

# Dayton's Bluff DISTRICT FORUM

Volume 24, No. 7

www.daytonsbluff.org

September 2011

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## ¡Viva la Independencia! Celebrate El Salvador – visit El Guanaco Bakery on East 7<sup>th</sup> Street

by Esteban Trimble

There was once a time when neighborhoods all had local bakeries. In the 1980s, Dayton's Bluff had three and then slowly they all disappeared. But about five years ago, the aroma of baking bread and pastries returned to East 7<sup>th</sup> Street.

That's because Oscar Murcia and his family came to Minnesota from their home in El Salvador. He had a background in the food industry, managing a restaurant and starting a bakery in the land of his birth.

Like many immigrants, they came to this country for the chance to better their economic conditions. For a time Oscar did a variety of jobs, including working at McDonald's and being a chef at a nursing home. But his goal was always to eventually own a business of his own. Five years ago, the family made the move and opened their doors at 849 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street. They decided to name their venture El Guanaco Bakery and Café because this is a nickname for Salvadorians.

The business has been successful even though sometimes the sales have been lower than hoped. According to Oscar, "things are pretty slow in the summer." He is glad they do a lot of wholesaling of breads and pastries to local Latino groceries because they make more from that than from the walk-in trade.

Much of the work is done by Oscar, his wife Margarita and their two daughters, Kesia and Jennifer, who are both going to Inver Hills Community College and majoring in business. The girls explained how the family started baking out of their home and soon they needed more room to accommodate the business. They looked around for a good location and chose Dayton's Bluff because of the large Latino population.

For those of you who are not familiar with the cuisine of El Salvador, here are some items. One of the best sellers at the store are quesadillas, something people also find at Mexican restaurants. The ones Oscar and his family make taste different because they don't have any meat and are corn rather than flour based.

They also have the very popular pupusas, a traditional Salvadorian treat. They are sort of like tortillas that are stuffed with either meat, beans or cheese in different combinations and cooked on a sort of grill. There is a showcase full of cookies, pastries and both European and traditional sweet breads. They can also make fancy wedding cakes.

If you wish there were a place in the neighborhood to go for frosty treats, you need look no further. Ice cream and sorbets are now available. There are also special Salvadorian tamales that are made every Saturday.

The Murcias will also cater for parties, business meetings and other events. You can set something up by dropping by or calling 651-776-3320. It's well worth visiting El Guanaco if you haven't already been there. And a good time might be on September 15 because it is, after all, El Salvador's Independence Day. If you show up, you will be able to share in some free cake frosted in white and blue, the colors of the flag of El Salvador.



Photo by Steve Trimble

Left to right: Oscar, Kesia, Margarita and Jennifer inside the bakery.

## History of Salvadoran Independence

El Salvador (in Spanish, *Republica de El Salvador*) means Republic of The Savior. It is the smallest and most densely populated country in Central America, bordering on the Pacific Ocean between Guatemala and Honduras. San Salvador is both the largest city and the capital of this nation of over six million people. They are usually referred to as Salvadoran or Salvadorian.

El Salvador, along with the other countries of Central America, declared its independence from Spanish rule on Sept. 15, 1821. The country celebrates the day with a variety of events that are organized by public and private schools as well as government institutions.

Parades and band performances and dancing are seen throughout the day. Lots of traditional food is prepared. And, like our country's Fourth of July events, at the end of the day, fireworks light up the skies in El Salvador.



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community

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Contribute your own content; write a comment, or email us: [editor@daytonsbluff.org](mailto:editor@daytonsbluff.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!

Dayton's Bluff  
Community Council  
798 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
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## Where in Dayton's Bluff?

Last month's picture (inset, below) is an image from the Mexican flag and can be found on the Mexican Consulate on East 7<sup>th</sup> Street. The photo was properly identified by two readers, so both will receive prize postcard packs.



Can you identify this month's image (at right), found somewhere in Dayton's Bluff? Email [editor@daytonsbluff.org](mailto:editor@daytonsbluff.org). All correct responses received by midnight on September 10 will be entered into a drawing for a pack of Dayton's Bluff postcards. Happy hunting!



