

Dayton's Bluff DISTRICT FORUM

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April 2010

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761 East 3rd Street, one of the homes on the tour

Neighborhood Home Tour

Each year Dayton's Bluff gears up for the annual neighborhood home tour sponsored by the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul. Because there are more tour-worthy homes in Dayton's Bluff than the citywide event can accommodate, the neighborhood has traditionally produced its own special brochure with additional homes showing off the pick of the Bluff.

This year the combined tours will be held on Saturday, April 24, from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm and Sunday, April 25, from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Homes that will be on the Dayton's Bluff portion of the tour include 761 and 1002 East 3rd Street, 996 Burns Avenue, 723 Margaret Street, 401 Maple Street, 635 Bates Avenue, 402 Eichenwald Street and 619 North Street. Three of these homes will also be on the citywide tour.

Minneapolis/St. Paul tour brochures can be picked up at the Dayton's Bluff library on East 7th Street in mid-April and Dayton's Bluff tour brochures can be picked up at any of the homes listed above during the hours of the tour.

Many people come here year after year to see the diverse offerings of the community. Some of these visitors like it so well that they have made Dayton's Bluff their home.

Volunteers are needed for the home tour. Tasks include greeting people at the door, giving 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 Minneapolis/St. Paul Home Tour visit www.msphometour.com; go to www.DaytonsBluff.org for more information about the Dayton's Bluff tour.

Local Business

Association Advances

By Ed Lambert

District Council Executive Director

An initial steering committee of some 15 local businesspersons has met several times since February to structure the new Dayton's Bluff Business Association. The initial exploratory meeting was reported in the March *Forum*.

The committee's work has included adoption of draft vision and mission statements, charging two committees to move on specific action steps, negotiation of support services from the district council office and appointment of several officers to serve for the first year. Susan Tietjen was appointed president and Alex Bajwa vice-president.

The Outreach and Communications Committee chaired by Tim Herman is designing a website and identifying marketing strategies to build the organization.

The Events Committee, chaired by RaeAnn Ruth, is planning a Dayton's Bluff business fair for this summer or early fall. The committee envisions an informative and festive trade-fair-like gathering of area businesses, attended by both businesses and residents, to showcase local businesses and to network.

The Dayton's Bluff District Council will act as fiscal agent to handle available finances during the formative period and will report to the business association officers. The council office will also provide secretarial support, including fax and copying services, as well as make its location available for mail deliveries and meeting space as needed.

To support the effort, Dayton's Bluff businesspersons should call or email the membership coordinator, Tabitha deRango, at socialbutterfliesMN@yahoo.com or 651-771-2567. She will send updates and meeting notices via email. All business people, including home-based businesses, are encouraged to get in touch to learn more and to get involved at any level they choose.

The steering committee envisions a Dayton's Bluff community that functions as and is recognized as a vibrant and attractive place to do business. It hopes to support and cultivate creative and effective actions that strengthen its multi-ethnic business community.

An annual meeting, other events and a membership structure are in the works. Ideas and engagement are needed to help build a strong, vital and effective business association to advance local business opportunities and success. In the future, the association will consider affiliating with the Greater Eastside Area Business Association, the St. Paul Chamber of Commerce and other organizations to further strengthen support for, and awareness of, Dayton's Bluff businesses and issues.

Community Calendar

Thursday, April 1, 6:30

*Community Meeting

Sat., April 3, 10:30 am (p. 7)

Dayton's Bluff Take-a-Hike

Monday, April 12

*Greenspace Committee 6:00

*Council Meeting 7:00

Monday, April 19

*Arts & Culture Committee 6:15

*Council Meeting 7:00

Friday, April 16, 9:30 am

Wednesday, April 21, 6:30 pm

East District Police Meeting

722 Payne Avenue

Saturday, May 1, 10:30 am

Dayton's Bluff Take-a-Hike

*Meetings at Council office

798 East Seventh Street

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

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Census Forms

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Introduction to a Teen Mom's Story

by Mary Ann Cogelow

Last month in my long list of reasons to breastfeed (March 2010 *Forum*), I noted that many experts believe that breastfeeding contributes importantly to the development of the mother as a nurturer. This month, Sarah Cady's essay about her experience as a nursing teen mom bears eloquent testimony to the changes in her confidence and skills as a mom that arose from breastfeeding her first child.

When I first read this essay, Sarah and her husband Sean were Dayton's Bluff residents and participants in the Dayton's Bluff Early Childhood Family Education Program. Over a period of years they contributed richly to the program, participating in classes and serving on the parent advisory council and as volunteers. After they and their second daughter "graduated" from Early Childhood Family Education, they moved to west central Minnesota where they added another daughter and a son to their family.

Mary Ann Cogelow was a parent educator in the St. Paul Public Schools Early Childhood Family Education Program at Dayton's Bluff from 1975 to 2008. She continues to write on parenting issues.



"A" was about five months old in this photo from my 1994 high school graduation from St. Bernard's. I was 17.

A Teen Mom's Breastfeeding Story

by Sarah Cady

Everyone around me seemed to own an expert pair of hands. The nurses washed and diapered my new baby efficiently and casually, and my mom knew just how to swaddle her up in a receiving blanket. Over me loomed a middle-aged nurse with unnaturally black hair and a permanent scowl. She barked orders as I tried to nurse my baby for the first time, my hands and heart shaking. Despite her disdainful looks, I was determined to breastfeed. My mom had made it eight weeks with her first baby, and if I could just make it that far with mine, then I figured that I would prove to myself and to everyone else that I could be a good parent.

The words "teen mom" rarely escape a negative connotation. I was a junior in high school when I became pregnant. Even though I was only 16, I really wanted to be a good mom. Not because I was living some fantasy about how I needed a baby "to love me unconditionally," but because I wanted to take responsibility for my actions.

I got my hands on every piece of literature I could find about baby care and child development. In my little independent crash course, I learned that breastfed babies are healthier and have fewer developmental delays. I also found that babies with teen moms

were more likely to be affected by SIDS and other emotional and physical problems. It also happens that teen moms are the least likely to breastfeed.

An emotional and financial dependent, I was still living with my parents. Even though I had done research on baby care, I had no practical skills with babies. My mom had experience, and "A's" dad was a quick study when it came to her physical care. I was glad for the help and for the connection that he was making with our daughter. But their expertise intimidated me. I second-guessed myself when it came to deciding whether her cries meant hunger or wetness or a request for affection. My impulse was to ask Mom or "A's" dad, the experts, to tell me what to do. The problem was that I couldn't ask anyone else to keep track of feedings or the time she nursed on each side; I was the only one who could do it.

