

Dayton's Bluff DISTRICT FORUM

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www.daytonsbluff.org

March 2009

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Local youth seek to improve neighborhood



Members and volunteers of East Side Voice are shown at a meeting held at Metropolitan State University.

By Mike A. Lang

A new playground, area improvement projects and more community events are just a few of the ideas collected by a youth group called East Side Voice.

At a listening session on the Metropolitan State University campus over 40 youth and 20 adults provided feedback, voiced opinions and participated in group conversations on how to improve the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood.

East Side Voice facilitated this event to gather information about the community and call attention to what makes it great. They began with a letter from

Mayor Chris Coleman recognizing their leadership and thanking them for their efforts to make St. Paul a better place to live.

The audience was split into two groups of youth and one group of adults and each took turns offering feedback about the quality of education, ways to improve the Eastside and what people enjoy about the East Side.

The diverse group of teens will combine this feedback with over 50 interviews of other local area youth they conducted earlier in the year. They will present their findings and conclusions at a Dayton's Bluff community

event to be held at the end of April. Details are still in development.

These efforts were noticed by State Senator Mee Moua's office. A representative attended to take notes and report back on the event. There was even mention that East Side Voice could be invited to speak with the State Senator.

This was a joint project sponsored by Metropolitan State University, the Dayton's Bluff Community Council, Community Design Center, Hmong American Partnership, Dayton's Bluff Community Service, Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Housing Service and other local organizations.

Attention Readers

This March issue of the Dayton's Bluff District Forum was delivered by mail as it was last year. However, it is likely future issues will once again be delivered to your homes by volunteers. So please look for it on your door starting in April. Of course the reason for this is a lack of money. If you wish to make a donation to the Forum or would like to place an ad, please contact us at:
**Dayton's Bluff District
 Forum
 798 E. 7th St.
 Saint Paul, MN 55106
 651-772-2075**

Swede Hollow book is in the works and you can help

Friends of Swede Hollow is sponsoring a picture/caption book on Swede Hollow for Arcadia Publishing's "Images of America" series. Angela and Karin DuPaul are in the process of collecting Swede Hollow history, stories and photos.

Swede Hollow is a picturesque valley with a creek running through it. Phalen Creek was used for travel from the Mississippi River to the chain of lakes in the north by the American Indians. Later the hollow spent over 100 years as home to European immigrants, many from Sweden, Italy, Mexico, and Germany. Today Swede Hollow is a city park.

A little background about the project: Ted from Arcadia Publishing called Karin wondering if she or someone else would like to write a photo caption book on Swede Hollow. She was thrilled to accept. She then called her partner in Swede Hollow research, her daughter Angela, to see if she would work on this. Without any hesitation Angela said she would love to assist.

Over the years the DuPauls have been very active in everything Swede Hollow. They have been involved in

Friends of Swede Hollow, researched Swede Hollow history, led tours, and wrote "A Swede Hollow Walking Tour" booklet. Arcadia has around 5,000 books on local history in their Images of America series. It will be wonderful to have Swede Hollow included in the series.

The search is on to talk with people who lived in Swede Hollow along Phalen Creek, and to find photos that might be helpful to us in presenting a more complete history of this unique area. Any relevant photos that you would be willing to share with our project would be a big help toward that goal. We would also love to talk to anyone who has Swede Hollow connections, Hollow memorabilia, family memories, and photos.

You may contact the DuPaul by email at SwedeHollow@gmail.com or call 651-776-0550 and leave a message if no one answers the phone.

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

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Dayton's Bluff Community Meeting

The next Community Meeting is **Thursday, March 5** 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 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 March the meetings are on the 18th and 20th.**

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

Take a Hike

Dayton's Bluff Take a Hike occurs on the first Saturday of most months. The next hike is **Saturday, March 7**. 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.

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 for an application.

Free Experimental College classes



Photo by Karin DuPaul

Experimental College students checking out plants in the greenhouse. L to r: Wally Waranka, Susan Richter, and Kathy Schumacker.

The first EXCO (Experimental College) class to be offered in Dayton's Bluff is a course on Native Perennials. It is being taught in the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's Biological Control Teaching Greenhouse (on Maria north of East 7th). The next class will be on **March 19** starting at 6:30 p.m.

The intention of this course is twofold: to better understand the role of plants and insects in the urban landscape, and to discuss how gardeners can add ecological value and bio-diversity to their gardens by adding native perennials.

Other EXCO classes will be offered in the months to come in the Dayton's Bluff area. EXCO is a collective college offering free and open classes.

EXCO offers Twin Cities communities the opportunities to learn or teach and is open to all kinds of knowledge, including and beyond academic knowledge. For more information and list of classes go to excotec@gmail.com or call 651-696-8010.

Saint Paul Central Library events in March

Learn to Sell Items on eBay

The Saint Paul Central Library will present a free class on how to sell items on eBay on **Sunday, March 8** at 2 p.m. in our 4th floor meeting room.

This class will focus on the selling side of eBay. It will include an overview of the basics of selling on eBay, including a rundown of the selling process from start to finish, a demonstration of how to upload a digital photo to eBay, and a demonstration of how to list a real item on eBay. Many other practical tips to being a successful seller also will be covered.