## Gina Stokes takes care of Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center

by Steve Trimble

Gina Stokes has been looking after the people and programs at the Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center for almost four years now. It's time that people get to know more about this energetic young woman. She grew up on the East Side, her family living across from Hayden Heights Elementary School. According to her, it was "a nice place to grow up in and people there took pride in the neighborhood."

She attended Presentation School through the eighth grade and then went to North St. Paul for high school because she wanted to be part of their softball program and a lot of her friends were going there.

At the suggestion of her aunt, who was involved in athletics for her employment, Gina attended Minneapolis Technical and Community College. She showed up at the right time and became part of the first group who graduated from the school's new Urban Park Recreation and Youth Development degree.

She explained how the school emphasized that the inner city neighborhoods needed a special approach to their recreation. The students learned about other cultures and how to work with a diverse group. "I could relate to the situations," she said, "because I had a bit of a troubled youth myself."

Gina's first job was at the Hazel Park Recreation Center. She gained experience and after a few years found out that an assistant director job had opened up at Dayton's Bluff. She jumped at the chance to apply and was promoted into that position. It has been a sometimes difficult but almost always rewarding experience.

She explained that the city budget is shrinking and resources are short. "It's especially hard to deal with in this neighborhood because of its low income level." Other areas have parents with more disposable income and can afford to pay fees. "Even so," she added, "I would never turn anyone away and we make do with what we have." Another problem is the fact that this is a "high transition neighborhood and often by the time you build relationships with the kids they move away."

When asked about what positive things have happened during the last few years, Gina stated: "I think one success is seeing more families come back. We have tried hard to make it more family friendly and to work with the kids and their families to create a safe place." One of the clues that people feel the center is a nice place to use is the fact that a growing group of local seniors come on Fridays from 12:00 to 4:00 to play cards.

Successes, she said, come from "building relationships with the kids, talking to them, giving them support." She wants to focus on that and "making it reflect their neighborhood, mostly by talking to people. You don't want to push things off on them."

The Center has also been building collaboration with the neighborhood. The youth are becoming involved in many different volunteer activities, anything from raking leaves to mowing lawns for elderly people. They are even help plant area gardens. They are not paid, but after participating then get to go on a field trip.

Last year the recreation center started what became a popular drill team where they do precision marching and moves. They now have a group of thirty or forty who show up. The group took part in the annual Rondo Days event this summer.

Gina has high hopes for the fall programming and is trying to field a soccer team but still needs more people. She wants to do more for the girls and plans to build on the three basketball teams that existed last year. She is also looking to raise funds by having a basketball tournament. And efforts are being made to revive the dormant booster club.

There will be two big events in September. One is a community garage sale on the 17<sup>th</sup> of the month and people can buy a table to sell things or make donations to help the center. There will also be an East Side

Pride/Youth Days that will occur on September 24. It will feature free food, music and entertainment.

If you are interested in joining the booster club, finding out more about the programs at the center or even volunteering, you can call Gina at 651-793-3885. She'll still be there by the time you read this. Why? "Because," she stated, "I enjoy the job and the neighborhood and believe me, there's never a dull day."



Photo by Steve Trimble.

Gina Stokes, Assistant Director at the Dayton's Bluff Rec Center, brings her energy and enthusiasm to work every day.



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## Still sweet (and salty) at 60



Photo by Steve Trimble.

The Dari-ette drive-in celebrated 60 years on July 30 with live music and food specials.

## Putting homes in reach with Contract for Deed option

by Paula Uniacke  
Intern, City of St. Paul

Dayton's Bluff, like most areas in America, is still feeling the effects of the 2008 housing market crash. Dayton's Bluff faces some of the highest foreclosure rates in the Twin Cities. Many homes have lost half their value, and homeowners cannot afford to sell, buy, or finance home improvements. Fewer people are interested in home loans because credit is granted much more sparingly than in the past, and the loans that are granted are much lower than they used to be (while the average used to be \$30,000, it is now \$25,000).

