsmonastery.org). The Benedictine Center is located at 2675 Larpentour Avenue East in Maplewood.

## The Animal Ark

By June Bennett

Let's talk about the Animal Ark. Located at 809 E. 7th Street, The Animal Ark Thrift and Pet Shop raises money to help support their shelter in Hastings for homeless animals. The shelter has adopted out almost 1,000 animals in the past year.

Ms. Foote states, “We have been very fortunate because there has not been enough money to cover everything in the past. But because of our good fiscal year in 2005, this year is starting off wonderfully. Why in these last four months we have improved beautifully.”

The Animal Ark works mainly with abandoned animals in and around the area but last year they helped out with animals stranded by hurricane Katrina. Some of the animals were pregnant at the time so you know what that means – puppies and kittens looking for new homes.

The Animal Ark has a radio program that airs on Sunday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on 950 (AM) and also 1460 (AM). It talks about taking care of your pets and many other concerns you may have.

The Animal Ark Thrift store has reasonable prices and you will be amazed at what you may find. Every week there is a 20% discount on a certain item. The hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday thru Saturday. Donations accepted 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday thru Saturday. Once again the address is: 809 E. 7th St. and the phone number is 651-772-8983.

“We at Animal Ark want to take this time and thank the community for making this store a success. Bring in this article and received a 20% discount on all items.”

## Clean Water

The meeting date and location for the first Saint Paul Environmental Roundtable meeting on Clean Water Stewardship has changed! The meeting, originally scheduled for Tuesday, March 7th, will now be held on Tuesday, March 14th, 7-9PM at the South Saint Anthony Recreation Center, 890 Cromwell Avenue. Besides that meeting two other community meetings remain:

### Improving the Quality and Quantity of Green Space

Wednesday, March 15, 7-9 p.m.

Hamline's Law & Graduate Schools Building, Rm 106, 1492 Hewitt Ave.

### Clean Water Stewardship

\*\*\*NOTE: NEW TIME/ LOCATION: Tues, Mar 14, 7-9 p.m. South Saint Anthony Recreation Center, 890 Cromwell Avenue

### Clean Water Stewardship (Eastside meeting)

Tuesday, April 4, 7-9 p.m. MN Humanities Commission, 987 East Ivy Avenue

The Saint Paul Environmental Roundtable is the next step being pursued to make Saint Paul a greener, healthier and more enjoyable place in which to live, work, and play. Everyone is encouraged to attend the meetings where Saint Paul residents who are volunteers on the Roundtable present relevant information about a local environmental topic. Those who attend can ask questions, give feedback, learn about the current environmental conditions and find opportunities to take action.

Final Roundtable recommendations are slated to be delivered to the Saint Paul City Council in April. Community input is not just part of this process; it is the reason for this process, so feedback on all current and past topics is welcome and encouraged. Draft recommendations are available on the website: [www.eurekarecycling.org/environmentalroundtable](http://www.eurekarecycling.org/environmentalroundtable) or by calling (651) 222-7678.

Eureka Recycling, a nonprofit that has worked with the city of Saint Paul on recycling and resource conservation issues for over two decades, convened the Roundtable to focus citizen and political attention on a variety of citywide environmental issues.

The Saint Paul Environmental Roundtable is sponsored in part by: Abitibi Consolidated, Aveda, City Council Member Lee Helgen, the City of Saint Paul Public Works Department, DeRuyter Associates, Impressive Print, Industrial Electric Company, IPS Incorporated, Peace Coffee, Saint Anthony Park Community Foundation, Western Bank and numerous other community sponsors.

For more information about the Roundtable, call (651) 222-7678 or visit [www.eurekarecycling.org/environmentalroundtable](http://www.eurekarecycling.org/environmentalroundtable).

## Start Your Own Business – Dayton's Bluff Entrepreneur Class

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.

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 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, and custom floral design for weddings.

The course is sponsored by the Dayton's Bluff Community Council and the Neighborhood Development Center. There is a small registration fee based on a sliding fee scale. The next session will start in March and class size is limited. Please call Karin at 772-2075 for an application.

## Dayton's Bluff Community Meeting

The next Dayton's Bluff Community Meeting will be on Wednesday, March 1, 2006 at 798 East 7th Street at 6:30 pm. Bob Kessler will be back at the March meeting to give us an update on 10 properties with code issues.

Everyone in Dayton's Bluff is invited to attend the Community Meetings. The purpose of the meetings are to help block clubs and neighborhood residents work on problem properties, both nuisance behavior and code enforcement issues, as well as other neighborhood issues, concerns, and improvements.

At previous meetings we have had members of the Saint Paul Police Department Gang Unit, graffiti expert Meredith Vogland, and Bob Kessler, the new Director of Housing and Property Improvement, discuss issues and problems in Dayton's Bluff. Please come or call with your problem addresses.

Starting in April the meeting date is changing to the first Thursday of each month. If you need more information call Karin at 651-772-2075.

## Community Council Year in Review

By Stephanie Harr

The District Council had a successful and busy year. Among its many accomplishments were fundraising events, partnerships with local businesses and a lot of citizen participation. Annual elections were held in October and several new community members were welcomed to the board in December.