Everyone is welcome. Please join us at this free event.

Excavating Your Inner Poet

Join Saint Paul Poet Laureate Carol Connolly as she presents "Excavating Your Inner Poet" at the Saint Paul Central Library at 2 p.m. **Sunday,**

March 22. Connolly will share how she found her voice as a poet and encourage audience members to do the same.

Carol Connolly is the first person named to the position of Saint Paul Poet Laureate. She is the author of *Payments Due*, a book of poems published by Midwest Villages and Voices and later produced for the stage by OBIE winner C. Bernard Jackson at the Ivar Theater in Los Angeles and then by the Lyric Theatre in Minneapolis.

Connolly also has worked as a writer with the New York-based Warner Brother's Wonder Woman Foundation; as *Saint Paul Pioneer Press* "Connections" columnist; and as *Mpls.St.Paul Magazine* "People" columnist.

Please join us at this free event. Everyone is welcome.

Landlord training

Rental property owners and managers can attend a workshop to learn more about management of rental property.

The next training is **Wednesday, March 11, 2009** from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Western District Police Offices at 389 Hamline near I94.

The workshop includes information on leases, lease addendum, tenant screening, narcotics identification, working with law enforcement, eviction action, and crime prevention through environmental design.

For more information or to register call RuthAnn at 651-266-5451.

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 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.

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.

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*

Treasure Hunt brings throngs to Swede Hollow

Medallion found in Dayton's Bluff for second consecutive year

Every January people brave the elements to find a certain element—the Pioneer Press Treasure Hunt medallion. The 2009 Treasure Hunt led hundreds of Twin Citians to Swede Hollow Park, with a father/daughter team eventually finding the medallion on the 11th day of the 12-day hunt. Along with the medallion came \$10,000 in prize money and \$1,200 in gift certificates from Cub Foods. The hunt takes place every year in conjunction with the Saint Paul Winter Carnival.

In 2008 the medallion was found in Indian Mounds Regional Park, and this year the search came back to the historic Dayton's Bluff area. Clues, printed daily, directed hunters to Swede

Hollow Park: "We devote the hunt to Box" (refers to longtime *Pioneer Press* columnist Don Boxmeyer, who passed away last summer and had a special fascination for the story of Swede Hollow, which he considered one of St. Paul's 'lost neighborhoods' and "'Neath King and Court they once did cavort" (above the poor settlement of Swede Hollow loomed the Hamm Mansion and Hamm's brewery). A historical note: William Hamm was King of the first Saint Paul Winter Carnival in 1886.

Having crowds of people invade the Hollow did have some positive affects on the neighborhood. During the 11 days of the search, establishments like the Swede Hollow Café saw an increase

in business as treasure seekers stopped in for a bite to eat or something warm to drink. But more importantly, it seems to have piqued the interest of visitors who search for something less materialistic. Days following the medallion find, you could see people who had previously been hunting back with their families to enjoy the enchanting valley. There were also the first-time visitors, who had read about this "harbor of impressive arbor" and came to take a look. The 40 degree temperatures, singing birds, and about 20 robins near the open water by the creek made for a delightful afternoon and a worthwhile outing.



▲ These folks looked for the medallion on the Hamm Mansion site on day two of the hunt. They search every year.



▲ Rene Vaughan (left) and Patty Minhurt show the only item they found in their quest—an old sock. They stopped for lunch at the Swede Hollow Café.



▲ Brian Glinlany, Jennifer Fischer and Stephanie Eiden (from left) bundled up for their hunt in the upper part of Swede Hollow Park.

This space sponsored by Metro Liquor Warehouse, 854 7th Street East, Saint Paul MN 55106 | 651-774-6033

March at the Mounds Theatre

Holistic & Psychic Arts Faire

The Historic Mounds Theatre in Saint Paul Presents the Second Annual Holistic & Psychic Arts Faire - A positive living event - "Step out of the shadows!"

Join us on the weekend of **March the 21st & 22nd** (which is the weekend of the Spring Equinox) for an inspiring weekend of discovery.

At the faire, you will find a warm welcome and lots of exciting things and services to try, from traditional and mainstream healing to alternative wellness and psychic/medium services, as well as beautiful artwork and crafts.

Admission: \$4.00 at the door or purchase your tickets in advance on our website. For more detailed information and to purchase tickets, please visit our website at www.mnshadowsfaire.com.

"The Secret Garden"

The Historic Mounds Theatre is proud to present, live on stage "The Secret Garden", produced by the Portage for Youth, who have brought "A Christmas Story" to the Mounds Theatre stage for the last 5 years, 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 deter-

mined 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.

Show 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

For more detailed information about "The Secret Garden" or to purchase your tickets online, please go to our website at www.moundstheatre.org.

"Hot L Baltimore"

"Hot L Baltimore" by playwright Lanford Wilson, is Starting Gate Productions' second comedy of the season. It continues playing at the Mounds Theatre through March 8th. Performances are on Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m and Sundays at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$18 for general admission and \$16 for senior and students. Group rates are also available. For tickets call 651-645-3503 or visit www.startinggate.org.

The Mounds Theatre is located at 1029 Hudson Road, Saint Paul, MN 55106; www.moundstheatre.org; 651-772-2253.