Being a mom was enough to worry about, yet I still had to finish senior year at my Catholic high school. I kept an extra uniform shirt in my locker because the milk would let down at the mere thought of nursing, soaking me with breastmilk. The problem was that I owned only three uniform shirts. Once I had leaked through all of them, I would have to dig out the ugly polyester uniform sweater. I would spend the rest of the day hot, wet and smelling strangely sweet.

Even on days that I didn't leak, I hurried home to feed "A." She was my only extra-curricular activity. As my peers played sports and went to prom, I rushed home to take a nap and express another feeding so that I could go to school the next day. Needless to say, I felt disconnected from the other kids at high school.

Breastfeeding didn't let me feel like a teenager. "A" was a slow nurser; a feeding took about 30 to 45 minutes, leaving me with an hour and a half maximum to be away until the next feeding. I had to live my life according to the last time she ate.

When my physics class spent a day at Valleyfair, I had to prepare by expressing an extra feeding into a bottle every day for a week. Being responsible for every drop of liquid she ate ruined the fun of going anywhere. I couldn't just hand her off and forget about her. Most of the time, I just stayed home.

I agonized over my loss of freedom, but being the "only one who could do it" was both an inconvenience and a blessing. The experts could pin a diaper and bathe her better than I, but she depended on me to eat. No one else could take my place and enjoy the half-view of her face as she nursed. From my exclusive angle above her, I could see just a slice of her upper lip. Because she was a slow nurser, I gazed on that view for sometimes eight hours in one day. I would stroke her wispy blonde hair, and her tiny fist would curl around one of my fingers or tug on my shirt. Sometimes she would look up at me and smile, breaking the suction. Being forced to stay home for feedings gave me real time and a physical connection with her that I might not have had if I were off busy being a teenager. Breastfeeding made me "the mom."

I nursed "A" until she was 13 months old; when she weaned herself,



Jim Smith receives a certificate of appreciation for his years of service as President of the Dayton's Bluff Block Nurse Program from Maryann Chowen, Executive Director of the program.

she had teeth and could walk. By then, breastfeeding meant more than beating my mom's record. I had become an expert at nursing.

My growing feelings of expertise spilled over into other areas of parenting. As she began eating table foods, my confidence in feeding her was already solid. Staying home with her, I practiced changing, bathing, and dressing her. I did manage to get the hang of it. Being with her every day and being physically close for huge portions of the day, I couldn't help but get to know her well. She's an incredibly flexible and observant child, healthy and developmentally right on target. She seems excited to start kindergarten next year, and I'm looking forward to being a grade school

mom. I can't claim that she would be any different if I hadn't breastfed her successfully, but I think it's fair to say that I would be a much different parent today. Breastfeeding forced me to spend the time with her that we needed.

When I decided to breastfeed, I knew that the odds were stacked against me. I was determined to break the bad teen mom stereotype, and I thought that nursing would prove to everyone that I could do a good job. What it did, instead, was prove to me that I could do it. I'm not a good mom because I chose to breastfeed. Breastfeeding made me a good mom.

Sarah Cady wrote this several years after her baby was born. Sarah blogs at <http://sarahcady.wordpress.com>.

Metropolitan State's Impact on Local Economy

by Harvey Meyer

Beyond churning out thousands of college graduates, Metropolitan State University is also an economic engine of sorts, contributing nearly \$200 million annually to the Twin Cities-area economy and the equivalent of about 2,500 full-time jobs.

That's according to a recent report conducted by Wilder Research, a St. Paul nonprofit that often performs economic analyses of education and human services.

"This report constitutes a new and important data point in our effort to understand the additional effects of our institution's far-reaching educational and community activities on the life and well being of our Twin Cities communities," said Metropolitan State Vice President Robert Heuermann. "It helps underscore the fact that Metropolitan State's contributions to the state's economy are the product of decades of investment in the institution—both public and private, and intellectual and financial."

Spending by the university's 2,633 full-time and 6,122 part-time students at the time of the survey produced the biggest economic shot in the arm, according to Wilder's survey of 588 Metropolitan State students. Their spending on books and supplies, food outside their homes and other non-housing spending amounted to nearly \$50 million yearly, much of it spent on the East Side.

Metropolitan State itself offers a sizeable economic boost to the local economy, with salaries comprising the largest expenditure. When coupled with purchases of services, repair and maintenance, supplies and other items, Wilder estimated the university's annual direct spending at about \$23 million.

Another, often overlooked, way the university contributes to the economy is through the full- and part-time students who work. Wilder calculated students added the equivalent of 5,390 full-time workers.

"I think it may be surprising to some just how many students work at the university or outside of it," said Paul Anton, Wilder's chief economist who drafted the report.

The students' economic contributions continue well beyond their stay at Metropolitan State. Almost nine in ten students said they planned to remain in the Twin Cities area after graduating, which adds to the area's job pool and enhances productivity and local companies' profitability.

While the report didn't zero in on Metropolitan State graduates' economic contributions, an earlier Wilder study estimated the ongoing impact of all Minnesota State Colleges and Universities schools' graduates at \$2.4 billion annually. That report also noted that the state of Minnesota receives an almost 11-to-1 return on its investment in those higher education institutions.

Harvey Meyer is an Academic Writer/Editor at Metropolitan State.

Natural Gas Safety Alert

This alert notice is to inform you of a potential sanitary sewer pipe/natural gas pipe concern.

Most sewer pipe problems are caused by broken pipe, which can be aggravated by tree roots. However, there is a slight possibility that some natural gas pipes could have been inadvertently installed through sewer pipe. This condition poses no safety hazard as long as the natural gas pipe intersecting the sewer pipe is not disturbed.

The equipment used to unclog sewer pipes can penetrate the natural gas pipe and lead to the dangerous release of natural gas. If you have a sewer blockage and determine it may be caused by a natural gas pipe, please call Xcel Energy at **1-800-895-2999** before **ANYONE** attempts to clear the sewer blockage.

As always, we are committed to your safety and we thank you for your cooperation.



