

Dayton's Bluff DISTRICT FORUM

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www.daytonsbluff.org

July/August 2007

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Everybody is Walking the Bluff this Summer



Local historian Steve Trimble (left) entertained a group of local residents with tales of the history of Indian Mounds Park during a walk on June 28. This is but one of many walks, history or otherwise, taking place around Dayton's Bluff this summer. See page 5.

Get Heard...Make a Difference

By Ed Lambert, Executive Director, Dayton's Bluff Community Council

The Dayton's Bluff Community Council is one of 17 such Councils in Saint Paul, and is the place to be if you want to have your voice heard on land-use, zoning, parks, housing, crime prevention, and overall community development and improvement in this community.

The Council will hold its annual elections for Board members October 15, 2007; half the seats (9) are up for election/reelection, and one seat is presently vacant. The Board is organized into 4 sub districts, each with 4 representatives, and 2 at-large seats. We are actively seeking candidates for board positions. Interested residents and business owners (18 years and older) should file for these positions, at the District Council office 798 E. 7th St., between August 20 and September 17.

Dayton's Bluff has become a much more diverse community than it was even just 10 years ago. The Council welcomes all newcomers and strongly encourages everyone to contact the office (651-772-2075), or the Council web site www.daytonsbluff.org, to learn more about how they can make a difference in Dayton's Bluff. All are welcome as we seek board and organizational participants who fully reflect the people who live and/or operate businesses in Dayton's Bluff.

The Council is the organization in Dayton's Bluff, open to all residents and business owners in the community, which focuses on the whole community and seeks to develop and/or support improvement efforts for the whole community. It is the place where you will be heard, and where you can make a difference, about what is happening (or needs to happen) in Dayton's Bluff.

The Council is most effective when its elections get the attention of a large segment of the community, and its board is made up of concerned citizens from all segments of our diverse and dynamic community. Get involved, make a difference, call and ask how you can get involved in improving your community. You are needed.

.....
 • Filing dates for the
 • Community Council
 • elections are August 20
 • to September 17.
 • Call 651-772-2075
 •.....

National Night Out With Your Neighbors



Celebrate National Night Out on August 7, 2007 with your neighbors and friends. Some neighborhood groups and block clubs are planning to have a neighborhood barbecue, a potluck, an ice cream social, a band playing music, a volleyball game and many other activities that a group of neighbors can do together.

National Night Out is designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness, generate support for and participation in local anti-crime programs, strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships, and send a message to criminals, letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back. Join 30 million other people in more than 9,000 communities nation-wide in a variety of events and activities. Let's make this year even bigger!

See a list of National Night Out events on page 3

New!!

The Dayton's Bluff District Forum is now **mailed monthly** to Dayton's Bluff businesses and households **FREE !!**

Your 5" x 4" display ad gets to over 6500 addresses for only **2 cents per address**. Other size ads are also available

Include the *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* in your advertising plans.

Contact
 Karin@daytonsbluff.org
 Or call 651-772-2075

**Dayton's Bluff District 4
 Community Council
 798 East 7th Street
 Saint Paul, MN 55106**

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Dayton's Bluff Community Meeting

The next Community Meeting is Thursday, August 2, 2007 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the meeting room at the Dayton's Bluff Community Council, 798 East 7th Street at the corner of 7th and Margaret.

The Dayton's Bluff Community Council holds its Community Meeting on the 1st Thursday of each month. The purpose is to work with block clubs and neighborhood residents on problem properties, criminal and nuisance behavior, code enforcement issues and any other neighborhood issues, concerns, or new ideas for improvement in Dayton's Bluff.

If you would like, you can email Karin@DaytonsBluff.org or call Karin at 772-2075 with addresses of problems before the meeting. If I have the addresses of problems ahead of time I can get them to the police and NHPI (code enforcement). Then they can bring information about the problems to the meeting.

Remember, it's always on the 1st Thursday of the month. All Dayton's Bluff residents are welcome to attend. If you need more information email Karin@DaytonsBluff.org or call Karin at 651-772-2075.

Training for Small Business Owners

The next Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Microentrepreneur Class is starting in September. This program helps start-up and young businesses on the East Side. All East Side entrepreneurs are welcome.

Class training lasts 8 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, plus 8 hours of one on one time with the instructor. Those who successfully complete the course and locate their businesses in target neighborhoods are eligible for ongoing business support services.

Some examples of businesses started by people who have previously taken this course include graphics, landscaping, photography, food service, restoration of wood furniture and works of art, custom floral design for weddings and events, and exterior and interior painting. 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 September and class size is limited.

Please call Karin at 651-772-2075 or email Karin@DaytonsBluff.org for an application.

Glorious Food Giveaway

The Food Giveaway takes place on the third Saturday of the month at Mounds Park United Methodist Church, Earl and Euclid Streets. Doors open at 8:30 a.m. The Food Giveaway is from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Come and receive a free bag of food, no questions asked.

Listen to music while you wait. Communion is served at 10:00 a.m. for those who wish to participate. Call the church at 774-8736 for more information.

Local House Stars in Cable TV Program



This house at 699 Frank is in the process of getting a curb appeal make over for the HGTV (Home and Garden TV) show *Curb Appeal*. Look in the next issue of the *Forum* for an update on the project. Photo by Karin DuPaul

2nd Annual Parade of Community Gardens

As part of the 2nd Annual Parade of Community Gardens on August 18th, The Community Design Center of Minnesota garden at the Swede Hollow Café will be open to anyone interested in seeing the vegetables, flowers, and herbs being grown by local, youth gardeners. From 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., there will be gardeners at the Swede Hollow Café available for tours and questions. The youth will also be selling vegetables and providing information about the organization. Be sure to have coffee or lunch at the café as you pass through!

Coordinated by GardenWorks, a program of The Green Institute, the

Parade of Community Gardens is designed to showcase the many benefits of community gardening—from beautification and food production to education and community building. Parade-goers can walk, bike, or drive from one garden to the next, soaking in each one's unique blend of vegetables, flowers, herbs, native grasses and people. Gardens will feature a variety of attractions including tasty veggies, massage, ice cream and art in the garden.

More information including maps and garden descriptions is available by calling (612) 278-7123 or visiting www.gardenworksMN.org.