The board and committee members helped raise over \$1500 through charitable events throughout the year, including spring and fall parties, a junk car donation program, and the annual community rummage sale. The Council continues to provide fiscal agency service to Dayton's Bluff Teen Council, which provides funding for administrative support, and assists the Teen Council.

The communications and outreach activities of the district council are accomplished by posting and disseminating both English and bilingual information on their website, in the Dayton's Bluff District Forum newspaper, and through flyers to educate, inform and encourage participation in community issues and events.

Many local projects within the district were accomplished with help from interns and student groups through partnerships with the local colleges and universities. For example, for the District Plan Project, the council established a planning committee and partnership with Macalester College and St. Paul GIS Consortium. College students helped the project by generating GIS maps.

A class from the University of Minnesota College of Natural Resources conducted risk assessments of public spaces. Volunteers helped remove unwanted plants and buckthorn at Swede

Hollow Park last spring.

Minnesota Green distributed two truckloads of plants to businesses, public parks, and commercial corridors to beautify the neighborhood.

Greenspace Committee and staff worked with students from Dayton's Bluff Achievement Plus School and Metro State University Community Based Learning to paint 15 trashcans and place them at neighborhood businesses and along the commercial corridor.

### Programs & Services

In addition, other activities of the district council throughout the year included:

- \*Crime prevention/block clubs (staff continues to work with block clubs and encourage participation and start-ups)

- \*Greening Dayton's Bluff Program

- \*Good Neighbors Code Enforcement Program

- \*National Night Out Poster Contest (over 30 entries)

- \*National Night Out Events (attended by 2,695 people)

- \*Neighborhood Clean-up (raised \$600, 27 volunteers helped out)

- \*Neighborhood Home Tour (attracted over 2,228 visitors)

- \*Micro Business Course Entrepreneur (two sessions, 9 graduates each)

- \*Three Garden Tours (45 participants)

- \*Sentence to Serve Crew (did over 1500 hours of volunteer services)

- \*Distributed recycling bins to community residents

- \*Blooming East 7<sup>th</sup> Street (20 pots in 2005)

- \*Judges Forum (30 Eastside residents attended)

If you want to get involved with some of these activities, call the district council office at 651-772-2075.

## Blogging in the Bluff

By Bob Parker

Moveable type had probably as much of an influence on humanity as the wheel, and some today are talking about blogs as having a similar impact that moveable type once did. For those that aren't familiar, "blog" is short for "web log", an online journal, kept by individuals mostly, and sometimes by organizations and groups. A lot of blogs today are public postings of private opinions, thoughts and experiences—sometimes a little too private, perhaps.

Some find it surprising that there are still people out there that don't know what a blog is, let alone have one, but there are still many people who either don't have a computer or are not yet hooked up to the internet. We can't all be early adapters. But for the most part, there are more and more budding writers starting blogs every day, and once you begin to explore the blogosphere it can become as much a part of your day as reading the paper.

The really great thing about blogs is that they are, for the most part, free. Free of cost (other than your usual internet fees), free of an editor's oversight, free in terms of direction one can take it and free to read. With a blog, information of any kind can be distributed to anyone

with a connected computer and the address of the blog, for reasons both good and bad.

With good reasons in mind, a neighborhood blog has been established to inform, entertain, organize and educate our local community. Ideas and thoughts, concerns and suggestions can be posted and shared easily by anyone with computer access by going to this address: <http://www.daytons-bluff.journalspace.com/>. The hope is that our blog can become a lively place to keep up with events in Dayton's Bluff, as well as promote ideas and actions to improve our neighborhood. Concerns such as funding for schools, police and fire; crime in the neighborhood; block clubs; arts events; parties; garage sales; problem properties and so forth can be posted, viewed and discussed easily.

What is needed now is your participation. The neighborhood blog has been up for about a month, and despite initial interest from many neighbors, is still lacking in utilization. Anyone can read it, and if you would like to be able to post on it, send a private message, via the blog's website to either Bob Parker or Karin DuPaul for instructions on how to become a contributor to <http://www.daytons-bluff.journalspace.com/>.

## State Representative Sheldon Johnson

*Reminds Dayton's Bluff Residents*



## The Legislature will soon be in session.

Please contact me with any of your suggestions, comment or problems at 296-4201 or [rep.sheldon.johnson@house.mn](mailto:rep.sheldon.johnson@house.mn)

**“Working at the Capitol and in the community”**

# A Short History of Dayton's Bluff *by Steve Trimble*

## Chapter #6: Hard Times, Changing Lives: 1930-1939

*A substantial and steadily increasing betterment in business conditions during 1930 is predicted by a majority of businesses of the East District.*

East Side Journal, January 3, 1930

In spite of the optimistic prediction by the local neighborhood newspaper, the 1930's did not prove to be a time of prosperity. It was the era of the Great Depression and brought hardships to many.

The hard times started to hit the community early. In August, 1930, city and county officials announced in the *East Side Journal* that they would be asking for a fifty per cent increase in the relief budget for the next year. "The problem of increasing poverty will have to be faced," one of them explained, "and there is no escape from it."

