

# Dayton's Bluff DISTRICT FORUM

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## National Night Out with your neighbors on Aug. 5



Photo by Greg Cosimini

What would National Night Out be without neighbors, babies, food and a fire engine? This NNO event at Mounds Park United Methodist Church in 2007 had them all. Check out the location of the nearest NNO event in the article below and join in the fun.

Celebrate National Night Out on August 5, 2008 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!

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

\* 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 - pot luck, fun and games

\* Fremont Av, between Johnson Pkwy and Atlantic - potluck and fun.

\* 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

\* 653 North Street - at North and Bates - this is a NNO event and a Thank You to all who helped with the HGTV project to fix up Kris Nelson's home.

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

## Help make a difference in Dayton's Bluff

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 20, 2008;** 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 18 and September 15 at 7:00 pm.**

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.

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 7500 addresses for only **2 cents per address.** Your ad is also placed on our website.

Other size ads and inserts are 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  
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## Dayton's Bluff Community Meeting

The next Dayton's Bluff Community Meeting will be on **Thursday, September 4, 2008**.

Generally the Dayton's Bluff Community Council holds its community meetings on the first Thursday of each month, but since the Special July Community Meeting was on July 15th we will skip the August meeting.

The purpose of these meetings are to work with block clubs and neighborhood residents on problem properties, criminal and nuisance behavior, code enforcement issues and any other neighborhood issues, concerns, and new ideas for the improvement of Dayton's Bluff.

Email [Karin@DaytonsBluff.org](mailto:Karin@DaytonsBluff.org) with your specific issues and concerns, with addresses and problems prior to the meeting, so that background work can be done before the meeting. All Dayton's Bluff residents are welcome to attend. If you have questions please email [Karin@DaytonsBluff.org](mailto:Karin@DaytonsBluff.org) or call Karin at 651-772-2075.

## Meet with the police

On **Friday, August 15** the Eastern District Police will host their monthly meeting for community members. The meeting is intended as a time to listen to and address people's concerns about crime and other issues on the East Side.

The community meetings are held at the Eastern District police office at 722 Payne on the corner of Payne and Minnehaha Avenues on the third Friday of each month at 9:30 a.m.

## Take a Hike

**There will be no hikes in August or September.** The next hike is Saturday, October 4th Dayton's Bluff Take a Hike occurs on the first Saturday of most months. We meet at 10:30 a.m. in Indian Mounds Park at Earl St. and Mounds Blvd. We'll hike from Mounds Park to the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary and then walk along the Bruce Vento Recreational Trail through Swede Hollow Park. Along the way we will share stories and learn some history of the area. The hike is about four miles long with some moderately rough terrain. Transportation will be available to return to Mounds Park, or you may hike back.

Join us and explore some of our parks and the regional trail. For more information contact Karin at 651-772-2075 or [Karin@DaytonsBluff.org](mailto:Karin@DaytonsBluff.org).

## Volunteers needed to help the elderly

Little Brothers Friends of the Elderly need volunteers to connect with elders in Saint Paul/Minneapolis. We have a variety of volunteer opportunities.

We need visiting volunteers to make a visit to an elder's home twice a month. The elders we serve are isolated and alone.

If you are interested please visit [www.littlebrothersmn.org](http://www.littlebrothersmn.org), email [lmineau@littlebrothersmn.org](mailto:lmineau@littlebrothersmn.org), or call 612-746-0753.

## Margaret Rec Center Flower Project



Members of the Margaret Rec Center Block Club standing near the beautiful pansies donated to the block club by the Saint Paul Hotel. This is the second year of the block club's Pansies Around Margaret Rec Center Project. With the help of dozens of neighborhood volunteers (including some of the Bluff's youngest gardeners), hundreds of pansies were planted in just a few hours. Left to right top row Tim Herman, Jennifer Newton, and Bethany Herman. First row Jennifer Herman and Chris Newton.

## 4th & Bates garden tour on August 26th

The neighborhood around East 4<sup>th</sup> and Bates has been busy putting in boulevard gardens and hanging baskets. Neighborhood children have been helping with planting, yard work and looking for more jobs. Sage Holben stated, "Putting flowers on the boulevard has been instrumental in more neighbors getting to know each other." She went on to say, "The flowers and the act of sharing them have also changed attitudes of people on the block and neighboring streets."

The garden tour of their area is **Tuesday, August 26<sup>th</sup> starting at Bates and East 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.**

To register, call 651-772-2075 or email [Karin@DaytonsBluff.org](mailto:Karin@DaytonsBluff.org).

## Dayton's Bluff Curb Appeal on HGTV

The Shannon and James Ritchey home at 699 Frank Street will be featured on the HGTV Curb Appeal show. The first airing will be **August 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. CDT**. Last year we had a couple of photos in the Dayton's Bluff District Forum about HGTV Curb Appeal work with the Ritchey's on their property. Their home was also on the Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Home Tour this past spring.

## Greening Dayton's Bluff volunteers needed

Volunteers are needed to help with weeding and upkeep of a number of gardens in Dayton's Bluff parks. Some of the parks that could use your help include, Hamm Park, Swede Hollow Park, Bruce Vento, and Mounds Park. If you are able to help, email [Karin@DaytonsBluff.org](mailto:Karin@DaytonsBluff.org) or call 651-772-2075.

## Our Saviour's Lutheran annual block party

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church is holding their third annual block party **Saturday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>**. At 7:00 p.m. there will be a free community giveaway of gently used clothes and non-electric household goods. There will also be a moonwalk for young children to play in. Refreshments including hot dogs, snow cones and popcorn will be served at 8:00 p.m. The evening concludes with a fireworks show at 9:15 p.m. Bring your favorite lawn chair for some old-fashioned neighborhood fun. The block party will be held on Beech Street in the church parking lot and playground area. Our Saviour's is located at 674 Johnson Pkwy, one block south of Minnehaha.

## Stolen Flowering Pot

Each year the Dayton's Bluff Community Council places 25 large flowering pots outside of Dayton's Bluff businesses to help improve the streetscape and gives the businesses community a pleasant feel.

On the morning of June 22 a man in his 40's or 50's driving a goldish colored Saturn SUV stopped in front of Leo's Chow Mien at Earl and Hudson, dumped out the soil from the 30" flowering pot, put the pot in his vehicle, and drove off. A short time later he came back with grocery bags and a shovel and put the soil in the bags, put them in his vehicle and drove off again. This was reported to a local merchant, who let the Dayton's Bluff Community Council know about the theft.

The Community Council is asking for your help in finding stolen flowerpot and the man who took it. Please email [Karin@DaytonsBluff.org](mailto:Karin@DaytonsBluff.org) or call 651-772-2075 with information on this crime.

## Microentrepreneur Class in Sept.

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](mailto:Karin@DaytonsBluff.org) for an application.

## Block club meetings

\*Wilson Avenue Block Club meets on the second Wednesday of each month at Mounds Park United Methodist Church, at Earl and Euclid, at 6:30 p.m.

\*Beech/Margaret Block Club meets on the last Tuesday of each month at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, at Margaret and Forest, at 7:00 p.m.

\*Margaret Rec Center Block Club meets on the second Thursday of each month at the Margaret Rec Center, at Margaret and Frank, at 6:30 p.m.

If you wish to have your block club listed, or need information about starting your own block club, please contact Karin at 651-772-2075 or [Karin@DaytonsBluff.org](mailto:Karin@DaytonsBluff.org).

## Set of 12 Dayton's Bluff postcards

The Dayton's Bluff area has always been picturesque. It has so many scenic views—and now they are available in postcards! There are 12 different scenes, including the Scenic Overlook, the E. 7th St. Improvement Arches, the Stutzman Block and the Indian Mounds.

A set of 12 is \$10—only \$5 for Dayton's Bluff residents. Buy one to keep and one to send. Photography and printing of the postcards was donated by Dayton's Bluff resident Steve Trimble. All proceeds support our local paper, the *Dayton's Bluff District Forum*. Call 651-772-2075 for more information.

