

# DISTRICT FORUM

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## Community Calendar

Tuesday, August 3  
National Night Out

Thursday, August 5, 6:30 pm  
\*Community Meeting

Monday, August 16  
\*Council meeting 6:30 pm  
(combined August meetings)

Wednesday, August 18, 6:30 pm  
Friday, August 20, 9:30 am  
Eastern District Police Meeting  
722 Payne Avenue

\*Meetings at council office  
798 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street

## National Night Out is August 3

Celebrate community in Dayton's Bluff on National Night Out, Tuesday, August 3, 2010. Neighborhood groups and block clubs are planning a variety of events, including a neighborhood barbecue, a potluck, an ice cream social, a live band and a volleyball game.

Another simple way to celebrate National Night Out in your area is to promote turning on the outside lights at every home from dusk to dawn.

Join 30 million other people in more than 9,000 communities nationwide in a variety of events and activities.



Here is a list of some of the Dayton's Bluff celebrations:

- Mounds Park near Mounds Boulevard and Earl
- Reaney Avenue between Forest and Cypress
- 5<sup>th</sup> Street East between Mounds Boulevard and Maria
- Lower Dayton's Bluff Block Club at Maria and Euclid
- Beech-Margaret/654 Block Club at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Margaret and Forest
- Wilson Avenue Block Club at Mounds Park United Methodist Church, Earl and Euclid
- Margaret Recreation Center Block Club at Margaret Recreation Center, 1109 Margaret
- Swede Hollow Park at Greenbrier and Margaret
- Saint Paul Federal Credit Union, 1330 Conway
- Parkway Gardens at Hudson Road and Johnson Parkway
- Our Saviour's Lutheran Church at Margaret and Johnson Parkway
- Bates and 4<sup>th</sup> Street Block Club at Bates and 4<sup>th</sup> Street
- Wilson Avenue between Mendota and Forest

## District council elects new officers, new board member



Newly elected district council vice-president Sharon McCrea, president Chris Newton



Paul Sawyer  
New board member  
Subdistrict D

At its June 14 meeting, the Dayton's Bluff District Council board of directors elected new officers to fill positions left vacant due to the resignation of former president Avi Viswanathan who is running for the Minnesota senate. Chris Newton, former vice-president, was elected president, and Sharon McCrea was elected vice-president. Their terms as officers expire in November when new elections will be held. Paul Sawyer was also elected to fill the board vacancy for subdistrict D, encompassing Mounds Park and the portion of the district east of English Street and Johnson Parkway.

## Saturday market features August veggies

by Tamara Downs Schwei,  
Community Design Center Director

In August, youth interns at the Community Design Center will be selling tomatoes, peppers, squash, assorted herbs and flowers, and many other popular veggies. Hours will be 9:00 am. to noon each Saturday through August 21 at the stand next to our office at 731 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street at the corner of Bates Avenue.

The center works to build vibrant, healthy communities by operating gardening, cooking, and conservation programs for children, youth and families in St. Paul. This summer, 24 fantastic teen interns in our Garden Corps program have maintained gorgeous, productive gardens with the help of abundant rain and sun and enthusiastic staff and volunteers. The youth interns attend numerous high schools, junior high schools and charter schools in St. Paul, but all live or go to school on the East Side. The youth have been busy operating a 30-member Community Supported Agri-

culture (CSA) program, in addition to the gardens and market stand, with weekly produce pick-ups for members at our office.

Garden Corps interns will also be participating in the annual Parade of Gardens at our Swede Hollow Garden and market site on August 21 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Youth interns will be available to provide tours of our Swede Hollow and Cerenity Care Center gardens. Contact our office at 651-228-7073 for more information about our market stand, CSA or the Parade of Gardens.

Support your neighborhood newspaper

Advertise in the Dayton's Bluff District Forum

651-772-2075

Dayton's Bluff  
Community Council  
798 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
St. Paul, MN 55106

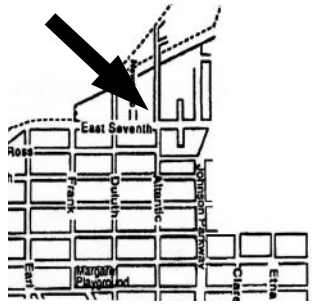
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Saturday market stand with Community Design Center interns

**Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Cleanup  
& FREE Stuff Area  
Saturday, September 11, 2010  
9:00 am. to Noon**



**Ray Anderson & Sons**  
933 Atlantic (North of East 7<sup>th</sup> St. at Atlantic  
and Phalen Corridor)

**This cleanup is for Dayton's Bluff residents only**

**COSTS**

**Entrance:** \$7 per car, \$10 per small truck or mini van, \$25 per pickup truck and trailers.  
**No dump trucks.**

**Extra Fees:** \$10 per mattress, box spring, couch or love seat  
\$3 per car tire; \$5 per truck tire  
Electronics: \$10 to \$25 depending on the item.

Fluorescent bulbs, scrap metal, bicycles, demolition debris, clean wood, concrete/rocks are also accepted.