Many people ended up losing their jobs and their homes. Many businesses closed or cut back. Some people were able to find work through government programs. The Works Progress Administration (W.P.A.) offered employment on building projects, including the limestone walls that still stand today in Mounds Park and along Commercial Street.

Even with the flagging economy, a few major improvements came to Dayton's Bluff. One of the most awaited was a new Third Street Bridge. At the grand opening on November 16, 1930, lines of cars were waiting. When the barriers were removed at six in the evening, a paper said, "hundreds of cars, bearing workers homeward, surged forward and sped up the pavement spanning the railroad tracks to Mounds Boulevard."

It had been a long time coming. As early as the Twenties, local businesses and organizations promoted a new bridge and petitioned the city council for a better third street route into downtown. A few years later, a group called the "East Side Associated" met and called for "an early start to give...residents another good artery into the loop, the time for action is at hand."

Eventually they prevailed, and work on the project began on March 31, 1930, cheered on by a new group called the United Improvement Council. However, in June there was a delay. The contractor had earlier agreed to use only St. Paul residents, but five Mill City men were discovered on the job. After a bit of debate they were sent home and their place filled with local workers.

The 3,114-foot structure had cost over a million dollars. One local leader said "the new viaduct will serve to bind the Dayton's Bluff district more closely than ever to the rest of St. Paul" and would "aid materially in the economic development of this section by providing another and more direct route to the heart of the city."

However, not everyone felt the bridge had been a blessing. Mrs. J.J. Ryan appeared at a city meeting in January, 1931 and complained that a number of the residents below the new bridge now had to live in homes that were left facing the base of viaduct pillars. They "could not speak English fluently," Mrs. Ryan explained, didn't understand legal procedure "and consequently had been imposed upon by city officials."

There was also a major construction project on East Seventh Street. People

thought it needed to be widened to accommodate the interaction of streetcar and automobile and increase in traffic. Like the Third Street Bridge, this effort was undertaken after considerable debate and lobbying.

By June, 1930 a paper reported that, "a new property line along the street has been established by the condemnation of property along the north side of the thoroughfare." Will be expanded to 56 feet wide and will include "ornamental lighting." This meant the destruction of some buildings and the remodeling of the storefronts of others.

To help bring in new businesses, the Dayton's Bluff Commercial Club, was planning to set up a "bureau of publicity." Then they launched what was called an "industrial expansion project." The minutes of one monthly meeting said the Club was striving to "encourage the



Postcard depicting Dayton's Bluff Commercial Club Circa 1938.

establishment of industries in the East District."

While the company was certainly affected by the Depression, Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing (today's 3M) remained one of the largest employers in the community. The heart of its business was the making and marketing of sandpaper and masking tape.

Then, at the outset of the decade, Richard Drew came up with a discovery that would have a major affect on "The Mining," as old timers called it. Building on his earlier invention of masking tape, he found a way to place an adhesive on cellophane, and created "Scotch Tape." Starting in 1931 it would be marketed throughout the country.

One of the aspects of the hard economic times was the takeover of area business by regional and national corporations. In 1930, the Mounds Park Bank, that started out at Maria and Conway in 1916, became an affiliate of the North West Bank Corporation.

In another case, local Tri State phone company was bought out by Northwestern Bell, a move was opposed by the local business people who met with the City Council to see if anything could be done. It couldn't.

The year 1933 was a double landmark-one positive and one negative- for the Hamm family. On April 6, 1933, after more than a decade, prohibition came to an end and alcoholic beverages could again be legally purchased. Hamm's, which had survived by making malt, soft drinks and other products geared up for beer.

Crowds converged outside the brewery, even though it was windy and cold, they came to watch. They were waiting for the whistle blast that would proclaim the end of prohibition, the first time 3.2 beer could legally be made since 1919. At

12:01, April 7th, horns honked, whistles blew sirens wailed and shouts arose from the crowd. It was estimated that by 6 A.M., 100,000 cases of beers had been shipped off.

Two months later, on a warm summer evening, William Hamm, Jr. had just left his office and was walking to his Greenbrier home when he was grabbed by four men and pushed into the back of a car. He had been kidnapped by members of the Barker-Karpis Gang.

Hamm was taken to Wisconsin, where he was forced to sign four ransom notes then moved to a hideout in Illinois, where he was held prisoner until the kidnapers had been paid \$100,000. He was released unharmed near Wyoming, Minnesota, but the event had a long-term psychological affect on him and the family.

Social and cultural activities during the 1930's were numerous and, as before,

playground "where mothers can leave their children for an entire afternoon" on all days except Sunday from 12:30-5:30.

Churches continued their social activities and appear to have had good turnouts. One weekend, Miss Vada Van Vore and Richard Norman played leading roles in a three act comedy given by the Senior Walter League at Our Saviors Lutheran Church.

Like other neighborhood churches the Peace United Church struggled during the Depression but decided to fund a construction project. The parish paper sent out pledge envelopes. Money-raising ventures included a washing powder sale, sale of vanilla and holders, a bazaar, a Christmas card sale, a silver tea, a Mother-Daughter banquet, which earned a profit of \$4.13.

