

# Dayton's Bluff DISTRICT FORUM

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## Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Home Tour



## Spring Vacant Home Tour on Sunday May 17

The Dayton's Bluff Vacant Building Committee (DBVBC) has announced the Spring Dayton's Bluff Vacant Home Tour, which will be held on Sunday, May 17. The goal is to showcase some of the vacant homes in our neighborhood and, hopefully, to find buyers for them. Six to eight homes will be featured on the tour.

The DBVBC was formed in 2007 just as the early fallout from the sub prime crisis began to emerge. Initially, the group's goal was to provide neighborhood input on the city's decisions when to (or when not to) demolish vacant properties in the Dayton's Bluff area. The idea was to stop the city from tearing down vacant properties just because they were vacant.

Dayton's Bluff Vacant Home Tour is an alternative to vacant house demolition. Homes of all sizes, some in move-in shape, some in need of a lot of work will be included on the tour. The tour will feature a wide range of these homes and it is an opportunity to see the options available in our neighborhood.

Mark your calendars: The Vacant Home Tour will be on Sunday, May 17. Anyone who would like to help out with the tour or get involved with the Dayton's Bluff Vacant Home Committee is welcome to join. We need your help. Please contact Karin DuPaul, at Karin@daytonsbluff.org or call Karin at 651-772-2075.



Here are some of the homes on the 2009 Dayton's Bluff Home Tour. Top: 660 E. 4th St. Above left: 245 Maria Ave. Above right: 229 Earl St. Below: 771 E. 6th St. Photos by Karin DuPaul

The 2009 Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Home Tour will be held on Saturday, April 25th from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, April 26th from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. It is part of the Minneapolis/Saint Paul Home Tour sponsored by the cities of Minneapolis and Saint Paul. The Home Tour is free of charge and open to the public. The complete listing of all the homes on the tour will be found in the Minneapolis/Saint Paul Home Tour Brochure which can be picked up at the library.

The Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Home Tour features beautiful homes, including 211 Earl Street, 229 Earl Street, 950 Margaret Street, 771 East 6th Street, 660 East 4th Street, and 245 Maria Avenue. Three of the homes are also featured on the Minneapolis/Saint Paul Home Tour. On the days of the tour you can start the tour at any of the homes.

Volunteers are needed to help with the Home Tour. Volunteering consists of greeting people at the door to give out brochures and information about Dayton's Bluff, and helping the homeowners for a few hours either day. If you are interested, please email Karin@DaytonsBluff.org or call Karin at 651-772-2075.

For more information on the Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Home Tour visit www.DaytonsBluff.org and for the Minneapolis/Saint Paul Home Tour visit www.msphometour.com.



## Dayton's Bluff Community Meeting

The next Community Meeting is **Thursday, April 2** 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 of the meeting 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, and/or new ideas for improvement in Dayton's Bluff.

If you can get me the addresses of problems ahead of time I can get them to the police and code enforcement. Then they can bring information about the problems to the meeting. All Dayton's Bluff residents are welcome to attend. If you need more information email [Karin@DaytonsBluff.org](mailto:Karin@DaytonsBluff.org) or call Karin at 651-772-2075.

## Meet with the police

The Eastern District Police host their monthly meetings for community members at 722 Payne on the corner of Payne and Minnehaha Avenues. One is on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. and the other on the third Friday of each month at 9:30 a.m. **In April the meetings are on the 15th and 17th.**

The meetings are intended as a time to listen to and address people's concerns about crime and other issues on the East Side.

## Dayton's Bluff Annual Spring Dinner

The Dayton's Bluff Annual Spring Dinner will be held on **Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>**. It's our neighborhood party that moves from location to location! We are looking for participants including hosts and homes to be our buffet dining sites. Typically, the evening is divided into 3 events: appetizers, desserts, plus one home for the all-participant session that is the finale.

Last year we had about 50 people attend. It's a great way to meet, greet and mingle with your neighbors! Participants should be 21 years old and up and a resident of the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood. Interested? Contact Marjorie Smith, event coordinator, at 651-778-1075.

## Sixth Annual Plant Sale and Exchange

The Sixth Annual Greening Dayton's Bluff Plant Sale and Exchange will be held on **Saturday, May 16, 2009** from 8:00 a.m. to noon at the corner of East 7th Street and Bates in the gardens outside the Swede Hollow Café. Plants for sale will include perennials and annuals.

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

## It's never too cold to Take A Hike



Photo by Angela DuPaul

**March Dayton's Bluff Take a Hike hikers stopping for a photo op at the overlook at Mounds Blvd and Plum. L to R: Sharin Schroeder, LeeAnn Pomrenke, Rich DuPaul, Karin DuPaul, and David Goldsmith.**

Dayton's Bluff Take a Hike occurs on the first Saturday of most months. The next hike is **Saturday, April 4**. 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 to the new East Side Heritage Park. Along the way we will share stories and learn some local 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).

## Bethlehem Lutheran Activities

### Easter Faire

Bethlehem Lutheran Church and JOY Preschool & Child Care is excited to announce that it will hold an Easter Faire once again free of charge on **Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>** from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Children up to 10 years old may participate in Easter activities in the fellowship hall, which includes face painting, dying eggs, playing games, etc. In addition, there will be an Easter egg hunt and door prizes given away. Food and beverages will be provided for all attendees. Come and join us at 655 Forest St.!

### JOY Preschool Summer Program

Bethlehem's JOY Preschool Program for preschool children will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. beginning **Monday, June 1, 2009**. The School Age Program will be held from 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. beginning Monday, June 8, 2009. JOY Preschool

offers both full days and half days. The Child Care program is from 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. For information, call Carol Fink at 651.771.6982 or e-mail Carol at [joypreschool@juno.com](mailto:joypreschool@juno.com)

### Dayton's Bluff Preservation Evening

Have you repaired or restored your home? Redecorated a room? Rebuilt a porch? Or done any other home project? We are asking residents to bring their stories, pictures, picture boards, scrapbooks, etc. on big and little home repair projects to share. For the last six years residents have brought photos, picture boards, and stories about kitchen, bathroom, porch, whole house projects or any other project. Call Karin at 772-2075 or email [Karin@DaytonsBluff.org](mailto:Karin@DaytonsBluff.org) if you have projects you would like to share with others or for more information.

See the May issue of the *Forum* for more information about this event.

## Dayton's Bluff spring business class

The next Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Microentrepreneur Class is starting in **April 2009**. 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 April 2009 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.

\* Lower Dayton's Bluff Block Club Kickball meets on the **second to the last Tuesday** of each month at Dayton's Bluff Rec Center at 800 Conway at 6:30 p.m. Kids and parents are welcome. Kids play, parents talk.

\* 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).