**Dayton's Bluff Recycling**  
Every Tuesday. Have your recycling on the curb by 7 a.m.  
Call 651-772-2075 for a bin.

## It's the law! The curfew law, that is!

City of St. Paul Curfew for Juveniles Age 15 or younger: Home by 10 p.m.  
Age 16 – 17: Home by 12 a.m. Midnight  
Saint Paul Police Department  
Juvenile Unit

### 4% and 6.875% Interest Home Improvement Loans

| 4% Interest                             |           | Maximum Loan Amount: \$35,000           |            |            |           |
|---|-----------|---|------------|------------|-----------|
| HOUSEHOLD INCOME LIMITS FOR 4% INTEREST |           |   |            |            |           |
| 1 Person                                | 2 Persons | 3 Persons                               | 4 Persons  | 5 Persons  | 6 Persons |
| \$43,050                                | \$49,200  | \$55,350                                | \$61,500   | \$66,400   | \$71,350  |
| 7 Persons                               | 8 Persons | 9 Persons                               | 10 Persons | 11 Persons |           |
| \$76,250                                | \$81,200  | \$86,100                                | \$91,000   | \$93,100   |           |
| 6.875 % Interest                        |           | Household Income Limits: \$93,100 Gross |            |            |           |
| Maximum Loan Amount: \$35,000           |           |   |            |            |           |

**Eligible Improvements**

- A room addition or a new garage
- Roof replacement, a new paint job, or siding
- Septic system repairs or plumbing
- Accessibility improvements such as bathroom accessibility remodeling or building a ramp
- Furnace/air conditioning installation
- Upgrade or replace electrical wiring
- Energy conservation, including replacing windows and doors or insulating walls or attic space
- Many other repairs and remodeling projects

**Terms and Eligibility:** You can take up to 20 years to repay the loan

**Home Improvement Deferred Payment Loans** (Limited Funds Available)

**Repayment Terms** This loan is secured with a mortgage at zero percent (0%) interest. Loan repayment is deferred until the borrower sells, transfers title, or no longer lives in the property. Depending on funding sources available, the loan may be due in thirty (30) years.

| HOUSEHOLD INCOME LIMITS FOR DEFERRED PAYMENT LOANS |           |           |            |            |            |
|--|-----------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|
| 1 Person   | 2 Persons | 3 Persons | 4 Persons  | 5 Persons  | 6 Persons  |
| \$28,300   | \$32,350  | \$36,400  | \$40,450   | \$43,700   | \$46,900   |
| 7 Persons  | 8 Persons | 9 Persons | 10 Persons | 11 Persons | 12 Persons |
| \$50,150   | \$53,400  | \$56,650  | \$59,850   | \$63,100   | \$66,350   |

**Eligible Improvements** Basic and necessary improvements that directly affect the safety, habitability, energy efficiency, and accessibility of your home. Correction of lead-based paint hazards is required.

**Saint Paul Home Loan Fund**  
Tchu.Yajh@ci.stpaul.mn.us 651-266-6592



## Don't Lose your Home to Foreclosure



**Facing foreclosure** can be a stressful and complicated time.

Contact us today for **FREE** counseling to help you learn about the steps necessary to keep your home.

Stay in your home and remain part of your Saint Paul community!



**CITY OF SAINT PAUL**  
Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention  
25 West Fourth Street, 12th Floor  
Saint Paul, MN 55102  
**651-266-6626**

Para información en español comuníquese con Neighborhood Development Alliance (NeDA) **651-292-0131**



## “Rocky Horror Picture Show” continues at the Mounds Theatre

“The Rocky Horror Picture Show” continues its run at the Mounds Theatre this summer. This is the original 1975 motion picture accompanied by live performances and audience participation.

The scheduled dates are the first, third and fifth Saturdays of the month from June through September. Upcoming dates are **August 2, 16, & 30, and September 6 & 20**. All shows begin at 11:00 p.m. Ticket price is \$7.00.

RHPS is the original audience participation experience. A live performance of RHPS is a unique multi-media event where you, the audience, are part of the show. A “shadow” cast made up of members from Transvestite Soup will attempt to recreate as accurately as possible what you see on screen, while leaving room for amusing improv. The audience will yell their own dialogue back at the screen and at live actors (some traditional, some spontaneous). Audience members often dress in appropriate fashion at these shows.

For more information or to purchase tickets online for “The Rocky Horror Picture Show”, go to [www.MoundsTheatre.org](http://www.MoundsTheatre.org). Tickets may also be purchased at the door, or by calling 651-772-2253. The Mounds Theatre is located at 1029 Hudson Road, St. Paul, MN 55106.

## Friends of Swede Hollow will “Watch the Glow”

The Fourth Annual “Watch the Glow of the Setting Sun on the Red Brick Brewery” will be on **Friday, September 29, 2008** this year. It is one of the events FOSH hosts each year. People start gathering around 6:00 p.m. at Swede Hollow Henge near the Drewey Lane tunnel in Swede Hollow Park. While waiting for the glow some folks walk around Swede Hollow or swap Swede Hollow and Hamm Brewery stories. Then suddenly the glow on the red brick buildings brightly shines as the sun sets.

After sunset the evening picnic and socializing begins. Former Hamm’s employees have shared stories about the brewery and working there. A former Swede Hollow resident entertains everyone with Italian music and memories of living in the Hollow. Everyone is welcome. Please bring some picnic items to share. For more information or to RSVP call 651-776-0550.

## Signs that it’s not politics as usual

By erin sobaski

It’s an election year, and that means you can’t go a block without seeing a political lawn sign. Typically they are for candidates simply trying to get name recognition. But a new project, My Yard Our Message, is putting a creative spin on political lawn signs and Dayton’s Bluff will be part of it.

My Yard Our Message has solicited designs from artists nationwide for signs relating to the theme of “actively participating in a democracy.” (Signs must be non-partisan, i.e., not promoting a specific political party or candidate.) The submissions—close to 300—were shown on MyYardOurMessage.com during July. In true democratic fashion, people cast their vote to determine a selection of 50 winners, which were announced August 1. Now these 50 designs are being turned into full-sized political lawn signs.

As part of the project, winning yard sign creations will be placed in neighborhoods throughout the Twin Cities, including those immediately surround-

ing the site of the Republican National Convention in St. Paul. Dayton’s Bluff has been selected as one of these gallery neighborhoods. The West Side neighborhood has also been designated.

In addition, anyone can purchase a yard sign at MyYardOurMessage.com for \$20, including shipping. Top designs will also be available for free as PDF files.

My Yard Our Message, a project conceived by Scott Sayre, is produced by the Walker Art Center and [martists.org](http://martists.org) in collaboration with The UnConvention.

Signs will be available for Dayton’s Bluff residents by the end of August. If you are interested in having one of these 50 award-winning signs in your yard, please contact erin sobaski at [erin@daytonsbuff.com](mailto:erin@daytonsbuff.com) for more information.

### To paint or not to paint, and which paint?

Are you wondering what outside coat you should use? No, we’re not talking parkas. We’re talking exterior paint for your house. The choices can be overwhelming. This Old House.com has some tips on finding the right paint for your house and your budget. The article “Picking House Paint” will give you advice from independent researchers and industry experts on subjects such as what makes a quality exterior paint, the all-important prepping process, and the aesthetic science of choosing colors. To access this article, go to <http://www.thisoldhouse.com/toh/article/0,,219538,00.html>

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# Hunting historic homes: A short walking tour of the Lower Bluff

By Steve Trimble

Housing! There has been a lot of talk recently about the problems people are having with mortgage payments and the drop in the market value of many homes. Like other communities, we have been hit by foreclosures and there are literally hundreds of empty residences on the East Side. The Dayton's Bluff Community Council even had a "Vacant House Tour" to try to help find folks willing to become new owners.

So it seemed like a good time to write an article that would look at some of the historic homes in our neighborhood. I've narrowed the choices down to the Lower Bluff—at least for this issue—so you could easily follow the route. I also tried to give a diversity of the kinds of local history different houses demonstrated.

It might also be a splendid opportunity to get out of the house and take a look at some of them in an informal walking or bike tour. You could even take it in your car if you can afford the gasoline. Take your cameras along and if you see an interesting shot along the way, whether it's a house, a garden or anything of interest, send it in to the *Forum* and it may get printed.