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Haiti—Report from a Dayton's Bluff Doctor

by Stefan Pomrenke, MD

It is thawing out in Dayton's Bluff, a welcome contrast to the February snow that was falling when I left Minnesota for three weeks in Haiti. I witnessed the devastation that resulted from the January 12 earthquake, but most of all, I saw the undying hope of the Haitian people. I was part of a medical team along with a Haitian friend, Martin Elie, and several other Haitians from Florida.

There were many different diseases, but all of the parents who brought their children for treatment had the same unwavering resolve. They would walk for hours to see us and wait for hours to come into our rooms. What little medical safety net they had before the earthquake was seriously in jeopardy, as one of the two hospitals in the area was damaged by the earthquake.

After years of government corruption, the public health system was minimal and most people relied on nongovernmental organizations and churches that provided care in sometimes irregular intervals. The norms of prevention, vaccination and chronic disease management that we experience in our own lives were rare, if present at all.

Each night with our team was packed with lively, intense conversations about politics, faith and society, always with the goal of determining how best to mend this broken country.

Our group varied in skin tone, level of education, political persuasion and schools of thought. Yet we were all together despite the differences. When our voices trailed off into sleep, the

dogs and roosters of the neighborhood would keep our ears company and awake us at dawn for another full day.

We began to coordinate and form relationships with other clinics around us, attempting to learn how best to redistribute resources that the United States, Canada and many other countries had donated to the relief effort. The night before we left the south of Haiti, we were able to personally deliver food to relatives of Elsie who lives in St. Paul and whom I met at a Haiti awareness meeting at my home prior to our departure.

I next joined up with a team from St. Paul in the No Time For Poverty organization and Sean Penn's Jenkins/Penn Haiti Relief Organization. We were based at a large 75,000-person tent city in Port au Prince, where people had just gained access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities.

As part of this effort, I rode with the army medics of the 82nd Airborne to other large tent cities, on excursions we called "strike teams," to set up temporary clinics and provide medical care for the day. To serve alongside those bright and well-meaning soldiers was a true privilege. Every day brought a new set of challenges and new ways of seeing hope in the eyes of people whose houses were destroyed and family members lost.

We were able to rescue two infants from imminent death due to dehydration and likely saved countless more through dressing changes of their wounds still healing from the initial earthquake. Israelis worked alongside Germans, Haitians and Americans; differences were set aside to find ways to best serve the people in need, who may soon face the rainy season in poorly constructed tents.

We toured a friend's home neighborhood that had been completely destroyed by the quake, and even there signs of hope began to emerge. An old friend not seen in 15 years greeted us and shared with us his leadership in securing drinkable water for his community.

The president of Haiti declared that instead of the usual self-indulgent Mardi Gras-like Carnival this year, the Haitian people would observe a period of three days of fasting and prayer. This was astounding to me and other Americans, that a people already food insecure would purposefully fast. But the fast was to clear their minds and souls to make room for the purest way of moving forward with their country. Thousands of people gathered en masse in front of the Presidential Palace to celebrate that they were alive and that God would provide.



Haitians surround the collapsed presidential palace in a celebration of life

Dayton's Bluff Seniors Annual Meeting

Dayton's Bluff Seniors Living at Home Block Nurse Program held its annual meeting on February 12. Although Dayton's Bluff Seniors is among the youngest of Minnesota's Block Nurse Programs, starting in July 2008, the services are many. In order to extend care to the East Side, the Eastside Wellness Collaborative was founded by Maryann Chowen, executive director of Dayton's Bluff Seniors, to ensure that services were not duplicated by various agencies.

The office is located at First Lutheran Church, 463 Maria Avenue, where the organization is involved in wellness outreach to Hmong and Latino elders, homeless people and those who are grieving. Health professionals as well as student nurses participate. Foot care, wound care, blood glucose, blood pressure check, and education are some of the many services provided.

The program serves many clients in their homes and each week at the Parkway Gardens wellness clinic, where it also mentors University of Minnesota nursing students.

The mission is to support elders to have quality of life while remaining safe in their own homes and to teach volunteers to serve elders and their community.

For more information about Dayton's Bluff Seniors, email ExecDirector@daytonsbuffseniors.org or call 651-776-7210 ext. 303.

Parks Clean Up

On Saturday, April 10, 2010, starting at 9:00 am, at all St. Paul Parks and Recreation centers, residents are encouraged to come and help clean up their favorite area. Each year tons of trash are removed from these areas as the snow melts to reveal the winter build-up.

The parks and centers in Dayton's Bluff include Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary, Indian Mounds Park, Swede Hollow Park, Skidmore Park, Hamm Park, Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center and Margaret Recreation Center.

The clean-up is sponsored by St. Paul Parks and Recreation. For more information about Dayton's Bluff parks email Karin@DaytonsBluff.org or call 651-772-2075.

In this spirit of hope I returned to America, renewed in my faith in the tenacity of the human race. I attended sessions of the Minnesota legislature and saw a similar hope in people's eyes who wanted health care for everyone here in our own state. Speaking with family and friends within Dayton's Bluff has shown me the unique position of our own community. We are diverse, we have struggles, but we rally together. As we remember those who strive for hope in Haiti, let us work toward our hopes and dreams here in our own community.

Keep your eyes open for news about future Dayton's Bluff Haiti awareness campaigns. If you are able, please donate to our local NoTimeForPoverty.org here in St. Paul, to JPHRO.org for housing in the rainy season or to Partners in Health at PIH.org for sustainable long term medical work.



Mounds Park Beacon, 3M Tower to Switch Places

April 1, 2010 - The airway beacon, one of the major historic landmarks in Indian Mounds Park, will soon disappear from its longstanding site, to be replaced by the 3M water tower.

The action has its roots in the move by the St. Paul Port Authority to rename and market the old 3M campus as "Beacon Bluff." The real estate marketing firm hired by the Port Authority conceived of this name after numerous late night "extreme brainstorming" sessions.

As the marketing firm explained, "Alliteration is a hot trend in the advertising world. Since the buildings are in Dayton's Bluff we needed to come up with a 'B' word. We could have looked for a 'D' word, but there aren't as many good ones. 'Beacon' struck us as the perfect term because it represents our aim to be a shining light that looks to the future."

When the firm discovered to its surprise that there was already an airway beacon in the neighborhood, it decided it would be "fantastic to have it moved to the old 3M property—and city officials agreed!"