To offset some of the harmful effects of a sluggish housing and tight credit markets, however, Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Housing Services (DBNHS) has several programs and activities that assist Dayton's Bluff residents in pursuing homeownership or home improvements. DBNHS also owns many houses that have been recently renovated and are available for purchase through programs such as the Contract for Deed Program.

With the goals of creating affordable housing and revived neighborhoods, The Bridge to Success Contract for Deed Program aids potential homebuyers who need some assistance in financing and purchasing. This program, funded by Family Housing Services and University Bank, reaches out to homebuyers who, in a tightening credit market, fall just short of qualifying for a mortgage. A "contract for deed" is a three-year lease-to-own program. After three years of leasing, the tenant *must* purchase the property. Instead of relying on a bank for a loan, however, the seller of the property finances the purchase.

In addition to upholding an agreement to buy, the homebuyer must take part in homeownership education and financial counseling, which covers savings, credit scores, mortgages, etc. This counseling is intended to prepare future homebuyers for the responsibility, challenges, and opportunities of owning a home. Specifically, the counseling ensures that the purchaser is mortgage-ready after three years.

DBNHS currently has eight houses in the Contract for Deed program that are ready for interested homebuyers. Contact DBNHS at 651-774-6995.

## ZONE in at the Dayton's Bluff Public Library

by Jodi Wittman  
Branch Manager

Hello. My name is Jodi Wittman, and I'm the Branch Manager at the Dayton's Bluff Public Library. This location opened in October 2004 on the first floor of the Metropolitan State University Library building. Although we have been here for almost seven years, many Dayton's Bluff residents do not know we exist.

What is offered at the Dayton's Bluff Public Library? In our ZONE, we offer daily Homework Help, daily Job Search Open Lab & Computer Assistance, and various technology classes that change monthly. Call 651-793-1699 for additional details or to register for the technology classes.

"Teens Know Best," a book club that meets the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm at Metropolitan State University or a chance to take part in ACT and SAT preparation weeks may appeal to our teen residents.

English Language Learners may take part in a Conversation Circle every Wednesday at 6:30 pm. All ages and skill levels are welcome.

A Family Storytime is offered every Thursday at 10:30 am. During September and October, there is also a Jammie Storytime on Mondays at 6:30 pm. No registration is required.

Special one-time events occur as well. U.S. Constitution Week is featured September 14-17. Activities include a coloring contest, "Jeopardy"-type game show featuring questions on the Constitution, and a Bill of Rights treasure hunt.

Be sure to stop by your neighborhood Library to use the resources, to take a quick tour, or to just say "hello." We are located at 645 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street, within the University Library building. Our open hours: Monday and Wednesday: 12:00-8:00 pm, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday: 10:00 am-5:30 pm, Saturday: 11:00 am-5:30 pm and Sunday: 1:00-5:00 pm.

The St. Paul Public Libraries are online at [www.sppl.org](http://www.sppl.org).

## Metropolitan State commemorates 9/11 and sponsors Day of Service

by Harvey Meyer

For the third consecutive year, Metropolitan State University will commemorate the 9/11 tragedy and sponsor an associated Day of Service.

Under its "United We Serve" banner, the university's Center for Community-Based Learning (CCBL) is coordinating a Friday, Sept. 9 presentation at the Saint Paul Campus entitled, "Pandemonium at the Pentagon: From Warrior to Scholar." Metropolitan State student Abdul Sannie-Ariyibi is scheduled to discuss his role in providing security and support as a U.S. Marine who was one of the first to respond to the 9/11 attack on the Pentagon.

Sanne-Ariyibi, a post-baccalaureate graduate student enrolled in the university's Urban Teaching Program, plans to talk about his first-hand observation of the immediate aftermath of perhaps the most memorable attack on U.S. soil. On the 10th anniversary of 9/11, Sanne-Ariyibi is also expected to discuss how the tragedy significantly influenced his academic, career and personal goals.

"As an educational institution, Metropolitan State welcomes the opportunity to educate students, faculty, staff and the community about the events of 9/11," said Evelyn Rolloff, assistant CCBL director. "This presentation by Abdul Sanne-Ariyibi will provide the campus community and the public with the opportunity to hear and reflect upon his unique and compelling story. We are honored he selected Metropolitan State for his higher-education needs and is sharing his 9/11 experience in this event."

