

DISTRICT FORUM

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Power tools & Picking trash

Above: Dayton's Bluff Rec Center Summer Blast Youth Program and Dayton's Bluff Community Council worked on their Good Neighbor Clean Up/Sign Project and Gardening project July 7. *Inset:* Mounds Park United Methodist Church Urban CROSS youth repaired the back porch of a Dayton's Bluff home, among other projects.

Photos by Karin DuPaul

Youths make the Bluff a lovelier place

Rec Center's Summer Blast

by Paula Uniacke

On June 7, residents near the Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center saw something unexpected and eye-catching: a dozen youth picking up trash from the boulevards and streets. Arms loaded with trash bags and safety gloves, participants in the Rec Center's Summer Blast program took a break from field trips and other fun summertime activities to give back to their community. After cleaning several blocks, the youth, ages 8-15, traded their trash bags for trowels and planted a shade-friendly garden on Bates Ave. As passing neighbors stopped to thank and encourage the young people, it was clear that community pride is alive and well in Dayton's Bluff. For more details on the Summer Blast program, see the Rec Center ad on page 3.



An Urban CROSS team, working on a neighbor's deck.

Mounds Park UMC's Urban CROSS

by Karin duPaul

Mounds Park United Methodist Church (MPUMC) held their 2nd Annual Urban CROSS (Christians Reaching Out in Service to St. Paul) program during the week of June 20. Around 60 volunteers came to Dayton's Bluff from places like Duluth, New Ulm, and right here in St. Paul to help with projects in our community.

Volunteers slept at a local church, ate breakfast and supper and worshipped at MPUMC, showered at the YMCA, then worked all day at the job sites. Other volunteers baked goodies, served meals, and chauffeured for the workers.

Projects included repair and rebuilding decks, removing an old garage, building a fence, painting, landscaping, mowing grass (sometimes several feet tall!) in vacant yards, maintenance at the YMCA and painting at the church. Work recipients were very happy with all the help on their projects.

At the end of the week of help, volunteers, church members, and work recipients met at the church for a final thank-you dinner. Thank you to Mounds Park United Methodist and all the volunteers.



Be a part of the Forum community

"Like" the Forum on **facebook** and find additional pictures and information about events and issues in your community.

Contribute your own content; write a comment, or email us: editor@daytonsbuff.org.

Is there a story that isn't being told? Article suggestions, fully-written pieces, photos, and letters to the editor are always welcome.

We look forward to hearing from you!

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Where in Dayton's Bluff?

Can you identify this image, found somewhere in Dayton's Bluff? Email editor@daytonsbuff.org. All correct responses received by midnight on August 10 will be entered into a drawing for a pack of Dayton's Bluff postcards. Happy hunting!



James Dimmick appointed to US Air Force Academy

Dayton's Bluff resident James Dimmick recently received a highly sought-after appointment to the U.S. Air Force Academy. James attended St. Pascal Baylon and graduated from Cretin-Derham Hall high school, where he was a teacher's assistant for three years as well as a top cadet in his Junior ROTC class. His extra-curricular activities include the Robotics Team, the political affairs club, and Cretin-Derham's sound crew. He intends to receive a Bachelor of Science degree in Aeronautical Engineering and, after graduation as a Second Lieutenant, possibly serve as a pilot in the Air Force. The nomination earned him a commendation from Congresswoman Betty McCollum.

Welcome, Mr. Flucas

Get to know the new principal of Dayton's Bluff Elementary

by Meg Gronau
Forum editor

Steven Flucas didn't have an easy job ahead of him.

As a first-year principal in one of the most economically depressed areas in the region – replacing a man lauded as the “turnaround czar” – Flucas knew he was entering perilous territory.

“In the first year, my job was to pick up and run,” Flucas said. “You use your skill set to pick up the process – not change for the sake of changing.”

He adds, “[SPPS Superintendent Valeria] Silva talks about courage to face problems. If you want to learn how to lead, you have to learn from a leader.”

Flucas certainly stepped into a leader's footprints. Andrew Collins, the previous principal at Dayton's Bluff, was recognized for his success

“turning around” Dayton's Bluff Elementary, exceeding expectations so spectacularly that he is now working as the Assistant Superintendent in charge of Leadership Development and Turnaround for the St. Paul Public School district.

I met with Flucas on June 12, the final day of the school year – his first year as principal of Dayton's Bluff Achievement Plus Elementary. His broad smile and warm demeanor made me feel welcome and valued, even on a day surely filled with other, more pressing matters than an interview for the *Forum*.

Flucas is hopeful and energized for the future, while remaining pragmatic about the realities of education in St. Paul. Populations are rising and, Flucas says, “Many are mourning the loss of the 16-kid classroom, and the loss of close relationship with families.”

Flucas' previous experience, as a social worker in the Minneapolis pub-

Eastside Neighbors for Peace to hold August vigils

by Carla Riehle

“Time to leave; five wars too many.” That's the slogan that the newly formed Eastside Neighbors for Peace has adopted for its planned weekly vigils each Thursday in August. The group came together after Community Council board members Sage Holben and me, along with Brad Griffith, floated the idea to the Sacred Heart Church Peace and Justice Committee. They liked the idea and a new peace group was born.

Like many other neighborhoods, Dayton's Bluff and the greater Eastside are feeling the effects of the worldwide economic crisis. With about two billion dollars a week being spent by our government on the war in Afghanistan alone, it's hard not to conclude that we could use that money more wisely at home.

If you would like to join us in raising our voices and our signs for peace, please join us, any **Thursday, August 4, 11, 18 or 25, from 5:00 to 6:00 pm** at the corner of East 6th Street and Mounds Boulevard. We will have signs available or you can bring your own. All are welcome.

Look for us on Facebook at St. Paul Eastside Neighbors for Peace.



lic school system, has given him valuable expertise working with people in very difficult situations. He also served as the assistant principal at Monroe/Linwood Elementary for two years.