As the Port Authority pondered the project's many benefits, officials realized they had stumbled upon the ideal opportunity to save the historic, albeit unsightly, 1949 water tower by moving it to a less conspicuous spot on the bluff. An added bonus is that the structure will now be a visible source of pride to 3M executives taking off from Holman Field in their corporate jets. "We thought about it really hard and decided switching the two landmarks was a win-win solution," said a spokesman who did not wish to be identified.

The swap is planned to occur on April 1 of this year. As an act of good faith, the Port Authority provided these exclusive pictures to the *Forum* to solicit public opinion. When asked whether the paper's April 1 publication date would give the community sufficient time for feedback, an official said that the Port Authority intended to disregard public comments anyway. However, he hinted that they might be persuaded to accept thanks from a grateful neighborhood after the move.

Please take a moment to contact the Port Authority and let everyone there know how much you appreciate their ingenuity and dedication to historic preservation.

Scandinavians Retake Swede Hollow

April 1, 2010 - Most Dayton's Bluff residents who read this paper have heard about Swede Hollow, the area that Swedish settlers began to occupy in the 1860's and which later became the home of groups of Italians and Mexican-Americans. But not everyone knows that the Swedes will soon be returning to their ancestral home.

SwedeScape, a newly formed nonprofit group, will provide leadership for the project. The organization has been given permission by the city's Planning and Economic Development department to erect several new structures in Swede Hollow Park.

The group has requested funding for the projects in this year's bonding bill at the state legislature. Introduced by Dayton's Bluff representative Sheldon Johnson, who says that he is "finally able to come out as a Scandinavian," the bonding request would cost \$127,000,000. Although almost all recent St. Paul projects have been vetoed by Governor Tim Pawlenty, SwedeScape has received positive signals that the governor views the measure as an important step in reclaiming the heritage of the state.

The proposed buildings include an interpretive center that would teach neglected nordic traditions such as replica runestone carving, blunt-needle Valkyrie tattooing and Viking ship construction. SwedeScape hopes that with future state appropriations, Phalen Creek can be restored and used to launch the ships to reenact the ancient arts of pillaging and looting.

One long-term project is to build a Swedish culture charter school that will be housed in an architecturally unique structure spanning the waters of Phalen Creek. "It will be just like the little bridges with the quaint outhouses that were there for many years," the association's historian exclaimed.

If you are of Scandinavian descent and have the documents to prove it, SwedeScape invites you to visit its new website at www.SwedeScape.com.

Twin City Meats to Become Vegan Village

April 1, 2010 - Vegan Village, a new Dayton's Bluff restaurant, will have its grand opening soon. The eatery is taking over the old storefront of Twin City Meats at Fourth and Earl streets. It comprises part of the new "ultra-vegan" movement that prohibits the consumption of meat, fish and any product that comes from animals, as well as the higher forms of vegetables that are now thought by scientists to feel pain, particularly those with "heads," such as cabbage, iceberg lettuce and broccoli.

The owners of Vegan Village, longtime inhabitants of Dayton's Bluff, are aware of the irony of taking over a building that once sold the flesh of animals, but they are taking precautions to eliminate any trace of the abhorrent substance. They have hired a swab team from REMEATIATION, the acronym for a Dayton's Bluff firm that is growing rapidly as the ultra-vegan movement explodes.

The chef for the soon-to-be-opened restaurant told the *Forum's* chief restaurant columnist, "We want to let people know that Dayton's Bluff isn't just for meat eating any more." She is convinced that people will stop eating the specials at the Strip Club (with the cruelly named website www.domeats.com) and the nearby Dairy Queen.

Instead of eating hot dogs, "a food that is insulting both to hooved animals and dogs, we believe that meat eaters at Dairy Queen," she said, "will appreciate our special 'Tofu Tubes.'" Honoring both animals and the more sentient vegetables, a "tube" is made from a secret soy bark/earth mineral recipe and is fun food for grown-ups and kids alike.

In friendly competition with the drive-throughs at other local establishments, plans are afoot for a "rickshaw-thru." The earth-friendly vehicles—useful for a wide range of purposes—will be soon be available (pending zoning approval) through a subsidiary of Vegan Village across the street.

Bluff Olympians Victorious

April 1, 2010 – The Dayton's Bluff Winter Olympics teams' triumphant return was celebrated on March 1 with a victory parade down East 7th Street. After a disastrous performance in Torino in 2006, the four years of practice and hard work really paid off.

The men's toboggan team brought home a gold medal in the tall hill event. The women's team didn't fare quite as well in the short hill race but did win a silver medal. Both teams were disqualified for TWI (tobogganing while intoxicated) and were not allowed to compete in the toboggan slide competition.

Fortunately, alcohol was not a factor in the individual ice fishing competition. In fact, no one with under a 0.04% blood alcohol content is allowed to compete, as the Russian team found out. They tried to cheat by drinking non-alcoholic beer but were tripped up by pre-event breathalyzer tests. There was also a scandal when several members of the Canadian team were caught drinking German instead of Canadian beer. They were expelled from both the Olympics and Canada.

In the end, the Dayton's Bluff team proved they could out-ice-fish and out-drink anyone in the world and took the gold, silver and bronze. The after-party featured beer-battered fish sticks, beer brats, and beer cheese soup, all washed down with, beer. It was enjoyed by athletes from many countries and accounted for the poor turnout at the closing ceremonies.

Meet all the Olympic athletes at the Dayton's Bluff Pub Crawl on April 1. Check individual establishments for exact times.



District council member David Skelton rehearsing with his trio

Monthly Community Meeting

The next Dayton's Bluff Community Meeting is Thursday, April 1, from 6:30 to 8:00 pm at the Dayton's Bluff Community Council, 798 East 7th Street. The council holds a community meeting on the first Thursday of most months.

The object is to work with block clubs and neighborhood residents on problem properties, criminal and nuisance behavior, code enforcement issues and any other issues, concerns or new ideas for improving Dayton's Bluff

If addresses of problem properties are submitted before the meeting, they will be sent to police and code enforcement officers who will research the properties and bring relevant information to the meeting. All Dayton's Bluff residents are welcome to attend. Contact Karin@DaytonsBluff.org or call 651-772-2075.

2010 Census

by Sage Holben

In the past several months, I've attended at least four public presentations on Census 2010 and what the census means for St. Paul residents. Notice that I did not say "citizens." I used "residents" because everyone who lives here will benefit by being counted in the census. The census is based on everyone who lives in the U.S. being counted, citizen or not. The census does not distinguish between citizen and non-citizen in any way.