*All guidelines will be strictly adhered to and we reserve the right to turn away any person or vehicle. The Dayton's Bluff Community Council reserves the right to refuse any item or close the site early if costs exceed budget.*

**WHAT TO BRING**

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

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

**On the bottom of the load:** concrete, bricks, rocks, and construction debris.

**In the middle of the load:** bikes and scrap metals, mattresses/box springs, broken furniture and other trash

**On the top of the load:** reusable household items, electronics TVs, VCRs, computers, etc., tires

**Remember: DO NOT bring appliances to the cleanup.**

Call JR's Appliance at 651-454-9215 before Thursday, September 9, to arrange to have your appliances picked up at your curb on Monday, September 13. Cost \$25 for one appliance, \$10 for each additional appliance. There is an extra fee of \$5 for each air conditioner and water softener.

**WHAT NOT TO BRING**

**Not all materials are accepted at the cleanup. For more information about how to recycle or dispose of these or other items, call 651-222-SORT (7678); TTY for the hearing impaired: 651-221-9832.**

**No railroad ties or chemically treated wood**

**No appliances:** Call JR's Appliance at 651-454-9215 before Thursday, September 9, to arrange to have your appliances picked up at your curb on Monday, September 13. Cost \$25/1<sup>st</sup> appliance, \$10/each additional appliance (there is a \$10 surcharge for each air conditioner and water softener). JR's Appliance accepts air conditioners, dehumidifiers, dishwashers, dryers, furnaces, garbage disposals, heat pumps, microwaves, refrigerators, stoves, trash compactors, washers, water softeners and water heaters.

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

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

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

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

**Good Free Stuff at the Cleanup**

*Even if you do not have junk or trash to get rid of come and check out the Free Stuff. Swap Stuff.* The cleanup will once again feature a reuse area so that used items that still have some life left in them can be shared with new owners. Good stuff like dishes, furniture, building materials, cabinets, lawnmowers, bikes, toys and other items in good condition will be set aside in the reuse area for anyone to take home. All

materials in the reuse area are free and there is no charge to enter this area. **Items must be hauled away from the reuse area by noon on cleanup day or it all goes in the dumpster. So bring your car, truck or trailer**

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

**Sponsors and Rules**

The cleanup is sponsored by the Dayton's Bluff Community Council and Eureka Recycling, with funding provided by the city of St. Paul. The above guidelines will be strictly adhered to. The Dayton's Bluff Community Council reserves the right to turn away any person or vehicle, to refuse any item or to close the site early if dumpsters are filled or costs exceed budget. There will be limited senior pick-up service. For more information or to register, call the Dayton's Bluff Community Council at 651-772-2075.



**St. Paul Port Authority continues its work**

Buildings are still coming down on the 3M campus and more are scheduled for demolition. Five of the historic buildings are being marketed for reuse. Meanwhile, about a mile away, Baldinger Bakery is constructing a new \$30 million facility. Baldinger's principal business is making hamburger buns for McDonald's.



Photo by Steve Trimble

**3M Building 42, the administration building**



**Baldinger Bakery going up on the north end of Johnson Parkway**

**Pray-n-Play Mothers' Play Groups**

*by staff writer*

Parenting small children can sometimes be an isolating occupation and Kelly Dehn, currently an at-home parent relocated from Northeast Minneapolis, is hoping to address that problem by forming two mothers' prayer groups in the East Side.

Dehn sees a need for area mothers to have a regular venue for interfacing with each other, exchanging information and supporting each other in their faith, while their children have the opportunity to socialize and play in a home-based setting. The groups would be specifically designed to include mothers of babies, toddlers, and pre-schoolers.

The prayer groups would be based on a model thriving in the St. Anthony Village community founded by Christine

Klaesges. Klaesgas, mother of six, founded the group 16 years ago upon the birth of her first child and is the daughter of Mrs. MaryAnn Koharski, founder of Pro-Life Across America. Klaesgas saw a

need for mothers to socialize and worship regularly while the children entertain each other. The St. Anthony group currently consists of ten active member families and meets weekly, rotating through members' homes.

The melding East Side groups would meet weekly at approximately 10:30 am; activities would consist of prayer time as children play, followed by snack. Members would take turns hosting the group in their homes or yards as their homes and schedules allow. A Catholic group would focus on praying the rosary followed by specific prayer intentions (such as a prayer for one's children's health or family financial help) while the Christian ecumenical group would consist of bible readings followed by prayer intentions and song.

Interested moms can call Kelly at 218-391-7463 for details.

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*Live Music Every Fri & Sat Starting at 8:30 PM*

*1067 Hudson Road Saint Paul MN 55106*



### Veterans' Center opens at Metropolitan State

by Harvey Meyer

No one really understands what it's like for a military veteran to transition to civilian life. No one, that is, except for other veterans.

That is the basis for a new, 950-square-foot Veterans' Center at Metropolitan State University. The center, which will open this month, offers a refuge for veterans, a venue where they can receive support and share the kinds of experiences only others who served in the military best comprehend.

"It's a place where they can connect with other vets," said Bruce Holzschuh, the university's veterans' affairs coordinator who oversees the Veterans and Military Student Services office. "It's a place where they can talk with each other and discover they aren't the only ones who have challenges adjusting to civilian life."

The center represents a natural extension of services already offered to veterans attending Metropolitan State. Holzschuh said his office commonly offers transitional counseling for those who stop by the second-floor office in Founders Hall on the Saint Paul campus. Another popular service is financial counseling to help vets grasp federal Veterans' Affairs benefits. Holzschuh and another staff member also assist veterans in understanding their academic options and the various support services offered on and off campus.

