

Dayton's Bluff

DISTRICT FORUM

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April 2011

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This home, at 613 North Street, sits on a corner lot adjacent to Swede Hollow Park. In the summer, its red shingles are complemented by lovely flowers and landscaping.

Community Calendar

- Community Meeting
Thurs., April 7
- Meet the Police
Wed., April 20 6:30 pm;
Friday, April 22 9:30 am
- Take-a-Hike
Sat., April 2
- Dayton's Bluff Business
Class starting in April

Council office: 798 East 7th Street



On December 12, 2010 at 6:45 am, a car was ablaze near East 4th and Hope Streets. A neighbor, Jeff Johnson, used his snow blower to put out the fire. Fire fighters were unable to reach the fire. The neighborhood is grateful to Jeff for his willingness to "fire up" his blower.

Annual Home Tour to feature Dayton's Bluff residences

*by Karin DuPaul
District Forum staff*

The annual Minneapolis and St. Paul Home Tour and the Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Home Tour will be held on Saturday, April 30, from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm and Sunday, May 1, from 1:00 to 5:00 pm. Residents in both Minneapolis and St. Paul will open their homes to the public, to showcase city living.

The Dayton's Bluff homes on the tour this year are:

- 613 North Street
- 723 Margaret Street
- 331 Maple Street
- 688 East 6th Street
- 1058 East 6th Street
- 664 Duluth
- 982 Conway
- 1163 Ross Avenue

Four of these homes will be highlighted on the Minneapolis and St. Paul Home Tour.

Well-kept older homes are one of the hallmarks of our neighborhood. Dayton's Bluff has so many wonderful homes that each year we have six to eight homes on the combined tours. The tour shows off many of Dayton's Bluff great features: the proximity to downtown St. Paul, Metro State, the parks, the views of the corridor, and the outstanding housing options in Dayton's Bluff.

The Minneapolis and St. Paul Home Tour is sponsored by the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul. Both tours are hosted by the Dayton's Bluff Community Council.

Minneapolis/St. Paul tour brochures can be picked up at the Dayton's Bluff Library on East 7th Street in mid-April; 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 what's up in Dayton's Bluff. Some of the 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@Daytonsbuff.org or call Karin at 651-772-2075. For more information on the Minneapolis/St. Paul Home Tour, please visit www.msphometour.com; please visit www.Daytonsbuff.org for more information about the Dayton's Bluff tour.

The Art Of Giving Back

Seniors offer art, refreshments to benefit Block Nurse Program

*by Karin DuPaul
District Forum Staff*

The Dayton's Bluff Seniors Block Nurse Program, a 501(c)(3) charity, is kicking off their first annual "Art of Giving Back" campaign on Saturday, April 9, 2011 at Spangler and de Stefano, PLLP at 779 East 7th Street, St. Paul, MN 55106, between 3:00 and 7:00 pm.

The Dayton's Bluff Seniors Block Nurse Program coordinates in-home services for seniors residing in the Dayton's Bluff community. The mission of the organization is to keep seniors safe and independent in their homes.

The April 9 event will include both a silent auction and "buy now" pricing for various art works from local artists ranging from photos to prints and other art. All of the proceeds from the art auction will go to the Dayton's Bluff Seniors Block Nurse Program. There will be free refreshments and light appetizers provided.

This would also be a good opportunity for the community to learn more about and support the Dayton's Bluff Seniors Block Nurse Program. The program is always looking for volunteers and is also currently looking for additional board members. The event is sponsored by Spangler and de Stefano, PLLP and Ideal Design, LLC.

To donate art for the event or to make a donation, please contact Perry M. de Stefano at 651-776-2900.

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Twin Cities Academy sent a team to the State Regional Science Bowl, put on by the Minnesota Academy of Science. It was TCA's first time competing at the event; they took second place in a field of 17 teams.

Events at TCA

Twin Cities Academy (TCA), a Dayton's Bluff charter middle school, is excited to share some recent highlights.

The TCA Tigers baseball team, made up of sixth-through-eighth-grade girls and boys, manages to hold its own while taking on all-boy, all-eighth-grade teams from around the area. Their season continues through May 24.

TCA has also received a grant supporting nutrition and fitness, from the NFL's "Fuel Up to Play 60" program.

For details, call the TCA office at 651-205-4797.

Appeal denied, St. John's church will close

By Greg Cosimini

Last fall, St. John's Catholic Church, located at 977 East 5th Street, announced that it would be merging with St. Pascal Baylon no later than July of 2013. The merger is part of a new plan within the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis outlining a vision for a revitalized local church, including the restructuring of parishes with the Archdiocese.

As allowed by church law, St. John's appealed the merger, but it was denied. Sacred Heart Catholic Church, will be the only Catholic Church in Dayton's Bluff following the closing of St. John's.

St. John's long history in the community began in 1886, when the first of two parishes was erected on Fifth Street near Forest. In 1922, the original wood structure would be replaced with a brick parish. 2012 marks the 90th birthday of the second parish. This year, St. John's celebrates 125 years of parish presence. St. John's pastor, Father George Welzbacher, will celebrate 60 years of priesthood this June.