Community Building, One Flower at a Time

By Jennifer Marcus Newton

On a recent rainy Friday afternoon, several members of the Margaret Rec Center Block Club donned thick gardening gloves and rubber galoshes to clear 4-foot high thistle and tangled weeds from the flowerbeds in front of the Margaret Recreation Center. Time was of the essence: This volunteer gardening crew had but a few hours to make room for hundreds of pansy plants being transplanted from the beautiful gardens at the Saint Paul Hotel.

Weeks earlier, Sara Radman, one of the hotel gardeners, had reached out to Dayton's Bluff in an effort to find a children's garden or neighborhood recreation center that could make use of the hotel's spring plantings. A perfect match was made with the Margaret Rec Center and plans were devised to transport the more than sixty large bowls brimming with colorful, mature pansies from the hotel gardens downtown to the terraced beds on the Bluff.

The Margaret Rec Center already has extensive native and perennial plantings in place. From gargantuan rose bushes and bleeding hearts to hearty clumps of black-eyed susans and purple coneflowers, the terraced gardens have come into their own in the recent past, much to the delight of local residents. This is a community of dog walkers, active children, and

outdoor enthusiasts, so a healthy garden smack-dab in the center of the neighborhood is an important feature.

That said, the existing beds by the center's entrance were in need of a good spring weeding and a dose of fresh color. Armed with shovels, hand trowels, and watering cans, neighbors rolled up their sleeves, jumped into the brush, and got to work. Once the weeds were cleared, holes were then dug—all sixty of them. It rained lightly off and on during the project, but the erroneously predicted downpour never came, and long after the dinner bell had rung, a tired handful of muddy neighbors wiped off hands, posed for a few pictures, patted each other on the back, and called it a day.

Much like a flourishing garden is constructed a single plant at a time, a thriving community is also built one person at a time—and both gardens and communities require nurturing. Be sure to add the Margaret Rec gardens to your daily walking route so that you, too, can enjoy this extraordinary urban green space. Want to join the Margaret Rec Center Block Club or get involved in community gardening projects? Contact Karin DuPaul at 651-772-2075 for details.

A heartfelt "thank you" goes out to the Saint Paul Hotel for thinking of Dayton's Bluff and for making this pansy project possible.

Church Directory

Amazing Grace Assembly of God
1237 Earl St.
651-778-1768
Sun 9:30 am - Sunday school all ages

Sun 10:30 am - morning Worship
Sun 6:00 pm - evening Worship

Hmong Asbury United Methodist
815 Frank St.
651-771-0077

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
655 Forest St.
651-776-4737
Sun 9:00 am - Morning Service
Sun 10:15-11:15 am - Sunday School & Bible Hour
Sun 11:15 - Hmong Service

Faith Temple - Templo De Fe
1510 Payne Ave
651-778-0096
Sun 10:30 am - Spanish Bilingual Service
Sun 6:00 pm - Spanish Bilingual Service
Wednesday family night

First Lutheran Church ELCA
463 Maria
St. Paul, MN 55106
651-776-7210
1 block North of Metropolitan State
Sun 8:00 am - Free Community Breakfast
Sun 9:30 am - Worship service
Sun 10:45 am - Education for all ages
Handicapped accessible
ALL ARE WELCOME!

Mounds Park United Methodist
1049 Euclid St.
651-774-8736
9:15 am - Sunday School, 4-year-old through Adult
10:30 am - Worship

Our Savior's Lutheran 'LCMS'
674 Johnson Pkwy
651-774-2396
Sunday Worship - 9:15am
Education Hour - 10:30 am
Wednesday Worship - 6:30 pm

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
840 E. 6th St.
651-776-2741
Sat 4:00 pm - Mass
Sun 9:00 am - Mass
Mon, Wed, Fri 8:00 am - Weekday Service

St. John's Catholic Church
977 E. 5th St.
651-771-3690
Mon-Sat 8:00 am - Daily Mass
Sat 4:15 pm - Mass
Sun 9:00 am, 11:00 am - Mass

St. John's Church of God in Christ
1154 E. 7th St.
651-771-7639
Sun 9:30 am - Sunday School
Sun 11:00 am - Worship
Wed 7:00 pm - Bible Study

St. John Ev. Lutheran
765 Margaret St.
651-771-6406
Sun 9:30 am - Worship
Thurs 6:30 pm - Worship

Welcome to the City of Saint Paul, Department of Planning and Economic Development Corner also known as the "PED Corner". By Angela Burkhalter

PED Mission Statement: To actively create opportunities and encourage investment for the benefit of Saint Paul residents and businesses, which preserve, sustain, and grow the city's diverse neighborhoods.

What we do

PED's work is to promote investment that maintains and increases the city's tax base. We accomplish this by stimulating job creation, and assisting in the financing of new and rehabilitated housing including the preservation of existing housing for low income residents, and in strategic commercial and economic development. These actions are guided by careful planning, community collaboration and inclusiveness. For more information please log on to our website at: <http://www.stpaul.gov/depts/ped/>.

Mayor Coleman Announces Invest Saint Paul Community Days

Mayor Chris Coleman announced a series of Invest Saint Paul Community Days. The Community Days are designed to engage Invest Saint Paul neighborhoods and educate residents on city services.

"These community days will help residents understand the wide range of services the City has to offer. A key aspect of Invest Saint Paul is engaging residents, and these community days will send a clear message that we are committed to this process and will see it through," Coleman said.

During the events, city departments will have promotional and educational materials on their core functions, how residents can be proactive in engaging city departments in neighborhood issues, and who to contact with their concerns.

August Locations:

Thursday, August 2nd, Mount Airy Homes
91 E. Arch, 3-6 pm
Wednesday, Aug 8th, Ryan Park
618 N Avon, (At Thomas), 4:30-7:30 pm

Department of Planning and Economic Development



SAINT PAUL
MBDR
MINORITY BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT & RETENTION

- Entrepreneurial Start-Up Assistance
- Small Business Development
- Capacity Building
- Emerging Market Home Ownership
- Job Corridor Development
- Revolving Loan Fund
- Ethnic Chamber Development
- Construction Partnering Program
- People to People Program
- Socially Responsible Investment Fund
- Invest Saint Paul

The goal of Minority Business Development and Retention (MBDR) is to increase Minority Business Enterprises (MBEs), Women Business Enterprises (WBEs) and Small Business Enterprises (SBEs) participation in business opportunities generated by the Department of Planning and Economic Development Housing and Economic Development activities.