Flucas' plan for the future of Dayton's Bluff Elementary makes the most of those things that've made the school successful. “The school has been very focused,” Flucas said. “We stress literacy and math.” Secondly, Flucas says, “Rigor, for staff and students. Ongoing orientation; anti-bullying; making sure parents know when things are happening.” The third part, he says, is “Coherence and balance – ebb and flow, using time wisely.”

He speaks of individual teachers with admiration, respect and specific details of their teaching accomplishments.

“I have an incredible appreciation for how difficult and challenging the art of teaching is,” Flucas said. “A cohesive lesson is an art.”

Particularly when you consider the student population at Dayton's Bluff. Flucas says “[In our school we have] ELL (English-Language-Learning) kids who have been in this country for six months, and kids with top-of-the-realm MCA scores, sitting right next to each other.”

And, he adds, “Poverty is interesting. You have to understand the population you work with. Kids are kids and families are families wherever you go. Every parent wants the best for their child. Education is the key to unlock a child's future. We work together so we can all progress.” Then he quotes Carol Johnson, former superintendent of Minneapolis: “Any table has to have three legs: parent-school-child.”

Along with many school staff and administrators, Flucas agrees with the need for educational standards, but is critical of the current No Child Left Behind (NCLB) program. “There has to be a process for setting benchmarks,” he said. For example, he says, “Show me growth in *this* area,” rather than judging success by requiring

vastly diverse populations of students to meet the same standard.

At Dayton's Bluff Elementary, Flucas says, “We are hard-core academic-focused on teaching kids to read and write.” The question that national educational standards needs to ask, he says, is “How cohesive is the academic program in meeting the needs of the kids it serves?”

Considering all the challenges, Flucas speaks with pride about the dedication of his school's staff. “People who are here have to be smarter about how they do what they do.”

Also among Dayton's Bluff's assets, Flucas adds, is the community. “The neighborhood takes care of us. They know there are people in this building doing wonderful things with kids.”

Will your child be attending Dayton's Bluff Achievement Plus Elementary School in the fall? There are some changes and other information you need to know:

New School Hours: Beginning in the fall of 2011, the new school hours will be 8:35 AM – 4:05 PM. This will allow an extra hour of instruction targeted at student needs.

Improved Busing: In the fall of 2011, students living ½ mile or more within the Dayton's Bluff attendance area will receive busing.

Do you have a child starting Kindergarten or Pre-kindergarten in the fall? Call 651-632-3746 to schedule an early-childhood screening appointment.

Your 7th grader needs immunizations before school starts. He or she will also need a sports physical if he/she plans to play sports. Call Kerrie Samayoa, RN, CNP, for an appointment or assistance: 651-293-8915.

Dayton's Bluff Achievement Plus Elementary is located at 262 Bates Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55106; 651-293-8915. Staff will return beginning August 15.

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Kids delight in posing with a fire truck next to Bethlehem Lutheran Church during last year's National Night Out. Photo courtesy of Karin DuPaul

National Night Out August 2

Celebrate community in Dayton's Bluff on National Night Out, Tuesday, August 2, 2011. Neighbors, neighborhood groups and block clubs are planning a variety of events, including a barbecue, Brodini's Magic Show, live bands and kids' games. Please bring a food or dessert item to share. Another way to celebrate is to get your neighbors to turn on outside lights at every home from dusk to dawn.

This is the 28th Annual National Night Out, celebrated nationwide in a variety of events and activities.

Most celebrations start around 6 or 6:30 pm. Bring a dish or dessert to share. Here is a list of some of the Dayton's Bluff celebrations:

- Reaney Avenue between Forest and Cypress
- Bethlehem Lutheran/Beech-Margaret/654 Block Club at Margaret and Forest
- Lower Dayton's Bluff Block Club at Maria and Euclid
- Mounds Park at Earl and Mounds Blvd
- Wilson Avenue Block Club on Wilson between Forest and Cypress
- Mounds Park United Methodist Church, Earl and Euclid
- Swede Hollow Park at Greenbrier and Margaret
- Saint Paul Federal Credit Union at 1330 Conway
- Parkway Gardens at Hudson Road and Johnson Parkway (for residents at 3:00 pm)
- Our Saviour's Lutheran Church at Margaret and Johnson Parkway
- Bates and 4th Street Block Club at Bates and 4th Street
- Wilson Avenue between Mendota and Forest
- Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, 674 Johnson Parkway: (5:30 to 8:00 pm, offering food and refreshments for our neighbors, plus games, music, and a health fair. In addition, there will be a clothing and household articles giveaway to those in need, from 4:00 to 8:00 pm.)

You may check the most current listing of National Night Out celebrations at www.daytonsbuff.org. For more information, contact Karin@DaytonsBluff.org or 651-772-2075.

A Capital Voting System for the Capital City: Ranked Voting Comes to St. Paul

by Sarah Clarke, FairVote

This November, St. Paul joins its twin across the river at the forefront of election reform: The capital city is moving to Ranked Choice Voting for municipal elections – a smarter, fairer, cheaper, cleaner way to vote.

In short, St. Paul is moving to a voting system that's worthy of its voters. And thanks to the Voter Readiness Campaign underway by FairVote Minnesota, it's on track to be a smooth, inclusive, broadly-embraced transition. Working cooperatively with Ramsey County, the city of St. Paul, and a host of community organizations, FairVote is aiming to ensure that the rollout is even more successful than the 2009 implementation in Minneapolis.

Ranked Voting upholds the principle of majority rule and better reflects the will of electorate. By allowing voters to rank candidates in order of preference, it eliminates "wasted" votes, the "spoiler" effect and the perceived need to calculate electability. And by folding two elections into one November election, when turnout is greater and more diverse, RV reduces costs – for both candidates and taxpayers – as well.