Finally, a new parsonage was built in 1935. At one point a dispute arose over the use of non-union labor, which brought protests from at least one labor-oriented member of the congregation. There was some picketing and construction was stalled until September, but after some negotiations, the structure was completed in January.

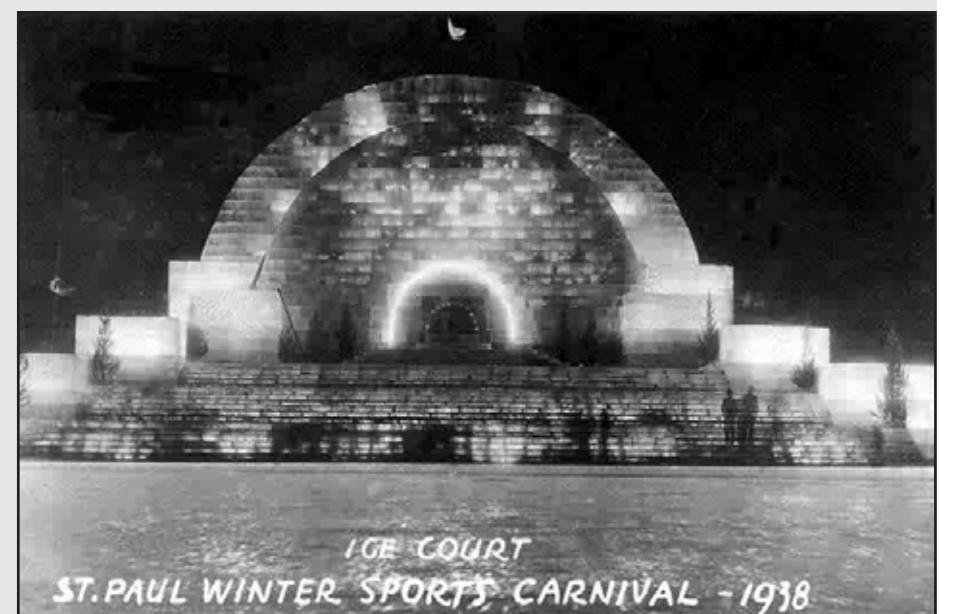
Playground use increased in the 1930's. They were open to everyone and almost all programs were free. In some cases, W. P. A. workers were added to the staff at the centers to help with the larger numbers. The local American Legion had a well attended event at Bluff playground in 1930 that featured carnival dog races and fireworks

In 1930 the Margaret Recreation Center held its tenth annual summer Festival. Hundreds of people came to see the decorated doll buggy and coaster parades and to listen to music played by an area orchestra. A queen was crowned and there was a "mock wedding."

According to the Margaret Recreation Center 1934 record books, well over 1,000 people were involved in club and classroom work and another 1,000 had occasional contact at the center. Classes including fencing, dramatics, puppetry, drawing and dancing classes, and dozens of social clubs with up to a hundred members. So-called "idle youth" were encouraged to join "unemployed leagues."

Over on the other end of the neighborhood, the eighty member Mounds Park Booster Club would raise money selling Boo-ya at a picnic. One time they had a "for men only" meeting in Fleschmann's basement at 1070 Hastings raising money for men's and women's athletics that advertised free beer.

In addition to the city playgrounds, East District Recreation Council now located at 792 East Seventh, continued the work it began a decade earlier. It



reported in 1930 that 478 children-313 boys and 165 girls-were enrolled. There were nine regular classes and sixteen clubs with nine special teachers and seven volunteer club leaders. They had hikes, swimming trips, and various classes ranging from music to crafts.

Throughout the 1930's, the Dayton's Bluff Commercial Club continued to have their own activities, including hosting wrestling events. They also others use their facilities. By this time, the leadership of the group had slowly shifted from an older elite to local small businessmen.

The Club had lanes in their building and had an annual bowling banquet. Such events occurred at the end of the "pin season" and were eagerly awaited by the community. A crowd of nearly a thousand could be expected at the event with food as well as musical and vaudeville acts.

Movies continued to be a popular past time. The Radio Theater at 1195 East Seventh, which had closed for a time, opened again in the fall of 1931 under new ownership of Donald Guttman. It had been refitted with new sound and projection equipment. There would be lots of variety with four changes weekly. Admission was from ten cents to a quarter "Gift Night" was set for every Tuesday.

The hard economic times accelerated the transition of Dayton's Bluff from an upper to a middle and working class area. By the 1920's most of the elite had already left, and in the Thirties the trend continued. Many of the large, older homes were divided into boarding houses.

The Hamm family decided to donate the use of their family home at 668 Greenbrier to the Community Chest. It was used as the East Side Relief Center and often had long lines of poor people who came for public assistance. The Hamm's finally sold the home in 1934, and it began a career as a boarding house.

The *Dayton's Bluff Booster*, a local newspaper, gives an idea of some of changes. One classified section in 1938 included "For Rent: Pleasant furnished room in private home for 1 or 2 employed girls, home privileges, 687 E. 5<sup>th</sup>... For rent: Large front room for 1 or 2. 372 Maria... For Rent: Furnished 1 rm and kitchenette, 248 Bates...For rent Dayton's Bluff, furnished sleeping room, man preferred."