## Get rid of a junk car and help the Community Council

Budget Towing of Minnesota, Minnesota's largest towing company, is owned by Roy Carlson, an active Dayton's Bluff Community Council board member. Budget Towing will remove any junk car or truck—located anywhere in Saint Paul—and dispose of it at no charge to the vehicle owner or the property owner where it is located. The vehicle owner will receive paperwork for a tax donation, and Roy will also make a small donation to the Community Council for each car he tows. Call Karin at 651-772-2075 for details.

### The 5 Wishes

**Dr. Robert Moravec MD**  
will speak on creating a  
*living will*  
**Monday April 20**  
**at 7:00 pm**

No admission charge

**Cerenity Senior Care -  
Marian of Saint Paul**  
200 Earl St.  
St. Paul, MN 55106  
More info: 651 793 2149

### Dayton's Bluff Recycling

Pick-up in our area is every  
**Tuesday**. Please have your  
recycling at the curb by 7am.



Need bins? Stop by the Council office  
at 798 E 7th St or call 651-772-2075.

### Curfew Law

The City of Saint Paul  
enforces the following  
curfew law for youth:



- Age 15 or younger: Home by 10pm
- Age 16-17: Home by 12 midnight

St. Paul Police Department  
Juvenile Unit

# April at the Mounds Theatre

## "The Secret Garden"

The Historic Mounds Theatre is proud to present, live on stage "The Secret Garden", produced by the Portage for Youth, and directed by Jennifer Kudelka

"The Secret Garden" is a wonderful story about a garden that has been locked up for ten years and is discovered by a young girl named Mary Lennox. Mary has come from India, orphaned, spoiled, sickly and determined that she will not like living with her uncle, Mr. Craven. When Mary discovers the garden, she begins caring for it with the aid of her new friend Dickon. The garden and Mary experience a great transformation.

### Play Date and Times

March 27, 28 and April 3, 4, 9, 10, and 11 at 7:00 p.m.  
March 29 and April 5 at 2:00 p.m.

### Tickets

\$15 for Adults  
\$10 for Students/Seniors  
\$5.00 for Children under 12  
Special offer: Buy one Adult ticket and receive one Children's ticket free.

For more detailed information about "The Secret Garden" or to purchase your tickets online, please go to our website at [www.moundstheatre.org](http://www.moundstheatre.org).

## "Daim Duab"

Wiseguys Productions presents its Minnesota premiere of "Daim Duab", a movie written and directed by Tong Thao, at the Mounds Theatre on April 13 through April 18.

It is an action drama starring: Yia "The Bull" Mua, Houa "Jade" Lee, Dao Vue and Moua Vang. It was produced by: Tong Thao, Thai Her and Shoua Yang. View the movie trailer at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZkkflayFWAE>

### Movie dates and times

Monday, April 13: 5 and 8:30 p.m.  
Tuesday, April 14: 5 and 8:30 p.m.  
Wednesday, April 15: 5 and 8:30 p.m.  
Thursday, April 16: 5 and 8:30 p.m.  
Friday, April 17: 5 and 8:30 p.m.  
Saturday, April 18: at 1:30, 5 and 8:30 p.m.

### Tickets

\$10 for ages 5 and up. For children under 18 years of age there is a parental advisory.

The Mounds Theatre is located at 1029 Hudson Road, Saint Paul, MN 55106; [www.moundstheatre.org](http://www.moundstheatre.org); 651-772-2253.

# East Side Restorative Justice Program

By Sage Holben

How often have you found graffiti in your neighborhood; looked out a window only to observe someone using your fence as a urinal; or dread nights when your neighbor's porch becomes an all night party place? Have you ever wanted to talk with the offender and say how you feel when you see continued tagging and graffiti on the garages and utility boxes; how you feel when your child sees public urination or how exhausted you are in going to work the next morning after listening to one more night of slamming car doors and loud music or talking until 3 am?

Many times these situations are taken care of by the police. Sometimes city departments take care of the problems. What is missing is the voice of the victim, whether the victim is one resident or a block of neighbors. The beginning of the East Side Restorative Justice Program began a year ago with a conversation between retired Totem Town staffer Tom Russ and Community Prosecutor/Assistant City Attorney, Tony Tedesco.

Restorative Justice is a program that brings an offender and victim together to have a dialogue about the effects of the offender's actions. Both must be willing to meet in a respectful manner. They meet with two trained facilitators and they may bring support persons. This could be a friend for moral support or neighbors who can also speak to the actions.

Several purposes are served in this meeting. One is to give victims an opportunity to speak to the offender. It offers the offender, who already has to have taken responsibility for his or her negative actions, to offer an apology. It also can be the beginning of healing for the neighborhood. Some of that happens when the offender is offered and takes the opportunity to reintegrate into neighborhood life by making amends through volunteering. It may be repairing something that was damaged, such as removing graffiti; it might be helping to rebuild a retaining wall.

Attitudes often change in the restorative justice process. Offenders, who on the street may have acted arrogantly and aggressively, most often demonstrate submissiveness and connect the human side of their action once face to face with those they have offended. Studies have proven that compensation to the community teaches a much greater lesson than a fine or a few days in lock-up. Lower rates of recidivism have also been demonstrated with restorative justice participation.

The newly formed East Side Restorative Justice Program is seeking volunteers who would commit to training as meeting facilitators. Training is being set for June. If you are interested in facilitator training, contact Patty Lammers at [patty.lammers@visi.com](mailto:patty.lammers@visi.com) or Tom Russ at 612-387-5511. The Minneapolis Restorative Justice program, which conducts restorative justice circles, invites observers. If you are interested to see how a session works, call Tom Russ, 612-387-5511 for dates, times, and registration.

# 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

**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 Iglesia Sagrado Corazon**  
840 E. 6th St.  
651-776-2741  
Sat 4:00 pm English Mass & 5:30 pm Spanish Missa  
Sun 9:00 am English Mass & 11:00 am Spanish Missa  
Mon, Wed, Fri 8:00 am Mass

**St. John's Catholic Church**  
977 E. 5th St.  
651-771-3690; [www.stjstp.org](http://www.stjstp.org)  
Mon-Sat 8:00 am - Daily Mass  
Sat 4:15 pm - Mass  
Sun 9:00 am, 11:00 am - Mass

**St. John's Outreach Ministry**  
1154 E. 7th St.  
651-771-7639  
Sun 9:30 am - Sunday School  
Sun 10:45 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

# Portage for Youth Summer Camp

The Portage for Youth will be holding classes in Theatre Arts and Dance this summer at the Historic Mounds Theatre, 1029 Hudson Road, Saint Paul, MN 55106. The classes are for children ages 8 to 13.