As part of the 12:00 noon-to-1:00 pm presentation in the campus auditorium, Metropolitan State President Susan K. Hammersmith will deliver welcoming remarks. Additionally, Rolloff said, "powerful" videos and illuminating factoids of and about 9/11 will be featured in the Sept. 9 event, which is free and open to the public.

Also under the "United We Serve" banner, the university is sponsoring its third annual Day of Service on Thursday, Sept. 15. On that date, faculty, staff and students will volunteer at community-service projects, including some that will occur on the East Side. This event marks a response to President Obama's 2009 call for Americans to serve the country by volunteering in the community.

At last year's Day of Service, more than 70 people volunteered in community-service projects ranging from planting community gardens to performing handyman chores. This year, said Rolloff, the CCBL is reaching out to more student groups to encourage volunteerism.

Rolloff observed that both the Sept. 9 and 15 events demonstrate Metropolitan State's ongoing commitment to serving the community, especially the East Side. She noted that an "unwavering commitment to civic engagement" is enshrined in the university's vision statement.

For more details about these events, contact Metropolitan State's Center for Community-Based Learning at [cbl.center@metrostate.edu](mailto:cbl.center@metrostate.edu) or 651-793-1285.

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



Photo courtesy of the Gateway Corridor Commission.

At an open house, residents discuss the plans for the Gateway Corridor.

## Input from the Eastside shapes Gateway Corridor study

by the Gateway Corridor Commission

In late July, residents and local businesses had the opportunity to review revised transit options to better connect the nearly 300,000 people living between the Twin Cities and western Wisconsin. The transit options were presented at an open house held at the Dayton's Bluff Public Library. Attendees were asked to weigh in on the eight transit options and proposed station locations.

Feedback from residents of Dayton's Bluff and other Eastside neighborhoods, as well as local gov-

ernment officials, revealed strong support for providing more transit options in the corridor as well as challenges regarding the impacts to local streets.

The study team will be analyzing the feedback received and will be recommending changes be made to the transit options where appropriate. The next step of the study will begin by analyzing cost, ridership estimates and potential environmental impacts for each of the transit options. This phase of the study will be completed in the fall 2011. For more information, visit [www.gatewaycorridor.com](http://www.gatewaycorridor.com).

## Mounds Park Methodist programs open to all

submitted by MPUMC

For such a tiny church, they sure do have a lot going on.

The people of Mounds Park United Methodist are a Christ-centered church, committed to being a church of the neighborhood as we reach out to those around us in love and justice with the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Under the leadership of new pastor Rufus Campbell, the church is continuing their mission of community outreach. Many programs are starting up again in September; regardless of your church affiliation or personal beliefs, you are invited to partake in the following groups and events:

**Neighborhood Family Movie Night** is held on the third Sunday of the month. Come play games 4:30 pm; enjoy dinner at 5:15 pm (free will offering); movie begins at 5:45 pm.

### Grocery Give-A-Way

"Food for the stomach.

Spiritual food for the soul."

Celebrate God's abundance. Every third Saturday of the month you are invited to receive free groceries.

Doors open at:

9:30 am For Food Tickets

10:30 am For Communion

11:00 am Groceries Distributed

12:00 pm Done for the Day

### Men's Night Out

"Iron sharpens iron, So one man sharpens another." Proverbs 27:17

Men join together for fellowship, food and a movie. It's the first Tuesday of every month at 5:30 pm.

### Women's groups:

• Lydia Circle (ladies of all ages) meets the first Monday of the month at 7:00 pm for outings with fun and fellowship.

• Elizabeth Circle (a dining fellowship for women) meets the second Monday of each month at 6:00 pm at various restaurants.

• Mary Circle (Bible Study and Fellowship for women of all ages) meets on the first Monday of the month at 9:30 am.

**Friendship Club** for men and women 55+ meets the fourth Wednesday of every month for entertainment and lunch (\$7.00).