Under Ranked Voting, candidates are rewarded for building coalitions and running positive, issue-based campaigns. What's more, Ranked Voting opens up the political process to new voices and perspectives: it's been shown to broaden political participation in historically underrepresented communities and to increase diversity in local government.

The change for voters is simple: Instead of voting for just one candidate, they'll be able to rank their preferences – first choice, second choice, third choice, etc. This ranking allows an "instant runoff" to occur if no candidate receives a majority (50 percent +1) of first choices. If a candidate receives a majority of votes in the first round, that candidate wins. If not, the least popular candidate is eliminated and that candidate's votes are reassigned to remaining candidates based on the second choices on each of those voters' ballots. This process continues until one candidate receives a majority of continuing ballots.

According to Ramsey County Elections officials, machines will be used to tally first choices, as is always the case. Races that are won in the first round will be unofficially declared on election night. Races that are not won in round one will be tallied by hand and reported in the following days.

St. Paul voters adopted RV in 2009. The Voter Readiness Campaign will include engaging St. Paulites at neighborhood and community festivals, public forums, and demo elections, as well as through door-knocking and print and online media. Be a part of this historic change: contact FairVote Education Coordinator Sarah Clarke at sarah.clarke@fairvotemn.org to volunteer or learn more, and visit VoteStPaul.org and co.ramsey.mn.us/elections/ranked_voting.htm.

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



At left: Have you ever seen such exhausted-looking kids? After an afternoon of working in the hot sun, a cookout and trivia game were much deserved.

Summer Blast youths make friends, make a difference

Dayton's Bluff Summer Blast participants and staff partnered with Dayton's Bluff District Council and the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood in the third annual sign project on July 7. Youth worked with neighbors and cleaned up their neighborhood along Conway and 3rd Street.

They also planted a garden at one of the homes on Bates Ave. They worked hard and had fun doing it. Neighbors came out to help and thank the youth for their help with cleaning and weeding their gardens. They shared stories and food with the youth and learned more about one another.

This was a great intergenerational connection between the youth and the neighbors of Dayton's Bluff. Kids learned how to plant, weed, and take pride in their neighborhood by picking up trash and posting signs that show their commitment to a cleaner, safer environment. Placed as a progressive billboard, there are three series of three signs with the messages: 1) Don't drop it, Find a trash-can, Use it; 2) No Trash, No Tagging, No Trash-Talk; and 3) Be Productive, Be Polite, Be Peaceful. If you would like one or all three signs placed in your yard, please call the DBCC at 651-772-2075.

Register now for fall sports

- Soccer for boys and girls ages 8-14 years old
- Flag Football for ages 8-12 years old
- Drill Team for ages 8-16 years old

For more information, please contact Dayton's Bluff Rec Center at 651-793-3885.

Free lunch on weekdays

Free lunch in the Rec Center gym from 12:00 – 1:00 pm and snack from 3:00 – 4:00 pm for anyone under the age of 18.



St. John's school building is a classic

by Greg Cosimini
St. John's class of '65

With so many Dayton's Bluff's historic buildings being claimed by the wrecking ball, it might be a good idea to look at some still standing.

One of them is the St. John's Catholic school building on the corner of Fifth and Forest. Its construction began exactly 80 years ago in July 1931. It was built in six months for a cost of \$135,000 and formally opened to the public in January 1932.

The Gothic brick and cut stone building was designed by the architectural firm of Slifer and Abrahamson to match the recently constructed church and parish house. It replaced the original school, built in 1889, which could no longer handle the growing student population of the parish. The new school was capable of housing 400 to 500 students back in the days when class sizes of 40 to 50 weren't uncommon.

Here is a description of the school building written shortly after it was built:

"No feature for the comfort and convenience of those whom it is intended to serve seems to have been omitted. In the basement, extending practically two stories high, is a regulation size gymnasium, so constructed that it serves as an auditorium as well. Concrete bleachers are built in such a way as to provide storage space for chairs to be used for the auditorium.

"Space is provided for a regulation size handball court, locker and shower rooms for boys

and girls, a lunchroom, and a Boy Scout room. At one end of the gymnasium is a stage, 31 by 44 feet, provided with footlights and other features necessary for the staging of dramatic productions. A dressing room for players is

located at one end. The heating plant in the basement heats both church and school.

"On the first floor are five classrooms; a kindergarten occupying space equal to two ordinary sized classrooms, with a fireplace and a playroom; an office; a nurse's room

and a book room for the distribution of texts.

"Seven classrooms are located on the second floor, in addition to a library, Sisters' quarters consisting of a living room and a dining room, a parish dining room and kitchen. Many of the rooms in the building were so designed with respect to light and ventilation that seventeen classrooms would be available if needed."

The above description could just as well have been written today, as very little has changed. The handball court is being used for storage, but marks from balls are still visible on the walls. The locker and shower rooms have been converted to other uses with the plumbing hidden from view. The heating plant still services both the church and school with updated boilers now burning gas rather than coal. The kindergarten still has its fireplace, along with a built-in playhouse, semicircular play area and its own private bathroom.

It would be difficult to tell by looking at photographs of interior portions of the school whether they were taken now or in the 1930s. Externally the building hasn't seen many changes either other than for the installation of modern windows and a cell phone antenna farm on the roof.

The building served as a school for St. John's until the 1970s when St. John and Sacred Heart schools consolidated and all classes were eventually moved to the Sacred Heart campus. For many years after that, local non-

profit organizations were housed in the building until one of the first charter schools moved in during the 1990s. Unfortunately, that school ran into legal issues and was forced to close. The St. Paul Public Schools then made use of the upper floor for many years while a small Catholic



Photos courtesy of Greg Cosimini

St. John's unique, historic space available – call 651-771-3690.

Metropolitan State outlines plans for new science building

by Harvey Meyer

If everything goes according to plan, a new \$30-million-plus edifice will grace the Metropolitan State University Campus – and Dayton's Bluff – in the next several years.