Theatre Arts and Dance tap participants' instincts to explore who they truly are and can be. Theatre, dance and movement help participants grow by encouraging creativity, cooperation with others in achieving a joint goal, self-exploration and development of moral and spiritual values. In addition, movement and dance combines athleticism, creativity and builds students' artistic abilities

Camps will be held during the weeks of July 6, July 13, July 20, July 27, August 3 and August 10. Sessions run Monday through Friday, 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Each child must bring his or her own bagged lunch and a drink, and have transportation to and from classes. The Dayton's Bluff Circulator will be running this summer and makes stops at the Mounds Theatre.

There is no fee for the camps but participants must register by June 22, 2009. Please call Raeann Ruth at the Portage for Youth to register at 651-772-8674

# Trinity Catholic Pre-School Rates 4 Stars

The Parent Aware Program has given Trinity Catholic School's pre-school a 4 star rating. Trinity received the highest rating possible by the program. The Parent Aware Program is part of the Minnesota Human Services Department and rates early childhood and pre-school programs. Parents can find these ratings on their web site.

Research shows that children with a strong educational start between birth and 5 years old are more likely to succeed in school. This program gives parents information on programs and services offered by the various

pre-school and day care services. Ratings are based on staff to child ratio, educational programming, health and safety codes, materials and parent support.

Trinity is proud of its Director Anita Dick who has worked hard to put together this marvelous program that is now recognized for its high quality programs. For more information on this all day pre-school program call Trinity Catholic School 651-776-2763 and ask for our Director Mrs. Dick. Trinity Catholic School is located at 835 E. Fifth St.

 <p><b>Karaoke</b> Fridays 8:30p-12:30a <b>Weekday Happy Hour</b> 10a-12p and 3-5p</p>	<p><b>MOUND LIQUORS</b></p> <p><b>Weekly Specials</b> M-Th 10a-8p F-Sat 10a-10p Ask about our monthly drawings!</p>	<p><b>Support your friendly neighborhood newspaper.</b> <b>Advertise in the Dayton's Bluff District Forum</b> Call <b>651-772-2075</b></p>
	<p>1045 Hudson Rd • 651-774-1099</p>	

# Looking back a quarter of a century to April 1984

By Steve Trimble

This month I decided to go back a quarter of a century and look at what appeared in the April 1984 issue of the *Dayton's Bluff District Forum*. I thought it would be interesting to see what had remained somewhat the same and what had changed after twenty-five years. Here is what I found:

There were several articles on the front page that suggests that these were some of the more important events—or at least the most interesting. There was a review of the first annual “East Seventh Boardwalk” that was held to promote the business community. It was sponsored by the East Seventh Area Business Association (ESABA). The evening was started out with a slide show given by local historian Steve Trimble—is he still around?

People were given a “game board” and visited twenty different local businesses that all had some treats such as cookies, cheese or beverages. The Monopoly-looking game boards were checked off and if a person visited all the sites, they could take part in a drawing for door prizes that included \$25, free dry cleaning, decorative water faucets and art prints. It was hoped that in the future local businesses would stay open late one weekday for what they were calling “Why Not Wednesday.”

Only two of the twenty groups participating remain today. They are the Dayton's Bluff Housing Services that was then at a different location and Pat's Barber Shop which has been bought and is now Testa's Barber Shop.

The front page of the April 1984 issue was also adorned with a picture of Frank J. Gangi who lived at 1051 Mclean. He had just been honored as “Minnesota Soldier of the Year” by the Army National Guard. Gangi, a full time recruiter for the Guard, was also in the running for the National Soldier of the Year and although he did not win, he placed very highly in the competition.

Another page one featured person was Lt. Mike Smith who was in charge of the Dayton's Bluff “Team Police Headquarters” that had just opened at 699 E. Seventh. This was a new form of local policing designed to decentralize management of the patrol division. People were invited to an open house at the headquarters.

There were also two short pieces on the front-below the fold, as they say. One stated that Ed Krahmer, an active local resident, was being added to the board of directors of Christ Child Center, now known as Merrick Community Services. The second announced the opening of the new Battle Creek Bank—now gone—on Hudson Road just west of the Sunray Shopping Center.

The inside pages featured a variety of local news articles. There had been a special election for vacant council seats that was written up. Those elected were Chris Richter, Timothy Bardell, Rev. Geri Solomon and Dick Taylor.

The Dayton's Bluff Community Council was given plenty of space in 1984. There was a regular column by its president Roger Curtis. There was also a regular feature called “Council Member Spotlight” and this time it gave short biographies of Harold Morrison, Sheryl Sinn and Jim Meyer. Anyone know where they all are now?

Like today, the Council dealt with local issues of housing, zoning, crime and other issues. There was an article headlined “Community Council Meeting Highlights—something that many people think should be started again. Here's what was covered twenty-five years ago:

Harold Harman reported on a meeting with representatives of the Red Cross to discuss services given to fire victims.

One local resident named David Thon asked for a zoning variance that would allow him to build a duplex on the back of his lot on Eichenwald Street. The Council voted to deny the request and it never happened.

Planning and Economic Development came to the Council to promote citizen participation in the Old Harding Place project—an ill conceived plan thought up when the St. Paul school board tried to sell off the building and property of the old Mounds Park Junior High. It was proposed to fill the site with housing.

Other organizations were given space to promote their activities. One of them was ESABA, mentioned above. It no longer exists, but there is currently an attempt to form a new business group in our community.

The association reported that the “flower committee” had done planting around the new trees on East Seventh—I'm pretty sure they are all dead now. Plans were being made for the upcoming ESABA banquet and dinner and the group was planning a cruise on the Jonathan Paddelford.

The East Side Improvement Coalition was concerned with crime and a developing negative image of the community and wanted the media to report positive happenings. CARE (Citizens Affecting Racial Education) said it was making progress dealing with backlash from racial incidents in the neighborhood and working with schools. Seems like history—or at least the neighborhood concerns—really does repeat itself.

There was a two-page spread titled “Houses Are the Foundation of a Neighborhood's Heritage”. It was to be the first of a series of articles on Dayton's Bluff historic houses and buildings and featured information on eleven different structures. I wrote that one and I'm still scribbling away many years later.

“Bluff Business Briefs” was a series that introduced some of the area entrepreneurs to readers. Something like that might be a good idea now. How about some of you doing short write-ups about places you know about?

The ones written up in April 1984 on or near Seventh street were: the Warehouse, a second hand shop,

Granny's Statues, which sold greenware and ceramic supplies and Greco's Back-Door Bakery which specialized in Italian goodies.

In other sections of the area the Business Briefs examined A-Accuracy Lock and Key at 1051 Hudson Road and the Fanci-Freeze, which is still operating as the Earl Street Dairy Queen. All the rest have vanished. Maybe we should have called the column Brief Businesses of the Bluff.