Ten Questions

The ten basic questions listed below will be asked on the census forms. Some of the questions have been shortened or paraphrased because of space. The reasons for some of the questions are included in parentheses. For full answers go to <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/how/interactive-form.php>.

1. How many people were living or staying in the house, apartment or mobile home on April 1, 2010?
2. Were there any additional people staying there not included in question 1? These could be live-in sitters, in-laws, newborns, people staying temporarily.
3. Is the dwelling owned by you or

someone in your household? With a mortgage? A loan? Is it being rented?

4. What is your telephone number? (To be called if an answer cannot be understood, or if the form is incomplete.)

5. What is the name of each person living at this address? (Federal law protects the confidentiality of personal information; this includes names.)

6. What is the sex of each person living at this address? (This question has been asked since 1790. Census data about sex are important because many federal programs must differentiate between males and females for funding, implementing and evaluating their programs. For instance, laws promoting equal employment opportunity for women require census data on sex. Also, sociologists, economists, and other researchers who analyze social and economic trends use the data.)

7. Age and birth date of each person in household. (Asked since 1800. Federal, state, and local government need data about age to interpret most social and economic characteristics, such as forecasting the number of people eligible for Social Security or Medicare benefits. The data are widely used in planning and evaluating government programs and policies that provide funds or services for children, working age adults, women of childbearing age or the older population.)

8. Is the person of Hispanic, Latino, Cuban, or Spanish origin? (Asked since 1970. Needed by federal agencies to monitor compliance with anti-discrimination provisions, such as under the Voting Rights Act and the Civil Rights Act. State and local governments may use the data to help plan and determine bilingual programs for people of Hispanic origin.)

9. What is the person's race? Each person is allowed to check one or more of the categories, including, but not limited to:

White; Black; African-American; Negro; American Indian; Alaskan native (name of enrolled or principal tribe); Asian-American; Chinese; Filipino; Other Asian: Japanese-not Hawaiian; Korean; VietNameese.

(Asked since 1790. Race is key to implementing many federal laws and monitor compliance of the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act. Data is used to determine congressional, state and local voting districts and



Not sure where to begin?

We are a non-profit agency eager to help you accomplish your home repairs using the latest green rehab techniques that may lower your energy costs.

There is no cost assistance for eligible homebuyers. We offer payback loans with low interest rates (3-5%) and several special programs that do not require payments. Call 651.774.6995 to see if you qualify.

Yog koj xav nrog Hmoob tham, hu 651.774.9064

Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Housing Services
823 7th Street East
St. Paul, MN 55106
651.774.6995-office www.dbnhs.org

to assess fairness of employment practices and monitor racial disparities for various public services.)

10. Does a person in household sometimes stay elsewhere? This could be in college housing, military, second residence, for purposes of child custody, jail/prison, nursing home. (Ensures accuracy and completeness of form and to contact respondents whose forms are incomplete or missing information.)

Census Results

As a result of the census, a total count of St. Paul would of course give a population total. But with various breakdowns, one can also find the number of houses, how many people live within a certain zip code, etc. For the basic ten-question census form see http://2010.census.gov/2010census/pdf/2010_Bilingual_Questionnaire_Info.pdf.

The forms are sent to household addresses, NOT to named individuals; this answers a common question about people who have moved within the last month or two.

I have been, admittedly, concerned about how the collected information will be used and who has access to it. On the Census 2010 website this statement appears: "All Census Bureau employees take the oath of nondisclosure and are sworn for life to protect the confidentiality of data. By law, the Census Bureau cannot share respondents' answers with anyone, including the IRS, FBI or CIA or any other government agency."

No questions will be asked, in writing or in person, about legal status or Social Security number.

Here is what you should know:

Fill out the census form right away and mail it back immediately. If anyone calls or goes to your door and claims to be from the census, ask for an ID. If you have any questions or concerns, call Mario Vargas, Census 2010 Coordinator, at 651- 201-2479 or Ashley Edwards, Census 2010 Local Government Liaison, at 651-201-2474. Do not let the person into your home.

The Census Bureau will NOT ask for information to be submitted online for this census. The Census Bureau will not ask for political affiliation, Social Security number, or if you are a citizen. The Census Bureau does not ask for money or any other donation.

Organic Soil Class

Mary Mac, a former Ramsey County Master Gardener who lives in Dayton's Bluff, will make a presentation on Tuesday, April 13, at 6:30 pm on working with organic soil. She will answer your questions about preparation, weed control and bug control.

The event will be held in the council meeting room, 798 East 7th Street, St. Paul. To register, email Karin@DaytonsBluff.org or call 651-772-2075.

Police Community Meetings

The Eastern District Police hosts its monthly meetings for community members at 722 Payne Avenue at the corner of Minnehaha Avenue. The next meetings are on Friday, April 16, at 9:30 am, and Wednesday, April 21, at 6:30 pm. The meetings are intended to listen to and address concerns about crime and other issues on the East Side.

New Microentrepreneur Class Starts in April

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

Class training lasts eight weeks and includes operations management, marketing, financial management, and preparing a business plan, plus eight 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.

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 scale. Class size is limited. Please call Karin at 651-772-2075 or email Karin@DaytonsBluff.org for an application and exact dates.



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Our Youth. Our Community.

Highlighting the youth of Dayton's Bluff

Johnson's boys basketball team instills East Side pride

Teens who grew up on the East Side, getting their start at local recreation centers, are now leading St. Paul Johnson to a potential state title in high school boys basketball. As of this writing, the 2009-2010 Governors are undefeated (26-0) and close to a school record. They will vie for the championship in the Minnesota State High School League 3A division in late March. Players like Dante Warlick, Demetrie Conwell and Prince Williams all played for Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center (DBRC).

But it's more than just a winning athletic team. Much more. While the Johnson team has been extremely successful on the basketball court, these young men have had a positive impact in the community off the court as well. They have become encouraging role models for the youth who currently participate in DBRC activities.



▲The team huddles before a game in their undefeated season.

Many of the Johnson players are leaders in programs at the recreation center, such as Youth in Action and after-school homework help. And Warlick, Conwell and Williams, among others, plan to continue on to college.

The success of the Johnson boys basketball team has created a new sense of neighborhood unity. Players at the younger levels are waiting for their opportunity to further the Johnson legacy. The DBRC 12-and-under team attends most of their games. "It's so much fun to watch my brothers play basketball for Johnson!" said one youngster.