*[Start at Upper Swede Hollow Park, Greenbrier and Margaret]*

## Hamm Family Houses: 668-680 Greenbrier

668 N. Greenbrier was the home of William and Marie Hamm, constructed in 1892 for the newlyweds by the brewing founder Theodore Hamm. It is a large, wide home built in what is called a "neoclassical style." William was the owner and president of Hamm's Brewer from 1903 until 1931. It was designed by prominent architect Allen H. Stem.

The two houses to its left were built for two of the daughters of Theodore Hamm. 672 Greenbrier was the home of Otto and Maria Hamm Mueller. This Queen Anne style structure was designed by German-American architect August Gauger. 680 Greenbrier, built in 1891 and also designed by Gauger, was the home of Peter and his wife Emma Hamm Classen, who operated a well-known "fancy goods" shop in downtown.

*[Head east down Margaret Street a few hundred feet]*

## The Defiel House: 732 Margaret

A month after his March 1890 wedding, Henry Defiel bought two lots in Dayton's Bluff for this brick Queen Anne style house, designed by architect Herman Kretz. He was the son of a pioneer iceman, Michael Defiel, who was born in St Paul in 1864. At age 21, Henry went into business with his father in the People's Ice Company. As you probably know, this was an important endeavor since, before electricity, people kept food cold inside "iceboxes."

In 1912, however, Defiel left the ice business and went into real estate, which he did until retiring in 1923. He and his wife spent their winters in the he south. In 1924 the Defiel's left to go to a smaller duplex on Summit Avenue. The president of a real estate company then resided there for a decade. In 1950 Edward Balzart, a laborer with 3M, lived there for twenty years and after that there was the principal of the nearby St John's School.

Architectural historians have called the Defiel House, with its octagonal tower, dormers and bay windows, "one of the most ornate brick Victorian homes on Dayton's Bluff."

*[Continue east on Margaret St. to Hope St. Then take a right. Go south on Hope, across Seventh to Sixth. Go right on Sixth.]*

## The Walter House: 770 E. 6th

Walter was born in Germany and came to the U.S. in 1871 and a year later married Rose Guthunz, an American-born woman. He had an upholstery shop on East Seventh in Loventown. They initially lived above their shop, but with the birth of two children they were crowded, and they purchased a lot from Maria Dayton in 1880. It was one of the last on the block and they borrowed money from a building association to construct it. Walter

continued his upholstery business and added painting and wallpapering. Their third child, a daughter, was born in 1887. She lived in the house until the late 1960's. She rented rooms to boarders, often people working at St. John's Hospital. It is considered an Eastlake style structure because of the heavy ornamentation on the porch and eaves.

## "Keller's Row" House: 767 E. 6th

In 1889 the Keller family had the eight homes, now known as Keller's Row, built on East 6th St. just east of Eichenwald. All eight homes were designed by Architect Edwin Radcliffe and share a number of design features, stained glass and beautiful woodwork. Building a small number of "spec" or speculative homes on extra land and then selling them was a fairly common practice at the time. One of the more famous residents of Keller's Row was Gebhard Bohn, owner of the Bohn Manufacturing Company, which later evolved into Whirlpool. These houses were built on land that had been part of the grounds of John M. Keller's family mansion which was built at 394 Eichenwald in 1874. It has since been replaced by an apartment building. Keller named his home and the street in front Eichenwald, a German word meaning Oak Forest, as a reminder of his home in Germany which it seems was also named Eichenwald.

Keller was a master carpenter and owned his own lumber business. John's son, Herbert P. Keller, was mayor of St. Paul from 1910 to 1914. Keller Lake and Keller Golf Course was named in his honor. This particular home was featured on the 1999 Dayton's Bluff House Tour

## Eichenwald Row: 393-399 Eichenwald Street

Across the street from Keller's old house site is one of the few row houses in Dayton's Bluff. They were built around 1892. By the early 1890's, all of the dramatic sites facing the city had been taken, and builders turned their attention to open lots in the vicinity of the mansions to build their upscale projects. Architectural historians consider "Eichenwald Row" among the most elaborate of what they call "serial housing" ventures in the Dayton's Bluff area.

Created by the local master builder Andrew Hoban, it demonstrated nearly every phase of the Queen Anne style of architecture, from the English Tudor of the gable facings, to the Early American of the porch columns, to the Richardsonian Romanesque of the broad-arched stone and brickwork. 399 Eichenwald Street is a 1763 square foot unit and it is mentioned in particular, since I once lived there with my family.

## Koenig House: 757 E. 6th

Arthur and Elsa Koenig left Austria and came to St Paul in 1873. He worked for a few different businesses for a time and then gained business prominence in the community when he became the resident agent for the Phillip Best Brewing Company of Milwaukee. In May 1879 the couple bought three lots from Annice Keller who was subdividing the family land. When Arthur got transferred out of town in 1884, they sold the house to the Best Company for \$9,000.

The Osgoods bought the house after renting it for four years. Benjamin Osgood was president of Osgood and Blodgett, a large box manufacturing company and lumber and planing mill located in Dayton's Bluff. The factory for the manufacture of packages, boxes, egg cartons, etc. was located on Duluth avenue near Seventh Street. The family lived there until 1915 when Benjamin Osgood died.

*[Stay on East Sixth and go down the hill to Maple St. and take a left]*

## The Buchholtz House: 758 E. 6th

This structure on the south side of the street is a good example of the small workers cottages that dotted the bluff in the 1870's and 1880's. This is one of two built by Henry Buchholtz for himself and his son Andrew. He came to St. Paul in 1870's and worked as a hostler. Both he and his son switched jobs in 1882 and began to work as laborers for Bohn and Company, a large woodworking and lumber business in the area. Henry left the city by 1885 and the house began being offered as rental property. The Bruhels, family bar owners, owned it for forty-five years.

## The John House: 373 Maple

Original owner Peter John started as a pioneer grocery and saloon owner in the 1880's in a store located on Payne Avenue, although he lived in Dayton's Bluff. He moved his business to 819 Minnehaha in 1891. Then his fortunes changed—more or less literally—when he married Louisa Hamm, one of Theodore's four daughters. In 1896 he became a foreman for the Hamms Brewery.

This Georgian Revival style home with its symmetry, Ionic columns and wrap-around porch was designed by Buechner and Orth in 1906. They were a prominent firm that had been in business together since 1901. They designed the Masonic Temple as well as the Mounds Park Sanitarium. John died on November 16, 1911 at the age of fifty-seven. The house remained in the family until the 1980's. It still has its original large carriage house, which has been remodeled as living quarters,

*[Keep going down Sixth till you reach Bates and take a left. You will then continue for a few blocks]*

## The Bahneman House: 355 Bates

Built in 1924, this house is a fine example of Prairie style architecture as applied to a small residence. Inspired by the ideas of Frank Lloyd Wright, Prairie Style features a horizontal look, using bands of wood to make it seem that the house is hugging the ground.

At the time of the construction, John Bahneman was manager of the Ideal Home Company. The structure was built with standardized plans bought from the Snell Sash and Door Company. In 1933 he became a real estate broker and two years later sold the house and took a job as a clerk, possibly because of a business failure.

In 1942 the house was bought by Lewis Maurer, secretary and treasurer of the Mother's Friend Laundry. He changed it into a duplex. He sold the property at the end of World War Two and its ownership has changed often since then.

## Max and Amelia Toltz House: 352 Bates Avenue

Built around 1902, this Tudor Revival/Craftsman style structure was probably designed by Max Toltz, its first owner. He was a founder of an engineering and architectural firm, Toltz, King, Duvall, & Anderson, that is still in business today.

Toltz was born in Germany, and received a degree in civil engineering from the Royal Academy of Science and Engineering in Berlin in 1877. He arrived in St. Paul in 1882, and worked as a draftsman for the St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba Railroad and advanced to chief engineer of the railroad in 1910.