MBDR also attempts to connect minorities, females and people with disabilities to employment opportunities generated by our economic and housing development projects.

For more information: Readus Fletcher 651-266-6552 or Angela Burkhalter 651-266-6613
Visit us on the web: www.stpaul.gov/mbdr
First Stop Shop for Businesses and Potential Businesses: www.stpaul.gov/business

PED Corner questions or comments, contact: angela.burkhalter@ci.stpaul.mn.us or call 651-266-6700 or 651-266-5566.

National Night Out is Tuesday August 7



Here is a list of some of the Dayton's Bluff National Night Out events:

- * Mounds Park near Mounds Blvd and Earl - live music
- * 5th Street East between Mounds Blvd and Maria - food and entertainment
- * Maria and Euclid - for more information call Karin 651-772-2075
- * Margaret Street between Johnson Parkway and Atlantic - pot luck and meet the neighbors
- * Bethlehem Lutheran Church at Margaret and Forest - food, fun and entertainment
- * Mounds Park United Methodist Church at Earl and Euclid - food, games and fun
- * Margaret Recreation Center 1109 Margaret - food, fun, games and learn about the new playground.
- * Reaney between Forest and Cypress - fun and games
- * Swede Hollow Park at Greenbrier and Margaret - potluck, The Exit Band and fun
- * 1330 Conway - food, music, fun and games

Email Karin@DaytonsBluff.org or call Karin at 772-2075 for more information about National Night Out events.

August Shows at the Mounds Theatre

Fading to Grey

Diversity Productions Presents *Fading to Grey* at the Mounds Theatre this August 2 – 19.

Fading to Grey is a new full-length play by Twin Cities playwright Richard A. Pettey. The play explores the true meaning of family. It follows Alan and Terry, a couple on the day of their twenty-fifth anniversary. We learn through encounters with family, friends and a surprise visitor what family and relationships really mean. But most of all you will appreciate these two men and the life they have together.

For more information go to www.diversity-productions.org.

To purchase tickets go to www.uptowntix.com or call 651-209-6799, 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Haunted House Movie

Jon Hyers' new independent haunted house docudrama will be showing at the Mounds Theatre August 25th and 26th.

"The Haunting of N 3rd Street" covers a one-year period of the Dr. Conrad Hyers family when they lived in an old house in St. Peter, MN.

The bulk of the movie centers on the Hyers story while living in the house. Part two is a search for answers, with historical research on the house, discussion of the deaths and murders that took place there, or in some cases were *said* to have taken place there, and an actual historical scene which paints the picture of one potential cause of events.

Visit www.MoundsTheatre.org or call 651-772-2253 for show times. The Mounds Theatre is at 1029 Hudson Road.

It's in the Mail - Not on Your Doorstep

By Ed Lambert, Executive Director, Dayton's Bluff Community Council

85% of Dayton's bluff residents and businesses received this issue of the *Forum* by U.S. Mail; the rest will get theirs via volunteer distributors, or from one of our 10 paper racks in Dayton's Bluff.

It's an exciting moment because community businesses now have an effective tool to reach all their Dayton's Bluff customers, and all residents and businesses will get the news from Dayton's Bluff. Ad rates remain as established in 2001.

This readable and informative newspaper has been published monthly (Mar-Dec) since 2000. However, up until now, we have relied upon volunteer resources to hand deliver each paper to households and businesses in Dayton's Bluff. This is a big job, and very difficult to do on a reliable and regular basis, so we are using the mail to strengthen assurances that our whole community gets the whole paper each month.

Early response from prospective advertisers has been very positive. Our informal survey of readers has also encouraged us to make this change. Residents seek news about the community, the people who live and work here, as well as information from businesses and organizations about the services and resources available in and about Dayton's Bluff.

Past issues of the *Forum* will continue to be available on the Community Council's web site www.daytonsbluff.org, so you can al-

ways visit there to find an article or photo that appeared in a previous issue. The web site also carries comprehensive information about Council programs, services, and resources available to local residents and businesses.

We have a wonderful, dynamic, and diverse community with extraordinary parks, several hundred local businesses, and scores of effective and dynamic community organizations. Dayton's Bluff is changing and growing, with new opportunities emerging even as some long standing ones pass from the scene. Reading the *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* is an effective way to stay abreast of these changes, and advertising in the *Forum* is a very effective way to get the word out about your products, services, and events. Check it out, and pass it on; it's your community newspaper.

Dayton's Bluff Circulator

The Circulator is a FREE bus that goes around Dayton's Bluff this summer to make it easier for Dayton's Bluff kids to get to youth activities. It runs Monday-Friday from 10:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. until August 24th.

Children under 7 should have a parent or guardian with them on the bus. You can get on or off at any of the stops and there are lawn signs at each stop. For more information visit www.daytonsbluff.org. or call 651-793-3885.

Streets of the Bluff... And Other Good Stuff - Part IV

By Steve Trimble

In the last few months in the *Forum* I have been listing, adding to and sometimes commenting on the origins of the street names of Dayton's Bluff as listed in Don Empson's newly issued book, *The Street Where You Live*. We made it from A to Z. But the book's subtitle is "A Guide to Place Names of St. Paul," so for the encore, let's take a look at the non-street names that are included in the Empson volume.

Some of the places listed in the book—such as Carver's Cave, Swede Hollow and Indian Mounds Park—have been written about in past issues of the *Forum*, so they will be mentioned but not covered extensively. As before, I am making this in the form of an extended book review and adding new information so it doesn't look like I am a plagiarist historian.

So here goes with the ponds, parks and places of Dayton's Bluff:

Augustus Gauger Park

This park, nestled between Greenbrier North and Seventh Street was named for a local German-American architect. He began his work with the famed Edward Bassford and before he died in 1929 had designed hundreds of buildings. The Stutzman Building (725-733 East Seventh) that abuts the park was one of his commercial works.

In the 1970's it had become a crime-ridden apartment building. Then it was purchased by a non-profit neighborhood group who upgraded the units and sought out tenants and renters. Probably the most visible one has been the Swede Hollow Café.