Free tax help

Where and When: Metropolitan State University Library, 645 E. 7th St. Tuesday, March 10, 2009 5:00 PM—8:00 PM LIB 312; Thursday, March 12, 2009 5:00 PM—8:00 PM LIB 312

Who can get free help?

Working families making less than \$36,000 in 2008, people with disabilities, senior citizens and students.

What to bring?

- *Social Security cards for yourself, your spouse, & each of your children
- *Any 2008 tax forms or "tax label" postcards received in the mail
- *W-2 wage and earnings statements from each employer for the year 2008
- *A copy of your 2007 tax return
- *Any other information about your 2008 earnings including 1099-G forms stating unemployment insurance or interest (form 1099-INT) or dividend (form 1099-DIV) as applicable
- *Information on childcare expenses
- *Information on other expenses that may reduce your taxes: mortgage interest, union dues, car registration fees, medical expenses, or school expenses
- *Certificate of Rent Paid (CRP) forms from your landlord if you are a renter or statement of property taxes if you are a homeowner

Save Money!!! If you don't file, you will lose the earned income credit (sometimes over \$1000)

Walk-in service, no appointment needed. Free parking in the Metropolitan State lot. Questions? Need an interpreter? Call 651.699.4707

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Bethlehem Lutheran Church events

Kool Klub for kids

Tuesdays - (All year!!)- 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. This is free and for children in kindergarten through fourth grade. Kool Klub consists of a short Bible story, singing, group activity inside or out, art and craft project and snack and beverage. Please feel free to stop by and check it out or call Pastor Raddatz at (651) 776-4737. It runs all year and possibly in the summer every day.

Good News For You

Tuesdays - "I Have Good News For You" - Pastor Robert H. Krueger, who has served 28 plus years at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, leads participants through a lively, interactive study of the basics of Christianity. The participants meet from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. each Tuesday until April or May (12 weeks in all). Several people from Dayton's Bluff have gone through the class and enjoyed it immensely. Childcare is free, but please call a few days ahead.

Lent Services

Wednesdays - March 4, 11, 18, and 25 - Lent Services are at 11:15 a.m. & 6:30 p.m. The morning Lent service is followed by a soup lunch; the evening Lent service is preceded by a soup supper from 5:00 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. The soup lunch and supper are supported through a free-will donation. The soup is provided by Magnolia's.

Easter Faire

Saturday, April 4-10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

All events will be held at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 655 Forest St.

Call the church for more details at 651.776.4737 or visit Bethlehem's web site at www.bethlehem-eaststpaul.org

Scarlett the starlet: A Dayton's Bluffer on the stage

By Steve Trimble

Quite frequently during this January and February, Mounds Park resident Scarlett Thompson has been screaming, falling on the floor, loudly stomping her feet, eating with her hands and throwing things around.

It's not because this local girl is uncontrollable, but because she has been acting in a play that requires her to do so. Scarlett had a major role in "The Miracle Worker" at St. Paul's History Theatre as young Helen Keller. It was co-produced with the Torch Theater, which has presented the award-winning play twice before.

Scarlett's fascination with acting started out with "Annie," a popular movie filled with acting and singing. "I really liked it and I decided we should get some of my friends together and do our own show of Annie." Then came the rehearsals, finding or making costumes, and getting her parents to help build the outdoor set.

It was produced-complete with several songs- in the family backyard. This shortened version of "Annie" was watched by many of the people who had showed up to her family's large annual potluck block party. The next year a different play was put on and the "acting bug" had hit had.

Ten-year-old Scarlett is in fifth grade at the J. J. Hill Montessori magnet school in St. Paul. She lives in the Mounds Park area with her parents-John Thompson, a realtor and Mary Petrie, a writer and teacher-two brothers—Stryker and Merrick and two cantankerous dogs.

This was not Scarlett's first theater experience, but it was her most important to date. She first appeared at the age of eight at the Steppingstone Theater and has been in a Guthrie performance.

Scarlett met Stacia Rice, who runs the Torch Theater, at an audition and ended up taking a girl's acting workshop from her. At the time, she knew very little about Helen Keller, but was introduced to her life at Stacia's workshop. To get a sense of not having eyesight, everyone in the group was blindfolded to see how difficult it would be to get around.

Stacia thought that Scarlett ought go to the auditions for the "The Miracle



Scarlett Thompson as Helen Keller in "The Miracle Worker"

Worker," but it almost never happened. It turned out that they were on her birthday and plans had been made for a big slumber party. To keep from missing either, the whole bevy of girls went along to see the successful try-out. The rehearsals and performances do cause Scarlett to miss out on things, including Halloween trick-or-treating, as well as her school dance and talent show.

The play presents the story Helen Keller, struck blind and deaf by an early illness, whose inability to communicate left her frustrated and violent. Her desperate parents hired Anne Sullivan, a sight-impaired young woman, who was able through persistence and caring to help Helen break out of her walls of isolation.

"What Anne Sullivan did was really amazing," Scarlett stated, "to be able to teach Helen sign language and how to see pretty much with just her mind." The play was very daunting, even though she had only one line to say - "wa-wa" - towards the end. But its physical nature was hard.