A couple of major hurdles must first be overcome before a science education building is erected at the corner of Mounds Boulevard and Sixth Street. But the university signaled its clear intention when this March it acquired a half-acre site housing the American Postal Workers Union (APWU) facility, adding it to land Metropolitan State previously purchased along Sixth Street. In June, the one-story APWU facility was demolished to make way for the future science building.

"We have a huge student demand for a science building at the university," said Dan Hambrock, Metropolitan State's associate vice president of capital planning and campus services. In fact, the need is such that the university ranks the facility its No. 1 construction priority.

Hambrock said the university will seek \$3.3 million in design and additional land-acquisition funding for the property. With that funding secured from the Minnesota Legislature, Metropolitan State will then pursue \$31 million in construction funds for the proposed three-story facility. The university's master plan calls for a 2016 completion of a building featuring five classrooms, 12 labs, 15 faculty offices, conference rooms and support and other spaces. A skyway would link the facility to Founders Hall, which houses administrative offices and classrooms.

The Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system recommends that baccalaureate students complete two science courses. However, given its science space limitations, Metropolitan State now requires only one general education science course.

Assuming a new science building is constructed, it will draw and retain more students, many of whom may live on the East Side and patronize area businesses, said Hambrock.

"A new science building will offer additional stability for both the East Side and Metropolitan State," he said. "It will further demonstrate the university's continuing commitment to the community."

The new facility would underscore the Metropolitan State campus as a gateway to the East Side, said Hambrock. The buff-colored brick edifice on Sixth Street would also mesh with existing structures and serve as an aesthetic counterbalance to the Library and Learning Center on Seventh Street.

In an era of steep competition for state dollars, Hambrock said funding for a new science education building is by no means assured. That's why support from all corners, including East Side residents and businesses, is welcomed, he said.

Said Hambrock, "We appreciate, and need, everybody's support."

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

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school was located on the main floor until moving out this past May.

The St. John's school building is now ready for its next tenant. It has stood the test of time and still has many good years ahead of it. It would make a great community center, nonprofit business incubator or, of course, school. Anyone interested in touring or renting the building should contact St. John's at 651-771-3690.

"Ga-ga, goo-goo, la-la, goo-ga."

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Dale White, pictured June 15 with some of the graduates of the Spring 2011 Microentrepreneur Program. The Fall program starts in September.

Small business classes

The Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Microentrepreneur Program is taking applications for the fall 2011 class, which will start in September.

The program helps start-up and young businesses; all East Side entrepreneurs are welcome. The Dayton's Bluff Community Council and the Neighborhood Development Center have been hosting two such microentrepreneur classes each year since 1993.

Classroom training lasts eight weeks and includes topics such as operations management, marketing, financial management, how to create a successful business and how to prepare a business plan. In addition, each student will have eight hours of one-on-one time with the instructor to work on individual business concepts. Those who successfully complete the course and locate their businesses in target neighborhoods are eligible for ongoing business support services.

The registration fee is based on a sliding scale. Class size is limited, so don't wait to apply. For an application, see the contact information below.

Community meeting

The next Dayton's Bluff community meeting is **Thursday, August 4 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm** at the Dayton's Bluff District 4 Community Council office, 798 East 7th Street. The council holds a community meeting on the first Thursday of most months. The object is to work with block clubs and neighborhood residents on problem properties, criminal and nuisance behavior, code enforcement issues and any other issues, concerns or good things going on in the Bluff.

Generally we have a code inspector on hand from 6:30 to 7:00 pm and police officers arrive about 7:00. Bring addresses where problems are occurring and they will check them out. If the addresses are sent to the council offices ahead of time, they can research the issue before the meeting. All Dayton's Bluff residents are welcome to attend.

Complaints can also be made by calling 651-266-8989 or online at <http://www.stpaul.gov/index.aspx?nid=1649>. Complainants' names are kept confidential.

Take-a-Hike August 6

Take-a-Hike occurs on the first Saturday of most months. The next hike will be **Saturday, August 6** Hikers meet at **10:30 am** in Indian Mounds Park at Earl Street and Mounds Boulevard, and walk to East Side Heritage Park.

The hike is about four miles long with some moderately rough terrain. Transportation will be available to return to Indian Mounds Park, if needed. All are welcome.

Meet the police

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 17, at 6:30 pm, and Friday, August 19, at 9:30 am**. The meetings are intended to listen to and address concerns about crime and other issues on the East Side.

Friends of Swede Hollow

Meetings are on the second Wednesday of the month, generally at Water & Oil gallery, 506 Kenny Road, or at members' homes; call for location. The next monthly meeting is on **Wednesday, August 3, starting at 6:30 pm**.

FOSH is planning summer work in the park and working on planning for **Alcina's Island: A Picnic Operetta** which will be performed in Swede Hollow on Saturday, September 17, and "Watch the Glow of the Setting Sun on the Red Brick Brewery Buildings." For more information or location of the meeting, email SwedeHollow@gmail.com or call 651-776-0550.

Dayton's Bluff beat phone

The Dayton's Bluff Police beat phone, 651-341-7637, is available for residents' calls.

Four officers in two police cars carry the phone from 4:00 pm - 2:00 am. Another police car will have the Dayton's Bluff beat phone during daytime hours, from 7:00 am - 5:00 pm many days.

What kind of calls should be made to the beat phone? You may call about ongoing problems in the neighborhood; concerns about people in vacant buildings after 10 pm; police-related questions, and so on. **If you need police right away or see a crime in progress, call 911 or 651-291-1111.**

Free Zumba class through EXCO

Zumba Fitness combines fun Latin and International music with unique moves and combinations to create a fun and easy-to-follow workout. Zumba is a "feel-happy" workout that is great for both the body and the mind. Drop in for a **FREE Zumba class** at the Dayton's Bluff Rec Center on **Tuesdays from 5:45-6:45 pm** throughout the summer.