There was also a separate article on the seventh year anniversary of the opening of Leo's Chow Mein. Leo Ng, who was pictured, came from Hong Kong and started serving Cantonese food out of an old gas station. It's still there, although Leo has retired.

The three recreation centers—yes there were three at the time—always sent in news.

Margaret Recreation Center was having a talent show, had started a “jazzercising” class and would sponsor an Easter egg hunt.

Dayton's Bluff Rec, under the direction of “Big Mike” Devilliers was also hiding Easter eggs, wanted people to sign up for men's softball and announced the first annual family bonfire.

Mounds Park Recreation Center—this is the one that got axed by the city—reminded folks that birthdays were celebrated the third Thursday of every month and that a wrestling program was imminent.

Incidentally, when Mounds Park Rec was shut down, the city promised that the other two would always remain. Something to remember these days.

Twenty-five years ago, nearly a full page was given to reports from area schools, written by students. Another good idea that should be brought back. Talk to your kids and see if they would be willing to volunteer.

The various activities occurring included puppet shows, bake sales and collecting Campbell soup labels. Do they still do that? There were short reports of dances, field trips and “Spirit Weeks” that included pajama days and backwards day.

Karin DuPaul, who is still very active in the community, contributed a column called “50 Years Ago on the Bluff”—which now would be 75 years ago. It was filled with interesting tidbits of the society at the time. Perhaps some of our readers could call and encourage her to start writing the column again.

There was an announcement of an amateur photo contest. NHS was offering a number of educational workshops where area residents could learn to improve their homes

It was interesting to see that the *District Forum*, then edited by Kay Waitas, consisted of 12 pages. That was possible because many neighborhood and area businesses advertised. Unfortunately, almost all of them no longer exist.

The advertisers on or near Seventh Street included the Arcade Frame Studio, The Plumbers, Mautz Paint, Tower TV, Swanson Drugs, Margaret Face

to Face Counseling, Anderson Electric, Fish City, Roma Bakery, and St. John's Hospital, whose full-page ad reminded readers of their commitment to St. Paul!

Annie's Liquors and Foods at Third and Maria has disappeared, Earl Street Drugs is now a grocery store and Spectrum Images is in the suburbs.

Rogers Printe Shoppe has remained and expanded. Shar Lee's old restaurant still serves food but now it is Asian cuisine at Samai. Vern's Cleaners is under new ownership and called Storck's Dry Cleaning and the Q, a gas station, is no longer in business, but there is a similar enterprise called Super USA.

There it is in short form. Lots of changes, some continuity. I doubt that I will do this kind of story again, but you can read old *District Forum* issues on microfilm at the Minnesota Historical Society if you want to know more. And if you get active in Dayton's Bluff maybe twenty-five years from now, someone will mention you in a similar retrospective.

## Job Search Techniques: Networking

By Mike A. Lang

The job market is tough and getting tougher. These days there are more people looking for work than have been for years. With the increased competition, it's tougher to get noticed by employers. I've been helping people search for jobs for close to ten years and I know it's a difficult process, regardless of how the economy is doing. Despite these difficulties, there are many techniques that can help improve your chances at getting noticed.

One technique is networking. This is a fairly common job search method and a large percentage of jobs are found using it. Networking involves connecting with people who may be able to help in your job search. It is more than just contacting employers to see if they have job openings. There are a variety of creative and different ways job seekers can network.

One easy way to network is to talk to people you know. Friends, family members, former co-workers and other people you know are a good place to start. These are people who may want to help and you might be surprised by the connections they can provide.

Another way is to communicate with people you may not know very well. These contacts can be provided by people you already know, connections you make at job clubs or networking groups, job seekers or employers you meet at job fairs or other events and locations.

A newer method of networking utilizes social networking websites on the Internet. This technique is not for everyone and may require some looking into before getting started. When used properly, sites like LinkedIn.com can be helpful tools to increase your job search network. Be sure you are comfortable posting information about yourself online; the information you post is professional and job related; and be aware that many people will probably be able to see it.

*This is the April issue of the Forum. The 1st of April is the day of fools. Don't believe all you read on Page 5 or you may join their ranks. You have been warned and may now proceed.*

## Lyman Dayton's remains unearthed

April 1, 2009 - A group of city utility workers who were digging in the area between Conway and Third Streets above Mounds Boulevard were surprised last week when they discovered a wooden coffin.

Following company procedures, they stopped their efforts and called their supervisors. The police soon arrived and finally decided to open the casket. What they found will dictate a rewriting of a few history books and articles. The remains inside were those of Lyman Dayton, the pioneer real estate dealer who gave this neighborhood its name.

It had always been known that Lyman Dayton had been buried here when he died in 1862. But according to records, his remains were moved to Oakland Cemetery several years later. In recent years a group of area residents even gathered enough money to place a tombstone on his gravesite.

However, there is now evidence to set the record straight. Alongside the body there was a sealed bottle with a message in it. It read, "Here lies the body of my loving husband Lyman Dayton. His last wish was to be buried on our property. When the city ordered that he be moved, my gardener Michael Nell and I removed him, hid him for a time and sent an empty coffin loaded down with stones. A few days later we reburied him where he wished to spend eternity. Maria Bates Dayton."

The caretaker at Oakland agreed to dig up Lyman Dayton's presumed plot and discovered that the casket was empty except for rocks that had weighted it down. The St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission is looking into the possibility of granting a variance that would allow Lyman to remain at rest where he is.

There will soon be an open neighborhood meeting to discuss the situation. If you are interested in attending, please call Ron Wagner at the Dayton's Bluff Community Council office.

## Trailer park slated for Mounds Park

April 1, 2009 - The Federal Stimulus package is definitely going to have an impact on this community. A spokesman from St. Paul's Planning and Economic Development (PED) recently announced that they would use a third of their money to place more than a hundred manufactured housing units (they used to be called trailer homes) in Indian Mounds Park.

"This is great news," says a representative of the Brigade for Affordable Housing (BAH). "Everyone knows that there is a great need for affordable housing in the city and Dayton's Bluff is a great place to build it."

There is a chance that the number of units will go up if the proposal to get several dozen of the metal structures FEMA had constructed for the Hurricane Katrina victims is approved. "They will be free and easily barged up the Mississippi River and since they are small it will save on cost and fill the vacant land more efficiently," said one excited BAH activist.

The specific parcels of land that will be utilized includes the northeast corner of Mounds Blvd. and Plum, the land east of the picnic shelter and up the hill and the eastern edge of the park across from Obb's Bar all the way to Highway 61 and Warner Road.

While the BAH spokespeople are thrilled with the location with its trails and dramatic views of the river, some neighborhood residents feel that city parkland should not be taken. "We look at it as just a different way to use the parks," said one Parks Dept. official.