Scarlett had to move around a lot, so the "blocking" on the set was complicated. She was pushed and pulled around so much that there were often after-the-show bruises, but that was all right since, according to the diminutive diva, "I have so much energy."

Critic Dominic Papatola, writing in the *Pioneer Press*, liked the play and

said that Scarlett "has an appropriately feisty presence and is as willing to go toe to toe with Rice's Sullivan... Thompson's performance is completely effective... bringing a different and appealing patina of vulnerability to the role."

Rebecca Mitchell writing for the online *Twin City Daily Planet* agreed and said that "ten-year-old Scarlett Thompson, who plays Helen, is, despite her age... capable of holding her own" and "easily conveys Helen's fiery unruliness."

There won't be too much of a break from being on the stage since Scarlett has been chosen to play Ramona in the Children's Theater offering of "Ramona Quimby" in the spring. Because so many school group's come to see the group's plays in the afternoons, she will be missing a lot of her own for two months, some weeks only being able to attend J. J. Hill once a week. But there will be time to do homework during breaks and the Children's Theater has a tutor who helps out.

In many ways decade-old Scarlett remains a somewhat typical pre-teen. She does well in school, hangs out with her friends, loves reading and Parkway Little League baseball. She likes music and is taking some voice lessons. However, she does have a few eccentricities, such as always wearing unmatched socks.

Scarlett hopes for a professional acting career. She thinks that there is "something about when you act you can become a completely different person on stage and enter into a different world."

It could happen. After all, St. Paul has been the home to famous theater actress Blanche Yurka and Dayton's Bluff produced movie leading man Richard Arlen. Maybe some day the name Scarlett Thompson will be up in lights. If that happens, people around here are bound to say "I knew her when she was living in the neighborhood."

Next up at the History Theatre is "Blue Collar Diaries". It opens in March and is written and performed by a St. Paul native. It is about our working class communities. For more details visit www.historytheatre.com.

"Putting JOY into your child's life"

By Rev. Nathan Raddatz of Bethlehem Lutheran Church

The slogan above best describes JOY Preschool & Childcare, located in the education wing of Bethlehem Lutheran Church at 655 Forest St. The slogan is new, but the preschool and childcare continues to build on a well-deserved reputation that dates back to its beginning in 1971.

JOY was started to serve the children of Bethlehem Lutheran Church and Dayton's Bluff. It has come a long way. The members of Bethlehem as well as the staff at JOY are firmly committed to serving children on the East Side, particularly Dayton's Bluff.

In order for JOY to remain viable and continue to focus on children in Dayton's Bluff, the pastors and staff at Bethlehem and JOY realized that things needed to change. Pastor Raddatz, the senior pastor describes JOY "as the best kept secret in Dayton's Bluff."

The way in which JOY was being marketed needed total overhaul. Recently, Mani Vang, a member at Bethlehem who worked formally for Target.com, stepped up to lead the marketing overhaul.

JOY has in place all the components to flourish: an experienced and committed teaching staff, a quality of education and childcare that are second to none, great diversity among children and generous support from members of Bethlehem. However, these things do no good, if no one knows about them.

The marketing overhaul began at the end of last summer. Carol Fink, JOY's director, took the initiative to research Parent Aware, a quality rating's program. Through much hard work, JOY was accepted into the program and enjoys a three-star rating. Not only does JOY's rating ensure the quality, but also allows JOY to participate in the Allowance Program, an initiative of the city of St. Paul. Families with a certain income level may participate, meaning they are allotted up to \$4,000 to send their child to a quality preschool and childcare.

Fast forward to the beginning of January 2009. Mani Vang with the help of Director, Carol Fink and teacher, Melanie have constructed a separate website for JOY (www.joypreschool.org), created a new logo, magnet, brochure, flyer, and unveiled a new referral program open to the church, preschool families and community. They have also met with the Wilder Foundation and soon the St. Paul Foundation.

On behalf of the staff at JOY Preschool & Childcare as well as Pastor Krueger, members of Bethlehem and myself, we want to "put JOY in your child's life" too. We encourage you to visit JOY's website at www.joypreschool.org, stop in at JOY to observe and meet the staff or call Director, Carol Fink at (651) 771-6982. We are here to nurture children in a safe and secure preschool, where quality and diversity do matter.

Amy Harris - A Harding grad who loves golf

By June Bennett

Amy Harris, a 2008 Harding High School graduate, is the first girl to win her way to the State Championship for High School golf. Amy beat Blair Bonner, from Highland High School last year, who is a four-time winner.

Ms Andrea Brischke, a coach at Harding High School, states that Amy has a wonderful personality and shows interest in learning golf.

Amy's father also plays golf and her mother is a teacher at the St. Paul schools.

Although Amy loves golf, she also ran cross-country track for Harding High School and played other sports such as basketball. Besides being an

athlete, she was also at the top of her class.

Amy now attends college in North Carolina but Ms Brischke hopes that she will come back to Saint Paul and teach golf.

I haven't heard or seen many women who feel that golf is a lifetime sport but you have to play it and want to play it to get the full effect. For instance, I tried it but could not see myself watching a little ball fly through the air and then go and find it. But it is worth trying as Amy did and look at her now. One day we hope that she will be playing nationally and I will be one of the first to say playing golf does pay off.