"Vets want a place where they can get all their wants and needs addressed in one stop," said Holzschuh, a Metropolitan State graduate and veteran himself who served 14 years as a Navy Seabee. "They are coming from the military, which offers a very simple and structured environment, to a civilian and academic environment, which often appears chaotic and stressful to them. It's a huge transition, so we try to help them with that adjustment."

The Veterans and Military Student Services office serves about 900 veterans, National Guard members and Reservists and their family members. Those serviced range in age from the early 20s to early 70s; about 20 percent are females.

"Veterans really fit in very well at Metropolitan State," said Holzschuh. "Just like the veterans, the student population tends to be older and more mature."

Plans are for the center to feature many of the creature comforts of home: several desktop computers, tables, lounge chairs, a large-screen TV, DVD player, refrigerator, coffeemaker and microwave ovens. It will be decorated with U.S. and POW-MIA flags, a large map of the world that will designate where veterans served, and a variety of artwork.

A formal dedication ceremony for the center is scheduled for this fall.

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



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### Week of Hope

by Karin duPaul

District council community organizer

Swede Hollow Park was the host and the recipient of a lot of work from about 30 Week of Hope volunteers who worked on weeding and planting in the park on July 5. The volunteers were from Alberta Canada, Indiana, and North Dakota. According to a Friends of Swede Hollow volunteer it was a wonderful experience working with the volunteers and she learned a lot about other areas of North America.



Week of Hope volunteers at Swede Hollow Park

Week of Hope is a one-week camp whose goal is for young people and families to build meaningful relationships with those they serve and those they serve with.

Service projects might include preparing meals for the poor, working in parks like Swede Hollow or cleaning the home of an elderly person.

A Week of Hope is a personal, friendly setting of about 100 youth from all over the USA and Canada ideal for getting to know everyone. For more information about Week of Hope look at their web site <http://www.groupwork-camps.com/WeekofHope/Pages/expVideo.aspx>.

### Triathlon finisher

by Forum staff



Photo by Ashlee Olds

Dayton's Bluff resident Linda La-Barre after successfully completing a "sprint" triathlon at Lake Nokomis in Minneapolis. The July 10<sup>th</sup> affair included swimming, biking and running. Linda's team "Chef Vincent" raised over \$35,000 for Fraser, a charity for children with disabilities. The medal around her neck was given to anyone able to finish the exhausting event.



### Hmong Village coming soon

Shelves awaiting fresh produce at the soon-to-open Hmong Village at Johnson Parkway and Phalen Boulevard. The site will be home to hundreds of offices, restaurants and booths.

### Forum fund still seeking donations

As a nonprofit newspaper, staffed by volunteers, we rely on ad revenue and the kindness of strangers (as well as friends).

Any amount will be appreciated and, unless you want to remain anonymous, your name will be included in a future issue of the paper. Please make any checks out to the District Forum and mail or bring them to the Dayton's Bluff Community Council at 798 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street, St. Paul, MN 55106.

As a special premium, anyone who makes a donation of at least \$25.00 will receive a valuable set of 12 collectable Dayton's Bluff postcards—a ten dollar value—as long as the supply lasts.

Your contribution is tax-deductible and can also be made in the form of a gift subscription.

### Mr. J's drumming workshop

On July 13, aspiring neighborhood drummers had a chance to learn from a pro: Jamal Abdur Salaam, otherwise known as "Mr. J," a teacher at Wellstone elementary. Held at 4<sup>th</sup> Street and Bates Avenue, the event included 19 kids from five to 15 years of age.



Cesar, Jeremy, Shawn, Chris, Maria, Emmy/Alma, Riley, Pedro, Damarius

Photos by Sage Holben



Kenchi



Mr. J

The Mounds Theatre will host a Comedy Night on Saturday, August 14, at 7:30 pm. It will feature six of the most talented new female comics in the Twin Cities. Visit [www.moundstheatre.org](http://www.moundstheatre.org) for more details. The Mounds Theatre is located at 1029 Hudson Road, St. Paul, MN 55106.

**INVEST ST.  
PAUL**

## Dayton's Bluff a century ago: some 1910 events

by Steve Trimble

Writers often like to do retrospective articles, looking back at what was happening 25, 50 or 100 years ago. So I thought it might be interesting to do the same and check out a few events from a century ago. Some of them seem to have been real historical landmarks, while others just make for interesting reading.

### Business Developments

A 1910 issue of the *Pioneer Press* reported that the Dayton's Bluff Commercial Club had declared its desire to develop "a factory district" in the neighborhood, pointing out that there were already 18 major organizations along the railroad tracks. They included Herzog Iron Works, Malleable Iron Company, the Griffen Wheel Works and the Gribben Lumber Company. The commercial club had to be pleased with two of the big economic events of 1910.

The first was the fact that the Seeger Refrigerator company, started by a Dayton's Bluff family, made a major change in 1910. In that year they purchased the old Bonn Sash and Door Factory at Arcade and Wells. A decade earlier, John A. Seeger and two of his sons had partnered with a cabinet-maker and established the Seeger Refrigerator Company.