One city official explained the matter more clearly, saying we made the site decision because "these particular parcels are underutilized, and we figured that the people from Highland Park and Como Park would surely put up more of a fight."

## No more billboards in Dayton's Bluff



April 1, 2009 - CloudyChannel Communications announced today that it is in the process of removing all billboards from the Dayton's Bluff area - sort of. Actually only the advertising is going. Billboard advertising revenue is way down due to the recession and the fact that advertisers are starting to realize no one reads them.

So instead, CloudyChannel is mounting photovoltaic (solar) panels on all their billboards in order to generate electricity. The electricity will be used to charge batteries that will power the billboards' lights at night and on cloudy days so the panels can be operated 24/7.

The first panels were mounted on the three billboards near the intersection of Earl St. and Hudson Road (see photo above). A neighbor was quoted as saying, "Well they're still ugly as all get out but at least they won't be falling apart every time we get a little wind. I hope."

## New museum to light up the neighborhood

April 1, 2009 - A new tourist attraction will be opening in Dayton's Bluff. After a decade of collecting, local resident Joseph Camel decided to put all of his treasures on display in "The Ash Tray Museum," which will be located at 805 East Seventh Street.

Curiously, he is not a smoker himself, but as he put it, "the continuing legislation to limit the use of tobacco has meant the disappearance of ash trays in public places and I thought that someone should preserve these aspects of our cultural history."

He first caught the "ash tray bug," from his parents who always brought them back from motels, restaurants and bars. "I was amazed by the variety of shapes, colors, materials and design. The little grooves for cigarettes are so cute," he stated. Joe's favorites are the art deco pieces and the gaudy California styles.

"It all started out as sort of a lark," he recalled, "but soon I was haunting estate sales, spending hours in thrift stores and even going through dumpsters. Soon I ran out of space to store them and decided to open a museum."

The museum includes ash receptacles made of glass, onyx, brass plastic and many other metals. There are ash trays with tiny bowling pins, replicas of the Brooklyn Bridge, dogs, alligators, and human figures, just to name a few. They come from all fifty states and many foreign countries.

Earlier it was assumed that there was only one existing ash tray museum and that was in Thailand. But a recent Googling shows that someone in Kentucky claims to be the first and only ash tray museum. But the only location given is a P. O. Box number. This one will be for real.

Mr. Camel also has some big plans for the future. He has successfully lobbied a committee at the State Legislature to amend the law to allow smoking not only in a theater performance but at an institution dedicated solely to the historic presentation of tobacco culture. He already has several St. Paul legislators signed on to the bill.

The grand opening of the Ash Tray Museum is April 1st, so be sure to visit what promises to be a rare educational opportunity in the neighborhood.

## Purloined pet problem

April 1, 2009 - Last month one neighborhood resident looked out the window and was shocked to see Brownie, his dachshund, being carried away in the talons of an eagle. A few days later a woman who lived nearby was barely able to save Ginger, her little Corgi.

Most people were happy when the eagles made a comeback and began nesting along the Mississippi River in our community. But it wasn't until now that the downside to their arrival is coming to be understood.

A representative from the DNR explained that things like this happen in the winter because the river ice keeps the big birds from finding fish, their preferred food. He didn't see this as a big problem, saying "I doubt if they take away more than a dozen or so canines a year, but that's a small price to pay to have these awesome avians in our area."

There are a few things owners can do to protect their furry friends. Always accompany your pet-preferably with a broom or baseball bat- when they leave the house. If they are outdoors alone, especially in the winter, keep them leashed up so they can't be swooped away.

You can also cover the area the dog will be in with a tarp so it can't be seen from the air. Finally, the DNR does sell a life-size plastic figure of a cougar that will scare away any eagle from a backyard. They are only \$39.95 and can be found at the state agency's headquarters on nearby Lafayette Street, a little north of Savoy's on Seventh.

## Ectoplasmic problems at Mounds Theatre



April 1, 2009 - A few ghosts may be fun but too many ghosts can get downright annoying. That was the case at the Mounds Theatre recently. So who're ya gonna call? These ghost busters had to thin the herd a bit, but don't worry, there are still plenty of spirits in residence. For more details check out [www.ghostbustin911.com](http://www.ghostbustin911.com).

## Project Minus 5000

April 1, 2009 - Today the mayor announced the start of Project Minus 5000, a city program aimed at doing something about all the empty houses in St. Paul.

He explained it this way. A former mayor or ours had the brilliant idea to create 5000 housing units in St. Paul that would then be sold to people who couldn't afford them. We know how well that worked out. That mayor has skipped town, the whole world's economy has collapsed due to bad mortgages, and St. Paul is left with empty houses on every block. It is the goal of Project Minus 5000 to do something about this problem by eliminating 5000 housing units by the year 2011.

The facts are these: Homeowners living near an abandoned house will be given the option to purchase it for the cost of demolition and property clean up. Low interest loans will be made available for these purchases. No property taxes will be assessed for a period of five years if the lot is left undeveloped but instead transformed into a vegetable or flower garden or planted with trees or a low maintenance ground cover. If there are no buyers for an empty house, the property will be given to the St. Paul Port Authority which will immediately bulldoze it and allow the lot to fill with weeds.

Contact the mayor's office or your city council representative for more information on Project Minus 5000.

## Moundsfoot Sightings?

April 1, 2009 - Patrons at Obb's Sports Bar and Grill on Burns Ave. reported seeing some strange animals across the street in Mounds Park this past winter. The animals were said to be brown and hairy. Some people thought they were deer but others suspect they were actually the elusive Moundsfoot. These brown, hairy creatures have been observed in and around Mounds Park for many years but like their larger cousin Bigfoot, no definitive proof of their existence has been documented ...yet.

## Intersection moves

April 1, 2009 - Residents in the Mounds Park area discovered something very odd when the snow melted this spring. Somehow the intersection of Mounds Blvd. and Burns Ave. had mysteriously moved several hundred feet to the west and changed from being a uniquely angled intersection to a standard 90-degree one. Neighbors had no explanation for this but one ventured a guess that the road shifted due to the heavy moisture content of the soil and repeated freeze and thaw cycles during the winter. He said it was inconceivable that the City would do something like this without consulting the neighborhood first.

## An arts revitalization on the East Side

Residents of the East Side of Saint Paul have a new reason to think of their neighborhood as a location in which artists can afford to live and work, and as a community that works to save historic buildings. Developers have recently turned the old Hamm Brewery Building into a focal point for new artists' studios, and it will be a major new stop for the popular Saint Paul Art Crawl.