This class, and others, are offered through EXCO: Twin Cities Experimental Community Education. Through EXCO, anyone can take or teach classes, and all the classes are free. See www.excoTC.org for more information.

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 on the **last Thursday of the month** at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church School building at 665 Forest. This block club covers the area Minnehaha, Beech Margaret, 6th, 5th, and 4th Streets between Cypress and Arcade.

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.

Donate your junk car

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 june@daytonsbluff.org.

Tell us about your church!

What is your place of worship up to these days? Is your church, synagogue, temple, or mosque working on a community event? Hoping to grow? Excited about anything happening in the world? Share with the *Forum*, so we can share with the community.

Harding 2001 reunion

Harding High School Class of 2001 will be having a 10-year reunion on Friday, August 26 at 7:00 pm at Jimmy's Food & Drink in Vadnais Heights.

New baby? Anniversary? Share your good news

The *Forum* would be delighted to help you share your family's and/or neighbors' exciting news and milestones. Submit photos and details of the happy event to editor@daytonsbluff.org, or mail to 798 East 7th Street, St. Paul, MN 55106.

Notices will be published as space permits, and may be edited for length or clarity. Deadline is the 10th of each month for the following month's issue.

Cow Boat August 8 in Mounds Park

Mounds Park hosts a puppet show as part of the Open Eye Figure Theatre's 10th annual Driveway Tour. On Monday, August 8 at 7:00 pm, the Mounds Park Pavilion at Earl St. and Mounds Blvd will be staging the pup-

pet show *The Amazing Cow Boat*. The event is scheduled rain or shine.

The Driveway Tour brings original, family-friendly theater directly into neighborhoods. All Driveway Tour performances are free and open to the public.

The Driveway Tour's mission is to entertain and delight through the puppet show events and bring together neighbors and friends to create community. For more information, please visit www.openeyetheatre.org.

This original show is appropriate for all ages, even adults, and runs about 30 minutes. Although the event is free, donations are gratefully accepted.

The event in Mounds Parks is sponsored by ECFE and Friends of Mounds Park (friendsofmoundspark.org).

Yoga in the garden

Join us for a summer yoga series in the garden!

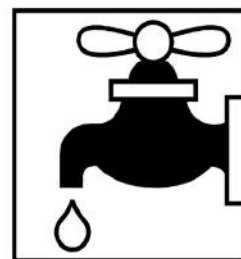
Anita Bendickson of Midwest Karate will lead three outdoor yoga workshops at Skidmore Park (on East 4th Street between Earl and Hancock). Grab your mat, walk on down and stretch out under the majestic cottonwood trees on August 9 from 7:00 - 8:30 pm.

All levels welcome; \$10 workshop fee. Feel free to pass the invite along to gardeners, neighbors and friends. If you don't have a yoga mat, extras will be available for use or purchase during the workshop. Remember to wear comfortable clothing that doesn't restrict movement.

In case of rain, workshops will be relocated to Midwest Karate at 762 E 7th Street, St Paul. Studio workshop fee is \$7.

For more information...

...about anything on this page, contact Karin: karin@daytonsbluff.org or 651-772-2075.



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www.dbnhs.org



Dayton's Bluff and Payne Phalen Living at Home Block Nurse Program

submitted by Ana Diaz MD, MPH

Health care fraud affects thousands of individuals across the country each year and costs the US between \$90 and \$180 billion dollars a year in scams and errors. It can cost you higher Medicare premiums, deductibles, and co-payments. Losses due to fraud may also prevent Medicare from offering more services and better coverage. In fact, this year it has become one of, if not the most profitable, crimes in America.

While it's very difficult to eliminate all fraud from Medicare, it's imperative that fraud become one of the federal government's major priorities, particularly in a time when proposed budget cuts threaten to shrink Medicare's budget significantly. For example, a proposal to cut billions from the federal budget for home-based health care will cause considerable impact on the quality of life and health care of many senior citizens. These programs help seniors remain healthy in their homes, largely by having home health aides visit them on a regular basis, at a cost that is great deal less than the \$5,000-per-month of typical nursing home care.

Medicare and other types of consumer fraud are on the rise in this country. Senior citizens make up 11% of the US population and represent

30% of scam victims. They are continually vulnerable because: they are more likely to be at home during the day; they often live alone and tend to be more isolated; they are assumed to have money. And there is also a general perception that the elderly are reluctant to report fraud because if

others know that they were scammed, people will think that that they are not competent to take care of themselves

What Is Fraud & Abuse to Medicare?

Medicare fraud happens when Medicare is billed for services or supplies you never got. For example, your Medicare number can be used to bill Medicare for services and supplies you didn't need or want, services and supplies your doctor did not order, services and supplies you can't even use, and services and supplies you did not receive.

Abuse occurs when doctors or suppliers don't follow good medical practices, resulting in unnecessary costs to Medicare, improper payment, or services that aren't medically necessary. The most common methods used are: door to door, telemarketing, mail fraud and identity theft.

The annual enrollment period is a prime time for certain types of fraud to occur. However, there are strict guidelines in place which outline marketing practices that Prescription Drug and Medicare Advantage Plans must follow. Most agents in Minnesota comply with the rules, but

sometimes there are exceptions. If you feel an agent or plan violates any of the marketing practices, call the Senior LinkAge Line® at 1-800-333-2433 to report the issue.

If you've contacted the provider and you suspect that Medicare is being charged for a service or supply you didn't get, or you don't know the provider on the claim, call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048

Tips to protect yourself :

Ask questions! You have a RIGHT to know about your medical care!

- Guard your Medicare and Social Security numbers. Treat them like you would treat your credit cards.

- Be suspicious of anyone who offers you free medical equipment or services and then requests your Medicare number. If it's free, they don't need your number!

- Do not let anyone borrow or pay to use your Medicare ID card or your identity. It's illegal, and it's not worth it!

- Never accept medical supplies from door-to-door salespeople.

- Don't be influenced by media advertisements concerning your health.