The business prospered but had been working in inadequate facilities on East 7<sup>th</sup> Street. According to the *Pioneer Press*, the company had around 60 employees at the time, but felt that the number would soon rise to 125.

alarm, but left the building and didn't come back for a week. Obviously 3M overcame this and other problems, prospered, and is still around—although no longer in Dayton's Bluff—after a century.



Herbert P. Keller

### Politics and the Law

Herbert P. Keller, was elected Mayor of St. Paul in 1910. He had grown up in his family home on Eichenwald Street and attended Van Buren Elementary and St. Paul High School. He became an attorney and in 1904 won a place on the city council where he remained until his campaign for higher office. While running for mayor, he said "I went into politics first as a sort of an experiment. I wished to see whether or not a young man could mix in it and hold office and yet keep his shirts clear." Many people today are asking the same question.



## A Popular Puppet Production

by Forum staff

Someone delivered leaflets to most of the houses in the Mounds Park area in July. No, they weren't from any of the gaggle of candidates for the senate seat. Instead it invited people to show up at the backyard of a Cherry Street house to

attend a puppet show at 11:00 am on July 10.

An intrepid staffer from the *Forum* attended, assuming it would feature a group of neighborhood children. Instead it turned out to be the production of a group called "The Open Eye Figure Theater." Located in Minneapolis, this was part of what they call a "driveway tour." They usually do around 90 shows a year in the Twin Cities.

This season's original playlet, called "A Surprise for Little Grandpa," was held behind the home of Holly and Peter Windingstad. It featured colorful puppets and props along with quaint noisemakers that charmed the audience of several dozen children and adults. There was a lot of laughing and groaning from the audience at the humorous quips by the actors.

Other area residents who were responsible for making the event possible were Paul and Ruth Vierling, Althe Faracy and Chris Engstrom. There are plans to make sure that the puppet troupe will return to Dayton's Bluff next year.

names of many residents appeared in print at the same time. The *Pioneer Press* used to have a society section in every Sunday edition. Since it was arranged on a neighborhood basis, it is easy to ferret out fragments of folkways. A large share of notices concerned the activities of a large variety of local women's clubs. Here's a few examples from the spring of 1910.

According to the paper, Mr. and Mrs. Silas Gohschammer of Bates Avenue "will move to their summer home at Bald Eagle Lake this week." Mrs. Murphy of Hastings Avenue hosted a gathering of the Ladies Co-operative Club of the Atlantic Congregational Church on a Thursday afternoon. Miss Evelyn Miller of Plum Street entertained the I.O.M. Club while Mrs. J. M. Nugent welcomed a meeting a meeting of the Crystal Club into her Bates Avenue home. The paper said that Um-Zoo-Wee Club met at the residence of Mrs. Henry George, but never tried to explain what the name of the group signified.

Miss Maud Bennison, who had been visiting Mrs. F. J. Plondke of East Fourth returned to Le Mars, Iowa. Incidentally, Dr. Plondke's car was stolen in May of 1912. It was quickly recovered in what the paper described as a case of "joyriding", probably perpetrated by juveniles. By the way, the Plondke house is now partially occupied by Sage Holben, whose neighborhood-building projects were featured in a *Star Tribune* article on the ninth of July.

### Neighborhood Organizations

Things were definitely changing in community during the first decade of the twentieth Century. Like today, various groups were trying to cope with the demands of the challenging times. One of them--The Mounds Park Improvement Association—is thought to have been founded in 1910.

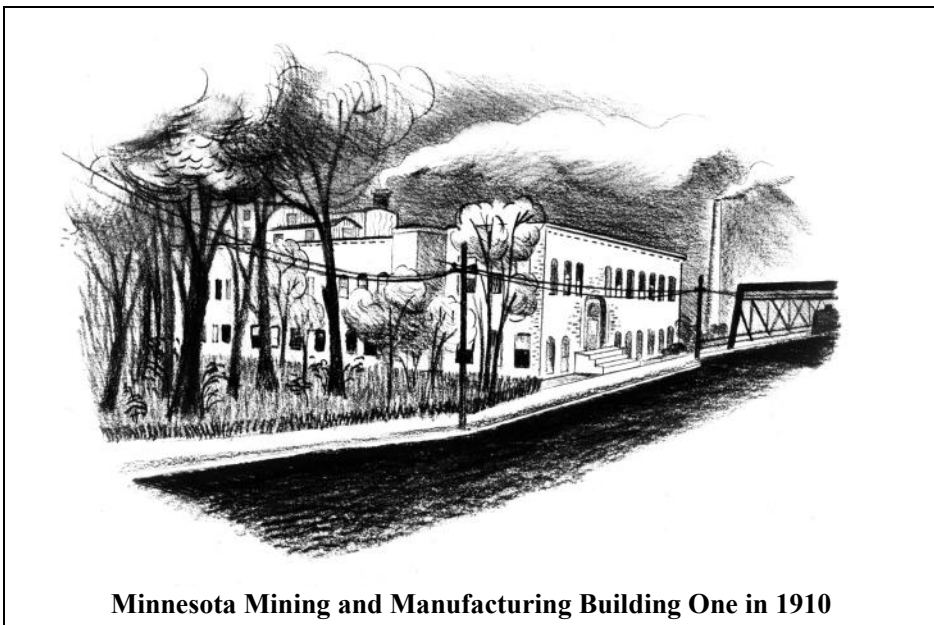
The purpose of this organization, one publication said, was the "banding together of the residents of Mounds Park and vicinity for the study and discussion of all questions relating to the advancement of their interests, such as the settling of the district, transportation facilities, fire and police protection, lighting of streets and

homes, grading and improvement in streets when necessary, good roads, street crossings, the suppression of nuisances, the procuring of better educational facilities, and all matters pertaining to the general public welfare of this district."