Jon Powell, building agent from CB Burnet Powell, says, "Everyone from the Historic Hamm Brewery is excited to open our doors to the professional arts and sciences after years of renovation and remodeling. Hosting artists for the St. Paul Art Crawl is a perfect match and a great partnership for the Historic Brewery. The artist community is eager to see another building supporting the arts, and East St. Paul is eager to see businesses moving back into the area. Plus, the touring of the building from Art Crawlers is a welcomed attraction to a once deserted and historic site."

This will be the first time that the Art Crawl has been able to have a major presence on the East Side. Over 30 artists and a wide variety of work will be showcased in the building, including painting, photography, jewelry, Asian art, wearable art and fashion, beadwork and much more. One of those artists will be Rose Marie Felsheim, a long-time volunteer and participant in the Art Crawl, and an East Side resident.

Rose Marie says, "The expansion of the Art Crawl from just downtown to University Avenue and the East Side of Saint Paul is an indication of the vibrant and dedicated arts community we have in Minnesota. We provide a face to the many artisans and art businesses that are so busy making art they have a harder time marketing art."

"Our event has grown from a few people with a mailing list, to hundreds of artists cooperating to bring attention to our work. As we do our business, we are also marketing our community to those who might not have another reason to see what we have to offer. We hope to keep growing our audience across the country and invite collectors from around the world to see what talent we nurture in Minnesota. Artists help to bring people and investment into a community, and having this revived building be a part of it is tremendously exciting."

Rose Marie will have giclee prints from her "Garden Paintings" series, work that was inspired and created in her East Side garden showing at the Hamm Brewery/Everest Center, studio #102. The old Hamm Brewery Building is at 717 E. Minnehaha, in Swede Hollow.

The Saint Paul Art Crawl runs from April 24-26, Friday from 6-10 pm, Saturday from noon-8 pm and Sunday from noon-5 pm. For more information on the St. Paul Art Crawl, please call the hotline at 651-292-4373 or see the website at [www.artcrawl.org](http://www.artcrawl.org).

## Dayton's Bluff Community Council committees looking for new members

The Greenspace Committee is working on starting a community garden in Dayton's Bluff. The committee has permission from the city to have the garden in Skidmore Park, a small park on the 1000 block of 4th Street. New committee members are needed to help move this project forward.

Other activities of the Greenspace Committee include plant exchanges and working on various greenspace issues. The committee meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m.

The Arts and Culture Committee is currently working on the Annual Dayton's Bluff Preservation Evening, where neighbors bring photos and sto-

ries about fixing up their homes. It's a great way to get ideas for your home. Another project is the Dayton's Bluff Community Awards Dinner, which will be open to all Dayton's Bluff residents. Throughout the year the Arts and Culture Committee hosts book readings, walking tours, homes tours, Drumming on the Bluff, and other activities. The committee meets on the 3rd Monday each month at 6:15 p.m.

Both committees are Dayton's Bluff Community Council committees and are looking for new members from all over the community. If you are interested or want more information contact [Karin@DaytonsBluff.org](mailto:Karin@DaytonsBluff.org) or call Karin at 651-772-2075.

## Refuge & reflection: Saint Paul & Hawaii

Rose Marie Felsheim is pleased to announce the unveiling of two special exhibitions of her work, to take place during the Spring 2009 St. Paul Art Crawl. Inspired by her home on the East Side of Saint Paul, and by her sister's coffee plantation in Hawaii, Rose Marie's works in painting, drawing and prints are a reflection of the beauty and serenity that she finds in her garden and in the tropical paradise of her "other" home, her sister's house and farm. The works will be at two locations during the Art Crawl event.

Rose Marie says, "We all need a personal space that feeds our souls and calms our nerves. It can be an outside garden or an imaginary room in your mind. My landscape paintings are intended to offer the viewer such an experience. You walk through the painting in your mind's eye and are recharged by the exercise."

"I am blessed to have two places that are my refuge. My 120-year-old house in the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood has been home for half my life. My marriage started here, my dying mother stayed here, my children grew here, my empty nest is here. My favorite place at 'Maple Manor' is in my garden. I have many paintings and drawings of it. Because my children spent their entire childhood in the same house, they are attached as well. As a gift to them I spent the summer of 2006 painting my garden. The paintings are a hit with my children and my patrons, and have formed the basis of the 'Morning Light GARDEN PAINTINGS' series."

Selections of the best GARDEN PAINTINGS from that series will be available as giclee prints in the Everest Arts & Science Building located in the old Hamm Brewery, in Studio #102. It is located at 713 E. Minnehaha Avenue, on the east edge of downtown.

The Everest Building will be open during the entire Art Crawl, from 6-10 PM Friday, April 24, 2-10 PM; Saturday, April 25; and noon-5 PM, Sunday April 26.

Rose Marie's other place of inspiration is in Hawaii. "My other home is at my sister's coffee farm, 'Rooster Farms,' in Hawaii. I have returned from this year's, 2008, coffee picking with paintings of the island of Hawaii from North Kohala to Green Sand Beach. I am fortunate to be able to work for my sister every year, to explore the area and come back with vibrant new art work."

Rose Marie's original paintings, drawings, and giclee prints from Hawaii are a tropical visual treat. This work will be at the LOWERTOWN COMMONS, (300 E. 4th Street in Lowertown) on the Balcony Level. Open 6-10 PM Friday, April 24; 2-10 PM, Saturday, April 25; noon-5 PM, Sunday April 26.

Rose Marie has work available in many price ranges. Stop by and find her at one place or the other, or call and make an appointment to meet, 651-225-1348. [www.able-arts.com](http://www.able-arts.com). For more info, digital files of images or for interviews, call 651-225-1348.

## CLUES welcomes new board members

Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio - CLUES is pleased to announce the election of two new members to its Board of Directors: Father Kevin McDonough, pastor of the Church of St. Peter Claver in St. Paul, and Mr. Alejandro Suarez, Foreign Legal Consultant for Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.

Father Kevin McDonough is a long time supporter and key volunteer of CLUES. As a member of the CLUES Capital Campaign Committee, he helped to raise funds in support of the St. Paul headquarters facilities. Father Kevin McDonough has been the pastor of the Church of St. Peter Claver in St. Paul since 1990. Father McDonough also serves as Chaplain for the Spanish-speaking community at Comunidad del Sagrado Corazon in Minneapolis. He served the archdiocese as Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia representing the Archbishop in various capacities and acted as the chief operating officer for the Archdiocese from 1991-2008. Following ordination, he served as associate pastor at St. Richard in Richfield and Our Lady of Guadalupe in St. Paul. He was rector of St. John Vianney College Seminary from 1987-1990 and Chancellor and Episcopal Vicar for the archdiocese from 1987-1991. Father McDonough received his licentiate and doctorate in Canon Law in 1986-1987 from the University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome.