Toltz formed his own company that designed, among other things, the Como Park Conservatory, the Robert Street Bridge, the St. Paul Union Depot, the new Third Street Bridge, the downtown Hamm Building and the famed Stone Arch Bridge in Minneapolis.

This is the largest and finest Craftsman style house in the district, combining a high brownstone foundation, a shingled second story, and large-scale bracket work and porch arches in a Tudor vein. It has a shingled carriage house that still has its decorative cupola.

Local lore says that one of the Toltz children died in the home and he and his wife decided they couldn't bear to live there any more. This story has not yet been confirmed by research. For whatever reason, they left only a year or two after it was built and Dr. George A. Binder lived there from 1904 to 1920.

## Plondke House: 705 East 4th

Dr. Plondke is considered the person most responsible for the creation of St. John's Hospital and a long time physician who practiced there. He was earlier associated with a downtown institution, but felt there was a need for a community-based hospital on the East Side. He approached a group of business people, pastors and members of the Lutheran churches. It became St. John's German Lutheran Hospital, located where Metropolitan State University now sits. Plondke lived in this house for many years. It has a very interesting carriage house.

*[Cross 3rd Street and go to Conway Street]*

## July 4th "Noble Riot": 717 Conway Street:

On July 4, 1892, Percival Noble, an Englishman who lived at 258 Bates, decided to fly a British flag. John DeCourcy of 717 Conway ran across the Van Buren schoolyard to protest, pulled the flag down, folded it and handed it to its owner. As soon as DeCourcy left, Noble set the Union Jack up again, this time cutting the rope, according to a story written by the late Pioneer Press columnist Gareth Hiebert.

DeCourcy returned and began climbing the pole. Noble attacked him with a horsewhip. Then a man named Jack Morris, headwaiter of the Ryan hotel, and resident of 705 Conway, arrived on the scene. He punched Noble, allowing DeCourcy to grab the whip himself and start flailing. Noble retreated into his house. Other neighbors arrived and tore pieces off the house's front porch.

A police squad came on horseback and hauled everyone back to the nearby Margaret Street Station. The patriots wanted Noble arrested for defaming the Fourth of July. Soon after the incident, Noble and his family packed up and moved to Winnipeg.

*[Take a right on Conway and go west down the hill.]*

## Warren Burger House: 695 Conway Street

This 1 3/4 story, 1092 square foot cottage was the boyhood and young adult home of former United States Supreme Court Chief Justice Warren Burger from 1914 to 1933. The German-Swiss family's financial circumstances were modest. His father later worked as a railway cargo inspector and sometime traveling salesman.

Burger attended Van Buren School (now Dayton's Bluff Elementary) and graduated from Johnson High School in 1925, where he edited the school newspaper, was president of the student council and earned letters in athletics. He worked days as an insurance salesman while earning his undergraduate degree at the University of Minnesota at night and later a law degree—also at night—at the St. Paul College of Law (today's William Mitchell Law School). He joined the local law firm of Boyeson, Otis, Brill & Faricy in St. Paul in 1931, becoming a partner in 1933.

In 1969, President Richard Nixon selected him to be chief justice of the Supreme Court. In 1987, he resigned from the Supreme Court to devote his time and energy to serving as chairman of the Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution. He was a very competent administrator who made the Court's work more efficient and was also a tireless promoter of judicial reform, including promoting a national court of appeals and working to increase the competence of lawyers trying cases in federal courts.

Incidentally, don't believe everything you read on the Internet. Placeography—an online resource for local neighborhood history—incorrectly states the Burger house was built in 1884. However, I happen to have a document that says it was originally the small McLean School and that the family bought, remodeled and added to it—most likely in 1884, which would explain the putting forth of the incorrect information.

*[Take a right on Maria and head north. Go to East 4th Street. Take a left and go to the end of the cul-de-sac.]*

## "That Was Then House": 654 E. 4th

Here is a house that is not of any unique architectural construction. It is a four square—a square footprint with four rooms on each floor a popular style when it was built by Julia Knauff in 1908. But it does have a recent interesting history.

In the mid-1980's Hollywood came to St. Paul to make a movie called "That Was Then, This Is Now." Released in the fall of 1985, it is the story of two juvenile delinquents slowly parting ways as one starts to give up his reckless ways. Sounds like it was appropriate to use our neighborhood as the setting. A young Emilio Estevez and veteran Morgan Freeman are two of the main characters.

This house was used as the home of Estevez and his buddy. There are many scenes shot in Dayton's Bluff and other places in St. Paul. It might be fun for you to rent a video or DVD

*"Tour" continued on page 5*

Continued from page 5

## “Tour”

of the movie and see how many places you recognize. It's really a pretty good movie.

[Go right-north-on the sidewalk for a hundred feet or so]

### Muench-Hinrichs House: 334 Mounds Boulevard

The big white house with pillars in front of you was built by Gustav Muench (sometimes spelled Munch) around 1869. It was part of a large estate on what was then called Dayton Avenue, named for pioneer developer Lyman Dayton. The street name was changed to Hoffman Avenue and later to Mounds Boulevard. Gustav was an important part of the early German community of Dayton's Bluff and many of his relatives lived nearby. The Hinrichs family moved into the house after the Muench bunch left.

When Lyman Dayton died he was buried at the front of the bluff between Fifth and Sixth Streets so when this Italianate estate was erected on the crest of the bluff, Dayton's remains were moved to Oakland Cemetery. The southern plantation-style pillars were not originally part of the house, but are thought to have been added when the structure was an antique shop and someone thought it made it seem more interesting.

[Keep going north on the sidewalk until you reach East Fifth Street]

### Adolph Munch House: 653 E 5th

This is one of the most well known structures in this community. Perched on the edge of the bluff, it used to overlook Phalen Creek and a landscape that descended down toward the Mississippi River. Built in 1884, it is a fine example of what is known as the Queen Anne architectural style

Adolph Munch, a close relative of Gustav, was a prominent member of the German-American community, and publisher of a German-language daily newspaper, the *Volkszeitung*.

An earlier family home on the site burned down on January 5, 1884, so talented local architect Emil Ulrici was hired to design this elegant structure. It was completed in the fall of that year. It is non-symmetrical in construction, with towers, fancy gables, lath-turned railing balconies and a traditional tower.

By 1901 both Adolph and his wife had died and the house was offered for sale in the papers but it went unsold. Several years later, it was converted into duplex rental property. It was put on the National Register of Historic Places in 1977, one of only three Dayton's Bluff properties to be so honored.

[Take a right on East Fifth Street]

### John Seeger Houses: 657 & 661-663 E. 5th Street

Seeger built 657 E, 5th St in 1895 for himself and his wife. The residences at 661-663, often referred to as “the Seeger Flats” were built in 1904 in what could be called “Late Queen Anne” in style. It was originally a double house, built for his two daughters.

John A. Seeger was a long time local businessman and St. Paul civic leader who was widely known for his pioneering efforts in refrigeration. His company, Seeger Refrigeration on Arcade and Wells, was one of the largest employers in Dayton's Bluff. The company later merged with Whirlpool which eventually shut down production.

[Continue east on 5th. Take a left on Maria, go until 6th Street]

### Schoch Building: 374 Maria

While this structure is certainly not a traditional house, it was at one time the home of a prominent neighborhood resident. It was probably built in 1885 and designed by August Gauger, who as you have seen, was a popular choice of the local German community. Of course, today this red brick building is home of the “Strip Joint,” a highly touted restaurant.

Andrew Schoch and his wife lived in one of the apartments above the store that they probably ran in the early years.

They later built a splendid home on the bluff along Mounds Boulevard in 1894, which

among others may be mentioned as the residence of Andrew Schoch, “the popular merchant on Maria Avenue.” While he obviously had a business in our neighborhood, Schoch was most well known for a huge grocery store at Seventh and Broadway on the eastern edge of downtown.

[Go right, up the hill on 6th Street until you reach Maple. Then take a left]

### Catherine Piccolo House: 397 Maple

Catherine Filippi Piccolo grew up in a small town in northern Minnesota in a mining family. By the time she was in her twenties, she was playing a key role in the development of the atomic bomb — first as a member of a team of WACs that handled the classified material for the Manhattan Project, and later as the officer in charge.