St. John's established its first elementary school in 1890. The larger school, still standing today, was opened in 1932 and is approaching its 80th year. Today the school is inhabited by St. Michael's Academy, a small Catholic school but is currently looking for a major tenant. Interested parties should contact the office of St. John's at 651-771-3690.

Ed Lambert retires

Retirement party April 5 at Mounds Theatre

by June Bennett, Community council administrative assistant

Ed Lambert, Dayton's Bluff community council executive director since fall 2006, retired in March. Ed played an active and effective role with the organization and was involved in many important community advances. Some of his accomplishments include developing a strategic plan for 2010-15, nurturing a community council presence in the community, developing new fundraising approaches, reducing operational expenses and developing a positive relationship between Dayton's Bluff and the local media.

Ed recently played a role in the development and broadcast of two documentaries on the East side. The films aired on Twin Cities Public TV last year. The documentaries feature Dayton's Bluff and can be viewed at www.daytonsbuff.org.

But Ed says his most outstanding accomplishment in Dayton's Bluff, was being designated Pee Wee of the Year in 1954 at the old Bluff Playground."

Ed plans to continue writing for the *Forum* and will be available for consultations with small businesses and non-profit agencies. Email him at edllambert@gmail.com or call him: 612-708-6549.

Look for an article about the new community council executive director, Deanna Foster, in the next issue of the *Forum*.

The community council is celebrating Ed's tenure with a retirement party at the Mounds Theatre, 1029 Hudson Road, on Tuesday, April 5, from 5:00 to 8:00 pm. The gala event will include music, potluck dishes and a cash bar. Please RSVP to june@daytonsbuff.org if you are planning to attend. Donations to help fund the celebration will also be accepted.

Adult volunteers at Dayton's Bluff

Junior League of St. Paul



Rec Check participants work with Junior League volunteers in their Kids in the Kitchen program.

The Junior League has been very generous with its time and dedication, providing numerous fun activities for our youth at Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center. Kids in the Kitchen is a program that teaches healthy eating and provides youth with a cookbook to take home and share recipes with their families. The League also hosts a Family Reading and Game Night every third Thursday of the month from 6:00 – 8:00 pm at the recreation center. Dinner is provided. This is a great way to spend quality time with your children.

Backpack Buddies is another program for the Rec Check kids at Dayton's Bluff. This is a program that provides healthy snacks for the kids to take home over the weekend and enjoy. We have fifty participants enrolled in this program ages 5-18 years old.

Last but not least, last year the League worked with our after-school program and did a homework room makeover to our RSP room in the center. We just wanted to say "thank you" to the Junior League for all their support!!

Add your voice. Come and check out Dayton's Bluff Rec Center

Open gym: Tuesday and Thursday, 4:00 – 6:00 pm

Computer lab: Tuesday and Thursday, 5:00 – 8:00 pm

Teen room: Tuesday and Thursday, 5:00 – 8:00 pm

Dance room: Tuesday through Thursday, 5:00 – 8:00 pm

For more details, see contact information below.

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

THE "UNGRATEFUL AND UNREASONABLE" BROTHER.



MR. ARMOUR -- "For you, Miss Minneapolis, this packing plant. For Brother St. Paul, I have another nice present."

Smells and the City: Dayton's Bluff in 1909

by Steve Trimble

Airport noise. This has been a big concern of many Dayton's Bluff residents during the last few years. In the 1970s and '80s many the local residents lamented another sense: smell. Especially in the Mounds Park area, strange odors came rolling in from industries located along Warner Road. There were often some solvent-like smells in the areas around the 3M campus. People made calls; there were meetings, and there were some improvements.

As I was reading some 1909 copies of the *St. Paul Dispatch*, looking for something else, I came across articles talking about how the neighborhoods in the northwestern corner of St. Paul and their state representatives were highly concerned about the plans to construct an Armour meat packing plant in New Brighton.

So what does this have to do with a history column on Dayton's Bluff? To make a case against the planned project, the newspaper decided to look at the way the South St. Paul stockyards and packing plants were negatively impacting the East Side neighborhood.

The February 22, 1909 article had a series of increasingly smaller headlines. The first, in bold type, read "Foul Smells Annoy Residents of Bluff." Then came "Reeking Odors from South St. Paul Have Depreciated Value of Dayton's Hill Property." (Side note: that is the first time I've ever seen the use of "Dayton's Hill.") The next subhead was "Almost Intolerable in the Summer Time." Finally, in the smallest lettering, the paper suggested that "Plant at New Brighton Would similarly affect the Northwest Portion of the City."

The article furnished statements from people living in Dayton's Bluff

which, the writer said, was "one of the most attractive residence districts in the West, so far as the natural advantages are concerned," but those living there "agree that the foul odors from the South St. Paul stock yards have become a permanent nuisance throughout the district."

Inquiries were made by the *Dispatch* both at area homes and businesses in what they considered the center of the Bluff district—between the intersection of Bates and Plum and the intersection of Maria Ave. and East Seventh St. Even though they were separated from the stockyards and plant by a river, most of the residents noticed a "painful" smell during all four seasons, when the winds blew from the south. But in the summer it was the worst, with people calling it "horrid," "disgusting," "terrible," "dreadful," or "a fright." It was much worse when the weather was damp.