One of the Bluff's celebrated structures of the era—although a temporary one—was the ice palace of 1938. It was very simple in its construction, and was really only a facade with a 100 by 300 foot skating rink. Colonnades of ice topped with thirty foot high poles flying pennants ran along both sides of the rink.

Located in the Mounds Park area, the facade of the completed palace was made of two large semicircular disks composed of ice blocks. One stood 60 feet high, the other 50 feet high. It was said that the lighting used as much electricity in ten days as a town of 7,000 inhabitants normally required in a year.

A sudden January thaw undermined the walls to such an extent that the builders stopped work and decided to blast down the facade as a safety precaution. Three hours later a blizzard swept in out, dropped the temperature into the minus area overnight and the seemingly doomed castle was saved.

In spite of a decade of hard times, the neighborhood persisted though it did change. Even at the end of the Great Depression, the *Dayton's Bluff Booster* listed most of the business in the area in 1939, and it showed a self-reliant and sustainable community. There were over forty grocery or confectionary stores, eighteen gas stations, nine drug stores, twenty-eight bars, almost twenty barbers, ten restaurants and cafes, and half a dozen bakeries.

## Community Recreation Centers

**Margaret**  
1109 Margaret St.  
651-298-5719

**Dayton's Bluff**  
800 Conway St.  
651-793-3885

**Phalen**  
1000 E. Wheelock Pkwy  
651-793-6600

Director: Jody Griffin  
jody.griffin@ci.stpaul.mn.us

**Winter-Spring Program is out!**  
(Jan.- May 2006 Events & Activities) Stop by the center to pick up your copy or visit us on line at [www.ci.stpaul.mn/depts/parks](http://www.ci.stpaul.mn/depts/parks)

**SPRING SPORTS REGISTRATION**  
Volleyball, Indoor Soccer & Floor Hockey; Feb. 6-17; Ages 5-12; Registration forms available Feb. 6

**PARENT-TOT PLAY TIME**  
Mon., Wed., Fridays; 10 am-12 pm; Free; Ages 0-5

**SENIOR CARDS – 500**  
Fridays; 12:30-4 pm; Fee: \$2 weekly fee for the kitty.

**CAMP FIRE COMMUNITY FAMILY CLUB**  
This club offers an opportunity for families to interact together positively with experiences and activities that are structured, educational and fun. Meetings are led by two or more trained adults, using the nationally developed CampFire USA outcome-based curriculum. Includes food & activities. 6-8 pm; Mar. 27, Apr. 24, May 22, & June 26; \$4 per session or \$20 per family if you register for all of them.

**ADULT LUNCH TIME VOLLEYBALL & BASKETBALL**  
Thursdays; 11 am-1 pm; \$1 / week; On-going. No children allowed.

**PARENT'S DAY-OFF**  
Just what busy parents' deserve! "Parents Day Off!" give parents a break to accomplish tasks, run errands, go shopping or just spend some time alone while their children enjoy activities such as gym games, arts and crafts, movies, snacks, and more. Children should bring a bag lunch or \$2.75 for a happy meal. Registration is required. Tues., Apr. 4; 9 am - 4:30 pm; Ages 5-12; \$22

**MOM, DAD & ME TUMBLING CLASS**  
Thurs., Apr. 6; 2:10-2:40 pm; Ages 3-5; 6 sessions; \$22

**PRE-BALLET**  
Fri., Apr. 7; 12-12:30 pm; Ages 4-6; 8 sessions; \$29

**BALLET**  
Fri., Apr. 7; 12:30-1:30 pm; Ages 7-12; 8 sessions; \$36; 1:30-2:30 pm; Ages 13-18; 8 sessions; \$36

**TUMBLING TIKES**  
Mon. or Tues., Apr. 3 or 4; 1-1:30 pm; Ages 3-4 6 sessions; \$22

**TUMBLING TOTS**  
Mon. or Tues., Apr. 3 or 4; 1:30-2:25 pm; Ages 4-5; 6 sessions; \$26

**SCOTTISH DANCING**  
Tues., Apr. 4; 6-7 pm; Ages 6-adult 8 sessions; \$40

**SPRING BREAK KIDS DANCE**  
Thurs., Apr. 6; 5:30-8:30 pm; Gr. 5-8; \$3

**TEN DOLLAR PROM**  
Fri., Mar. 31; 7-10 pm; Gr. 9-11; \$10/couple. Must pre-register by Mar. 17. Call for more details.

**WINTER ADVENTURES**  
What are you doing March 10? Spend a day with us. A full day of "Winter Fun" will be planned, indoors and out. Hiking, movies, games, crafts, cooking, snacks and a whole lot of fun for everyone! Bring a bag lunch or \$2.75 for a happy meal. A swimming field trip off site is included. Let us entertain your child for the day. Fri., Mar. 10; 9 am-4:30 pm; Ages 5-12; \$26; Must pre-register by Mar. 3.