Book reading and signing

On Tuesday, March 10th at 6:30 p.m. at 798 East 7th Street, author Jeff Falkingham, will read from his new book, *Sherlock Holmes: In Search of the Source*. This fiction novel is set in December 1896 and much of the action occurs in Dayton's Bluff, Swede Hollow, and Lower Town in Saint Paul. Sherlock Holmes comes to Saint Paul to attend a friend's wedding and then helps solve a mysterious fire and murder.

Jeff will sign books and if you do not have the book yet, books will be available for purchase. Cookies and beverages will be served. To register email Karin@DaytonsBluff.org or call 651-772-2075.

Three residents added to Neighborhood Honor Roll



Saint Paul's 17 District Councils held their annual Volunteer Awards Night on January 23, 2009 at Saint Thomas University. The awards recognize people from all over the city who have provided outstanding service to the community.

This year's keynote speaker was Harry Boyte, a Senior Fellow at the Humphrey Institute. Boyte spoke about some of the terrific work done by neighborhoods. Also speaking was Mayor Chris Coleman, who talked about the outstanding job community organizations and volunteers do to help make Saint Paul a great city. City Council President Kathy Lantry handed out certificates of appreciation to the honorees.

Congratulations to the following residents added to the Honor Roll by the Dayton's Bluff District 4 Community Council:

Diane May moved to Dayton's Bluff in 2000, and within months joined the "DB Good Neighbor Code Program." She hosts annual National Night Out events, founded the Lower Dayton's Bluff Block Club, and organizes monthly family-friendly kickball games. Diane created the "Sign Campaign" in 2005, which taught neighborhood youth about respect, and also designed the artwork that is on our neighborhood "welcome bag." She's an active volunteer for the Dayton's Bluff ECFE and serves on the World Cultures Magnet Site Council.

Matt Mazanec leads the proactive East Sixth Street Block Club, which cleaned up an area gang members were previously terrorizing. Under Matt's leadership, Sixth Street is getting much needed traffic-calming street improvements. A phenomenal restoration of his home is underway, as well as another house on his block (a former problem property). He helps promote the neighborhood, and has had articles published in *Old House Journal* and *This Old House*. Matt is on the Dayton's Bluff Vacant Building Committee and has been an integral part of marketing the Dayton's Bluff Vacant Home Tour.

Beth Hyser has been tirelessly involved in the Early Childhood and Family Education program at Dayton's Bluff Elementary School for years. She is a member of their Advisory Council and has served as treasurer. Beth also chaired the mammoth task of turning the Advisory Council into a non-profit organization over the last two years; work included rewriting bylaws and officer descriptions, meeting with lawyers, and leading the group through two seminars devising a five-year plan. She participates in our annual plant sale, growing the event to include workshops with bi-lingual master gardeners.



◀ From left to right: Mayor Chris Coleman, Diane May, Matt Mazanec and Beth Hyser.

Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Honor Roll

- | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Julie Benick | Amy Handford | Joan Rodriguez |
| Glen Blomgren | Rob Huberty | Raeann Ruth |
| Alice Burdick | Beth Hyser | Roger Schaefer |
| Carol Carey | Bette Johnson | Jody Seidel |
| Cliff Carey | Teri Keller | Margaret Sieland |
| Al Clausen | Ed Krahmer | Margie Smith |
| Jean Comstock | Deanna Layer | Maxine Smith |
| Greg Cosimini | Diane May | Ed Szalapski |
| Donovan Cummings | Matt Mazanec | Dick Taylor |
| Carrie Dimmick | Sharon McCrea | Steve Trimble |
| Margaret Doren | Wayde Moen | Lorraine Venaas |
| Steve Duerre | Dave Murphy | Wilfred Weber |
| Jacob Dorer | Ruth Murphy | Juanita Westman |
| Angela DuPaul | Christine Nelson | Wayne Wittmann |
| Karin DuPaul | Susan Omoto | Lisa Young |
| Denise Erler | Catherine Piccolo | Sandi Younkin |
| Chris Geurts | Eugene Piccolo | |
| Charlie Golden | Jane Prince | |

The DB Neighborhood Honor Roll started in the late 1980s and adds up to three persons per year. Honorees have plaques at City Hall (3rd floor hallway). If you know someone who should be on this list, please contact Karin at 651-772-2075.

This space prepared and paid for by the Lantry for Council Volunteer Committee, 25 E. Sandra Lane, St. Paul MN 55119

Governor's borrowing would jeopardize Minnesota's future

By State Rep. Sheldon Johnson

Governor Tim Pawlenty and I agree on one thing: Compiling the state's budget for the next biennium won't be easy. We are mired in a recession with slumping home sales and rising unemployment. But where I disagree with the Governor is the best course of action to return the state to sound financial footing and how to set a budget that is fair for all Minnesotans.

To balance the state's projected \$5 billion deficit, the Governor proposed slashing about \$2.5 billion in state spending that would kick about 100,000 Minnesotans off healthcare and cutting funding to cities and counties that will mean higher property taxes. But maybe most troubling is his plan to borrow \$1 billion over the next 20 years, a plan his own finance department calls risky. As any family can tell you, when you are worried about staying within a budget, the last thing you want to do is take on more debt.