F. D. Reiners, a grocer at 374-376 Maria, did admit that he hadn't "smelt it yet in the winter time," however "in the summer it's very disagreeable when the wind blows from the south." Mrs. Albert M. Stubbs, who lived at 685 Hudson (near the corner of Maria), owner of a stationery shop at Maria and Sixth, said "I notice it—yes, even in the winter. But it's much worse in summer, especially over at our home... Then it smells something dreadful."

Dairyman Emil Johnson, who resided on Burns Avenue, told the reporter that "I notice it as I drive all over the Bluff south of Third St., and it's pretty tough. It may be nearly as bad north of Third St., but I don't go up that way." At Trout Brothers grocers, 201 Bates Ave. (near the corner of Plum), the respondent told of their approach: "It's pretty strong in summer at times, but we attend to our work and let it pass over."

George Rodenberg, the local state representative, lived with his family at

Encouraging "green" home improvement, preservation

by Harvey Meyer

Once again, the annual "preservation" evening, encouraging Dayton's Bluff residents to rehab, repair, and restore their homes, will be offered at Metropolitan State University. The May 3 event will be held from 6:30 to 8:00 pm in the Ecolab room of the University/Saint Paul Public Library, Dayton's Bluff branch. Co-sponsoring the event are Metropolitan State, the Dayton's Bluff District 4 Community Council, and the library's Dayton's Bluff branch.

This year's focus is on using environmentally friendly methods and materials in older homes—we call it "Going Green in Historic Dayton's Bluff." Thanks to the help of Historic Saint Paul, at least one special speaker will talk about how we can be more "green" as we maintain and improve our older homes.

As always, Dayton's Bluff residents are encouraged to bring photos and discuss their home fix-up and preservation projects following the guest speaker. That work may include everything from a simple repainting to a top-to-bottom overhaul of a residence. Often, such projects inspire a kind of friendly competition among neighbors, benefitting everybody by adding value to their homes.

"Most folks in Dayton's Bluff are interested in keeping their homes in good shape," said Karin DuPaul, community organizer for the Dayton's Bluff council. "Many also want to ensure their home improvement projects fit in with the historical integrity of the neighborhood."

DuPaul noted that the lower portion of Dayton's Bluff, which is the area near but not including Metropolitan State, is in an historic district. More than 600 homes are in this district, making it the largest such district in Saint Paul. While living in an historic district is a distinct selling point for many, DuPaul observed that substantial rehab projects require approval from the Saint Paul Heritage Preservation Commission.

"People living in historic districts," she said, "really should be aware of that stipulation."

Many folks are drawn to Dayton's Bluff because of its historic nature; numerous homes were constructed before or around the turn of the 20th century. Dayton's Bluff has the largest number of Victorian residences in Saint Paul, said DuPaul. Plus, many other housing styles are featured, including Italianate, Dutch Colonial, craftsman, foursquare, rambler, bungalows, worker cottages, and split-level.

"Many people want to live in areas with older homes and a variety of housing styles," said DuPaul. "We encourage them, and anyone else who is interested, to attend the event on May 3. We want to spread the word about, and welcome folks to, the neighborhood."

The May 3 event is held around the same time as national Preservation Week (April 24 to 30). The Minneapolis and Saint Paul Home Tour, which this year features eight Dayton's Bluff homes, is also conducted around the same time (April 30 and May 1). For more information, please go to www.DaytonsBluff.org.

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

765 East Sixth St., and suffered along with his constituents.

"It is abominable and I sincerely hope St. Paul will not be made the location for another such nuisance," he stated. "Up where I live... as it comes floating over the river" it was "almost unbearable. It hangs over the bluff like a blanket and is actually sickening." He supported the protests that the northwestern neighborhoods were making because "it has ruined property values on Dayton's Bluff, and it will do the same thing for the Midway and University districts."

Miss Lange, who was described as the sister of Edward Lange, affirmed the extent of the problem at 191 Maria Ave.: "It's extremely offensive, even in the winter time. And when we open the window in the summer it fills the house with a most disagreeable odor." Carl Ash, who lived across the street at 202 Maria, added the fact that "Sometimes it is fierce, especially in damp, hot weather" and felt "it has grown worse in the last two years."

One person seemed to be unaffected. E. P. Dwelly, who had a tailor shop at Seventh and Maria, announced that "Can't say that I ever smelt it myself," and then added "but that's because I've nearly destroyed my sense of smell by using snuff. My daughters, though, have often noticed it."

I haven't found out if or when the New Brighton plant was constructed, but I'm pretty sure that it became a reality. The Minneapolis businessmen

wanted to try to outdo those of St. Paul because — like today — money talks.

Of course, it didn't really matter to our former residents. Their noses continued to be assaulted either way. Should this article make readers think how their current day troubles are small compared to those of the 1909 era? Or should they conclude that this community has always had to bear the brunt of much of the city's problems; it's part of our heritage? Or maybe we should follow the example of the historic Trout brothers and just "attend to our work and let it pass over."

Marcha por los derechos de los inmigrantes 01 de mayo

Una amplia coalición está planeando una marcha en favor de los derechos de los inmigrantes el domingo, 1ro de mayo, Día Internacional del Trabajador. La marcha comenzará a las 4:00 pm en el Centro Martin Luther King en St. Paul y la marcha es hacia el Capitolio. Las reuniones para planificar la marcha se llevarán a cabo todos los sábados a las 11:00 am en el Colegio, entre avenida Bloomington y la calle 42 en Minneapolis.