After graduating from high school, she attended Hibbing Junior College for a year-and-a-half before dropping out after her mother had a stroke so she could care of her four brothers.

When America entered World War II, she volunteered for the Women's Army Corps and after basic training her job was to take charge of a WAC contingent that had the job of handling, processing and destroying many top secret documents that were flooding in from the various sites around the country that were working on splitting the atom.

Piccolo quickly advanced through the ranks, was sent to Officer's Candidate School and by Feb. 17, 1945, she was commissioned a second lieutenant. By the time she left the service in 1950, she was a captain. After leaving the service, Piccolo married and moved to St. Paul, where she worked for several companies including two stints with 3M. Piccolo also became very involved in church and civic matters, was elected to the St. Paul School Board for two terms and served on the St. Paul Planning Commission. Piccolo is one of the few women buried in the Veterans Cemetery at Ft. Snelling.

[Go north on Maple. Go across East 7th and take the sidewalk that runs through Hamm's Park which will return you to Upper Swede Hollow Park]

Hope you enjoyed the tour. Did we leave anything out that should have been included? Be sure to write us if you have any suggestions or questions. I think there will probably be a couple of more house history tours in future issues that will take you to other parts of Dayton's Bluff if you think that sounds like a good idea.

## A letter to the Council president

This is in response to the letter by James Richards to the Council president in the July '08 *Dayton's Bluff District Forum*:

In general, your comments tend to be contradictory. First, you express that you “found a love for the architecture and character of homes in Dayton's Bluff,” then you explain residents must be allowed to change the architecture at their whim; you cannot have it both ways. Moreover, the most confusing part is if you *love* Dayton's Bluff so well, why do you choose not to live in the area? To me you *do* sound like a disgruntled landlord because of being unable to fix-up your properties for as cheaply as possible and being unable to influence your neighbors to properly maintain their properties as well as you. Your two investment properties in Dayton's Bluff do have a nice exterior. I also manage properties in St. Paul so I do understand the need to keep properties well maintained; this is a requirement of this business you chose, so *Buck up*.

There are grants and low interest loans available to lower and fixed income homeowners from non-profit and private organizations. The elderly and disabled can even have their peeling paint remedied by *Hearts and Hammers* for free. Yes, there are affordable ways to keep a home maintained and historically correct.

In fact, I am restoring my home in Dayton's Bluff, it is not too pricy if I do the majority of the labor but can be time consuming. Nevertheless, it is worth the effort because new construction cannot match the character, structural strength, or quality. The old redwood framing will support this old home for generations to come and long after a new house across town succumbs to dry rot and gravity.

Additionally, with being a resident of Dayton's Bluff, I am supportive of regular “sweeps” and restrictions to preserve the historical distinctiveness of this area. There are not many neighborhoods left like this. I would anticipate you would also appreciate this to preserve the neighborhood and your properties' value's being you have “invested thousands of dollars and even more hours” into Dayton's Bluff. However, I agree that the historical architectural requirements are not consistent with all owners/properties and I have butted heads with the HPC and Amy to no avail. We all must endeavor to rectify this issue.

Yes, there are many vacant homes in Dayton's Bluff but the majority of the “walk-aways” are not because of costly repairs, they are because of receiving a temporarily affordable ARM mortgage loan and personally

not following through with what was required to move into an affordable *fixed* mortgage loan. I speak of this from experience. I am a residential and commercial banker/broker. My associates and I have assisted many in realizing their dream of homeownership when no other lender could. We counseled and explained how the ARM is a “stepping-stone” and what is necessary to repair their credit. Then after the credit repair work was completed, they would move into an affordable fixed loan. THIS *does* work. The borrowers that *chose* not to do the required work are the ones unable to qualify for a new affordable fixed loan and have *chosen* to walk away.

Now, because of the number of secondary market owned properties and depressed values, banks/investors want to get these houses off the books fast and are willing to sell for pennies on the dollar. Restoring these properties to their *original* glory (a renovated *new-like* house is not what buyers are looking for in Dayton's Bluff) and holding for a few years for the market to rebound then reselling to buyers that want a “*painted lady*” would be great for this area and *very* profitable for investors. This IS the time for investors to *buy*, not the time to back-off; the profit potential is huge! Suggesting this point as your “opinion” to potential buyers/investors would be beneficial for all involved, not “steering” buyers to Dayton's Bluff. “Steering” is an illegal practice for real estate agents and can be license revoking; I would hope and assume that you just misspoke.

I do understand there is a transition phase and, for an investor to be successful, there will need to be an interim period whereas the house is rented waiting for value to rebound before it is profitable to resell. Be that as it may, all residents of Dayton's Bluff will always require accountability of investors' for their properties and renters. And, why not, we have to live here. Dayton's Bluff residents will not put up with an absentee landlord and will remain vigilant. It will be insisted of the city to hound even the most minor of infractions, although, an investor willing to do the right thing can be very successful in Dayton's Bluff.

Finally, yes, the property taxes in St. Paul are excessive, beginning to boarder on *oppressive*. The tax-assessed valuations now exceed actual appraised property values and tax collection is at record levels but, even with the coffers overflowing, the city (Coleman) has little to show for it. However, this is a related topic best left for a separate discussion. Thank you.

Dale Treichel  
Sr. Mortgage Banker

## Youth and community come together this summer to help our neighborhood

By erin sobaski

Look around your neighborhood in August and September. You may notice cleaner blocks, kids and adults working together, and lawn signs promoting a clean and safe neighborhood. This is the result of an initiative between the Dayton's Bluff Community Council, and the Margaret and Dayton's Bluff Recreation Centers. In June the Council was awarded a grant from the City of St. Paul to implement a Summer Youth Program (SYP) designed to improve community engagement and support among residents and businesses, as well as less visible crime, littering and graffiti.

The Summer Youth Program goals include: 1) Developing youth leadership and civic engagement skills; 2) Amplifying the “voice” of neighborhood residents; and 3) Building cross-cultural and cross-generational relationships. Concentrated effort

SYP targets 15 city blocks in Dayton's Bluff, drawn from the vicinity of the two participating recreation centers. Each targeted block will be cleaned up on both sides of the block and for both sides of each block in each direction (a total of seven blocks). Clean-up will be done by youth and local residents/block clubs, and will include streets, curbs, boule-

wards and in some cases front yards. A flyer will be distributed to impact areas one week before the scheduled clean-up date to advise residents and encourage them to turn out and help with the activity.

To further continual awareness of keeping our neighborhood clean and safe, a series of signs will be placed on the targeted blocks. (We are currently looking for residents who are willing to place a sign on their property.) The lawn signs include three sets, with three signs per set, viewed as a progressive billboard. Teens from both rec centers gave input on sign ideas. Final sign series are:

- \* No Trash / No Tagging / No Trash-Talking
- \* Don't drop it / Find a trashcan / Use it
- \* Be productive / Be polite / Be peaceful

A key piece of SYP is obviously youth participation. In addition to a minimum of 40 youth being involved, each rec center will identify a Youth Service Support Worker (older youth) to recruit, orient and lead groups of kids on the community improvement projects.

If you know a youth who would be interested in participating in the program, please contact the closest rec center (Dayton's Bluff, 651-793-3885; Margaret, 651-298-5719). For more information on the Summer Youth Program, or to volunteer to have a sign placed in your yard, contact Karin DuPaul at 651-772-2075 or karin@daytonsbuff.org

## Block Club Leader Summit Meeting

Our special guest speaker was Larry Simpson, leader of Grid 34, in Payne Phalen District 5. Larry talked about how his group is making their neighborhood a better place to live. Some of the things Larry's group have done include forming a group that regularly walks the neighborhood, helping out at the Arlington Hills Library, working with neighborhood young people, and purchasing on old squad car for neighborhood patrol. The car is painted white with “Community Watch” in large letters on the side and near the back it says “Grid 34.”

Dayton's Bluff block leaders had a number of questions for Larry and also shared some experiences dealing with graffiti and problem properties. Dayton's Bluff Block Leaders will be meeting quarterly. The next meeting will be **Wednesday, September 17th**. For more information email Karin@Daytonsbuff.org or call Karin at 651-772-2075.