With interest the Governor's borrowing could wind up costing the state nearly \$2 billion by the time the bond is paid back. The Governor wants to use money from the state's general fund—the same balance that pays for schools, roads, hospitals and public safety to make the payments. And worse yet, borrowing money today does nothing to address the state's long-term economic problems. Pushing the tough decisions back another two years is not real leadership. We must look past the two-year budget cycle and we can't continue to rack up debt for the next generation to worry about.

It took us years to get into this mess and we can't fix the problem with gimmicks and shortsighted solutions. It will



take serious study of the challenges we face and a bipartisan look to the future to get Minnesota back on track. That's the job Minnesotans hired us to do and we need your help. In the coming weeks, the Legislature is hosting a series of town hall meetings throughout the state to gather input from Minnesotans on the best course forward. There is a meeting in St. Paul at 6 p.m. Thursday, February 26 at the West Minnehaha Recreation Center, 685 Minnehaha Ave. West. I encourage you all to attend and bring your ideas. With a situation of this magnitude, nothing is off the table. To register to testify at the hearing, log on to www.house.mn

Contact State Rep. Sheldon Johnson at: Minnesota House of Representatives, District 67B, 549 State Office Building, Saint Paul, MN 55155 or rep.sheldon.johnson@house.mn or (651) 296-4201

Prepared and paid for by Volunteers for Johnson (Sheldon) Committee: 2031 Howard St. S., St. Paul, MN 55119

Letter To the Editor

Support 3M site museum proposal

The nation is experiencing large areas of vacant buildings and open acreage as companies abandon production facilities. To Saint Paul that ugly reality may be the only option available if an alternative can't be found for the 3M site.

The site is one of those areas that require immediate redevelopment to prevent the neighborhood around it from slowly cascading into abandonment. Many proposals are being offered to develop portions of the location, but only one plan proposes to use the total location for a fully developed theme, that of an electronics museum. We have industries that have no proper forum to display the history of the computer, controls, and manufacturing industries. The 3M site offers the opportunity of combining these divergent groups into a dynamic facility that can relate the synergies into a world class operation based on the constantly changing nature of electronics while supplying a permanent showcase of Minnesota's relationship to the advancement of electronics.

This facility would also give the University of Minnesota [a showcase for] what it has accomplished. 3M's history should be told here but so should the history of the mainframe computer, Honeywell and other related companies.

With the proper development this facility would draw attention nationally and internationally, becoming a source of information and research.

Mark Bradley

Brewery Arts and Science Fair

In mid January artists filled the first and second floors of the newly renovated Everest LLC Arts & Science Center in the Hamm's Brewery. Art included clay works, jewelry, paintings, glass blown art, textile arts, web design and other creative endeavors. The two-day event drew hundreds of visitors. The event was also an opportunity to show off the unique arts and science studios.

Be a Park Buddy at Dayton's Bluff Rec



Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Twin Cities (BBBS), the area's oldest mentoring organization, is developing an exciting, new program in the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood!

The Park Buddies Program is a site-based mentoring program for boys located at Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center in St. Paul. The program provides one-to-one mentoring services to youth on the East Side. Park Buddies will serve 10 boys between 10 and 13 years old who have been waiting for a mentor in the 55106 zip code.

Through the Park Buddies Program, young people are matched with a mentor who either lives or works in the nearby community. Educational, recreational and skill-building activities are available to these matches at the Recreation Center. Activities that

matches enjoy include shooting hoops, playing board games and going for a walk around the park. The activities provide a safe, social and positive learning environment for these boys that will help to increase their community involvement, to support their ability to make good life choices and to promote their school and career preparedness.

Little Brothers (mentees) in the Park Buddies Program meet with their Big Brothers (mentors) at the Recreation Center every other Tuesday from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. A light snack is provided. Program participation is free of charge.

To learn more about this opportunity, please contact Jon Dean at 651-491-1265 or go to our website at www.bigstwincities.org. Invest a LITTLE Time ... Get a BIG Return!

Dayton's Bluff Resident on the Dean's List

Noelana Gates, age 21, lifelong resident of Dayton's Bluff has been recognized for her exceptional academic achievement and her outstanding commitment to learning by being placed on the U of M College of Liberal Arts Dean's List.

Noelana is a junior at the U of M and is majoring in Human Resources Training and Development with a minor in American Sign Language.

Noelana attended Arlington Senior High School, where she participated in a program called MEP. She lettered in Academics and graduated in 2006. She was subsequently awarded a full scholarship by MEP to attend the U of M. She also was awarded a \$1,000.00 scholarship from the Limited Black 30 Women.

Noelana overcame some significant adversity. She became a mother at 16. However, she didn't miss any school or work (she's worked since she was 13), arranged for home schooling so she wouldn't fall behind while she was on maternity leave, and arranged for day care for her baby at the school. With help from some wonderful teachers at Arlington, she never missed a beat.