Más información aquí: www.mirac1.wordpress.com o busca a la "Coalición 1ro de Mayo" en Facebook.

Littering Task Force targets Dayton's Bluff

by Sil E. Phool

April 1, 2011 – After the demise of the Metro Gang Task Force, St. Paul city leaders looked for another method to control the city's gang members and other assorted ne'er-do-wells.

The Mayor appealed to the citizens of St. Paul for crime fighting ideas. Most of the suggestions required large amounts of money, massive hiring of more police officers, or superheroes. They were rejected as being impractical in today's economy and/or inconsistent with reality.

However, one suggestion caught the Mayor's eye. It stated very simply: "I've noticed these miscreants are slobs and really, really messy to boot. Why don't you get them for littering?"

The Mayor thought it over and called a special session of the City Council. He said, "You know, the Feds never could get Al Capone on anything serious, but they put him away for life on tax evasion charges. Maybe this could just be crazy enough to work." The Council members agreed.

Within two weeks the St. Paul Littering Task Force had been created within the St. Paul Police Department. Their mission is simple: There is zero tolerance for litter on the streets of St. Paul. Tickets will be issued for any and all littering violations.

A first offense is considered a petty misdemeanor with a minimum fine of \$100. There is a sliding fee based on the litter's size and weight. The second offense is a misdemeanor and starts at \$200. A third offense is a felony and will result in arrest.

Any item dropped on the ground, thrown out a car window or pushed from the back of a truck is considered litter. Lobbying efforts by various special interest groups have resulted in the following special rules: A fast food bag, if closed, will count as a single item. Recyclable items such as cans and bottles will automatically incur a fine of \$500 each. Cigarette butts are \$50 each or three for \$100. Appliances, furniture, mattresses, hot tubs and boats are automatic felony offenses.

The Littering Task Force will be hitting the streets of Dayton's Bluff on April 1, 2011, so watch your butts.

Adding to the Heritage of Indian Mounds Park

by April Mayes

Indian Mounds Park will have a flock of new residents this summer. The St. Paul Parks Department has just revealed that a large part of the local landmark will be fenced off to allow the development of a new project—a huge chicken coop. The news was cheered by the Bluff Association of Urban Chicken Keepers (BAUCK). The affected area is bounded by Earl and Thorn Streets and Mounds Boulevard.

A member of BAUCK eagerly welcomed the announcement, saying that "the city has gone out of its way to let people use sections of public land for dog parks and community gardens, so it's about time that the allow us to set up a cooperative of our own." A spokesperson added that the section of the park is perfect because it has flat

as well as hilly woods that allowed the free ranging of the birds in a diverse landscape.

"We don't think of this as taking away park land," another member stated, "but just another way of using our parks." It will be a great way to let urban children learn about where their food comes from and will give the residents of the nearby Cerenity Center an alternative to the usual senior facility small bird cages found inside."

The Chicken Cooperative will have two sections. The first will be a linear "chicken running area" that will allow the public to bring their backyard broods to a larger area for exercise. The second, for co-op members only, will be cordoned off to allow the development of "heritage chicken" buildings, where rare domestic species will be raised as part of a plan to preserve genetic diversity in the face of increasing factory farming.

Thanks to a special ordinance just passed by the city, roosters will be allowed in these coops so that the endangered groups can be bred. Special netting will have to be provided for protection from the local eagle population.

Parks and Recreation Department and members of BAUCK will be hosting a public meeting to explain the way this experimental program will be



A local chicken cavorts freely, testing out the new Mounds Park off-leash chicken run.

carried out and how East Siders can get involved. It will be held on April 1st at 6:30 at the Dayton's Bluff Community Council office and, thanks to the sponsors, the first twenty people to show up will be given a half-dozen organic eggs laid by free-range heritage hens.

Hollywood Coming to Dayton's Bluff

by April Love

Get ready to watch the glitz and glamour of Hollywood filmmaking, as actors and cinematographers come to the neighborhood this summer. Following the success of their remake of "True Grit," the Coen Brothers have decided to take on the classic musical "West Side Story." However, this time, according to Kathy Lantry's office, it will be titled "East Side Story," and will mostly be shot in Dayton's Bluff instead of New York.

The directors said that our community "seemed to be the perfect setting for the story of two people from different cultures, living in an inner city neighborhood, who fall in love-- in this case a young Latina woman

Beacon Bluff Busted Bigtime

by April Raines

There has been a lot of talk at community meetings about the importance of "being green" – green jobs, green technology and green building methods at the old 3M site. But the St. Paul Port Authority, which now owns the property, recently discovered that not all greenness is a good thing.

That realization came when the city agency found out that on April 1, 2011 dozens of federal narcotics agents had surrounded and broken into Building 24 and discovered that it was full of potted plants—a huge cache of marijuana.

It turns out that an illegal group of growers had entered through a series of underground utility tunnels – probably known only to former 3M workers and leading to the possibility that one or more of them were involved. To stay off the electric grid, the scofflaws concealed hundreds of solar panels on the roof. They tapped into water lines and soon had thousands of plants in various stages of growth.