**ADULT BEGINNING LATIN DANCING**  
Mon., Apr. 3; 6:15-7:15 pm; 8 sessions; \$40

**ADULT BEGINNING SWING DANCING**  
Mon., Apr. 3; 7:15-8:15 pm; 8 sessions; \$40

**COMMUNITY CRAFT & BAKE SALE**  
Sat., Mar. 4; 9 am-2:30 pm; Open to the public; Free

**COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE**  
Sat., Apr. 22; 9 am -2:30 pm; Open to the public; Free

**TOGETHER WE PREPARE DISASTER SERVICES**  
This nationwide initiative of the American Red Cross is to help people prepare for emergencies & disasters before they happen. Through Together We Prepare, each person is challenged to take five steps to help make their families, workplaces, schools & neighborhoods safer. The five

simple steps include: Make a Plan, Build a Kit, Get Trained, Volunteer, & Give Blood. Instructor: American Red Cross; Mon., Mar. 13; 6:30-8 pm; Free

**SPORTS SAFETY**  
The American Red Cross & the United States Olympic Committee have joined forces to develop an exciting course for coaches who want to keep their athletes safe. This course covers sports-related injury prevention, first aid care & Adult CPR. This course is a must for coaches, officials & parents of athletes. Instructor: American Red Cross; Tues., Mar. 21 & 28; 6:30-8 pm; 2 sessions; \$25

**STROKE: WHEN MINUTES MATTER**  
Stroke is the third-leading cause of death in the U.S., claiming about 160,000 lives a year. This program explains the warning signs & risk factors of stroke, that it is a medical emergency, & the importance of calling 9-1-1 right away. Instructor: American Heart Association; Thurs., Mar. 16; 6-7 pm; Free

**MOVIE MYSTERY NIGHT**  
All ages; Wed.'s; 6-8 pm; Free; 12 weeks

**CRIBBAGE**  
Looking to start a new group. Call if interested. Adult/Seniors; Tuesdays; 12-3 pm; \$0.50 per week; 10 wks.

**TEENS IN ACTION**  
The group meet on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 5-7 pm.; Free; New members are wanted.

**ADULT CO-ED VOLLEYBALL**  
Friday's; 6-8:45 pm; \$1 / week

**FIELD TRIPS**  
Parent Permission slips are required. Must register prior to trip. Youth under the age listed are welcome but must be accompanied by an adult.

**MAPLEWOOD COMM. CENTER SWIMMING**  
Ages 8 & up; Fri., Mar. 10; 12-4 pm; \$10 youth, \$12 adults

**DISNEY ON ICE – THE INCREDIBLES IN A MAGIC KINGDOM ADVENTURE**  
Sat., Mar. 11; 10 am-2 pm; \$15

**ROLLERSKATING AT WOODDALE**  
Ages 9 & up; Fri., Mar. 24; 12:30-3:30 pm; \$7

## Dayton's Bluff Beat Officer

By Jamie Sipes

Greetings from SPPD Eastern District. My name is Officer Jamie Sipes. I've been a member of the St. Paul Police for the last six years and have been primarily assigned to the Eastern District. Recently, Senior Commander Bill Martinez asked me to take on the assignment as the Dayton's Bluff Beat Officer. In continuing Chief John Harrington's commitment to Community Oriented/Community Problem Policing, Senior Commander Martinez asked me to reach out to the Dayton's Bluff Community Council and its residents

to ensure the needs of the community are met.

For a short period in 2002 I had the opportunity to work with the residents of the Dayton's Bluff area. I met some wonderful people who are committed to their community, so I of course accepted this new opportunity with enthusiasm. Readers will find something new in upcoming issues of the Dayton's Bluff District Forum. In each issue I will attempt to answer a few questions from you, the reader. If you have a question or concerns that you would like answered in our paper, please e-mail me at

Jamie.Sipes@cistpaul.mn.us.

Please remember, we only have space for a couple of questions in each issue and that I am not able to address specific issues in a public forum but I will answer questions relating to crime trends and offer crime prevention tips. If you have an upcoming meeting or event please let me know

and I will make every effort to attend. For now, take care, treat each other with respect, and I look



Officer Jamie Sipes answering your questions.

forward to working with you. For more information call Karin at 651-772-2075.

## Continuity and Change at Leo's Chow Mein

One of the oldest and most popular places to eat in Dayton's Bluff underwent a major transition at the start of the year. Its founder, Leo Ng, decided it was time to move on. Fortunately, Evelyn Quinones was on the scene, ready to carry on the tradition of great food at great prices.

Leo was born in a farming family in China. They moved to Hong Kong when he was "real little." His father eventually came to Minnesota and Leo followed in 1971.

For a time he worked cooking at a restaurant in Minneapolis, though what he really wanted was to run a business of his own. Then, in 1976 he saw in a paper that there was a building for sale in St. Paul. It was a former gas station that had been remodeled for use as a restaurant.

While he knew little about the neighborhood and some people told him that it was a somewhat seedy area, he decided to buy the property at the corner of Earl and Hudson Road. Leo's Chow Mein would soon become one of the most popular places to eat in Dayton's Bluff.