Thanks go to the young men from DBRC and Johnson High School for helping the revival of East Side pride.

OPEN GYM

Tues & Thurs

4-6p

Dayton's Bluff
Rec Center



(must have school ID)

TEEN CLUB

Ages: 13-17

Meets: Thursdays, 6-7p

Leader: Annabelle
Siedschlag

PLAY BALL with the LYNX!

Date: May 13, 2010

Time: 4-5p

Place: Dayton's Bluff
Rec Center

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

Dayton's Bluff Gets New Federal Money

By Ed Lambert

District Council Executive Director

Mayor Chris Coleman's office has announced that \$18 million of new federal funding will be shared this year among seven city neighborhoods, including Dayton's Bluff. The funds will be used to help rehabilitate vacant homes and residential properties, as well as to demolish those not feasible to renovate. This new effort focuses relatively more of the funding on those areas, including some in Dayton's Bluff where the mortgage foreclosure crisis has hit hardest.

"We will acquire hundreds of vacant buildings in these neighborhoods and put people back to work, making these properties an asset for our community again," said Mayor Coleman. Funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, this Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) money was awarded to applicants implementing the most innovative ideas to rebuild their local communities, while demonstrating their capacity to be responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars.

The city will also create financial incentive tools for prospective buyers of vacant and foreclosed properties. "These funds will be used to strategically set the stage to attract new investment in Dayton's Bluff businesses and in its housing market," said Cecile Bedor, director of the city's Department of Planning and Economic Development.

The city of St. Paul has received

some of the larger awards of any city in the nation through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Previous multimillion dollar funding awards, approved last year, began to impact Dayton's Bluff last fall and there is more rehabilitation work planned for 2010. The new funding adds additional activity and impact this year and beyond.

Avi Viswanathan, President of the Dayton's Bluff Community Council (DBCC), said "community residents and businesses are telling us that new housing investments could be seen in many parts of Dayton's Bluff last fall, and seem to be more numerous this spring." By removing, rehabilitating, and reoccupying these homes, the city stabilizes property values in neighborhoods and makes these neighborhoods more attractive for private investment.

Since last fall, DBCC zoning meetings have reviewed and recommended approval for many more plans than usual for new and/or expanded housing, as well as for new investment in business properties. For more information on housing initiatives and resources in Dayton's Bluff, contact the Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Housing Service at www.dbnhs.org; or ed@daytonsbuff.org, 651-772-2075.

St. Paul Federal Credit Union

by Carla Riehle, Forum Editor

Where are all the banks in Dayton's Bluff? Where can you cash a check, get a car loan, or finance a mortgage?

It turns out that you can do all of these things and more at the only full-service financial institution in Dayton's Bluff, St. Paul Federal Credit Union (www.stpaulfcu.org). Located at 1330 Conway Street in the Electrical Industry Building, the credit union provides low-cost services to its members. (Customers of credit unions are actually "members" who can vote on credit union governance.)

Although St. Paul Federal began in 1953 as a service for IBEW Local Union #110 electrical workers, its membership is now open to anyone who lives, works, worships or studies in St. Paul or Minneapolis. Best of all, you only need a \$5.00 deposit to open an account and become a member.

Once you're a member, you can cash checks for free, get low rates on loans and mortgages and take advantage of many other financial services. The credit union also offers a checking account that bears interest at an amazing 5.10% for doing what you already do—direct deposit, paperless/e-statements and using your debit card.

Theresa Malone, president of St. Paul Federal, says that as a nonprofit institution, the credit union's mission is to serve members and their communities. The credit union shows its support for local communities through a bowling tournament, a fund drive for Gillette Children's Hospital and a pajama drive for children in need.

It also puts on a big National Night Out celebration in early August with free food, entertainment and the popular "cash tornado" machine. Malone estimates that last year at least 300 people attended National Night Out at

the credit union.

Opening an account is simple. All that's needed is one form of identification, which could be a driver's license, a state ID, a government-issued ID, a student ID, a passport or a *matricula*.

One useful new service that the credit union has recently introduced is a low-cost money transfer service to Mexico via *Directo a Mexico*.

Besides the Conway branch in Dayton's Bluff, the credit union also has branches in both the St. Paul and Minneapolis downtown skyway systems and at Hillcrest shopping center. Theresa Malone invites you to stop by and see what the credit union has to offer.

Author Dick Edwards to Speak at Cerenity-Marian

Author Dick Edwards will give a presentation on his latest book *Mom, Dad . . . Can We Talk?* on Monday, April 12, at 7 pm at Cerenity Senior Care-Marian of Saint Paul.

Edwards has extensive leadership in older adult services and has been recognized by many professional associations and the Mayo Clinic. The event is free and open to the public.

Cerenity Senior Care-Marian of Saint Paul is located across the street from Mounds Park at 200 Earl Street. The campus provides independent living, assisted living, memory care assisted living, board and care, skilled nursing home and adult day services to approximately 300 elders. Questions may be directed to 651-793-2100.

Mounds Theatre

Ed Gein, the Musical

Ed Gein. It is a name that lives with us decades after he died. Anyone alive when he was arrested in the late 1950s will never forget his story. Even those much younger have heard about him.

This local midwest, micro-budget-movie has garnered national and international coverage since its debut in Oshkosh, Wisconsin on January 2. There have now been over 1,000 articles written about it, including local coverage in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* and *Minneapolis Star-Tribune*, as well as wide radio and television coverage.

The lead actor and the director will be special guests at each showing on April 1, 2 and 3. On those dates, every ticketholder will get a signed 11"x13" movie poster.

The movie is unrated. Show times are 7 pm and 9 pm, Thursday, April 1, and Friday, April 2; 4 pm, 7 pm and 9 pm, Saturday, April 3; 7 pm and 9 pm, Friday, April 9, and 4 pm, 7 pm and 9:15 pm, Saturday, April 10.

Admission is \$9.

Starting Gate's Final Season

Starting Gate Productions' eighth and final season, its fifth at the Mounds Theatre, closes this spring with "Our Country's Good" written by Timberlake Wertenbaker

In June 1789 in the Australian penal colony that was later to become the city of Sydney, a marine lieutenant decides to put on a play to celebrate the king's birthday. He casts the play with the English convicts who populate this distant Australian prison camp. It is a story about justice and the redeeming power of theater.