- Treat your Medicare and Social Security cards like a credit card number.

- Never give these numbers to a stranger.

- Do not carry these cards with you unless you will need it.

- Remember, Medicare does not call, visit or sell you anything.

- Record doctor visits, tests and procedures in a calendar or journal.

- Read your Medicare Summary Notice (MSN). Compare this to what you have recorded in your calendar or journal, so you will know if you are being billed for services you never received, or billed twice for a service.

Prescription Drug and Medicare Advantage Plans MUST:

- Only use marketing materials that have been reviewed and approved by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)

- Comply with the "Do not call" registry

- Provide information in a professional manner

Health Care Fraud: Don't be a victim

MOUNDS PARK BARBER STYLISTS



APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE TUESDAY THRU SATURDAY

1043 HUDSON ROAD SAINT PAUL, MN 55106

651-771-6980

Judy Lee

Medicare Advantage Plans may NOT:

- Solicit door-to-door, unless invited

- Send unsolicited email

- Enroll people by phone unless the person calls them

- Offer cash payment as an incentive to enroll

- Pressure or scare a person into enrolling in a plan

Letter to the editor

Not so fast, "Good Neighbor Program"

In the last issue of the forum, I read about the City of Saint Paul partnering with the Dayton's Bluff Community Council to revive the "Good Neighbor Program," first implemented back in 2000. It should come as no surprise to most that this program resurfaces in the wake of a continually declining economy where the city is looking for creative ways to reduce its operating costs. In such an economy, I'm all for being creative. The problem is that this program costs way more than what we as residents of Dayton's Bluff can afford.

However, the cost isn't money. Instead, the price tag is the development

of community. If I understand the program correctly, the city provides trained residents an avenue to "anonymously" fill out a notice of code violation that it will then forward on to the guilty party. But how exactly will this make me a good neighbor? I have a hard time believing that a good neighbor is someone who passive-aggressively chooses to hide behind government so as to avoid awkward conversations.

Fostering community requires neighbors to forge relationships with one another where lives are increasingly intertwined and greater levels of solidarity are achieved. When we see

an eyesore or safety concern, we ought to engage our neighbor to resolve the code issue. If we've already developed a good relationship, then resolving the issue in a healthy way is much more likely and a positive for the neighborhood. Even if we have yet to foster such a relationship, there is a chance to do so and to hear our neighbors' stories which may explain the reason for the code infraction and possibly lead to it being addressed.

It's a false assumption to simply assume that all infractions are the result of residents who simply do not care about their neighborhood. In particular, I'm thinking about the renter/landlord dynamic in our neighborhood. Rented homes tend to become the primary targets of so-called "neighborhood improvement" programs, because assumptions are made about the commitment of renters (and landlords) to the neighborhood. Certainly there are bad renters, but there are also bad landlords and we

cannot sort out which is which in any one situation if we never open up a dialogue. We risk throwing out the baby with the bath water. And in some cases, we miss out on the opportunity to play the role of advocate for renters who have absentee landlords.

By implementing such programs, we choose to alienate each other from one another instead of build community. This program encourages residents to forgo the relationships and the stories of our neighbors in order to comfortably protect libertarian rights.

I fear that this program is one more way in which to support the injustices of gentrification, which affect many and ultimately rob community of the treasures that lie within her diversity.

This program tragically sacrifices community on the altar of convenience and economic concern. Don't get me wrong, I'm all for saving taxpayers' money and being fiscally responsible. And I would be lying if I said that I didn't care about wanting our community to be safe and to look nice, but not at the expense of community. If we are truly going to have a "Good Neighbor Program," perhaps it should actually teach us how to be good neighbors.

Jake Lambert, St. Paul

Tacos
Burritos
Enchiladas
Tortas

Pozle
Menudo
Daily

And Much More

825 E. Seventh Street
Saint Paul MN 55106

"By implementing such programs, we... alienate each other ... instead of build community."

Gangsters at Mounds Theatre

by Greg Cosimini, Mounds Theatre volunteer

Gangsters – the good kind (stylish and dead) – are returning to the Mounds Theatre. Or more accurately, *Gangsterland*, the movie about 1930s criminals in Minnesota will return for five showings in August following its sold out premiere last May.

This critically acclaimed documentary-style movie was filmed in and around St. Paul and stars local actors. *Gangsterland* is followed by a blooper reel and a panel discussion including the movie's director, actors and gangster historians. Bring your own stories to share!

Gangsterland performances:

Thursday August 11th - 7:30 pm

Friday August 12th - 7:30 pm

Saturday August 13th - 7:00 pm & 9:00 pm

Sunday August 14th - 2:00 pm

Tickets are \$10 at the door, or buy them online at www.moundstheatre.org. A donation will be made to the Saint Paul Police Historical Society from ticket sales.

The Historic Mounds Theatre

www.moundstheatre.org

1029 Hudson Road

St. Paul, MN

55106

651-772-2253

Don't forget, *Mort* is also playing at the Mounds Theatre through August



Photo courtesy of Karin DuPaul

Last year's operetta by Mixed Precipitation was *Tales of Hoffman*. This September, the operetta is *Alcina's Island*.

Alcina's Island: A Picnic Operetta In Dayton's Bluff

Presented by Mixed Precipitation, a colorful re-imagining of George Frederick Handel's 1735 opera *Alcina*, the garden becomes a truck stop on the American highway. Scheming sorceresses Alcina and Morgana become truck stop waitresses, luring brave truckers astray. They combine Handel's early baroque with outlaw country, trucker songs and classic old-time music.

Handel's opera — based on Ariosto's epic poem *Orlando furioso* — features monsters, magic spells, rings of invisibility and a flying hippogriff. And, of course, the glory of love and music conquers all!

The magic of this island will be all the more savory, with Chef Nick Schneider's five course sampling menu of locally sourced treats created especially for this performance. The operetta is

put on by Mixed Precipitation Theatre group, who presented *Tales of Hoffman* in Swede Hollow Park last year.