Its reasonable prices buffet drew noontime diners from 3M and many other workplaces. In 1996 the building just to the east went up for sale and was bought, so the lot could be used for a major expansion that included a much larger area for additional tables.

Besides commenting on the great food, people have always commended Leo's strong sense of community. He has always been willing to donate money and/or food to support neighborhood, schools, festivals and other activities.

Leo's approach to food is usually referred to as the Cantonese style. It is not highly spicy, but, he says, is still very tasty.



Proud new owners Romeo and Evelyn Quinones pose at Leo's Chow Mein as steaming dishes of food are brought to the tables.

It uses a lot of vegetables. One of the unique features is that the buffet food is brought around to the tables by the staff, a practice used because the first building didn't have room for the usual steam tables.

Profits from the restaurant have allowed many members of the Ng extended family, including mother, sisters, brothers and cousins to come to America. Leo has lived on the East Side since 1980, and now resides on Third Street a little east of White Bear Avenue.

"It has been a good neighborhood for me for the last thirty years," Leo recently said. Got to know a lot of customers, most really nice and "a few who were hard to handle." However, he recently decided that it was "about time" to retire. He used to be able "to work twenty hours a day," but "the body slows down".

Enter Evelyn Quinones, who will be the new owner behind the counter. She was born in The Philippines. Her parents and a sister preceded her own March 1989 arrival in the United States. Evelyn and her husband Romeo now live in Oakdale and have a

nineteen-year-old boy who has just started college.

Evelyn has worked in the food industry since her arrival. She was employed by a small grocery and has worked for over a decade at A Toast to Bread, a bakery/deli on East Third that is owned by family friends. She learned a lot, but "I wanted to have my own restaurant," she said.

Evelyn, who had eaten at Leo's for years suggested that if there were ever a plan to open an additional location, she would like to be the manager. Then came the big surprise. Leo said he was planning to sell, even though he had not yet advertised in any business newspapers. She told him that she and her husband would like to buy.

Her next thought was "where in the world will we ever get enough money to buy a restaurant." Things did work out, however, and the keys to the kitchen were officially turned over on January 1, 2006.

But just because there is a new owner, it doesn't mean major changes. The regular menu will continue in the food and many of

the former workers will still be there and the name will stay the same.

Leo even stuck around for two months to guarantee a smooth transition and might still show up now and then. When the Forum team last visited, Leo's mother was still at her usual table, watching Chinese satellite TV and snapping pea pods.

Other than having a new owner, things will not be very different at Leo's Chow Mein. The hours will remain 11:00-7:30 every day except Sunday and the famous buffet will still be served from 11:00-1:00. And the dishes will still be brought around. Evelyn likes the fact that it is fresher than steam table fare and other customers are not touching the surfaces and utensils or standing over the food.

Same name, same food, lots of things will remain the same. However, Evelyn has thought about having a few dishes of food from the Philippines. If you think this is a good idea, please let her know. The phone number remains the same— 771-0305.

## ECFE Goes to Children's Museum

By Diane May

"This is fun," my four-year-old son David said at the Minnesota Children's Museum Thursday night. "Yeah," I thought, "but you are also learning." In fact, the current motto for the Minnesota Children's Museum is to be a place "where fun meets learning."

The same can be said of Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) and on the evening of Thursday, February 2, Dayton's Bluff ECFE reserved the entire museum for its participants. We had no lines, a lot of friendly and familiar faces, and the confidence that we were surrounded by a lot of supportive parents and ECFE staff members.

Dayton's Bluff ECFE families have at least one child, birth to kindergarten age, enrolled in the program but our whole families were invited to the Museum. I saw lots of older siblings, moms and dads, grandparents, and aunts and uncles.

After checking in, dropping off coats, a race up the stairs, and a discussion between the cousin and uncle over which exhibit to enter first, we went into "Our World". Lots of children there were engaged in dramatic play. There was a grocery store stocked full of nutritional foods, a bus to ride in, and an Oriental restaurant where you could choose to work in the kitchen or be served. In ECFE we just finished a restaurant unit in my son's preschool class. Math and literacy concepts were taught throughout the unit with kids writing down orders, bakers filling orders, and play money changing hands from the customers to the cashiers. I was pleased to see the restaurant with cash registers in the "Our World" exhibit, so my son could revisit play/learning themes he was introduced to at ECFE.

One of the current themes in David's ECFE classroom is learning about the post office. Dayton's Bluff ECFE students decorated and

## Leo's Chow Mein

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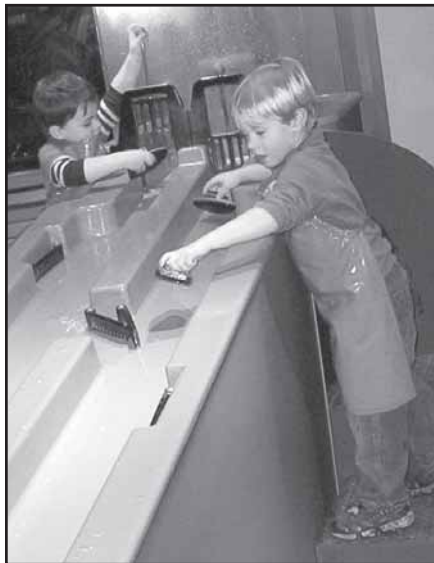
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Dayton's Bluff ECFE kids explore "Our World" at Children's Museum.

addressed Valentine's cards (with their parents' help) and went to the "classroom post office" to buy stamps. Again, math and literacy concepts were taught in a fun way during our parent-child interaction time. Afterwards in the adult discussion group with a warm cup of coffee in hand, parents were able to sit down and talk (in complete sentences!) about what they and their children had learned. Again, I found a connection from the ECFE classroom to the Minnesota Children's Museum; the museum had a mailbox, a mailman's outfit,

letters to be delivered, and the cutest child-size blue post office bags perfect for pretend play.