**National Night Out is  
Tuesday August 5, 2008**

# Life on the boulevard, Mounds Boulevard, 1942 to 1950

By Colleen Ashton

The year is 1942, when my mother, Phyllis Anderson, five years old, moved into an Arts and Crafts style bungalow at 188 Mounds Boulevard. My mother drove with her brother Curtis, 8 years old, sister Terry, 6 years old and mother and father, Olive and Lloyd Anderson from Spokane, Washington. They drove in a 1941 Chevy. The purchase price of the house was \$4,000. 'Daddy' was transferred to the Grand Union Tea and Coffee Co. as a new manager. It was located on Fourth Street across from the old auditorium. Phyllis, my mother, recalls playing hide and seek with her sister Terry back in the stockroom "where the air smelled wonderfully of coffee".

In the year 1944, my mother's father died of leukemia. With Lloyd gone my mother's mother, Olive, would have to get a job. She was hired as an "office girl" with the Grand Union (the company that her husband had worked prior to his death). Her mother rented out one of the rooms upstairs to supplement the money earned from her job. Usually it was a recent high school graduate from out of town, and female who soon became an extension of the family. Many families rented out rooms on the bluff during the war years as a means to buy groceries and pay the bills. With her husband gone my mother's mother also had to learn how to drive! Back then there was no test required in order to receive your license. All a person had to do was apply. Olive learned to drive from her neighbor around the corner on Plum Street, Mr. Shefer. She had difficulty getting out of the driveway so the assistant Pastor at her church, Our Saviors Lutheran on Minnehaha and Earl, would stop by prior to Sunday morning services to back the car out of the driveway. (Trust me this is no easy task as the driveway is still very narrow.)

## The Neighborhood

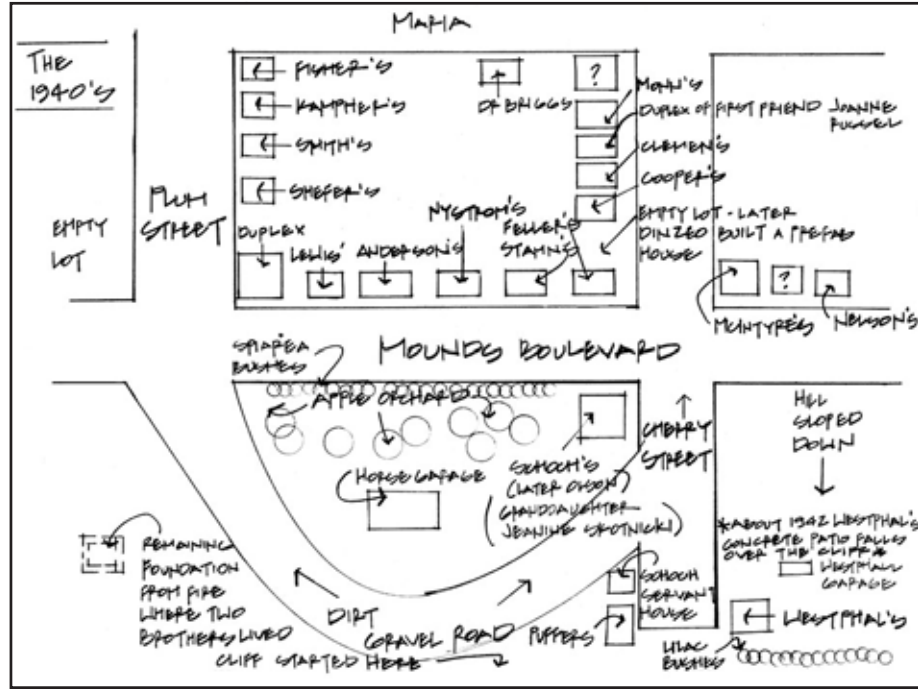
The neighborhood east of Mounds Boulevard has stayed fairly the same but the west side where the park is now located was much different.

There was a house on the corner of Cherry and Mounds Boulevard that had a horse garage and an apple orchard that ran the length of Mounds Boulevard between Plum and Cherry. The original owner of this house also owned the grocery store downtown earlier in the 1900's called Schoch's Grocery. After the Schoch's lived there their niece, Jeanine Skotnicki, joined them during the summer. Later the residence became an apartment house. The next house going down Cherry Street toward the cliffs was originally the Schoch's servant's house later becoming a rented duplex where my mother and aunts' friend Grace Davis lived.

There were also two other houses on the west side of Mounds Boulevard. My mother had friends at both houses which belonged to the Puffer's and the Westphals. Around 1942 the concrete back patio of the Westphal's house fell over the cliff. Phyllis recalls watching the fireworks to celebrated the end of the war while sitting with her legs dangling over the edge of what was left of the Westphal's concrete patio. There are still remnants of the patio at the bottom of the cliff near the sandstone rocks above Carver's Cave.

## School Days

All three girls went to school at Mounds Park on Pacific Street which is now apartments. It was about an eight-block distance. My mother said she used to walk from Mounds Boulevard to Cherry Street to Bates to Mclean and all the way up Mclean to the school. Most of the kids who stayed for lunch were from Highwood



Map drawn by Colleen Ashton  
The neighborhood near Mounds Blvd. between Plum and Cherry Sts. in the 1940's.

(now Woodbury/Battle Creek), which was farm country. They came to school with their lunches wrapped in newspaper. My mother also noted that very few of her grade school teachers were ever married. All single. She remembers them all, Ms Ambler, Ms Engwalson, Ms Horel, Ms Fritz, Ms Alstrom, Ms Boyle, Ms Heim, Ms Serle, and Mrs. Thom (she was tall and thin and her husband was in the Army). Ms. Eng was the principal of the school. She was single too. There were old cane bent chairs outside her office door. If you were sent to Ms. Eng's office you had to sit in one of the chairs until she came to talk to you.

My mother recalls the following poem from grade school. She didn't say why she recalls the poem but this memory came with the memory of Ms. Eng's chairs so I am assuming that they are somehow related. (She says she was never sent there for any disciplining.). Anyhow here's the poem:

The gum chewing girl  
And the cud chewing cow  
Are somewhat alike  
But different somehow.  
And though what is different  
I think I know now  
It's the contented look  
On the face of the cow

Ed Leeson was the orchestra leader, (not a band leader, but orchestra leader). He was not single. He gave lessons on various musical instruments and taught at many other schools. He conducted the orchestra with bow and violin and played too. (We call this multitasking in this day). My mother played the "bells", xylophone, and took clarinet lessons. The orchestra played at the Minnesota State Fair in the Pioneer Portrait Hall every year. They wore hats and capes. A few years ago their picture appeared in this very paper.

My mother also took piano lessons from Ms Brown, who had studied in Germany. She was also single and lived on McLean just west of Earl. The cost of the lessons was 25 cents each. (That would buy you a gumball today).

Mrs. Hersch was my mother's Brownie leader. She had a daughter named Carrollou, who still is a friend of my mothers. They lived on Short St. Mrs. Hersch lived in the house that her grandfather built. Mrs. Booth was a Girl Scout leader who had many pow-wow's in Mounds Park. They would use the fire pits that were in the park near the path that lead down the hill to the old Burlington Railroad Hotel located on Warner Road.

## The Shoe Repair Man

The shoe repair man?! My mother talked of the shoe man like having your shoes

resolved was a common practice back then. (Sort of like going to the dentist I guess). Anyway, she said that they would walk over to Third and Maria where the drugstore was and where the community garden is now. The shoemaker/repairman was actually three doors up from the drugstore. Mom said she couldn't recall the man's name but he was a German man. She said that sometimes they would wait while their shoes were being fixed. Most kids had one pair of shoes called "oxfords" that were brown leather and laced up the front. These shoes were for school and had to last for at least the year. There were also Easter shoes (that were also Christmas shoes) but these shoes were to last as long as they could fit. (This whole business of shoe fixing has me mystified, as my son goes through two or three pairs a year.) No one wore tennis shoes.