This year two performances will be in Dayton's Bluff on Saturday, Sept. 10 in Skidmore Park Community Garden at 1085 East 4th Street, St. Paul and Saturday, Sept. 17 in Swede Hollow Park one block south of East Minnehaha and Payne Avenue, 1/2 block east of Payne and Beaumont/Preble. Meet outside the park at the Drewry Lane tunnel. To reserve tickets for Skidmore or any other performance on line go to <http://www.mixedprecipitation.org/shows/alcina-island/tickets-reservations/>. A \$10 to \$20 donation is appreciated, but no one will be turned away for lack of funds.

Mixed Precipitation is a performance initiative exploring text, space and new dramatic forms. They present entertaining, high-quality events that highlight social engagement and provide opportunities for artists to work across disciplines.

For more information email Karin@DaytonsBluff.org or call Karin at 651-772-2075.

Gone but not forgotten

East Side Police and Perps A Century Ago

by Steve Trimble

"Fallen Officer Finally Honored," read the *Pioneer Press* headline in mid-May this year. The story that followed explained how 106 years after his death, St. Paul police officer Richard Cronin's name was finally placed on a local honor list and a national fallen officers' memorial in Washington D. C. after research done by local historians.

What caught my eye was the fact that he had been fatally injured while helping arrest Charles Olson, a man who lived on Reaney Street. As you probably know, Reaney is a street in Dayton's Bluff. I thought that maybe the police officers were posted at the old Margaret Street Station, which still stands today and is used as an apartment building. Possibly officer Cronin even lived near the local headquarters.

So maybe a little research would turn up a neighborhood connection that could lead to a history article. Another trip to the Minnesota Historical Society seemed necessary. Fortunately I did the needed research before the state shutdown closed its doors.

I found out that Cronin was born in Ireland and had been living in St. Paul since 1880. He was fifty-two years old, had been a policeman for seventeen years and at the time of the incident was the night jailer at the Margaret Street Station. He lived on Sherburne Street in the Frogtown neighborhood. Charles Olson, the man who was arrested, was forty-two years old and lived with his wife and children. One newspaper said he was a plumber at Bergstrom's located at 632 E. Minnehaha, but another was more specific, stating that

Olson was employed as a laborer for a plumber named M. J. O'Neil.

The event took place on January 3, 1905. The details are somewhat hard to figure out. What is known is that the police were summoned more than once to a house located at 610 Reaney. An inebriated man had thrown his wife and children outside in the cold. When I went looking for the home, all that remained was an empty lot. And it turns out that it was in nearby Railroad Island, not Dayton's Bluff.

"After a most fierce resistance," The *Pioneer Press* said that Olson kicked Cronin in the abdomen and "immediately the officer weak and sick and in a few minutes was prostrate in the police wagon as it was speeding to the station."

The *Globe* had a slightly different account, saying that "Cronin did not show any effects of the fight until the wagon was near the station, when he fell forward, his helmet dropping from his head." It added the fact that initially two other officers were struggling with Olson when Cronin arrived with the police wagon and became involved in the arrest.

The next day, the coroner declared that Cronin had died from "heart disease and over-exertion" or, as he put it, "from natural causes." He explained that Cronin's death was "not due to a blow or kick delivered by Olson, and that it results from a natural cause" so he did "not consider it necessary to hold an inquest."

The same article in the *Globe* reported that when Olson was told of the patrolman's demise he broke down and

"wept nearly all day" in the jail. Because of the coroner's ruling the charges against Olson was "drunk and disorderly." A January 6, 1905 *Globe* article was headed "Olson Denies Guilt." He had hired Frederick McGhee as his defense attorney. McGhee was a prominent lawyer in the city and the first African American to enter the Minnesota bar.

McGhee's succeeded in getting Olson's bail lowered from a one hundred to fifty

her.

Olson was found guilty and fined fifty dollars, a large amount at that time. McGhee asked for and received a thirty-day stay in order to file an appeal. He asserted that if Olson had been outdoors it might have been different, but the defendant a right to resist. McGhee used the phrase "a man's home is his castle" and that the police had no right to enter the home and carry him from it. I have tried to find out if such an appeal was made, but so far have had no luck.

The last mention that I could find about Charles Olson was a short report in the April 8, 1905 *Globe* under a headline that read "Wife Seeks Divorce from Man with Police Record." The sheriff was after Olson to serve notice of a divorce suit instituted by his wife Anna who was also asking for alimony. The petition cited many charges of brutality against the defendant.

According to the article, one time he had brandished a razor and threatened to cut his wife's throat "from ear to ear." Anna also said she and her four children were sometimes thrown out of the house in the middle of the night and "lived in hourly fear of their lives."

The sheriff had located Charles in Idaho Springs, Colorado, "where he fled after the incident that led to the death of the policeman."

The most recent episode of this century-old story for Richard Cronin is more positive. After research by police historians, the current Ramsey County medical examiner ruled that Cronin's death was directly related to the altercation and would definitely be ruled a homicide by today's standards.

At a Memorial Day ceremony attended by several of Cronin's descendants, St. Paul Police Chief Thomas Smith said that "officer Cronin's case shows," we never forget those "who have worn this uniform before us, those who have lost their lives in the line of duty."