The play is directed by Richard Jackson and features the talents of Matthew G. Anderson, Jane Davich Steiner, Gary DuBreuil, Tina Frederickson, Stephen Frethem, Danielle Kiminski, Tara Elizabeth Lucchino, Charles Numrich, Joel Raney, Bill Studer, Ben Tallen and Noë Tallen.

The play runs from April 23 through May 16. Show times are 7:30 pm, Fridays and Saturdays and 2:00 pm, Sundays. Pay What You Can Night is Monday, May 3, at 7:30 pm. An audio description performance is Sunday, May 9, at 2:00 pm.

Tickets are \$18 general admission, \$16 students and seniors. Call 651-645-3503 for tickets.

Theater Location and Information

All performances of the play and the movie are at the Historic Mounds Theatre, 1029 Hudson Road, St. Paul, Minnesota 55106. For more information, contact www.moundstheatre.org or 651-772-2253.

Dayton's Bluff History

Connemara Patch in the *St. Paul Globe* by Steve Trimble

Last month I did a history column on an article that was all about Swede Hollow, our community's legendary landmark. It was a nostalgic and mostly positive look at a group of Swedish settlers who lived along Phalen Creek 124 years ago. I had discovered through online research the *St. Paul Globe* article that I summarized.

That newspaper made a short mention of Connemara Patch, another ethnic area along the same small waterway, so I decided to see what I could find about the area in the Library of Congress database.

I found that in most cases, the reporters drew a less kind portrait of the Irish immigrant group there. The items were usually about criminal activity, despair and disaster. In January 1903, for instance, there was a story of three men who were "under the influence of liquor" and attacked and robbed a man named John Flaherty near the Fourth Street bridge.

One of the men pointed a pistol at the victim and searched him, threatening to shoot if he resisted. According to the *Globe*, a few hours later the trio of thugs "were rounded up in Connemara patch" and arrested by the police.

A man named J. C. Fillmore was arrested for stealing a load of wheat in Minneapolis. He lived at 202 Commercial Street "where he has a wife and a family . . . who are without means." The children ranged in age from 11 months to 15 years and were being tended to by the relief society. The Fillmores, the *Globe* stated, lived in "a dilapidated house on the 'Connemara patch . . . where the eight members cluster about a small cookstove to keep warm. The only articles of furniture in the place are two chairs. A dry goods box serves for a table. There are no beds, the mother and the seven children sleep on the floor."

Finally, on April 20, 1891, the newspaper said that "in that most gruesome spot known as Connemara patch . . . the most severe accident occurred . . . by which a number of the wretched dwellers in the miserable shanties were injured. The hovels are situated in sheer descent from Commercial street." It seems that work was being done to block up a spring that was eroding land under a large estate on the bluff above. "The result was that the pressure of water and wet sand became so great that it burst its bond." The mass slid down upon Connemara Patch homes that were below and half buried at least one. "The dwellers in the other shanties were

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aroused and commenced the work of rescue."

Though no one seems to have died, several adults and children were badly bruised and cut, some seriously. "The injured people were conveyed to adjoining houses, where they were attended to." While the event was not earth-shaking—well, I guess it was in a way—the *Globe's* description of the settlement shows how it viewed the life of its inhabitants.

Take-a-Hike on April 3

Take-a-Hike occurs on the first Saturday of most months. The next hike will be Saturday, April 3. Hikers meet at 10:30 am in Indian Mounds Park at Earl Street and Mounds Boulevard. The route winds through local parks and trails to end up at the new East Side Heritage Park. Along the way hikers will share stories and learn some of the local history. The hike is about four miles long with some moderately rough terrain. Transportation will be available to return to Indian Mounds Park, if needed.

For more information contact Karin at 651-772-2075 or Karin@Daytons-bluff.org.

Block Club Meetings

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

Margaret Rec Center Block Club meets at 6:30 pm on the second Thursday of each month at the Margaret Recreation Center, at Margaret and Frank Street. This block club encompasses Seventh, Ross, Bush, and Reaney streets and Minnehaha Avenue.

Beech/Margaret 654 Block Club meets at 6:30 pm on the last Thursday of each month at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church at Margaret and Forest. This block club covers Minnehaha, Beech, Margaret, Sixth, Fifth and Fourth between Cypress and Arcade.

Frank Street Block Club meets at 6:30 pm on the third Wednesday of each month at Immanuel City of Refuge Healing Temple, at 815 Frank Street. This block club encompasses Seventh, Ross, Bush, and Reaney streets and Minnehaha Avenue between Earl and Johnson Parkway.

Lower Dayton's Bluff Block Club's will meet at 6:30 pm on Thursday, April 29, at 252 Maria Avenue. This block club is bounded by 3rd and Maple streets and I-94. Contact Sherry Johnson at sherryjohnson@gmail.com for more information.

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Rain Barrels for Sale

The Recycling Association of Minnesota is offering a limited number of \$20 discounts for the purchase of a rain barrel normally priced at \$65.

Rain barrels stop water pollution by capturing rainwater where it falls—before it runs across lawns and sidewalks picking up dirt, leaves, and other pollutants. Rain barrels also help reduce your household water use, and allow you to water your garden more naturally with nonchlorinated water. Order at www.recycleminnesota.org.

Unique Dental Services for Kids in Dayton's Bluff

By Ed Lambert

District Council Executive Director

Since late 2007, and up to the end of 2009, 8,123 low-income St. Paul elementary school kids have received dental work financed, in part, with Invest St. Paul (ISP) dollars. The program began in St. Paul, like so many other innovations impacting city school children, at Dayton's Bluff Elementary School and later expanded to other city elementary schools, libraries, and community centers. 50% of these city schools have dental programs now, and plans for further expansion to all elementary schools by the end of 2010 are already underway.

Services are provided on a sliding scale fee-for-service arrangement, based on family income. All enrolled families receive access to dental care, provided by dentists and dental technicians, on a free or reduced price basis. The idea is to ensure that our kids have the dental care they need so they can more easily focus on their education. Poor dental health can impact one's capacity to sustain focused attention on studies, and can lead to other distracting health problems.

Smiles Across Minnesota (SAM), as the program is known, has several corporate partners whose resources have enabled the program to expand beyond ISP areas. They include Delta Dental of Minnesota and the Greater Twin Cities United Way, which have provided significant local funding, and the 3M company's ESPE program which has donated thousands of expensive sealants to further extend program resources.