Bag after bag of weed started to turn up on the East Side. The hemp-hustlers had humorously labeled their product "Tartan Gold." It had become the hottest item on the streets and was identified by colorful labels printed in several languages. The operation was only discovered because of an anonymous tip, possibly from one of the group's competitors.

While the city and community wanted to see employment on the former manufacturing site, this was clearly not the kind of jobs that were envisioned. The Port Authority has sent out a press release denying any responsibility for the situation and has promised to pay for the clean-up and to increase security. They will also be having a community meeting on April 1st at 4:30 pm at their downtown offices to discuss the situation. Light refreshments, including chips, popcorn, pretzels, Doritos, Chee-tos, mixed nuts, burritos, French fries, tater tots, pizza, and brownies, will be available.

A spokesperson for the Minnesota Bureau of Drug Enforcement said that detective work was going on to find the perpetrators of this foliage felony, but so far there were few leads. "It was one of the most ambitious operations we have ever seen," he said.

An unidentified agent with a smile on his face softly added in an aside, "and it is some of the best stuff that's been around here for decades."

are trying to recruit either former police chiefs Corky Finney or John Harrington, both East Side residents, to play the part of Officer Krupke. Anyone interested in trying out should attend a preliminary gathering at their temporary office at 788 East 7th Street. Previous experience is not required, but people are asked to bring a photo of themselves. The meeting will be held on April 1st at 7:00 P.M.

Local freeloader welcomes spring thaw

by Anne O'Nymus

Tom Yonson, for one, is delighted to mark the end of a difficult winter. As the lone holdout on his block, Yonson steadfastly refuses to contribute his \$20 share toward his alley's annual snowplowing.

"I'm guessing I've received the final letter of the season," Yonson says, gesturing toward the stack of nicely-worded but increasingly urgent letters from the resident on his block who forked out \$275 last November to make sure the alley remained clear of snow all season. "It gets harder and harder to refuse, as the winter wears on and the snow piles up. But I'll remain strong – it's all I can do."

Yonson feels no need to pull his own weight by paying his portion. "Do I drive in the alley in winter? You bet. My garbage gets picked up from the alley, too... and the cable guy was out last week hooking up our upgrade. Do you know how much I pay for cable TV these days? They really rake you over the coals."

Yonson peers out his window, cautiously, in case any of his neighbors happen to be creeping by on his ice-crust sidewalk. "It's supposed to warm up next week – I'm pretty sure I'm out of the woods for this winter." He sighs with contentment. "Besides, \$270 isn't even divisible by \$20. Where did they learn math?"

and a Hmong teenager." As before, they said, there would be several songs, with scores specially written for the movie.

While the script is still in preparation, a *Forum* reporter has found out some of the musical scores already written. They include "Seventh Street Salsa," "Meeting Maria on Maria," "I'm in Love with a Man of the Asian Persuasion" and "You Know We're Tough, 'Cuz We're from the Bluff." The recent Broadway revival of "West Side Story" included several songs performed in Spanish, and this version will add songs in Hmong.

Choreography is being developed that honors the original, classic Jerome Robbins work, while also incorporating iconic Minnesota themes of movement, including the "wet boot stomp" and the "Norwegian nod."

Location shoots are being scheduled for the CLUES building, the Mounds Theater, St. John's Church, Parkway Little League fields, the Mounds Park Lounge and in the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary.

The Coen Brothers promised "to use a lot of local talent to provide authenticity in this cinema, so we're currently setting auditions for some adult and many youth parts." In fact, they

Church Navigates Partnership with Rec Center

The most segregated hour of the week is Sunday morning—when the faithful sit in church with others who look and sound like themselves. In 2011, when the U.S. is more diverse than ever, one local church is trying to change this.

The Compass Church, which holds their services in partnership with the Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center, has picked up the challenge to reflect the diversity of the community. "God's plan has always been that His entire creation would come together and worship Him. This is especially true when the surrounding community is diverse," says Pastor Terrance, Pastor of The Compass. "To stay in our same people groups, we miss out on all the gifts that diversity can bring to our lives."

"Our core commitment is not to be a church behind four walls, but to serve the community," Terrance says. "As a church committed to directing people to Christ and seeing lives transformed, our goal is to direct people to unity in life, unity in community and unity in Christ."

The Compass Church holds their weekly worship service on Sunday mornings at 10am at the Dayton's Bluff Rec Center. All are invited. For more information go to www.thecompasschurch.com.



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Upcoming regular meetings at the Dayton's Bluff District 4 Community Council office

Community meetings

The next Dayton's Bluff Community Meeting is Thursday, **April 7, from 6:30 to 8:00 pm** at the Dayton's Bluff Community Council office, 798 East 7th St. 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 and concerns. Generally we have a Code Inspector on hand from 6:30 to 7:00 and Police officers arrive about 7:00.

The Dayton's Bluff Community Meetings started in December of 2005. Each month neighbors and block club members come and meet with Code Inspectors and Police to help deal with neighborhood issues. When there are

no issues, there are good discussions about how Code and the Police Departments work, and discussion about how to make Dayton's Bluff a better place to live.

Submit the address of a problem property before the meeting, and the address 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.