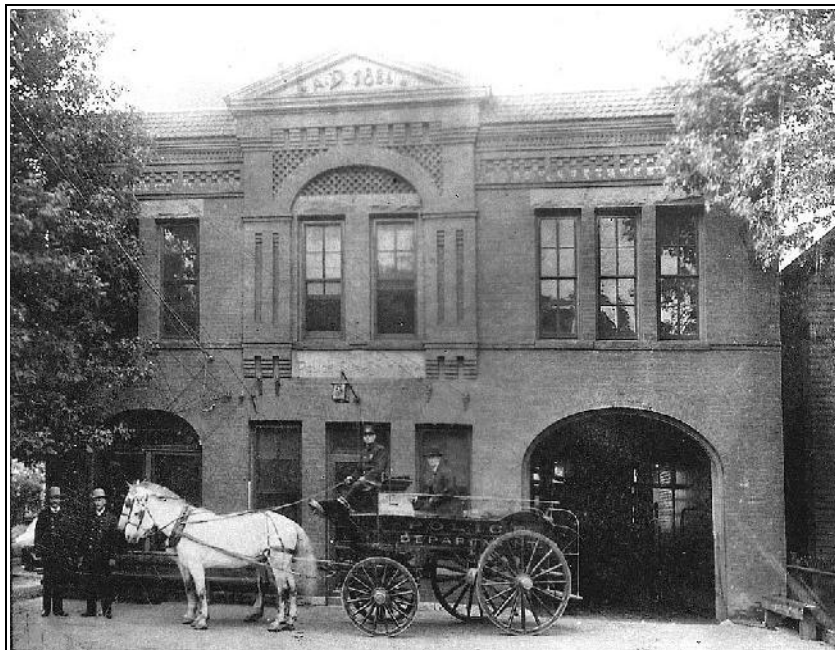


Photo courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society

Officer Cronin worked out of this police station on Margaret Street. It was located about a block from the current site of the Community Council office (798 East 7th Street), and is now an apartment building.

dollars, saying that was all that his client had been able to raise. In exchange, Olson agreed "to leave his family alone."

Several of Olson's family testified at the trial. His brother Frank, who lived on Geranium, said that Charles had been at this house that he was not intoxicated when he left. However his wife and daughter told a far different story. His daughter Maud said that he was drunk, threw her down and used "abusive language and threatened her and her mother."

Olson then told his side of things, saying that he was displeased at the number of visitors who were staying at the house. Maud had supposedly been out late and when he asked where she had been she said it was none of his business. He admitted that her sassiness caused him to slap

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Call for Original Art

By Sage Holben

*Movement, walk to work, place to live, looking for a home.
Red & White, Blue and Grey, where does he belong?
Green is money, green is weed, power portrayed in green.
Coffee & pupusas, Swede Hollow and Mañana.
Community talks, neighbors whisper, who is your community?*

*Senses draw me in – hot summer heat emanating from a city sidewalk.
Rosemary bread, pesto spread, aromas draw me to the bakery door.
Textures, colors, gardens fill my sight; blossoms, basil, balm and berries.
Laughing children, midnight cursing, walking who knows where.
Eerie figures in the Hollow, gunshots in the night.*

Morning song birds, cheery neighbors, a child's greeting – images that make me smile.

*Boarded houses, neon warnings, neighbor to a painted lady.
Chicken coops and MSU, hilltop edifice, gateway to the sun.
These are my faces of Dayton's Bluff; what are yours?*

Can you translate your images of Dayton's Bluff into artwork to be exhibited at Metropolitan State University? The Arts, Culture, & Outreach committee of Dayton's Bluff Council, in collaboration with Metropolitan State University, is calling for artwork in any form: painting, pencil, poetry, weaving, sculpture, collage, quilting, photography, or crafts. Written work such as poetry or prose will also be accepted.

Anyone who lives, attends school, or works in Dayton's Bluff is invited to submit 2-dimensional or 3-dimensional original work that has been personally created by the entrant. High school and elementary aged children are especially encouraged to participate.

Applications are due by October 15, 2011 and artwork is to be submitted on November 1. "FACES OF DAYTON'S BLUFF" exhibit will hang in Founders Hall at Metropolitan State University from November 2nd to November 29

Applications and rules are available at the Dayton's Bluff Community Council office: 798 Seventh Street East, at Margaret (651-772-2075). If you have further questions, call Sage at 651-528-0662.

- **Is debt making your life miserable?**
- **Do you want someone to talk to?**
- **Would you like to learn about options to help your family?**

For a personal, compassionate,
no-obligation consultation, call:

Brad Perri
612-940-1260



Attorney Brad C. Perri, LLC, is a debt relief law firm and helps people file for bankruptcy under federal law. He'll also help you think through other debt-relief options such as credit counseling, debt negotiation, and financial advising.

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

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St. Paul, MN 55106
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Board of Directors: Greg Cosimini, Karin DuPaul, Linda LaBarre, Carla Riehle and Steve Trimble

Editor and Layout: Meg Gronau

Next issue: September 2011. Deadline for material: August 11, 2011.

Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Cleanup & FREE Stuff Area

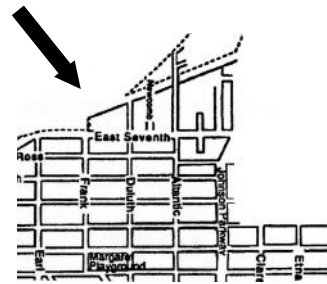
Saturday, September 10, 2011

9:00 a.m. to Noon

Ray Anderson & Sons

North of East 7th St. at Atlantic and Phalen Corridor
(933 Atlantic)

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.

You may also bring: fluorescent bulbs, scrap

metal, bicycles, demolition debris, clean wood, concrete/rocks.

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: YOU DO NOT have to bring appliances to the cleanup.

Call JR's Appliance at 651-454-9215 before Thursday, September 8, to arrange to have your appliances picked up at your curb on Monday, September 12. Cost \$25 for one appliance, \$10 for each additional appliance. There is extra fee of \$5 for each air conditioner and water softeners.

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 Rail Road ties or Chemically treated wood:

No Appliances: Call JR's Appliance at 651-454-9215 before Thursday, September 8, to arrange to have your appliances picked up at your curb on Monday, September 12. Cost \$25/1st appliance, \$10/each additional appliance (there is an \$10 surcharge for each air conditioner and water softeners). 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 Free Stuff 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. All 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 the Eureka Recycling, with funding provided by the city of Saint 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. Please save this notice.