My mother added that she got her first pair of jeans when she was in the sixth grade. My grandmother bought them extra large so that she could grow into them. (I wonder if this is the plan of the mothers of boys with the baggy britches these days?)

Along with the shoe man, there was the man who gave haircuts on Bates between Hudson Road and Wilson. Neville's Confection was a few doors down from the barber located on the corner of Wilson and Bates. At Neville's, the owner used to sit in his back room and visit with friends when there were no customers. On the corner of Hudson Road and Bates was Ryan's Bar and next door on Hudson was Hildeman's Grocery, which later became Paul's Cycle Shop. My mother's mother used to buy her groceries at Hildeman's.



Back (l to r): Aunt Gladys, Olive Anderson (Grandma); Second Row: Terry, Phyllis (Mom); Front: Curt and Skippy.

Mrs. Hawkins was the cashier and Frank was the butcher. After Hildeman's closed Frank took a job as butcher at the White Grocery on Maria next to the Deluxe Theater. (I am assuming that Frank must have been one heck of a meat slicer that my grandmother would remember all his whereabouts for employment.)

For eighth grade graduation, Phyllis remembers that she wore a new dress bought at the Three Sisters clothing store in downtown St. Paul on Seventh, up the hill from the Golden Rule Department store and the Emporium. It was made of cotton piqué, a fashionable fabric during 1950-51, and of course she wore "wedgie's" (shoes).

Curt, my uncle, was a paperboy. He used to get his papers at the Earl Street Drugstore on Earl and Hudson. His route went from Earl to Thorn Street to Johnson Parkway. Their cocker spaniel "Skippy" went along. Sometimes Curt would pick up a quart of ice cream from the drugstore or a dozen sweet rolls for 30 cents from Basta's Bakery on Hudson. Basta's later became Heroff's Bakery. Back then the freezers were just a compartment with ice cube trays. The ice cream had to be eaten right away because you could not keep it frozen.

Next to Basta's was Olson's Department Store where you could buy school supplies, material and other miscellaneous merchandise. This is where my mother used to buy her Christmas gifts, birthday gifts, Mother's Day gifts, etc. Upstairs from the department store was my mother's dentist, Dr. Dahlin. The only comment that my mother had about the dentist was that Novocain was only used if requested, as that was an additional expense so she said that she used to grip the arms of the chair instead. (I wonder what the arms of that chair looked like?)

The three siblings, Curt, Terry and Phyllis used to like to play on the cliffs. This was without their mother's permission of course but it was so full of adventure they could not resist. There was also a playground called the Tuxedo playground where the bridge from Kellogg runs over the freeway now. They called it the 'The Tux'. The Tux was a two-story building with a basketball court upstairs and a warming house for ice skating below. The warming house used to be packed during winter ice skating season because it was used by both the Van Buren School and Mounds Park School students. Van Buren School was where Dayton's Bluff school is now located. Van Buren was sort of a rival school of Mounds Park Elementary. Mom says that Van Buren and Mounds Park students were always rivals.

## The weekend

After Saturday chores Curt, Terry and Phyllis would walk down to the library. Phyllis and Terry walked in front of Curt while he had each arm stretched out with his hand on the back of their necks in order to get them to walk faster. He said that kept them at a good pace. Phyllis favored the books about dogs as she always had a dog. My mother and her friends, Judy Miller and Carol Lindeke, walked everywhere they went. Most destinations, stores, libraries and such were all within walking distance. There was a streetcar that ran down Hudson Road to Maria then turned and ran north on Maria to Seventh Street and then on to downtown. This was known as the "Grand Maria" as it continued on to Grand Avenue as it left Seventh Street and Wabasha in front of Walgreen's Drug Store. The streetcar remained in operation until about 1956.

"Boulevard" continued on page 7

## The Regime: Our View

### "Giving Voice to Our Teens"

#### Teen Tips on staying out of trouble

Teens from The Regime and Dayton's Bluff Rec Center, along with teen leader Tiffany, know the importance of staying out of trouble. They've already seen problem incidents this summer. But staying with the program is a continual challenge. Below are some suggestions—**created by teens**—for their peers, to have a safe, fun and productive end of the summer.

1. **Make sure your schedule is full.** Dayton's Bluff has many activities to help you stay focused and consistent. If you are busy for most of the day, you'll become productive. And then you'll be too tired to indulge in negative activities.
2. **Find positive peers.** Don't hang around a group of kids who are not in line with your beliefs and morals. If you start hanging with a new group and notice they do things that can get you into trouble, don't hang with them any more.
3. **Have a good reputation.** Always try to maintain a good reputation. Make good choices.
4. **Respect authority.** No matter what the situation is, always respect program directors, police officers and peace officers.
5. **Avoid gossiping.** Try to keep all information you hear confidential. Never spread rumors or lies about what someone has confided in you.

#### Add your voice. Attend a meeting.

For more information, contact one of the locations below.



Kids, adults and police officers staff the refreshment table at the neighborhood Jr. League BBQ on July 8 at the rec center. More than 200 families enjoyed all the activities!

#### It's tight to write!

Do you want your teen voice heard more clearly? There is a possibility of a **FREE writing workshop** geared specifically for teens. This workshop will give you tips on how to write more clearly, effectively and persuasively—skills that will benefit you throughout your life.

But first, you need to respond! There is a minimum number of teens required in order to put on the workshop. If you would be interested in attending, please call Tiffany at 651-793-3885.

Dayton's Bluff Rec Center • 651-793-3885 | Margaret Rec Center • 651-298-5719 | Arlington Rec Center • 651-298-5701

Continued from page 6

## "Boulevard"

Occasionally, Curt used to perform puppet shows in the basement. The audience ran anywhere from three to six neighborhood children. Curt also had a dark room in the basement where he developed pictures. Along with the paper route, Curt used to earn money by mowing lawns. One of his customers, Mrs. Smith, an elderly widow living on Plum Street wore dark, long dresses with high starched collars and had an African American maid named "Myrtle". Her maid also wore the same attire and had Thursdays off to visit family across town!

Sunday afternoons were spent at the Mounds Theatre on Hudson Road or the Deluxe Theater on Maria between Conway and Third for the 12-cent matinees at 1:30. Gramma always had Sunday dinner after church. Dinner included pie for desert with Whoopee John broadcasting from the Mari-gold Ballroom. Sunday dinner was always eaten between 12 and 1 p.m. The "hobos" knew about her nice Sunday dinners with pie and word spread that she never turned them down although they had to have their dinner on the front porch. They were not allowed in the house. My mother, her sister and brother would sit and listen to their stories. One hobo, who limped, talked about how he froze his feet walking from Fargo, North Dakota. They would come up from the trains by using the wood stairs located at the foot of Plum Street near one of the old beer storage caves. One time my mother's next door neighbor Jimmy Lewis and Jim Radeck discovered one of "America's 10 Most Wanted" was living in that cave and turned them in to the FBI and won a free trip to Washington, DC!

#### Summertime

In the summertime on hot nights my mother remembers sleeping on the front porch and she could hear the calliope on the Avalon paddleboat on its excursion down the Mississippi River. Gramma made Nectar, (not Kool-Aid), that came from the Grand Union, the business that her father had worked for while he was alive. Nectar came as a liquid concentrate in a bottle, which only needed water added to it.

Mom liked swimming. Phalen Lake was a good lake and a close option but unfortunately on one occasion a boy yanked on her bathing suit. After that incident she preferred Tanners Lake. It cost 10 cents to swim at this lake but my mother thought that the price was worth her modesty. Back in the 1940's Tanners Lake was privately owned and segregated.

My grandmother always had a large vegetable garden in the back yard, approximately 30' x 30'. She grew corn, peanuts, beans, onions, tomatoes, and carrots. She sold the back parcel where the garden was originally located in the 70's. She had sold it to a family that lived in an adjacent property on Cherry Street. She said that after everything was done, all the legal paperwork and such, her profit was minimal. From that experience she decided not to sell any more land.