Today's park once had two unsightly billboards. Money was raised, the land purchased in the 1980's and the giant advertisements came down. The area was landscaped and worked on by a combination of community residents and Metropolitan State University students and staff. Tucked away under one large tree is a plaque dedicated to Bonnie Luke a former member of the nursing faculty at Metropolitan State.

Bates Triangle

This small triangular park was created when two early additions to St. Paul ended up meeting at a 45-degree angle. Empson doesn't mention it, but one document says it was donated in honor of Maria Bates by her son. However, the land was listed as being taken in by the city in 1910, after his own death. It was enlarged by the vacating of Bates Street between Seventh and North. It was somewhat absorbed into the new Gauger Park just to the east. A big section of it is now a "rain garden".

Brickyards

An 1867 map of McLean Township labels the area around today's Hudson Road and Johnson Parkway as "brickyards." Though there are not a lot of details, it is known that at least one concern did make bricks there in the early years.

The brickyards were along side what appeared on the map to be a sizeable body of water—probably a shallow lake or deep wetland. Some

old-timers talked about going there to play when they were children. It apparently ended up being used as an unofficial dump, for some of them mentioned finding discarded Seeger refrigerator shells that could be used as rafts and polled around in the probably skanky water.

Many residents remember when Johnson Brothers Grocery and then Johnson Brothers Liquor were there. Even then some of the underground water would still seep up through the asphalt in the low-lying section of the parking lot. Recently a developer bought the land and put in a large senior apartment complex.

Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary

The Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary is a twenty-seven acre park located in the flood plain just below Dayton's Bluff. It features history, culture and a natural landscape that is being slowly restored. It was previously railroad land and had become highly polluted.

It is named in honor of Bruce Vento, a long time DFL politician who represented the East Side in the state legislature and then went to Congress where he served for many years. As chair of the house sub committee on public lands, he was very interested in natural scenic rivers and wilderness areas and was able to get large sections of the upper Mississippi declared a Scenic and Natural area. The park was officially dedicated in 2005 and work still continues to improve this unique site

Bruce Vento Regional Trail

Previously the Burlington Northern Trail. It goes from the base of Dayton's Bluff to the north and meets up with the Gateway trail and soon will connect with downtown and trails further south. It was re-named for Bruce Vento after he died in 2000.

Carver's Cave

This paper has had numerous articles about the place that Empson calls "one of the oldest and best known natural landmarks on the Upper Mississippi River," so I'll just include a highlight or two here. He mentions Jonathan Carver's 1766 visit and the 1867 Carver Centennial celebration sponsored by the Minnesota Historical Society, and the fact that there were a series of times that the cavern was lost due to erosion and then found again, most recently in 1913 and 1948.

Then, as Empson says, "in 1977, the entrance was once again found under the auspices of the city, and plans were formulated to work with the American Indians on a long-range plan for this singular place—now the centerpiece of the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary."

Connemara Patch

According to Empson, it started out as "a collection of modest working-class houses and businesses constructed along Phalen Creek." He tells a little about the late Nineteenth Century influx of Irish who gave the area its name. They came as a result of Bishop John Ireland's attempt to bring needy people from the Emerald Island and make farmers out of them. Many didn't like farming, migrated to St. Paul and a group landed along

lower Phalen Creek in the area under today's Third Street Bridge.

By the 1940's a sizeable number of Mexican-American families began living there. Along with others, they remained there until the small but colorful neighborhood disappeared in the 1950's with the arrival of urban development and the freeway.

Incidentally, Ed Lambert, the new Executive Director of the Dayton's Bluff Community Council, used to deliver papers there as a boy. Here's hoping he'll share some of his memories in the *Forum*.

Dayton's Cave

Located northwest of Carver's Cave, it was frequently confused with the larger and more famed cavern below Dayton's Bluff. Naturally formed in the sandstone, it also had a pool of water and pictographs inside. It was walled up in early years and used as a place to store vegetables and beer. The cave was covered up by the natural erosion of the limestone bluff years ago.

Fish Hatchery Road

In 1877 the state legislature appropriated money for the construction of a fish hatchery. The "Willow Brook" facility was opened within a year. It became a popular tourist attraction. People often ventured down a steep zigzag road from today's Indian Mounds Park to the area between the bluff and the river to look at the fish, visit a wildlife museum and later see a small zoo.

The original idea was to raise salmon and stock Minnesota lakes with this revered game fish. Seven springs fed the hatchery but because of development of the area above they eventually started drying up. In the 1960's, wells were dug for the needed water. After the spotty record for salmon the hatchery raised trout, rainbow and lake trout but was finally closed in 1995.

Back to the Fish Hatchery Road. It's still there, even though it's a bit overgrown now. You can still see the cut in the Mounds Boulevard curb that was at the start of the road. In my mind, it would be a great idea to use it to create a path from the eastern part of Mounds Park to the river level below and have it link up with the Bruce Vento area, creating a scenic loop that could be used for one of our many Dayton's Bluff walks. What do you think?

Forest Street Triangle

This Triangle first appeared in our community in 1902 at the southwest corner of East Seventh and Forest. It doesn't look much like a park because it was altered a good deal during one of the "improvements" on Seventh Street. It was somewhat absorbed into a parking lot and there are now only two sides to the triangle. But it does have a bus bench and a shrub or two. As 3M follows through with its downsizing plans, perhaps this triangle and the entire parking lot could become a much-needed green space on the busy street. Anyone want to work on creating a Minnesota Mining Triangle at the corner of East Seventh and Forest?

Hamm Park

This small, well-manicured park on the north side of East Seventh at Greenbrier is another of those created by the meeting of two early additions. The one-quarter acre site was given to the city in 1910 in honor of brewing legend Theodore Hamm by his son. William Hamm was a member of the park board at the time. It is now larger than originally because of the vacation of part of a street.

Im-In-I-Ja Ska

In his 1875 History of St. Paul, J. Fletcher Williams stated that this is what the Dakota Indians called the St. Paul area. It was their phrase that meant "white rock" and clearly referred to the coloration of the sandstone and limestone along the riverfront under the western edge of Dayton's Bluff.