Currently, Noelana enjoys teaching and playing with her son, who is now 4. She loves to travel, read, write poetry, shop, listen to music and dance. Noelana enjoys school and meeting new people, going to "Open Mike" at the U, practicing ASL and spending time with her friends and family.

Dayton's Bluff teenager knows "15 Ways to Get A's" and tells us how

By Carla Riehle

Tyler Hamblin wants to be a role model. He's lived in Dayton's Bluff for all of his 16 years and knows the challenges that confront young people in the sometimes gritty city neighborhoods. He's set his sights high - his own role models are the two "O's" - Oprah and Obama.

Now a student at Cretin-Derham High School, Tyler has a long list of accomplishments including an unbroken string of A's in school and many awards for academic and athletic achievements. He was also the first African-American junior prime minister in the St. Paul Winter Carnival. But the activity he talks about most is his work with other teenagers.

Several years ago Tyler began the Point, a community organization modeled on a similar effort by his father. Tyler says that the purpose of the Point is to instill positive attitudes in young people and he's held numerous activities at Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center to further this goal. He's organized basketball teams, held workshops and promoted his booklet, "15 Ways to Get A's."

Tyler attributes his success to his father and to his extended family in the Twin Cities. As a single parent and former teacher, Ken Hamblin has devoted much of his time to pushing his son to study and succeed. Beginning when Tyler was very young, the two began taking long walks and road trips covering 47 of the 50 states. Tyler and Ken used the time as an opportunity

to explore their goals and for Tyler to begin writing his booklet. He now has a second work in progress, a children's fantasy about a backwards world. The working title is "Nilbmah," or "Hamblin" spelled backwards and it features the antics of the "snooccar," the masked bandit of many Eastside garbage cans.

Growing up in Dayton's Bluff, Tyler has also been deeply affected by his connection to the Native American mounds in Mounds Park. His great grandmother was part Blackfoot Indian and when Tyler was a child, he and his father spent a lot of time in the park, learning and discussing its history. This thread to his native roots, and his religious faith, have been important parts in keeping Tyler focused on his goals.

Adding to his growing fame, Tyler was the subject of a news feature on WCCO television on February 5th. Since the story he has heard from a number of colleges, letting him know that he's on their radar. Tyler also has an ambitious website (<http://prespoint1.googlepages.com/home>), where he sells T-shirts and his booklet to support the Point and highlight his message.

Right now, Tyler is looking for community partners to help promote his message. He's particularly interested in organizing more workshops and activities for neighborhood youth. He can be reached by email at prespoint@hotmail.com.

Olivia Dodge and Swede Hollow

By Karin DuPaul

Olivia Irvine Dodge died on January 24, 2009. She played a very important role in making Swede Hollow into a park. She was President of the Saint Paul Garden Club in the 1970s and led the Garden Club in research to find a project that was historic, geologic and ecologic in Saint Paul. Around the same time East Side residents Danny Wilson and his father Buzz were working to make Swede Hollow a park. Soon Swede Hollow was on the way to become a park. The Swede Hollow Task Force was formed with members being neighborhood residents, Saint Paul Parks staff and Garden Club members. Mrs. Dodge hosted the meetings in her home overlooking the Dodge Nature Center. Plans for Swede Hollow were

developed, issues worked out and the park was developed.

For years after Swede Hollow became a park Mrs. Dodge brought new garden club members there so they could see and learn about this enchanting park. Mrs. Dodge was given the Friend of Swede Hollow of the year award in 1999 for all the work she had done to make Swede Hollow a beautiful nature area.

Years ago Mrs. Dodge and her sister donated their beautiful family home at 1006 Summit Avenue to the State of Minnesota to be used as the Governor's Mansion. She also founded the Thomas Irvine Dodge Nature Center in West Saint Paul, which is a beautiful place to see nature at work.

Mrs. Dodge will be missed by many people here in Dayton's Bluff.



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Our Youth. Our Community.

Highlighting the youth of Dayton's Bluff

THE URBAN APPRENTICE: Real-life schooling in business skills

Donald Trump's TV show "The Apprentice" may be off the air. But through a program called "The Urban Apprentice," youth in the Dayton's Bluff area are learning skills needed to succeed in true reality, not a made-for-television version of reality.

The Urban Apprentice program is put on by the Urban Business Institute and held at the Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center. Youth age 14 and older are put through an intensive 15-session competition that tests intelligence, creativity and business acumen. Contestants learn business concepts such as advertising, negotiation and sales. To make the program more enticing, many of the sessions feature challenges that offer the chance to earn cash, prizes and high-school credit. The program involves both classroom time and visiting businesses for hands-on experience.

"These kids really want to work," said Gina Stokes, assistant director of the Dayton's Bluff Rec Center. "Some of them have to work to help support their families. But they need to know basic business skills to make it."



▲ Students discuss how to market everyday products during a recent class.

Linking our business community

As with any learned skill, you need to put it into practice often to make it second nature. That's where the Dayton's Bluff business community comes into play. The teens are ready and willing to work. But where? We all know the economy is tough right now; companies are laying off workers, not hiring. But maybe there is something somewhere, however small. Perhaps a local business could take on a local graduate of this class for an internship. Those extra tasks that are continually pushed to the side would get done, and a youth is getting real-world experience to put on their résumé. And it might lead to a part-time job down the road. Summer is a busy time in Dayton's Bluff, as people come here to enjoy Indian Mounds Park or Swede Hollow. Local businesses might need an extra hand even one or two days a week. Why not choose a youth from the neighborhood that has made the effort to gain business skills? It is vital to our community to keep this link strong.