Council board of directors meetings

The board of directors of the council usually meets on the first and third Mondays of each month.

Check www.daytonsbluff.org for committee meeting times.

Spring Parks Cleanup & Neighborhood Litter Campaign

Your help is needed! Bring your family, friends and neighbors to help clean up your favorite park or participate in a neighborhood litter cleanup event. The date is Saturday, April 9 from 9:00 am until noon. Each year, Friends of Mounds Park and Friends of Swede Hollow get out in force to clean up both parks. There will be an organized group also working in the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary. All three parks can use more help.

Email Karin@DaytonsBluff.org or call 651-772-2075 for more information.

If you would rather volunteer in your neighborhood, you can volunteer to work on the Neighborhood Litter Campaign. One focus will be on "Invest St. Paul" neighborhoods. Invest Saint Paul is a combination of efforts,

large and small, aligned to strengthen four key neighborhoods – portions of Dayton's Bluff, Payne-Phalen, the North End and Thomas-Dale (Frog-town).

Sign up as an individual, family, or group. Every year tons of trash is removed from parks and neighborhood as the snow melts to reveal the winter build-up. Use the online registration form at: <http://www.stpaul.gov/forms.aspx?fid=67>.

Friends of Swede Hollow (FOSH) Meeting

Meetings are on the second Wednesday of the month; generally, meetings are at Water & Oil gallery, 506 Kenny Road or at members' homes; call for location.

The next monthly meeting is on Wednesday, April 13 starting at 6:30 pm. FOSH is planning spring work in the park including City Parks Clean

Block club meetings

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

Beech/Margaret 654 Block Club will meet in April 2011. This block club covers residents who live between Cypress and Arcade on Minnehaha, Beech, Margaret, 6th, 5th, and 4th Streets.

Lower Dayton's Bluff Block Club usually meets monthly. This block club is bounded by 3rd and Maple streets and I-94. Contact Sherry Johnson at sherryjohnson@gmail.com for the time and place of the next meeting.

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



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Up Day on April 9, and working on planning the second annual Art in the Hollow, which is an art fest that will be held on Saturday, June 4. If you are an artist or know artists who would like to participate in Art in the Hollow, please contact us.

For more information, or location of the meeting, email SwedeHollow@gmail.com or call 651-776-0550.

Garden Plots Available

Meeting Sunday, May 1 to plan "Garden of Feed 'Em" at Conway Park. For more information, contact Mary Brownlow at 651-774-5343.

Take-a-Hike

Take-a-Hike occurs on the first Saturday of most months. 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.

Hikes will take place April 2 and May 7; all are welcome.

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For more information

For more information about any of the items on this page, please contact Karin DuPaul at karin@daytonsbluff.org or 651-772-2075.



From left to right: District 5 president Al Oertwig; Tim Herman, Dayton's Bluff Business Association; Marjorie Pearson, Architectural Historian for Summit Envirosolutions; Frank Hickey from Signia Designs.

Old 3M Site—new Beacon Bluff Update

Forum staff report

The latest information on what is happening to the former 3M site on Seventh Street – now being called Beacon Bluff – was shared by the St. Paul Port Authority at a recent meeting of the 3M Site Advisory Committee. At the sparsely attended meeting, Monte Hillman of the Port, and others, gave presentations. One of the first announcements was the fact that Hillman had recently received the Man of the Year award from The Brownfield Renewal Magazine, mostly because of his work on this project.

The assembled cadre learned that the demolition of a few of the old buildings has been completed, and almost 87% of the materials, such as concrete and lumber, had been recycled. One additional property, the former restaurant building at 890 East Seventh Street, has been bought and will be razed.

The other buildings are still being marketed and have been mothballed and provided with increased security measures because there had been a few attempts to get into or to vandalize buildings. The real estate firm felt that the market for land such as this had improved a little, so they were somewhat optimistic. There have been several showings, especially at buildings #1 and #24.

A significant portion of the site with four buildings has been optioned to the Ironton Asset Fund a local investment group. They have a year to come up with tenants and prepare to renovate. Jim Stolpestad, one of the partners, gave a report and pointed out his family's long connection to the East Side. He made it clear that much of his interest was in the buildings as well as the land.

The final part of the meeting concerned the planning for "historic mitigation" on the site. This is required by the federal government because the tearing down of structures had an impact on the potential historic district. Representatives from Summit Envirosolutions, the group hired to do research on 3M and develop a series of interpretive panels, also gave a report and asked for reactions to their proposals.

There was also a discussion of the landscaping meant to make the site a premier example of a "next-generation business center" that could include "next-generation technology" such as solar panels and water treatment. For those interested, the minutes of this meeting – and earlier ones – as well as reports and graphics showing the plans, can be found online at <http://www.sppa.com/beacon-bluff/>.