Indian Mounds Park

This sixty-nine acre regional park was created, in the words of Empson "at the urging of local residents, the city-despite the rapacious real estate speculators-was able to purchase much of the parkland in the 1890's." He chose to mention that over the years it has been home to "a toboggan slide, tennis courts, a warming house for ice skaters, horseshoe courts, a comfort station, a World War I German artillery piece, and a 110-foot navigation beacon."

Obviously, there is more to the history of Indian Mounds Park than can be included in a short passage in a book. I can put together a larger article on this streetcar era site in the future if anyone is interested. Why not send in some of your favorite stories about the park that can be included?

Maria Avenue Triangle

The parks department got this small piece of land at the junction of Maria and McLean in 1911, but the source of the donation is not currently known. It is also unclear whether it was named specifically for Maria Bates, Lyman's wife, or just because of its location on the street of the same name. It unfortunately lost some of its size when the city redid the streets and reluctantly kept the granite curbs in the area. It is mowed, planted with flowers, and carefully tended by one of the neighbors.

We made it from A to the start of the M's this month We'll try to finish in the next issue of the *Forum*.

If you want to buy your own copy of *The Street Where You Live* by Donald L. Empson, the University of Minnesota Press publication is available at most bookstores as well as the Ramsey County Historical Society and the Minnesota History Center. Or even better, you can order an autographed copy of the book directly from the author. Send a check or money order to Donald Empson at P.O. Box 791, Stillwater, MN 55082. The price is \$19.95 + \$1.30 sales tax + \$4.00 for postage and packaging for a total of \$25.25. If you do, please tell how you would like the book dedicated. Visit Empson's website at www.empsons.com.

Sweet Swede Hollow History Walk with Larry Millett

My name is Chad Stahlman. I am your local Dayton's Bluff Community Council intern thru Metropolitan State University. This is the first of several articles I will be writing regarding the history and activities in Dayton's Bluff. During my interview with Ed Lambert, Executive Director of Dayton's Bluff Community Council, he began a dialog regarding the rich history of Dayton's Bluff. I was skeptical and wondered to myself: "could there be that much history in such a small part of land in a region of the world that includes two huge cities." I figured the history was to the west and south a bit. Well, that might be true, but I was pleasantly surprised after a few weeks in the Bluff to learn of the history here. I could not have asked for a better community to learn in.

On Thursday, May 24th, Larry Millett walked with about 60 people, including myself, in and around Swede Hollow Park to discuss some of its history. Larry Millett is an architectural historian. He recently released his book *AIA Guide to the Twin Cities. The Essential Source on the Architecture of Minneapolis and St. Paul*. Larry Millett worked for three decades as a reporter, editor and architectural critic for the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* before retiring in 2002. His books include *Lost Twin Cities* (awarded an AIA International Architecture Book Award), *Twin Cities Then and Now*, and five Sherlock Holmes mysteries including *The Disappearance of Sherlock Holmes*. He was an excellent speaker for the walk and came prepared with loads of informative dialog.

If you ever considered going on one of these walks, I highly encourage you to do so. They are fun and informative. Our walk took about an hour and we never really left the immediate area, so if you need to leave early, it's very possible.



Our walk started at the Saint Paul Library, Dayton's Bluff branch. Larry's smiling assistant dutifully carried a portable microphone and speaker. So, if you have hearing issues, fear not on these walks. The weather for our event was a bit chilly, but was a nice reprise after a few hot days and it was refreshing to wear a simple windbreaker instead of our usual heavy winter jackets.

We walked to 7th St., thus named, as it was once the seventh street back from the Mississippi River. Larry spoke a bit about the fact that it was graded in 1884 and cable cars were quick to follow. Grading roads in that time was incredibly expensive, but people certainly thought it was worth it.

We then walked towards 1st Lutheran Church, raised in 1917 on the corner of Maria Ave and 8th St. Directly northwest of that is Fountain Plaza. Lyman Dayton named Maria Ave in 1857 after his wife. Many locals pronounce it "mah-rye-ah." Fountain Plaza was named thus because it was significant to the homes in early 1900's overlooking Swede Hollow to have beautiful fountains.

Larry took us into Swede Hollow Park. The park is home to much history. The Hamm mansion, built by Theodore and

Luisgarits Hamm, was built here. I also learned that many of the homes around Swede Hollow Park were once owned by Hamm family members. It's also important to note that most of the homes in this area are official historical homes. It's wonderful that most of the families living in these homes now have restored much of their original architecture.

Our walk then took us to view a few historic homes near the Cerenity House located at the tri-corner of Dellwood Pl., Greenbrier St. and Maury St. The Cerenity House is sitting on top of the property that once was the site of the Mayall family Mansion. There are also three homes on Greenbrier St. that have unusual and unique architecture for this area.

We then walked back SW towards the Library via 7th Street. Swede Hollow Café is located here. Swede Hollow Café has a lovely garden for enjoying your morning coffee or pastry. The garden is a nice little oasis with spring flowers and fountains. The garden itself is about 1500 square feet and reminded me a bit of dining in a very small village in Europe. You can contact Swede Hollow café at 651-772-2075 or check out their website at www.swedehollowcafe.com.

Our walk ended back in the Library with Larry giving his time to answering questions from guests and signing his new book for people. I felt this added a very personal touch to the entire event.

If you would like more information on the history of our streets, our website, www.daytonsbuff.org, has all the past issues of the paper and also has more information on our Walk the Bluff program. The Walk the Bluff program is a wonderful way to get out and learn about the rich history that is Dayton's Bluff.

Trimble History Walk

By Garry Fay, Walk the Bluff Coordinator

On Thursday evening June 28 long-time local historian Steve Trimble led a group of several dozen people about Indian Mounds Park. With insight and humor Steve related stories about one of our largest and loveliest local parks. He informed us of the treasures surrounding us in the park and the wonder of human nature. We reflected upon the value of history and how it connects us to the past so that we can create a positive present and envision and live a better future.

Artifacts were discussed and corrections given of historical signs including his interpretation as to how these errors crept into these public pronouncements. The Smithsonian Institute in Washington D.C. wanted our airport beacon as it is such a fine historical structure but local demand kept it here for our enjoyment and protection of the skyway corridor into Holman Field.