After my mother's brother joined the Army in 1951, my grandmother rented his room out to a man by the name of Mr. Joe Kelly. Mr. Kelly lived in that room for about 35 years. He would eat out and use the one bathroom on the main floor. (I remember as a child that Mr. Kelly had the use of the bathroom from 6 to 6:30 p.m. on Saturday evenings. And we were not to go in there at that time.) How the bathroom would smell especially Old Spice-ish after Mr. Kelly had washed. He was always "Mr. Kelly" and lived there until my grandmother passed away.

My mother and her sister were in high school at Harding High School located on Third Street and Earl, which later became Mounds Park Junior High and now is the Mounds Park Four Seasons School. While in high school my mother made some very close friends whom she is still in contact with today. Those stories I'll save for another time in another article.

Today, the home of 188 Mounds Boulevard is on its third generation of family. With all the changes that "progress" has brought, the community is still strong working together.

I feel fortunate to be part of such a wealth of history in Dayton's Bluff, but especially fortunate that we have the dedicated writers who spend many hours putting together the *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* and have kept it in circulation.

## Mortgage incentive programs make buying a home easier

The Saint Paul Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) approved \$625,000 in funding for Reserve Accounts that will be used to leverage private dollars for two new mortgage incentive programs, the Make it Possible Program (MPP) and the Sustainable Home Ownership Program (SHOP). Both programs will help to stabilize targeted Invest Saint Paul neighborhoods by providing current homeowners with the option to refinance out of adjustable rate mortgages and an incentive for people to purchase vacant or foreclosed properties.

The foreclosure crisis has tightened up the mortgage markets and some people who would have normally qualified for 30-year fixed rate mortgages can no longer qualify. The market for private mortgage insurance also is tight, making it more difficult for buyers who are required to purchase private mortgage insurance when securing a mortgage that exceeds 80 percent of the appraised value.

MPP will loan up to \$1.75 million in a second mortgage product provided by the Family Housing Fund (FHF). In order to use these funds for this type of program, a Reserve Account in the amount of \$250,000 is required to cover any possible foreclosures that may occur within the payback period. The Saint Paul HRA Board agreed to provide the necessary funding for this reserve account. Under the MPP, a 3-percent down payment will be required of buyers/borrowers, and buyers/borrowers who qualify for a first mortgage representing 80 percent or less of the appraised value of the property through a private mortgage lender under standard underwriting criteria will be able to receive the difference of up to 20% of the remaining value in a second mortgage loaned at 3.5 percent payable over a 15-year period.

Loans will be made in the name of the Family Housing Fund (FHF) and serviced by Community Reinvestment Fund. Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Housing Services (DBNHS) will be the program administrator and loan originator of the Make it Possible Program. This program can be utilized by existing homeowners to refinance variable rate mortgages into a long-term, fixed-rate mortgage, or for new mortgages for homebuyers.

SHOP is a partnership between the City's Department of Planning and Economic Development (PED) and the Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Housing Services (DBNHS) working together with local lender University Bank and the Family Housing Fund (FHF). This program provides qualified purchasers the option to enter into a Contract for Deed at a rate of 7.5 percent amortized over a 30-year term with a balloon maturity date in three years or when the purchaser secures a fixed mortgage, whichever occurs earlier. A Reserve Account of \$375,000 is required to leverage the \$7.5 million to fund this program.

The Saint Paul HRA Board agreed to provide the necessary funding for this reserve account. The new SHOP pilot will help borrowers develop and maintain sound financial and home ownership practices through their first years as homeowners with assistance from Dayton's Bluff NHS. This program is for homebuyers only.

Both of these programs are a result of a collaborative partnership among St. Paul's PED staff, the Family Housing Fund, Dayton's Bluff NHS, University Bank, and the Community Reinvestment Fund.

For more information contact: Natalie Fedie, City of Saint Paul, Planning & Economic Development, 651-266-6549, natalie.fedie@ci.stpaul.mn.us

## Reading and talking to children

By Mary Ann Cogelow

For many years I have had a poster quoting Ruth Love, one time superintendent of the Chicago Public Schools, which says, "If we could get parents to read to their preschool children fifteen minutes a day, we could revolutionize the schools." I think she's right.

Following the child's interest, Mom and Dad can begin reading to a baby early in the first year of life. (If Dads don't read to kids, little boys may not think that they should be interested in reading or in learning to read.) Initially reading is more talking about pictures and labeling objects than following a printed text. Parents can make it up as they go: "Oh, look! A big red ball." "See the puppy, His name is Rex." "That's a banana. You had a banana for breakfast." Talk about a given page or picture as long as the baby is interested. Move on to another page or change activities when interest wanes. Probably the initial payoff for reading is being held by a much loved person and hearing a beloved voice. Keeping the experience pleasurable is of paramount importance.

Books with clear appealing pictures of familiar objects like *Little Rabbits' First Farm Book* written and illustrated by Alan Baker appeal to the very young reader. Babies are also attracted to pictures of other babies. Another kind of book I encourage "reading" to babies and toddlers is the illustrated lullaby. Singing *Hush Little Baby* illustrated by Alikei was a favorite part of many bedtime reading sessions for my children. Don't limit your reading to board books. Board books are great for "independent" reading when little fingers have not yet become skilled at turning pages, but babies can enjoy many titles not available in board book format, and, beware, some board books have content which is really aimed at the intellectual level of older preschoolers or even elementary age children.

Sometimes as babies grow into toddlers their drive to move takes precedence over their desire to sit on a lap and look at books. This can be frustrating for Mom and Dad, but the parent can read as the toddler moves around the room exploring, crawling, walking, climbing, playing while following the story and coming over to look at the pictures periodically. Indeed, the toddler may be freer to follow the story when she doesn't have to concentrate so hard on keeping her wiggly body still. Parents are sometimes surprised to learn how much of a story their child has absorbed when she seemed not to be paying much if any attention.

As children move into the preschool years books continue to expand their vocabularies and add to their sum of information about the world in which they live. Building vocabular-

ies and knowledge base are both crucial assets in learning to read. Books can also explore issues the child is interested in (horses), worried about (starting school) or confronting in his own life (moving). Hopefully books chosen (some by the kid and some by the parent) should expose the child to many kinds of language - rhyme, repetition, playing with sound, more and less formal language, prose and poetry. The art in kid's books should also be of many styles and techniques. Often a child may be paying more attention to illustration than the parent is and discussion about interplay between the pictures and the words can enrich the experience of reading the story for parent and child. Using the pictures to understand the text is also a skill, which will help the child when he begins to read the words for himself. Children can learn to know their favorite authors by name and recognize the art of their favorite illustrators.

Sometimes as children become able to read independently, parents stop reading to them. This is a mistake for many reasons. Children can understand and benefit from the content of books which are beyond their capacity as independent readers. Continuing to read to children in elementary and even high school years can continue to enrich their knowledge and add to their vocabularies. Moreover, reading to children at all ages is a rich opportunity to enhance the parent-child relationship by enjoying and discussing personal reactions to the facts, ideas, and stories to be found between the covers of a book.

There are so many fabulous titles for children that I could fill an entire article by simply listing titles. Wonderful new children's literature continues to be published faster than I can keep up with it, but continue to read the golden oldies as well - many of the important themes in children's book are timeless as are great children's writers. For help finding wonderful titles for kids, ask a children's librarian for suggestions by age and/or topic. (Remember every child needs to own some books. Book ownership sends a message that books are important and that reading matters. But every child from toddler hood on needs to experience libraries as welcoming places, which provide resources for knowledge and enjoyment.) Consult the *Read-Aloud Handbook* by Jim Trelease or check his website for lists of children's titles for all ages.

Finally, make some books with your kids. They can be as simple or elaborate as you wish. Photographs in an inexpensive album could be a book of "My Family" or "My House." Cut out magazine pictures glued to sheets of thin cardboard could make a homemade board book of a toddler's trip to the zoo or the grocery store. The possibilities are endless. These homemade books can provide enjoyment while they, like any other book, strengthens memory, promote many understandings which support continuing development of literacy skills, expand all kinds of knowledge, and enrich the relationship between Dad and Mom and child.

I hope that aiming for a minimum of fifteen minutes of daily reading and talking about books with your child or children sounds like fun and profit to you. Find or make a book, relax and enjoy!

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