There you have it—or at least some of it. A few of the highlights of the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood a century ago. And these were just the things that appeared in the newspapers or some other form of historic documentation. Do you ever wonder what will be written about this year in 2110?

Steve Trimble researches and writes about local history.

Photos courtesy of the Minnesota History Center.



Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Building One in 1910

They did expand and within a decade manufactured around 2,600 wooden ice boxes a year.

Also in 1910, the Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Company (now known as 3M) left northern Minnesota and came to Dayton's Bluff to manufacture sandpaper. They located on Forest near Fauquier—today's Bush Avenue—along the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis and Omaha Railroad.

The company occupied its new brick building in the spring of that year. The structure was not large, but the most it could afford at the time. Soon afterwards "The Mining" had a legendary crisis. Two of the managers doing an inventory had laid large numbers of 100 pound bags of abrasives materials on the first floor.

That evening the night watchman was startled by a loud noise. The factory floor had collapsed and the bags had crashed into the basement. He was so frightened that he didn't turn on the

Harry Blackmun arrived in St. Paul in 1910 when he was two years old, grew up in the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood, where his father ran a grocery store. He attended Van Buren Elementary School along with Warren Burger, who later became Chief Justice of the U. S. Supreme Court. They also were in the same scout troop.

Harry graduated from Mechanic Arts High School in 1925. He attended Harvard where he got a B.A. and a law degree. He was appointed to the U.S Supreme Court by President Richard Nixon in 1970 and remained on the bench until 1994. He is usually remembered as the justice who wrote the *Roe v. Wade* decision, but scholars point to several important cases with which he was associated.

### Everyday Events

Not all of the people were as prominent as Keller and Blackmun, but the

## New help for researching your home's history

by Carla Riehle  
Forum editor

Dayton's Bluff homes often have a rich history that invites the current occupants to speculate about previous residents and how the house has changed over the years. Thanks to the Ramsey County Historical Society (RCHS), it's now easier than ever to find that information. In June the RCHS Research Center moved from a tiny office in the Landmark Center to four rooms in the basement. It also expanded its hours.

Located in the Landmark Center at 75 West 5<sup>th</sup> Street, the RCHS archives are open from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, Monday through Thursday.

The largest single archival collection at the center is the St. Paul building permit collection. That's one way of finding out more about a house or building in the city. Other collections include city directories, maps and atlases, photographs and other papers and records, some dating back to the 1860s.

Visit the RCHS site at [www.rchs.com](http://www.rchs.com) or call 651-222-0701. The staff can help you by phone, by email or in-person. A fee may apply to obtain copies of some records.

**ISP COMMUNITY DAYS THURSDAY, AUGUST 5**  
**Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center, 790 Conway, 4:30-6:30 pm**

Now in its fourth year, Invest Saint Paul (ISP) Community Days take place throughout the summer to connect residents with resources from the city, county, and neighborhood organizations.

The event will feature a fire truck, ambulance, Bookmobile, Parks and Recreation Mobile Team with games and arts and crafts for kids, police officers, fire fighters, and free giveaways.

Representatives from city departments will provide residents with resources on topics such as fire prevention and safety, foreclosure prevention, starting a business and more.

County and local neighborhood organizations will also be on hand to engage with residents.



**What's happening at District Council board meetings?**

*By Jean Comstock  
 Board secretary*

**Highlights of the June 21 Non-profit Board Meeting**

The board approved the following actions:

- To elect Chris Newton as president.
- To elect Sharon McCrea as vice-president.
- To appoint Paul Sawyer to fill the vacancy in subdistrict D.
- When the council has student interns from Metropolitan State University, to write a letter at the end of the term to the appropriate program head detailing the activities performed by and accomplishments of the intern.

**Highlights of the July 12 Housing, Environment, and Economic Development (HEED) Meeting**

The board approved the following action: to hold both the HEED and non-profit meetings for August on the 16<sup>th</sup> of the month.

This is not an official record of board actions. Those are reflected in the board minutes.

**Monthly community meeting**

The next Dayton's Bluff Community Meeting is Thursday, August 5, from 6:30 to 8:00 pm at the Dayton's Bluff Community Council, 798 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street. The council holds a community meeting on the first Thursday of most months to work on community issues.

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.

**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 Wednesday, August 18, at 6:30 pm, and Friday, August 20, at 9:30 am. The meetings are intended to listen to and address concerns about crime and other issues on the East Side.

**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 meets on the second Thursday of each month at the Margaret Recreation Center at 1109 Margaret St. at 6:30 pm. This block club encompasses Minnehaha to the north, 5<sup>th</sup> to the south, Cypress to the west and Atlantic to the east; however, all are welcome.

**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, 6<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup>, Ross, Bush. and Reaney streets and Minnehaha Avenue between Earl and Johnson Parkway.