WPA created a wall along Mounds Avenue. It is the last and best example existing in St. Paul or was it the entire metro area? There are still many questions about the history of our area that Steve noted are being researched such as the motels of St. Paul. He encouraged us all to consider finding out what we can and sharing those stories. A number of people joined Steve in relating stories and facts about the park.

The Pavilion was almost torn down like so many other aging structures by the city. However, locals influenced city hall. Now this restored 1914 built, Frank Lloyd Wright – inspired structure is drawing interest as it sits prominently roadside near the top of the bluff.

From the mounds themselves, to more modern architecture, Mr. Trimble wove a wonderful tale of our Park on the Bluff.

A Walk Down Memory Lane

By Louise Letnes

Mounds Park United Methodist Church sponsored a walk down Wilson and Wakefield Avenues (between Earl and Cypress) on June 20, 2007, as a part of the celebration of its 150th year of ministry (86 years on the corner of Earl and Euclid). The walk was led by Richard Harper, a retired United Methodist pastor who grew up in the neighborhood during the 30s and 40s, first on Wilson, then on Wakefield Avenues.

Pastor Harper told of his memories of a neighbor asking him as a young child to stop and help her with the extra donut holes she had from that day's baking, memories of the excitement caused by the first Nash to arrive on the block, and the feelings of security

that the Mounds Park beacon gave him as it flashed through his bedroom window each night.

He also remembers, as a child, the feeling that something important had happened as he sat in a neighbor's house while they listened to the radio reports of Germany's invasion of Poland. He told of sliding down the hills between Wilson and Wakefield where houses now stand. Neighbors and members of Mounds Park Church ended the evening in the church Fellowship Hall with more reminiscing while enjoying root beer floats.

Mounds Park United Methodist Church will hold a 150th anniversary Service of Celebration on Sunday afternoon October 21, 2007 at 3 p.m. The public is invited.



(L to R): Gene Wandersee, Mike Thompson, Louise Letnes, Judy Wandersee and Shirley Harper at the History Walk sponsored by Mounds Park United Methodist



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Rain Garden Experience = Terrific!



By Sue Richter and Wally Waranka
 On June 19th, Amy Middleton of the Lower Phalen Creek Project, with a crew of 9 Youth Conservation Corp interns from the Community Design Center, and their leader came together at our home. The reason? To put in a rain garden to help with watershed protection. As an added bonus, we get a beautiful native garden.
 Amy coordinated everything from ordering plants, setting up the crew's schedule and everything in between. This made it very easy for us. Basically, we just needed to say, yes.
 The whole group prepared the 80 square foot area containing a 6-8 inches deep trench to catch rainwater. They planted the flowers, and covered the area with mulch. But that was not all. In addition, the interns pulled out shrubs and placed mulch over the area and transferred the

sod taken from the garden area to a bare spot in the back yard.
 The work was completed quickly and the garden looks terrific.
 Wally was home to help if needed, but Amy and the crew took care of everything.
 Our recommendation is if you are wondering whether to add a rain garden to your yard, check to see if it would work for your property. Contact Amy Middleton for more info at amiddle@centurytel.net. Another plus is the availability of matching funds to help out if you are wondering about costs. She can direct you to the proper person or agency to help get you started. The cost to us, thanks to Amy and the crew, was minimal.
 Addendum: Sunday, July 8th it rained and we were able to see our rain garden work for the first time. It was great!

ECFE Classes Two Days a Week for 4 Year Olds



Four year olds – building the body builds the mind.

After an interval of many years, the Dayton's Bluff Early Childhood Family Education Program will once again offer a two afternoon per week class for children who will start kindergarten in the fall of 2008. The four year olds (4 on or before September 1, 2007) will come to school on Monday and Thursday afternoons. They will have a certified teacher who provides a friendly and fun classroom with activities that excite children and motivate them to learn. We will explore themes such as The Apple Orchard, All About Me and My Family, The Gingerbread Man, The Bakery, The Post Office, Colors of the Rainbow, Butterflies and more. Through songs, stories, field trips and a classroom of dynamic materials, children will learn that school is an important and wonderful place to grow.
 On Thursdays, parents and their other children who are not yet in school

come to ECFE with the four year olds. The parents join the parent educator to discuss ways to strengthen children's developing skills during the important year before kindergarten when their involvement in their child's education enhances his or her school readiness skills in every area - in language, pre-reading, pre-writing, and math understanding, self-help, and getting along with others. The siblings will have a separate classroom with a teacher who provides a warm, loving, developmentally appropriate curriculum.
 On Mondays the fours come again to expand and consolidate the learning and growing they are doing on Thursdays. Each parent comes a few times each semester to assist the teacher on Monday afternoon. If you are interested in this class, or any other ECFE class, call 651-793-5410 for information about registration.

What to do this summer?

By Walter Waranka, President, Dayton's Bluff Community Council
 Summer is here. What to do? Well, here are just a few things that we, at the Council, are suggesting as fun possibilities to try this summer.
 Why not get involved with our Walk the Bluff Program? Not only can you get outside and get some exercise, you can meet your neighbors, and possibly make new friends. There are also great rewards for joining.
 You could organize a block club or join one already established in your neighborhood. You can help yourself and your

neighbors to keep a watchful eye on your neighborhood.
 Don't forget about National Night Out. There will be lots of opportunities to get out and join your fellow neighbors in taking back the night.
 You can find more information about these ideas here in the *Forum*, or you can call our office 651-772-2075 or visit www.daytonsbluff.org
 Most of all just enjoy the summer and don't get caught up in fear. Learn to be aware of what is going on in the place you call home in your neighborhood called Dayton's Bluff.

Prepared and paid for by the Volunteers for Johnson Committee; 2031 Howard St. S., St. Paul, MN 55119

Want a safer neighborhood? JOIN OR START A BLOCK CLUB!

Anytime is the perfect time to start a neighborhood block club. Block clubs are one of the tools used in "community policing" and are considered to be one of the best ways of reducing the likelihood of crime. They help develop better communication between the police and residents, and foster a greater sense of community between neighbors, as well as addressing any neighborhood issues or concerns. Block clubs can come in forms of social gatherings or regular meetings with specific agendas.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

E-mail or Call Karin:
Karin@DaytonsBluff.org
 (651) 772-2075



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 549 State Office Building
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New Trail Link Links Trails



By Nick Duncan

It is now a lot easier for Dayton's Bluff residents to pedal to Lowertown or Downtown or Swede Hollow or just about anywhere else their bicycle can take them because the Lower Phalen Creek Project officially opened the Bruce Vento Trail Link on Saturday July 14th. This new bike/walking path connects the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary with Swede Hollow Park, Lowertown at Fourth Street and Mounds Park at Commercial Street.