Happy Ninetieth to "Ming"

Forum staff report

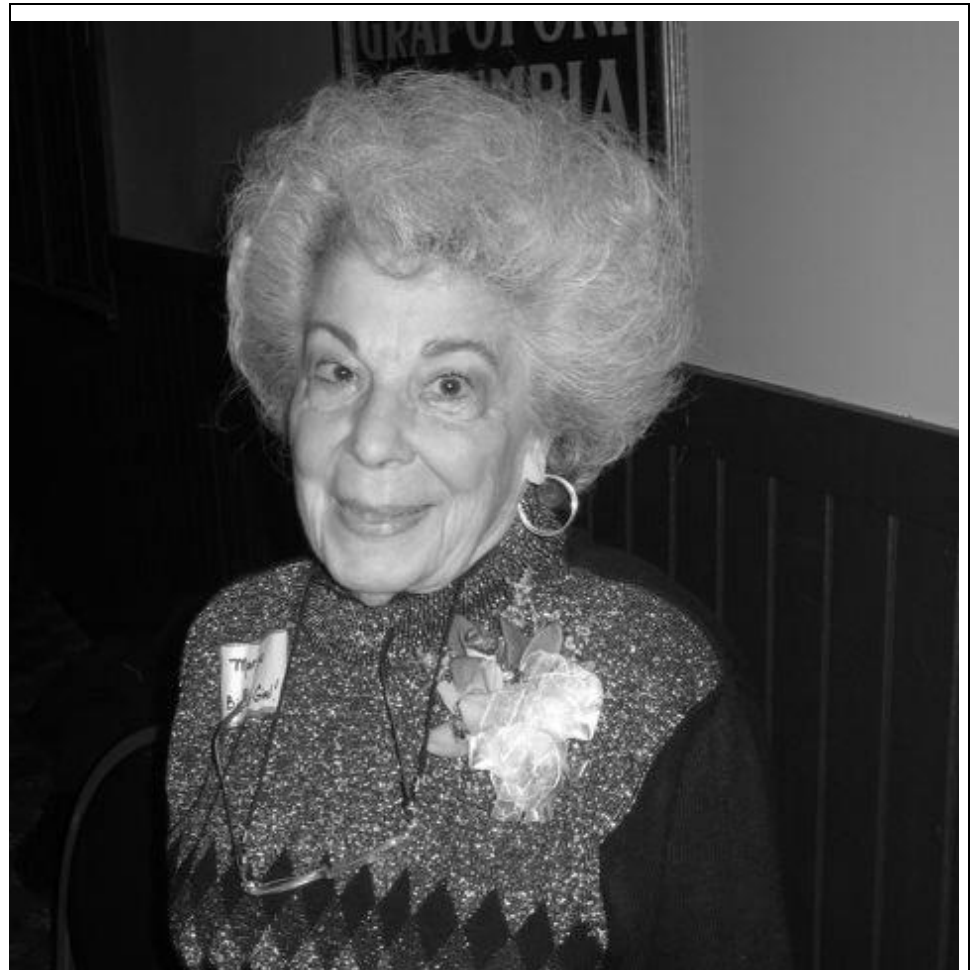
Margaret Hines, a Dayton's Bluff resident, known to her family by the nickname "Ming," recently celebrated her ninetieth birthday. She has lived in the St. Paul area all of her life, was born in the city and lived for a time in St. Paul Park. Her first job ever was working at the old Mounds Park Hospital.

She has resided in her current Mounds Park home for over sixty years. Until recently she drove her own car and is often seen working in her yard during good weather. She still enjoys going to her cabin in Wisconsin with her family, and occasionally baking cookies or making candy for holiday gifts.

Margaret is plenty sharp, but she got fooled this time. "I thought I was just going out to have lunch with my daughters," she said, "and boy was I surprised when I got to the restaurant and saw all the people. It was just wonderful."

There, at DeGidio's Restaurant on West Seventh Street, were a hundred or more members of her family, friends and neighbors dishing up pasta and looking at old photos and memorabilia and sharing stories of the past.

"There were so many people there," she exclaimed. "Some of them I had not seen for a long time. I was really overwhelmed." She says she often looks through the scrapbook of handwritten notes assembled by her daughters.



Margaret "Ming" Hines, longtime Dayton's Bluff resident, celebrated her 90th birthday last month at DeGidio's restaurant, surrounded by hundreds of friends and family members.

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Three residents added to 2011 Neighborhood Honor Roll

St. Paul's 17 district councils held their annual volunteer awards event on January 21, 2011 at St. Thomas University. The awards recognize people from all over the city who have given outstanding service to the community over a long period of time. In Dayton's Bluff, the community has added three new members each year since the 1980s. This year, St. Paul City Council President Kathy Lantry presented the awards to the winners.

Ali Artoli, owner of the Phoenix Market on Third Street near Maria Avenue, reflects in his smile and words a sense of pride and ownership in being an integral part of this lower Dayton's Bluff neighborhood. Ali's original store opened as Maria Food Market in 1993. After a gas main explosion leveled the original store, Ali then moved one lot over to what was once Paul's Lounge, modified the building, and since has added a deli. In a 2009 interview by Kyle Burns in the *Dayton's Bluff District Forum*, Ali commented: "If you do a lot of good things, it comes back to you. I think that is my philosophy."



Photo by Charlie Golden-Black
Ali Artoli and Kathy Lantry

John Barbie was a member of the Dayton's Bluff Community Council board for four years, serving as Vice President and Treasurer. As one of the founders of the new Skidmore Park Community Garden, John helped negotiate the contract for the garden with the city, secured funding for the drinking fountain and water supply, and obtained blocks and hauled pavers for the raised beds.