Based on the success of the first Urban Apprentice program at Dayton's Bluff Rec Center, more may be offered. For further information, call the Urban Business Institute at 651-659-0613 (press # 4) or Gina Stokes at the Rec Center, 651-793-3885.



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Building Our Community



Laughing together is one way of welcoming immigrants into the community.

By Mary Ann Cogelow

During the month of January I read two wonderful books. The first of these, *The Story of Edgar Sawtelle* by David Wroblewski, the story of a hearing but congenitally mute boy, was simply the best novel I have read for a very long time. When I finished it, I couldn't imagine what to read next fearing that after *Edgar* any thing else would be an enormous letdown.

Fortunately, in my stack of "to read" books I had Mary Pipher's *The Middle of Everywhere* which my R.N. sister-in-law had contributed to the book drawing which is becoming a Christmas tradition in my family. I chose to read it because it seemed as remotely comparable to the novel as possible - nonfiction instead of fiction, describing recently arrived refugees from around the world instead of a third generation farm boy, urban rather than rural. Fortunately, it turned out to be as marvelous in its way as the Wroblewski is in its.

As you know if you have been reading my articles in the *Forum*, my major focus for many years has been on parents and children. The reason I kept *The Middle of Everywhere*, subtitled *Helping Refugees Enter the American Community*, in my book pile is that for more than a dozen years I had the privilege of teaching parenting, with the assistance of bilingual interpreters, to immigrants who spoke only Hmong. Additionally, English-speaking classes at the Dayton's Bluff Early Childhood Family Education Program have been increasingly diverse for many years (the last time I counted fifteen first languages other than English were spoken by parents registered for classes). Thus, part of my interest was professional.

Other Dayton's Bluff ECFE staff and I had in fact functioned as what Pipher calls "cultural brokers" with people newly arrived in the United States. Pipher's four-page list of roles she has performed as a cultural broker included things we also had done to help new Americans enter into our St. Paul community. They included helping people learn how to cross streets at traffic lights, to use calendars and clocks, to keep track of appointments, to keep food safe to eat in hot weather, to dress for frigid weather, the purpose and effects of some medical procedures, and lots more. Reading Pipher I was reminded of and proud of the many ways staff at Dayton's Bluff had helped the immigrant families we have known enter our community. I was also reminded of some of our less successful efforts - trying to explain the notion of the Easter Bunny to a group of baffled Hmong mothers came immediately to mind.

Fortunately, Pipher also reminded me that when culture meets culture there will be mistakes made and misunderstandings. While it is certainly important to be sensitive and self-aware so that these mistakes are as few and as minimal as possible, by sharing some of her own gaffes, Pipher empowers others to try to welcome immigrants without being immobilized by the fear of making mistakes.

In *The Middle of Everywhere* as part of the process of empowering her readers, Pipher lists twelve attributes which she says immigrants need to succeed in the United States. As a group she calls them resilience. Perhaps because of the time I have spent in the last twenty-five years or so learning about the essential role of resilience in children, as I read I found myself thinking more and more that the attributes she says immigrants must have are the attributes all of us, and all of our children, need to build satisfying and productive lives as individuals and in community. Her list is straightforward. Resilience means: 1) having a future orientation, being able to imagine a good future for yourself; 2) having energy and good health; 3) the ability to pay attention; 4) ambition and initiative; 5) verbal expressiveness - the ability to express needs, feelings and ideas and to be able to ask for help; 6) positive mental health - optimism, a sense of humor, the ability to appreciate and enjoy; 7) the ability to calm down, to manage feelings, to forgive oneself and others; 8) flexibility - being able to act differently in different situations; 9) intentionality or being thoughtful about choices; 10) lovability - the ability to elicit caring from others; 11) the ability to love new people - the most important of the attributes according to Pipher; and 12) good moral character - being honest, loyal, and responsible.

The list of attributes as I have listed them is pretty bare bones. In *The Middle of Everywhere*, Pipher fleshes them out with stories, many of them shattering, of refugees she has known. As I read them, I pondered that none of us has all of these attributes as fully as we might wish. It seems likely that each of us has them in different combinations and varying amounts. Some of them most likely come more easily to some of us than to others. Hopefully each of us is engaged in the process of realizing them more fully in our own lives. As we interact with our friends and neighbors, and as we raise our children, mindfulness of these qualities can help us build the society in which all of us can thrive. Pipher reminds us that unless we are full blooded Indigenous Americans, we or some or all of our ancestors came here as immigrants needing the attributes of resilience and the assistance of cultural brokers. She informs and reminds us as she stretches our ability to empathize and to act. I urgently recommend *The Middle of Everywhere* to everyone who hasn't read it. It's about all of us knowing ourselves and each other and how best to build the community we want to have.

And when you have read *The Middle of Everywhere*, if you like fiction I also recommend *The Story of Edgar Sawtelle*. Reading it may enhance your resilience.



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