The new trail links the Mounds Park/Dayton's Bluff neighborhoods with the already extensive Bruce Vento Regional Trail system, a system that runs almost ten miles ending just north of Highway 694 at Buerkle Road in White Bear Lake. And if that's not enough riding for you Lance Armstrong wannabes, just north of Frost Avenue, the Bruce Vento Trail intersects with the even more extensive Gateway Trail, which stretches all the way out to Pine Point County Park north of Stillwater in Washington County. Now that's quite a work out.

But for the less ambitious riders, those of us just wanting to reach the farmers market or to visit a restaurant downtown, the new trail allows a peaceful, scenic pathway to the heart of Lowertown without the hassle and danger of having to navigate the heavy auto traffic on the Third Street Bridge or along East Seventh Street. The trail descends along Commercial Street from the northwest end of Mounds Park. The path continues under the Third Street Bridge, past the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary before intersecting with the Bruce Vento Trail which heads north toward Swede Hollow over a beautifully restored railroad bridge which has been ingeniously converted for bike and foot usage.

Indeed, all along the new trail link are signs of past uses of this lowland area between the homes on Dayton's Bluff and the warehouses and commercial buildings of Lowertown. Early in St Paul's history this area was deemed unsuitable for development. It was a swampland where Phalen Creek emptied into the Mississippi. The high ground on Dayton's

Bluff was a much more attractive place to build a house and the solid flat ground of Lowertown was a much safer place to build a warehouse. Though the swamps have long ago been drained, from the bike trail it is still possible to see the old open aqueduct as it carries water runoff toward the river. And if one takes a short detour south into the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary, you can even get an idea what this place looked like before human settlement.

But the link to the past that is most apparent is the link to this area's once great railroad days. In the 1800's St Paul was the most northerly navigable point on the Mississippi River for steamboats. Lowertown or the Lower Landing, because of it's flat and relatively low topography, was the ideal spot in St. Paul to load and unload cargo. We need to remember, this was a time when there were no interstate freeways or 18-wheelers, and a time when shipping by rail was still in it's infancy. That meant riverboats were the fastest, cheapest method of shipping goods. And to be the Northern most port on the biggest river in the county meant the Lower Landing was a booming hub of activity.

Soon rail lines from across the Upper Midwest flowed into the port of St Paul. Remember that in the 1880's Minneapolis' Mills, powered by St Anthony Falls, produced a staggering one-eighth of the entire worlds flour supply. The area of the Vento Trail link, this undeveloped lowland area adjacent to the Lower Landing, was the ideal place for building railroads. In fact, a great number of rail lines once covered this entire area. Only a couple of these lines remain, crossing over the bike trail on a stone and wood bridge that is only a small part of the beautifully crafted old stone bridge-works that line the bike trail along Commercial road. The craftsmanship is absolutely incredible. Further on toward Lowertown is a row of buildings dating back to the 1880's once used as railroad machine shops,

For more information about the Lower Phalen Creek Project visit www.mepartnership.org/sites/LOWERPHALENCREEK/index.asp.



Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Cleanup
Saturday, September 8 2007
9:00 a.m. to noon
Ray Anderson & Sons
North of East 7th St. at Atlantic and Phalen Corridor
(933 Atlantic)
This cleanup is for Dayton's Bluff residents only.



Costs

Entrance: \$7 per car, \$10 per small truck or mini van, \$25 per pickup truck and trailers. **No dump trucks.**
Extra Fees: \$10 per mattress, box spring, couch or love seat.
 \$3 fee car tire, \$8 per truck tire, plus \$2 if on rim.
 \$10 to \$25 per TV, \$10 VCR or computer monitor or CPU, etc.
 \$5 other small electronics.

You may also bring: fluorescent bulbs, scrap metal, bicycles, demolition debris, clean wood, concrete/rocks. *All guidelines will be strictly adhered to and we reserve the right to turn away any person or vehicle. The Dayton's Bluff Community Council reserves the right to refuse any item or close the site early if costs exceed budget.*

What to bring

A proof of Dayton's Bluff residency in the form of a driver's license or utility bill is required to gain entry. Be prepared to unload your own materials. Assistance is not available at the cleanup site. Materials will be sorted at the site into different dumpsters to maximize recycling.

In order to simplify unloading, vehicles should be loaded up in the following manner:

On the bottom of the load: concrete, bricks, rocks, and construction debris.
In the middle of the load: bikes and scrap metals, mattresses/box springs, broken furniture and other trash
On the top of the load: reusable household items, electronics: TVs, VCRs, computers, etc., Tires

Remember: DO NOT bring appliances to the cleanup.

Call JR's Appliance at 651-454-9215 before Thursday, September 6, to arrange to have your appliances picked up at your curb on Monday, September 10. Cost \$25 for one appliance, \$10 for each additional appliance. There is extra fee of \$10 for each air conditioner (\$35.00).

What not to bring

Not all materials are accepted at the cleanup.

For more information about how to recycle or dispose of these or other items, call 651-222-SORT (7678). TTY for the hearing impaired: 651-221-9832.
No Rail Road ties or Chemically treated wood:

No Appliances: Call JR's Appliance at 651-454-9215 before Thursday, September 6, to arrange to have your appliances picked up at your curb on Monday, September 10. Cost \$25/1st appliance, \$10/each additional appliance (there is an \$10 surcharge for each air conditioner). JR's Appliance accepts air conditioners, dehumidifiers, dishwashers, dryers, furnaces, garbage disposals, heat pumps, microwaves, refrigerators, stoves, trash compactors, washers and water heaters.

No Car Batteries: Bring car batteries to a store that sells them. All stores and services stations that sell car batteries are required by law to accept up to five batteries per person for free.