**Lower Dayton's Bluff Block Club** meets monthly in the summer. This block club is bounded by 3<sup>rd</sup> and Maple streets and I-94. Contact Sherry Johnson at sherrypjohnson@gmail.com for the time and place of the next meeting.

**No take-a-hike in August**

Take-a-Hike occurs on the first Saturday of most months. However, there is no hike scheduled for the month of August.

**Be Your Own Boss**

The next Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Microentrepreneur Class is starting in September. This program helps start-up and young businesses on the East Side of St. Paul get off to a good start. Eleven East Side entrepreneurs are welcome.

Classroom training lasts eight weeks and includes topics such as operations management, marketing, financial management, creating a successful business, and preparing a business plan. Included are eight hours of one-on-one time with the instructor to work on your business concept. Those who successfully com-



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



NeighborWorks  
 CHARTERED MEMBER

plete the course, and locate their businesses in target neighborhoods, are eligible for ongoing support services.

The course is sponsored by the Dayton's Bluff Community Council and the Neighborhood Development Center. A registration fee will be charged based on a sliding fee scale. Class size is limited, so do not wait to apply. Applications are available at the district council office.

**Light a Candle**

*by Ed Lambert  
 District council executive director*

A number of public and private developers are active in Dayton's Bluff; rehabbing and building homes. The city of St. Paul is among them, and it also demolishes some properties to make the site available for new construction if the property is too far gone to rehab.

We also continue to see home owners taking advantage of low-cost rehab and purchase/rehab funds to acquire and/or improve properties this summer.

The *Forum* has previously reported on the work of the two most active developers in Dayton's Bluff, the City of St. Paul and Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Housing Service which play a leading role in the Invest Saint Paul (ISP) housing program targeted at Dayton's Bluff and several other areas of the city.

Another developer, Habitat for Humanity, purchased and rehabbed a home at 1071 Bush Avenue in July. Just down the street, Habitat also built a striking home with many attractive features. These are but a few of the improvements that are taking place.

The trend is clearly headed up in Dayton's Bluff as we continue to see remarkable new and/or existing housing opportunities here.

In the months ahead we will report on these housing developments and improvements going on in many parts of the community. We will also profile other related ISP activities focused on economic development, education, and other aspects of community life in Dayton's Bluff.

Five years from now, 2010 will be remembered as a truly great time to buy and/or rehab a home in one of St. Paul's most historic and attractive communities.

**Save Energy and Money at Home!**

This September, residents of Dayton's Bluff have a unique oppor-

tunity to participate in a home energy efficiency program that can save hundreds of dollars per home.

The program, Neighborhood Energy Service, works to make you more comfortable at home, save you money and conserve energy. The Dayton's Bluff's workshop is scheduled for September 21 at 6:30 pm at 798 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street.

At the workshop you'll be able to schedule a home visit, where the Home Energy Squad will visit your house and install energy-saving materials. Materials include compact fluorescent lights, a programmable thermostat, door weather stripping, and a low flow shower head.

Finally, you'll receive one year of personalized home energy reports. These custom reports compare your home's energy use with the average Minnesota home of the same size.

Over 800 households in St. Paul have participated and on average they are saving \$120 per year on their energy bills. Since participants only pay \$30, the savings are awesome! If residents qualify for energy assistance the whole program is free. This incredible deal is made possible by the generous support of the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resource Trust Fund.

To participate, call Carl at 612-278-7123 to RSVP. More details about the program can be found at <http://nes.mncerts.org>.

Sponsoring partners include the Dayton's Bluff District Council, the Neighborhood Energy Connection, and the Metro Clean Energy Resource Team at the Green Institute, with additional support from the Center for Energy and the Environment and Xcel Energy.

**For more information**

Contact Karin duPaul at [Karin@DaytonsBluff.org](mailto:Karin@DaytonsBluff.org) or 651-772-2075 for more information about any of the articles on this page.



**Garden tours abounded in July. Here's a picture from the first one; watch for more pictures in the September issue of the *Forum***

# Avi Viswanathan for Minnesota State Senate



Avi has been fighting for the East Side:

- as Dayton's Bluff Community Council President by creating a better environment for small businesses
- as part of Senator Franken's Minnesota staff by working on smart and cost effective crime fighting strategies
- as a founding member of Friends of Mounds Park

Avi will continue fighting for the East Side by:

- investing in education
- making health care affordable
- keeping our community safe
- bringing jobs into our community

For more information visit  
[www.EastsidersForAvi.com](http://www.EastsidersForAvi.com)



"When I talk with Avi, I am impressed with the depth of knowledge and understanding that he has on East Side and state issues. I believe he would represent our senate district well."

-Joan Whitman  
 long time East Sider

Prepared and paid for by Eastsiders for Avi P.O. Box 600632 St. Paul, MN 55106

## Fourth of July

*by Sage Holben*

How does such a person think? How does a mean-spirited person live with himself? Why go to so much work to harm other people? How can anyone be so vindictive and petty? These are questions I asked myself on Sunday, July 4, when I saw that someone had deliberately spread axle grease along approximately 70 feet of concrete wall and fencing that overlooks Mounds Boulevard from the East Fourth Street cul de sac. Also nicely greased was the 40 foot long metal barrier at the curb of the cul de sac.