Mr. Alejandro Suarez joined Fredrikson & Byron's International Group in 2006. He holds legal degrees from both Mexico and the United States and also has received legal education in the United Kingdom. Mr. Suarez's experience includes the structuring of mergers, acquisitions, and private equity transactions involving different jurisdictions. He also represents foreign companies and individuals from diverse nationalities and industries that conduct business in Mexico and Latin America. Mr. Suarez advises investors entering into real estate business ventures in Mexico and Latin America. He also advises investors incorporating in Latin American countries, as well as foreign companies entering into the U.S. market. Mr. Suarez's practice has been featured in a variety of Twin Cities newspapers and legal periodicals, and he is currently Co-Chair of the 2008-2009 Mexico Committee of the American Bar Association. Prior to joining Fredrikson & Byron, Alejandro was a partner at a business law firm in Mexico and practiced law for international law firms there. Additionally, Mr. Suarez was named as one of the "25 on the Rise" by the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in 2008.

Father McDonough and Alejandro Suarez join the following board members: Sandra Balaguera, Dr. "Rusty" Barceló, Carmen Coballes-Vega, Michael Rodríguez Goodson, John Herron, Patrick Kelly, Rafael Marquez, Diego Osuna, Tony Rodríguez, Luz Maria Serrano and Dave Spalding.

<p>THE BEST KEPT "SECRET" IS...</p>  <p><b>The Church of Saint John of Saint Paul</b> 977 East 5th Street   St. Paul, MN 55106   651-771-3690   <a href="http://www.stjstp.org">www.stjstp.org</a> We are near the corner of 5th &amp; Forest • Pastor George Welzbacher <b>Please join us this Lenten Season</b></p> <p><b>Soup Suppers</b> - Friday 6:00 p.m. <b>Stations of the Cross</b> - Fridays 7:00 p.m. <b>Daily Mass</b> - 8:00 a.m. <b>Saturday Mass</b> - 8:00 a.m. &amp; 4:15 p.m. <b>Sunday Mass</b> - 9:00 a.m. &amp; 11:00 a.m. <b>Confessions</b> - 1/2 hour before Mass &amp; Saturdays 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. <b>Rosary</b> - 1/2 hour before Mass</p>	<p><b>Advertise in the Dayton's Bluff District Forum Call 651-772-2075</b></p> <p><b>That is the only kind of economic stimulus package we need and it won't cost taxpayers anything.</b></p>
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# Our Youth. Our Community.

Highlighting the youth of Dayton's Bluff

## Dayton's Bluff teens attend Youth Summit

The Second Shift Youth Commission is the formal vehicle for youth leadership and civic engagement in the City of Saint Paul. Youth Commissioners provide input and direction to the City's Second Shift Initiative and aim to influence other public and organizational policies that impact the lives of young people.

On February 28, 2009, the bi-annual Youth Summit convened at El Rio Vista Rec Center. More than 50 youth leaders from around the city—including Demetrius Neal and DaShawn Garland from the Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center (DBRC)—gathered to network, build public relationships, discuss issues and revise the Saint Paul Youth Policy platform. The platform states the five major issues that young people want to address with adults and elected officials. The issues identified at last month's summit are:

- reducing violence;
- improving education and college access;
- creating youth-friendly transportation;
- ending discrimination; and
- improving family life, including reducing teen pregnancy and stopping domestic and child abuse.

Attendees also participated in skill building workshops, including "Youth Leadership" led by youth mentors, and "The Global Call to Action" led by Youthrive. The summit culminated with hip-hop and dance performances.

For more information on the Second Shift Youth Commission, contact coordinator Phil Rooney at 612-644-9357 or phil.rooney@ci.stpaul.mn.us, or youth leader Mary Moore at the rec center.



▲ Demetrius Neal works on a computer at the DBRC. Neal takes part in the Leaders Club and the Youth in Transition programs.



### Ride the Circulator!

The East Side Circulator is a FREE bus that safely transports youth in Dayton's Bluff and Payne Phalen to and from youth learning programs.

### Dayton's Bluff Circulator Route Schedule

Tuesdays and Thursdays | 3-7p

(white lawn signs with blue logo mark each stop)

- 1 Mounds Park**  
On Earl at the corner of Earl & Suburban  
3:00, 3:43, 4:28, 5:13, 5:58, 6:43
- 2 Harding HS/East Side Community Center**  
On Barclay near the corner of 6th St  
3:06, 3:49, 4:34, 5:19, 6:04, 6:49
- 3 Margaret Rec Center**  
On Margaret near the corner of Hancock  
3:12, 3:55, 4:40, 5:25, 6:10, 6:55
- 4 YMCA/J. Johnson Elementary School**  
Transfer to Payne-Phalen route  
In YMCA parking lot near entrance to the building  
3:18, 4:01, 4:46, 5:29, 6:14
- 5 Young Artists Initiative/Dayton's Bluff Library**  
On Maria Av in front of the greenhouse north of 7th  
3:26, 4:11, 4:56, 5:41, 6:26
- 6 Dayton's Bluff Rec Center**  
On Conway St in front of the parking lot  
3:30, 4:15, 5:00, 5:45, 6:30
- 7 American Indian Magnet & World Cultures School**  
At the corner of 3rd St and Tell  
3:33, 4:18, 5:03, 5:48, 6:33
- 8 Mounds Park United Methodist Church**  
On Earl at the corner of Earl and Euclid  
3:37, 4:22, 5:07, 5:52, 6:37
- 9 Mounds Theatre**  
On Hudson Rd in front of the theatre  
3:40, 4:25, 5:10, 5:55, 6:40

The East Side Circulators are organized through the East Side Learning Collaborative, with support from the Minnesota Department of Education After School Community Learning program.

Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center | 800 Conway Street | 651-793-3885

## Mounds Park Neighbors Take Action

By Stephanie Harr

Observations regarding neglect and the apparent lack of a long-term plan or strategy for Indian Mounds Regional Park have spurred a group of citizens who live in Mounds Park to begin meeting and talking about potential solutions.

An initial meeting focused on the area of the park that gets little notice. A park in the middle of the residential block bounded by Mound Street, Burns Avenue, McLean and Earl receives little attention and even less maintenance and improvement. This park is home to a Parks and Recreation vehicle storage facility that is under consideration for relocation by the Parks Department. Based on this potential for relocation, a group of neighbors brainstormed possible alternate uses for the area.

An additional meeting was held in December and included Don Ganje, landscape architect with the St. Paul Parks and Recreation Department. Ganje shared that, as suspected, there is no master plan for the park and that community support and action is the primary driver for park improvements. He encouraged neighborhood organizing as a means to engage neighbors and the Parks Department in a process for planning and improvement.