Photo by Charlie Golden-Black
Mike Voss, John Barbie and Kathy Lantry

John's professional skills in putting on large banquets also helped the community council host two large and successful community dinners.

Mike Voss, third generation owner of Roy's Service Station, at the corner of 3rd and Maria, is not a typical mechanic and Roy's is more than a garage. Mike always makes time to give a kid's bike a safety check or patch and fill

wading pools on a hot summer day. In many ways, Mike and his staff are protectors of not only our vehicles, but of our neighborhood and lives. With so many residents driving older vehicles, Roy's provides quality work at reasonable prices. In fact, the service station is so busy he doesn't need to advertise.

Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Honor Roll

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

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The first traditional Mexican New Year in Minnesota was celebrated at the East Side YMCA on Arcade Street on March 12th. The free events featured a traditional Aztec/ Mexican dance ceremony honoring the new year. There were drummers and dancers from five different area organizations. There were also games and prizes for kids, arts activities for the whole family, and free food.



This house on the 900 block of Euclid was demolished in less than two hours on Valentine's Day. The dreams of its new owner were destroyed with it.
Photo by Greg Cosimini

More than a house

by Greg Cosimini

It is sometimes said that the most frightening words in the English language might be: "We're from the government. We're here to help." A perfect example of that occurred in Dayton's Bluff this winter.

A house on the 900 block of Euclid St. had fallen on hard times. After surviving for over a century, it got caught up in the mortgage foreclosure crisis and became vacant in June 2009. The family who had occupied it for the previous ten years had basically destroyed it. The city of St. Paul classified it as a Category 3 property, meaning it was uninhabitable without major work. Considering the condition of both the house and the real estate market, it would cost more to repair the house than it was worth. The next step would normally have been demolition.

That's when our friendly federal government stepped in to help. Somehow the bank or mortgage company that owned the house managed to get it transferred to HUD, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Once that happened, the city of St. Paul lost all control of the property.

There had been an ongoing feud between cities and HUD for many years and HUD eventually came out

the winner. To make a long story short, once HUD takes over a property, a city no longer has any jurisdiction over it until it is sold. But as soon as the property is sold, the house and its new owner become subject to city laws and ordinances.

For reasons unknown, HUD spent taxpayer money cleaning out the house, replacing broken windows with Plexiglas, and contracting with a property management company to watch over the house. In the spring of 2010, the house was put up for sale for \$13,000, which was less than an empty lot was worth. Someone signed a purchase agreement for \$8,000 but that deal fell through. HUD put the house back on the market that summer at a reduced price of \$12,000. Incredibly, someone wanted to purchase the house for that price.

HUD sells properties "as-is" or, to put it another way: buyer beware. HUD is under no obligation to inform potential buyers of problems that may crop up with the city after the purchase due to the condition of the house. It is the buyer's responsibility to have the house inspected and to check with the city before it is purchased. That doesn't always happen.

Knowing that this situation has caused trouble for both the city and new owners in the past, our councilperson Kathy Lantry tried to get the name of the potential buyer to warn

him about what would happen if he took ownership of the property. HUD representatives told her in no uncertain terms that it was none of her business. The owner's real estate agent, who was also his brother, apparently didn't warn him either, most likely out of a lack of experience dealing with HUD.

The purchase went through and the owner was immediately contacted by the city regarding the state of the house, namely that it was uninhabitable in its current state and was slated for demolition if all problems weren't fixed quickly. City inspectors provided a detailed report regarding the condition of the house. The main concern was the state of the foundation. Estimates to repair only the house's structural flaws were in the \$50,000 range.

There followed a number of letters and hearings regarding the house, culminating in a City Council meeting on January 5th of this year where the owner was allowed to plead his case. It was very apparent that he still did not understand the situation. He believed he and his family could make a few repairs and move into the house.

The owner made a very eloquent statement regarding his faith in the American dream (he had grown up in Haiti but was now an American citizen) and how his wife and two young children looked forward to owning and living in their own home here in Dayton's Bluff instead of renting in Bloomington. He asked for another extension of three to six months to come up with more money or some other solution.

Unfortunately, he could not provide any evidence that he had the means to renovate the house in a timely manner. The house was deteriorating rapidly. This was the second winter it had gone without heat, and the heavy rains last summer and fall had continued to degrade the foundation. The Council ruled that the house be demolished within 15 days. It took a bit longer than that, but on February 14th the house was razed. In an hour and a half it was turned into a pile of rubble. Within two days, there was no indication that the house had ever existed.

Besides the loss of his initial investment, the owner is now saddled with a variety of back taxes, assessments, fees, and the cost of the demolition itself. Yearly property taxes and assessments will continue to accrue. He can't do anything with the empty lot unless he pays all liens against it. Most likely he will just walk away from this situation, much sadder and poorer but wiser. The property will sit empty for three to five years until it is declared tax forfeited by Ramsey County, at which point it will be put up for auction. If it follows the path of similar properties in this neighborhood, it will remain in limbo for a very long time.

It is tragic enough for this neighborhood that so many people have lost their homes to foreclosure. It is even more tragic that this is causing the loss of many fine old houses. However, it is unforgivable that a man should lose his life savings due the interference of the federal government into what should have been a simple local matter regarding the disposition of a piece of property.



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