Throughout the year, people come from all over the city to this site. They come for the magnificent view of our city, with the domed Capitol building and the St. Paul Cathedral. Over the years, it's been especially popular for viewing Taste of Minnesota's firework displays; this prime view draws a multitude of adults and children. As it is, people who thought fireworks would be shown, as usual, on pre-Fourth nights, did come, sat on the barrier, and ended up with clothing ruined from the grease. How many more, especially people for whom new clothing is not easily affordable, could have had their holiday and their clothing ruined—to say nothing of the health hazard of children being in direct contact with the grease.

I was attending a 4<sup>th</sup> Street block party, celebrating Independence Day, when I saw the vandalism that I had

heard about earlier. I called the '1111' number and was connected with the fire department. A crew came out and inspected what we thought was motor oil. The firemen said it was axle grease and verified that it appeared to have been purposely smeared. There were large gobs of grease on the barrier, ledges, linkage and fence posts . . . all where people typically sit, lean and place their hands.



Lara Merrill and Bonni Walquist

The firemen said they had absorbent material for oil spills, but nothing that would absorb the grease. Many of us adults abandoned the Michael Jack-

son Dance-off, the picnic that Lara Merrill and others had arranged for the day and gathered all the degreasing cleaning supplies, scrub brushes, rags and hoses we had, and spent the next several hours scouring the concrete and metal.



Rodrick, Lenarion, Frosh, Saniah, Ashton and Ben in the Michael Jackson Dance Off, dancing to "Thriller."

Children began to join us, asking what we were doing. How sad to have to say someone vandalized the cul de sac with intention to harm others! The treasure was that the kids' faces lit up when we also replied that we're clean-


ing it because we care about them; that we want them to be safe. That we were sorry someone did this to their play area. Then children, from six years old and up, joined the adults. Neighbors from two blocks up joined cul de sac residents in scouring, rinsing, and sweating on July Fourth.

Whoever vandalized the area had most likely intended to break up a neighborhood night out.

Contrary to that intention, the vandalism brought people together and formed a larger, tighter group of neighbors. Many people who watched the fireworks display that night have no idea how clean their viewing area was. We, who sweated and scrubbed, know; and it's our pleasure that you all had a great evening. And oh, what a powerful lesson our children learned on that hot, summer, Independence Day!

*Sage Holben is a member of the Dayton's Bluff District Council board of directors and was the subject of a July 9 Star Tribune article about her community building activities.*

**MOUNDS PARK BARBER STYLISTS**



APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE  
 TUESDAY THRU SATURDAY

1043 HUDSON ROAD  
 SAINT PAUL, MN 55106

651-771-6980

*Judy Lee*

**Le Painter**



Kjel Farr

COMPLETE COLLISION REPAIR  
**776-2394**  
 744 E. 3rd Street, St. Paul, MN 55106

**Summer work trip to El Salvador**



Alyssa Whitesell and Mary Voigt



Sansonate, El Salvador

Dayton's Bluff residents Alyssa Whitesell and Mary Voigt went on a Habitat for Humanity Global Village trip to Sonsonate, El Salvador from June 19 to June 28. Both are members of Johnson High School's Habitat Team. Alyssa will begin her senior year at Johnson this fall and plans on using her experience in El Salvador as her senior project. Mary has been a teacher at Johnson for the past five years. Some highlights from the trip include zip lining through the forest canopy, a dip in the hot springs of *El Bosque Imposible* (the Impossible Forest), swimming every night after a hard day's work, and of course helping to change two families' lives for the better!

Do you have some interesting photographs or a story about a summer trip? Let us know at [carlariehl@fastmail.us](mailto:carlariehl@fastmail.us) or call 651-772-2075.

**Boulevard gardens: positive action on your block**

by Ed Lambert

District Council Executive Director

The Dayton's Bluff Community Council is working closely with the city's Invest Saint Paul (ISP) program to enhance the housing stock in the community; as well as other aspects of Dayton's Bluff. A big part of the overall effort is to help neighbors take action to improve the appearance and cleanliness of our residential areas.

In July, for example, the council partnered with the youth of Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center and installed several boulevard gardens using perennial plants and enhanced soil. The council, using funds from the ISP program, has tools, plants and related supplies available to homeowners or renters who will partner with the council and the youth to establish these very attractive enhancements to their blocks. The youth, with help from rec center supervisors and the council, provide the labor, and the homeowner or renter provides the ongoing maintenance.

These gardens are very easy to take care of and they do a great job helping to beautify residential blocks in Dayton's Bluff. The grass is carefully removed, so it can be used in other areas, enhanced soil and nutrients are added, and then a variety of perennial plants are planted and watered. Some residents add seasonal plants as well, just to add variety to the color and character of the boulevard garden, at their own expense. The materials and installation are free for the basic garden.

Gardens are typically two to three feet wide, between the curb and the sidewalk, and range from four feet to 10-12 feet in length; depending upon the location and the sponsor's perspective. Other such gardens show up on hillsides or along steps leading to the house. After a year or two, many of these gardens become prominent features of the block they are located in and are often strikingly beautiful.

If you would like to sponsor a garden in front of your home, please contact Karin DuPaul at the council office to learn how you can get one of these lovely gardens at no cost to you

([Karin@daytonsbuff.org](mailto:Karin@daytonsbuff.org) or 651-772-2075). This beautification program also includes help with organizing a "clean-up-fix-up" campaign on your block using ISP funds and teams of volunteers. While the program is focused on those blocks within the ISP target areas in Dayton's Bluff, the council also has resources to help beautify your block even if your home is not located in an ISP target area.



Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center volunteers create a boulevard garden

**Junk car removal:** Budget Towing of Minnesota will remove your junker and dispose of it at no charge to you. The vehicle owner receives a tax deduction, and the Dayton's Bluff Community Council will receive a donation. Call 651-772-2075 or email [karin@daytonsbuff.org](mailto:karin@daytonsbuff.org).

**Fifth annual Parade of Community Gardens**

by John Barbie

District council board of directors

On Saturday, August 21, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, the Parade of Community Gardens will visit Skidmore Park, our newest community garden. It's part of an open house celebration and an opportunity for people to learn more about community gardens and to join in a day of food, community and fun activities.

Skidmore will be among over 60 area gardens, including three in Dayton's Bluff. It's located at 1085 East 4<sup>th</sup> Street and is unique due to its raised garden beds constructed of retaining wall blocks. It also features a center raised bed constructed from historic St. Paul paver stones.

The Skidmore Park Community Garden Group is also the recipient of the 2010 Sustainable St. Paul Award presented by Mayor Chris Coleman.

In recognition of the day, the city has proclaimed August 21 as "Community Gardening Day." The resolution notes that St. Paul is home to over 70 community gardens. The Dayton's Bluff greenspace committee continues to seek new community garden spots and plans to announce a new location for one on Wilson Avenue soon.

Visit [www.gardeningmatters.org](http://www.gardeningmatters.org) or Skidmore Park Community Gardens on Facebook or contact Karin at 651-772-2075 for more information.

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**Where in Dayton's Bluff?**

The winner of the mystery object in last month's *Forum* was Joe Weis, who correctly identified the sculpture at Margaret rec center playground. Joe grew up in the neighborhood and takes his children to the playground nearly every day.

If you know the location of this month's mystery object, email [karin@daytonsbuff.org](mailto:karin@daytonsbuff.org) or call 651-772-2075. The name of the first person with the correct answer will be printed in next month's *Forum*.



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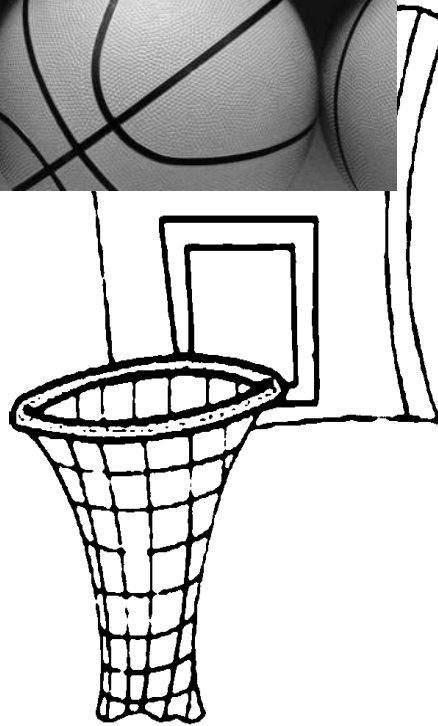
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# Our Youth. Our Community.

*Highlighting the Youth of Dayton's Bluff*

## BBQ

**Invest Saint Paul,  
Rasmussen College  
at Dayton's Bluff  
Thursday, August 5  
4:30-6:30p  
Food, games and fun!**



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

## OPEN GYM



Tues & Thurs  
4:30-6:00 p  
Dayton's Bluff  
Rec Center

12-17 years  
must have school ID

## GIRLS ONLY OPEN GYM

Thursdays, 6:00-7:00 p

## REGISTER FOR FOOTBALL AND SOCCER

Ages: 8-14  
Boys and Girls  
For more information  
call 651-793-3885.

### Cigar factory to police station: 699 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street now stands vacant

*By Karin DuPaul  
District Council  
Community Organizer*



Photo by Karin duPaul  
699 East 7th Street today

In 1909, the John Doeren Manufacturing Company opened in a new building at 699 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street. The owner, John Doeren, had been in the cigar business in Dayton's Bluff since his arrival in St. Paul in the 1880s.

Doeren cigars were made by hand, with the workers rolling tobacco leaves, forming the point, chopping off the end, pressing and gluing, to arrive at the finished product. Bales of

tobacco were stored in the cool, dark basement, while in the rear of the building a hand pulled elevator was used to lift the large bales.

The Doeren Manufacturing Company closed in the 1940s. Cigar smoking had declined in popularity and small operations could not compete with the larger factories whose modern machines turned cigar making into an automated process.

After a few years, the building became home to the Lind Shoe Company, whose Lind bowling shoes, originally designed for the Hamm's brewery bowling team, are still made today. Lind occupied the building for 24 years. Later, the building became



Photo courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society

**The Doeren cigar factory,  
John Doeren and his son in the car**

the eastern home of the St. Paul police, but it has been vacant since the 1990s, although it is still owned by the city.

Today the Dayton's Bluff Vacant Building Committee is evaluating the building and looking into possible reuses. For more information contact Karin at 651-772-2075.

www.mcgowan.mn



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**Vote in the DFL Primary August 10th**

### 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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Thomas**  
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Prepared and paid for by Trayshana Thomas for Senate