My family stayed a long time in "Our World", but we did get to play/learn in some of the other exhibits. In "World Works" there were water tables to play in, bubbles to create, blocks to build with, and books and hats to make.

My child is too old for "Habitot", but it is the perfect room if you are six-months to three-years-old. It is a safe environment for youngsters to explore and find out what their bodies can do.



# Kathy Lantry

WARD 7 Council Member

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## St. Paul Schools Need Solution, Not Gimmick

By State Senator Mee Moua

With the 2006 legislative session slated to start March 1, lawmakers are beginning to compile a list of issues likely to arise this year. One item receiving attention is a proposal touted by the governor and House Republicans, requiring school districts to spend 70 percent of all education dollars they receive directly on classroom programs.

At first blush, the "70 percent solution" seems to be a logical proposal. Schools should make it a priority to fund programs that directly affect students before spending money on outlying costs. But what many people are surprised to learn is St. Paul schools already meet this 70 percent threshold. In fact, according to the governor's own statistics, school districts throughout the state spend an average of 69.2 percent of the funding they receive on classroom programs.

Even with Minnesota's above-average rate of investment in classrooms, schools continue to face challenges such as swelling class sizes, dwindling teacher resources and reduced course offerings. So what, exactly, is the governor intending to fix with his new proposal?

The reality is that the 70-percent plan does little to get at the core of our state's educational needs. The issue is not where school districts are spending their money; it is how much is available to distribute. In December 2005, a report called "Continuing the Work of the Governor's Education Funding Reform Task Force" showed Minnesota was \$1 billion short in funding education in 2003-2004. Although the 2005 legislature attempted to gain ground on this shortfall by approving a funding increase, the new money will do little to make up for three years of frozen funding and massive cuts to special education, ELL, integration and compensatory aids.

St. Paul schools are facing yet another round of budget reductions in 2006

because they have been forced to balance state cuts to certain programs with soaring costs brought on by inflation, energy costs and health-care expenses. As a senator representing St. Paul, I believe the legislature must take a comprehensive view of our schools' needs in 2006 and pursue real, substantial reform that will fill in the holes left during the past several budget cycles.

The first fact we must address is that St. Paul's student population is diverse. The state must provide adequate funding to programs that ensure each and every student has high-quality educational opportunities. In particular, full funding of special-education services is a must. State and federal funding have been woefully low in previous years, causing the district to subsidize special education by \$23.7 million in 2003-2004 and leaving many students without the vital learning resources they require and class sizes that are soaring out of control.

In addition, the state must extend the Limited English Proficiency (LEP) revenue from five years to at least seven. Research shows that limited-English students need seven to 10 years of support to gain academic proficiency—a key step toward ensuring every student gains the literacy skills necessary to become contributing members of Minnesota. The legislature should also prioritize continued funding for inter- and intra-district integration revenue, and budgets for Adult Basic Education programs must be increased.

The state also must restore its commitment to support children before they enter school. Funding for school-readiness programs for three- and four-year-old students and Early Childhood and Family Education (ECFE) programs has been drastically cut in previous years. As a result, many children are missing out on the chance to get a good start in life by entering kindergarten ready to learn.



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I will be working diligently with St. Paul school leaders and other legislators during the 2006 session to promote these education proposals. In the end, I believe the governor and I share the same goal—to enhance student achievement across the board. But we need real solutions that are proven to deliver results if we are to sustain Minnesota's high-quality education system.

State Senator Mee Moua may be contacted by mail at 235 State Capitol, 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., St. Paul, MN 55155-1606; E-mail: [sen.mee.moua@senate.mn](mailto:sen.mee.moua@senate.mn); or Phone: (651) 296-5285

"Honor Roll" from page 1

lot. They have taken care of problem properties on Beech, Margaret, and East 6th Street and helped renters improve the looks of their property by helping them plant perennials in their front yards. They have an annual potluck in March as well as other activities throughout the year.

We look for three people to add to the Honor Roll each year. We are asking for your help. If you know of someone who has volunteered for years in the neighborhood, at a church, school or elsewhere, let us know and we will add them to the list of candidates. Email [Karin@DaytonsBluff.org](mailto:Karin@DaytonsBluff.org) or call Karin at 651-772-2075.



John Black, Dayton's Bluff Community Council President Jacob Dorer, Honor Roll recipients Cheryl "Charlie" Golden and Deanna Layer, and Eunice Golden.

### Dayton's Bluff District Forum

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