According to neighbor Julie Gugin, "As a resident of Mounds Park for nearly 15 years, I've had a growing concern about the state of the park, and I'm afraid that it stands to lose its value as a community asset if it con-

tinues on its current path." Gugin went on to say that the citizen participation activities thus far have emphasized the development of "creative but attainable goals about what the park could evolve to, honoring the history of the space, while responding to the current community needs and maximizing its potential."

Neighbor Jacob Dorer observed that he's been happy to see "neighbors sharing their goals for the park in a thoughtful, respectful and reasonable way that reflects and engages the community."

The neighbors have continued to move forward in formalizing a citizen participation process supporting ongoing park improvements and community input and action. Current efforts include the formation of a "stewards of the park" type of group modeled after other local "friends of" groups.

Neighbors also submitted a CIB (Capitol Improvement Budget) proposal to the city of St. Paul to fund a long-range planning process. The neighbors feel this is an appropriate initial step for park improvements. There is no current plan in place for Mounds Park. The only plan that could be located was a plan for Battle Creek Regional Park from 1981, which included segments of Mounds Park. The current CIB proposal is supported by the District Four Community Council, which has also offered to serve as fiscal agent for the fledgling "Friends of Mounds Park" group.

Stephanie Harr is a District Four Community Council board member and Mounds Park resident. Contact her at stephanieharr1@hotmail.com.

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# Appreciating children's art for what it is

By Mary Ann Cogelow

Many years ago when I was a new teacher, I had an experience with a child which forever persuaded me of the importance of supporting art activities with children. Benjamin, a beautiful, well-loved boy, usually preferred active, sometimes very dramatic, play. From the time school started in September, I had never seen him at the easel.

But a big event was looming in Benjamin's life. His mother was expecting a baby, an anticipated girl and Benjamin's first sibling around the time of his fourth birthday in April. During late February and March, Benjamin began to spend many minutes at a time (remember that preschoolers typically have short attention spans) engrossed in painting at the easel. He created a marvelous series of paintings that I still think of thirty-five years later as "The 'B' Paintings." Each of them prominently featured a large capital "B." Sometimes the "B" floated high on the paper, sometimes lay on its back, sometimes leaned to the right or left. Every "B" was encased in a series of increasingly larger outline shapes in various hues and mixes of colors. All children's art is of value, but not all of it calls out aesthetically to adults. Benjamin's paintings were glorious.

But it was not the beauty of his painting that persuaded me of the value of art in the lives of children. It was the process Benjamin undertook to explore his ideas and feelings about what it would mean in his life to have another child in his family. He, of course, did not tell me this, but I am sure that he was the "B" in all of his paintings. He was asserting that he would continue to have his own identity within the growing dimensions of his family.

When the new baby arrived Benjamin announced to me, "I have a new baby sister and her name is Daniel." He painted one or two more "B" masterpieces at the easel and then, for the rest of the year, ignored painting completely. He had finished his process of exploration and integration for himself. I don't know what role, if any, the creative arts may have played in his life from that time to this, but I am convinced that art was hugely useful



to him in being ready for the arrival of his baby brother.

The role I watched art play in Benjamin's life was primarily emotional, helping him think about and manage an important change in his life. But all of the ways in which children create art — scribbling, painting, pasting, cutting, modeling with clay or play dough and much more — offer them a wealth of opportunities for healthy social, physical, and intellectual as well as emotional development. In the many years since I watched Benjamin, and by now hundreds of other children, I have become more and more convinced that opportunities for creating art are essential in children's lives. I have also seen many examples of adults who want to support children in creating art, but who fail to do so because they don't understand or value the child's creative process.

Perhaps the best way to begin to support the art of very young children is to learn more about the process their development as artists takes. In *The Psychology of Children's Art*, Rhoda Kellogg asserts that children around the world proceed through the same developmental sequence in creating art. She bases her assertion on having examined more than a million examples of children's art. All children begin with scribbling similar to this easel scribbling.

They proceed through a number of stages before arriving at a pictorial stage sometime between the ages of four and six. Different experts describe these stages in somewhat different language, but they agree that scribbling, beginning as early as one year of age if a child is given the chance to scribble, leads to the emergence of shapes and designs including sun and mandala shapes.

These evolve gradually into human faces, like the one Samantha painted, and

bodies which become more and more elaborated as time goes by. All children begin with scribbling and move through the following stages in sequence though not always at the same speed. Children around the world follow this developmental process. Moreover, although individual children exhibit their own styles, you cannot distinguish between boys' and girls' art until they are fairly advanced in making representational art.

If you find and read *The Psychology of Children's Art*, or better yet, if you look at many examples of art which children have created without adult direction, you will see that what they produce is not a crude and immature form of art through which adults can hurry them so they produce products which the adult can recognize and name. Rather, you will find yourself appreciating the art of young children as an important process which is deeply rooted in the child as a growing human being.

This is Part I in a series. Next month look here for more specific suggestions for supporting kid art.

## Do you or someone you know need help with home maintenance?

A Brush with Kindness is looking for low-income homeowners who live in the Dayton's Bluff area and whose homes need painting, minor repairs, general clean-up and are unable to do the work themselves. Interior and exterior work performed year round.

Homeowners with a combined household income that is below 50% of the area median income are eligible to participate in the program. Priority will be given to homeowners who are seniors, disabled or are single with children.

Volunteers from businesses, churches, and service organizations assist homeowners to complete the work. Able-bodied homeowners are required to work alongside volunteers and make a financial contribution depending on the amount of work done on their home.

TAKING APPLICATIONS NOW FOR SUMMER/FALL 2009 WORK. For an application or more information call 612-788-8169; or visit our website at: [www.abrushwithkindness.org](http://www.abrushwithkindness.org)

A Brush with Kindness is a program of Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity

## Home repair help

We are looking for low-income homeowners who are elderly or disabled, or families with children who are unable to do work on home repair for themselves. Rebuilding Together is taking applications now for work to be done this year. If accepted into the program Rebuilding Together provides services at no cost to the homeowner. Volunteers work for about eight hours on one day to get the work done. If you or someone you know needs some work done, call 651-772-2075 or email [Karin@DaytonsBluff.org](mailto:Karin@DaytonsBluff.org) for an application.



Is your home in need of repairs from the icy cold winter we've had?

We are here to help you!

We provide no cost assistance for eligible homebuyers, and offer low interest rates (3-5%). Call 651.774.6995 to see if you qualify for our special financing program. Yog koj xav nroog Hmoob tham, hu 651.774.9064

Dayton's Bluff  
Neighborhood Housing Services  
823 7th St E, St. Paul, MN 55106  
[www.dbnhs.org](http://www.dbnhs.org)



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## Dayton's Bluff District Forum

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