The most common chronic infectious disease among children in Minnesota is bacterial infection in the mouth, causing tooth decay, among

other problems. Much of this disease can be linked to changes in habits of parents and child care providers alike, who too often give children more processed foods at earlier ages. These include fruit snacks, juice boxes, sodas and other bottled beverages that do not contain the fluoride found in tap water. These habits are made all the more difficult to cope with when families do not have access to reasonably priced dental insurance. Regular dental care promotes timely check ups, dental cleaning and good dental hygiene, as well as early action on needed dental work.

Delta Dental of Minnesota and Children's Dental Services launched Smiles Across Minnesota in 2006, in conjunction with Oral Health America's Smiles Across America program. SAM is a statewide initiative to address acute oral health needs of low-income and uninsured children. The mayor's Invest St. Paul initiative focuses on bringing needed resources to targeted city neighborhoods, as well as forming new initiatives to address issues related to housing, economic development, education, and community services.

Ed Szalapski Dies

A memorial service for Edward W. Szalapski Sr. was held on March 9 at the Maplewood Community Center with over 100 people attending. He died of lung cancer on February 4, 2010.

Ed and his family lived in Dayton's Bluff for over 40 years in a house on Margaret Street. He and his wife Judy raised six children and had 14 grandchildren. They spent much of their time with their family and enjoying family activities and events.

Over the years Ed served on a number of boards in Dayton's Bluff including the Dayton's Bluff Community Council, Upper Swede Hollow Neighborhood Association and the Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Housing Services (DBNHS). He was affectionately called "Community Ed" because of all the time he spent helping out in Dayton's Bluff. Two years ago when they moved to a smaller house, Ed and Judy donated their home to DBNHS to rehab and sell to a family.

Memorials to Ed are preferred to the Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Housing Service, 823 East 7th Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55106.



District Council fundraising dinner at the Strip Club restaurant

Council Fundraiser a Success

The Dayton's Bluff District Council's fundraising event on Sunday evening, March 14, was a resounding success. 49 people gathered at the Strip Club restaurant on Maria Avenue and East 6th Street to donate to the council's community programs and in the process enjoyed an outstanding five-course meal, paired with wines.

Stephanie Harr, a former council board member, and Lara Merrill, a current member, collaborated with Tim Niver, the Strip Club's owner, to come up with a memorable event that raised \$1,960 for the council. Donations to such council activities are tax deductible and help raise money for its work.

The chef got lots of praise for the meal, and the efficient staff put on a stellar performance as well. The club seats up to 60 people, so there was a virtual full house of council friends.

Many board members were there as well as other residents and businesspeople from the community. Conversation was lively as people renewed neighborhood friendships and met new acquaintances. A welcome addition was the number of people involved in organizing the new Dayton's Bluff Business Association (DBBA).

State representative Sheldon Johnson said, "the meal was wonderful and the people just plain fun."

Susan Teitjen, initial president of the developing DBBA, said, "I met some very interesting people there, including some businesspeople I had not met before."

Another feature of the event (which everyone seemed to appreciate) was the complete lack of speeches and long-winded storytelling, although Ed Lambert, council director, gave a brief acknowledgment of the effort that went into the dinner. The club may be expanding its seating in the near future, so the event could be reprised next year with a bigger crowd.

Look for more event photos on www.daytonsbluff.org later this month.

Deacon Terry Schneider Dies

Deacon Terry Schneider passed away suddenly on February 11 in Cape Coral, Florida where he was spending the winter with his wife of 49 years, Sue Ann. He was 71 and lived in Plymouth.

Deacon Schneider was ordained to the Permanent Diaconate for the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis of

the Catholic Church in 1997. He served at St. John of St. Paul in Dayton's Bluff for the past five years as both deacon and business administrator. He also served as deacon at Holy Name of Jesus in Medina and St. Anne in Hamel.

Deacon Terry is survived by many children, foster children and grandchildren. His death came as a shock to his many friends at St. John's. He will be greatly missed by them all.

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

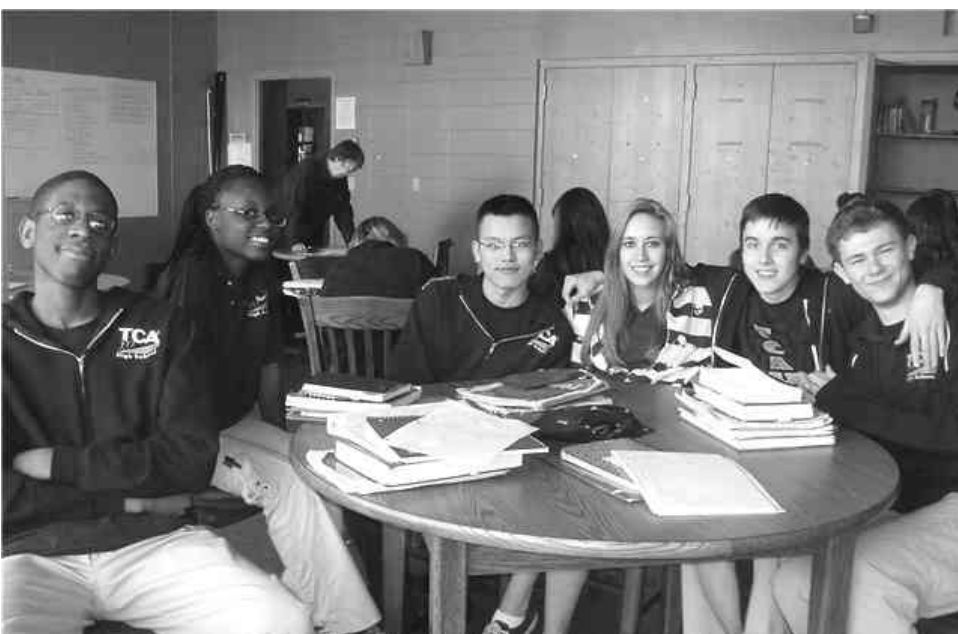
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Board of Directors: Greg Cosimini, Karin DuPaul and Steve Trimble
Editor and Layout: Carla Riehle

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Twin Cities Academy High School seniors working on their senior class project—Art in the Hollow: Plein Air Art Fest in Swede Hollow Park, Saturday May 22, from 10 am to 3 pm. Call 651-206-7508 for more information.