No Paint, Pesticides, Motor Oil or other Hazardous Wastes, including Fluorescent Bulbs: Free disposal at Ramsey County household hazardous waste drop-off site: Bay West, 5 Empire Drive, Saint Paul, open Wednesday-Friday 11-6 and Saturday 9-4 (April-October) and Saturday 9-4 only (November-March)

No Leaves, Grass or Brush: Free disposal at Ramsey County compost site: Frank Street and Sims Avenue, open Monday, Wednesday and Friday 11-7, Saturday 9-5 and Sunday 11-5.

No Curbside Recycling Materials: Dayton's Bluff District 4 curbside recycling is picked up every Tuesday. Have your Recycling at the curb by 7 am.

Good Free Stuff at the Cleanup

Even if you do not have junk or trash to get rid of come and check out the Free Stuff. Swap Stuff. The cleanup will once again feature a Reuse Area so that used items that still have some life left in them can be shared with new owners. Good stuff like dishes, furniture, building materials, cabinets, lawnmowers, bikes, toys and other items in good condition will be set aside in the Reuse Area for anyone to take home. All materials in the Reuse Area are free and there is no charge to enter this area. **Items must be hauled away from the Free Stuff area by noon on cleanup day or it all goes in the dumpster. So bring your car, truck or trailer**



Volunteers are Needed - Help neighbors clean up the neighborhood. All skill levels are needed. Work four hours and get free entry for one load of material. A free lunch will be provided. Call 651-772-2075 if you would like to help.

Sponsors and Rules

The Cleanup is sponsored by the Dayton's Bluff Community Council and the Eureka Recycling, with funding provided by the city of Saint Paul.

The above guidelines will be strictly adhered to. The Dayton's Bluff Community Council reserves the right to turn away any person or vehicle, to refuse any item or to close the site early if dumpsters are filled or costs exceed budget. **There will be limited senior pick up service for more information or to register call the Dayton's Bluff Community Council at 651-772-2075.**



Dayton's Bluff Recycling Pick up

Every Tuesday. Have your recycling on the curb by 7:00 a.m.
If you need recycling bins call 651-772-2075.

Designed by Kids, Built by Volunteers



Photo by Lou "The Photoguy" Michaels

Minnesota Vikings head coach Brad Childress (center) was one of the more than 200 volunteers who built a new playground in one day.

The Minnesota Vikings, KaBOOM!, and Toro helped build a new playground at the American Indian-World Cultures Magnet Schools at Earl and Third Streets in Dayton's Bluff.

More than 200 volunteers, including 100 Vikings coaches, staff and players, joined forces to build the new and safe playground in just one day. The playground's design is based on drawings provided by students who attended a Design Day in April and will use the playground

Elaine Rospel-Booth, Assistant Principal, commented that the students and staff are ecstatic about the new playground and encouraged by the outpouring of community support.

The 2,500 sq. ft. playground features several unique slides, climbers and interactive panels for the 600 children in the community who attend the school. The playground construction cost is being split by the Minnesota Vikings and their community partner Toro.

"Providing a fun and safe outdoor play environment enhances the youth educational experience," says Stacy Bogart, Toro Foundation president and assistant legal counsel. "We are pleased to partner with the Minnesota Vikings, KaBOOM! and the Saint Paul Public Schools on this great community building project.

Christmas is Returning to the Mounds Theatre

A Christmas Story returns to the Mounds Theatre for the fourth year, live on stage this December for nine performances

Humorist Jean Shepherd's memoir of growing up in the Midwest in the 1940s follows 9-year-old Ralphie Parker in his quest to get a genuine Red Ryder BB gun under the tree for Christmas. Ralphie pleads his case before his mother, his teacher and even Santa Claus himself, at Goldblatt's Department Store, with the same and always consistent response: "You'll shoot your eye out." All the elements from the beloved motion picture are here, including the family's temperamental exploding furnace; Scut Farkas, the school bully; the boys' experiment with a wet tongue on a cold flagpole; the Little Orphan Annie de-

coder pin; Ralphie's father winning a lamp shaped like a woman's leg in a net stocking as a major award; Ralphie's fantasy scenarios and more.

Performances:

Fridays, Dec. 7, 14 & 21 and Saturdays, Dec. 8, 15 & 22 at 7:30 p.m.

Sundays, Dec. 9, 16 & 23 at 2:00 p.m.

Tickets:

Ticket prices are \$15 Adults; \$10 Student/Senior (55+); and \$5 Children (12 and under). Advance purchase group discounts are available.

Visit www.moundstheatre.org for a ticket order form or call 651-772-2253 and leave your name and number. Someone will call you back to take your order.

The Mounds Theatre is located at 1029 Hudson Road, St. Paul, MN 55106.

New Kid on the Block

By Maryann Chowen, PHN

Dayton's Bluff has a 'New Kid on the Block'. The Dayton's Bluff Living At Home/Block Nurse Program held its second meeting June 8 at Parkway Garden's senior living apartments on 1145 Hudson Road.

"What does a Block Nurse Program do?" asked Clyde, a senior who volunteered to work on the steering committee. Currently, there are 41 Living at Home/Block Nurse Programs.

In answer to Clyde's question, A LAH/BNP allows elder's 65 years and older to remain as independent as possible by providing supportive services in their home. "Basically it is neighbors helping neighbors," stated Malcolm Mitchell, Executive Director of the Elderberry Institute an organization set up to help launch Block Nurse Programs and provide continuing

support once they are up and running. Services include transportation to medical appointments, assistance in navigating the medical system; referrals for chore services, homemakers or help with follow up medical care.

What makes this healthcare model work are the dedicated volunteers who help small staffs serve seniors. Volunteers are urgently needed in the Dayton's Bluff area to be the heartbeat of this program. Whether you have an hour every couple of months or an hour each week, the volunteer opportunity is designed to meet your availability. To volunteer, contact Renae Dalluhn at 651-7958.

Editor's Note: Maryann Chowen, a public health nurse for over 33 years, has worked for over seven years with the Payne-Phalen and Conway-Battle Creek LAH/BNPs.



This is the Block Nurse planning group that held its second meeting at Parkway Gardens on June 8. Meetings are being held regularly to get the program going.



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Dayton's Bluff District Forum

798 East 7th Street
Saint Paul, MN 55106
Phone: 651-772-2075
FAX: 651-774-3510

E-mail: karindupaul@comcast.net

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