**Adult Bible Study** meets every Tuesday at 6:30 pm.

**Kids' Club**, for grades K-6, meets the first Sunday of the month from 4:00-5:30 pm.

**SAY (Sundays and Youth)** for grades 7-12 meets on the following dates: first Sunday of the month: 4:00-5:30 pm; second Sunday: 6:00-7:30 pm; fourth Sunday: 6:00-7:30 pm.

**SonDay Bible Study** for grades 7-12 meets on the second and fourth Sundays, from 5:00-6:00 pm.

**Cub Scouts** meet Wednesdays from 6:30-8:00 pm. **Daisies** meet on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month from 7:00-8:00 pm.

**Ever wanted to learn how to play handbells?** Kids Bells, for beginner and intermediate kids and adults, meets every Sunday at 12:00 noon. Movers and Shakers, for advanced kids and adults, meets every Thursday at 6:30 pm.

For more information about any of these activities, please call (651)774-8736 or send an e-mail to secretarympumc@yahoo.com.

Mounds Park United Methodist Church is located on the corner of Earl and Euclid, at 1049 Euclid. Church service begins at 10:30 am each Sunday.

## Harvest Dinner at Heartland Restaurant to Support Community Design Center of Minnesota

from CDC press release

The Community Design Center of Minnesota is hosting a Harvest Dinner at Heartland Restaurant at 6:00 pm on Friday, September 16. The three-course meal, created by Chef Lenny Russo of Heartland, will help the Community Design Center raise funds to continue their mission of building vibrant and healthy communities through food, conservation and youth development.

The Community Design Center of Minnesota (CDC) is a non-profit organization that has served the Twin Cities for over 40 years. Their programs engage local youth in sustainable agriculture, cooking, nutrition and conservation throughout the year. The CDC's 42 teen interns are proud to provide the community with fresh, organic produce and to help educate over 1,000 local children and parents each year. The Community Design Center's programs enrich the community and provide youth with leadership skills and a wealth of experiences that empowers and inspires them toward brighter futures.

The three-course seasonal dinner at Heartland Restaurant will include a short program highlighting the CDC youth and programs. This dinner serves as the CDC's primary fundraiser of the year and enables the CDC to continue their youth, garden, nutrition, and conservation programming in the East Side community.

To participate in this memorable evening and learn how to support the work of the Community Design Center of Minnesota, visit their website at [www.cdcmn.org](http://www.cdcmn.org) or call 651-228-7073.

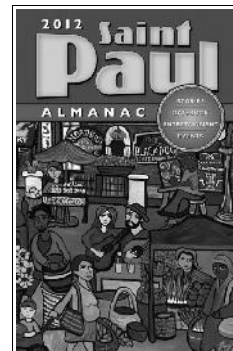
### Register Now!



## Mounds Theatre featured in 2012 Saint Paul Almanac

Forum staff report

The 2012 issue of the *Saint Paul Almanac* will feature an article about the historic Mounds Theatre located here in Dayton's Bluff. It is titled "The Mounds



Cover of the 2012 *Saint Paul Almanac*; artwork by Tammy Ortegon.

Theatre and Me" and was written by longtime Dayton's Bluff resident and frequent *Forum* contributor Greg Cosimini. It will be found in the March section. Greg will be giving a reading of his story at Polly's Coffee Cove at 1:00 pm on October 1, 2011. Polly's is located at 1382 Payne Ave.

The *Almanac* has another connection with Dayton's Bluff through our very own historian Steve Trimble. Steve serves as the history facts researcher, making sure the *Almanac* gets its history correct, and also helps select classic St. Paul stories for inclusion in each edition.

This year marks the sixth edition of the *Saint Paul Almanac* and the first in full color. Also for the first time, it will include hand-drawn, poster-size, pullout maps of the City of St. Paul and downtown.

The 2012 *Almanac* will be available for \$14.95 beginning September 1, 2011 at independent and mainstream bookstores, various local coffee shops, and online at Amazon.com and the *Almanac's* own website [www.saintpaulalmanac.com](http://www.saintpaulalmanac.com).

## SOA Watch annual November bus trip to Fort Benning, Georgia

by Wayne Wittman

On November 16, 1989, at the University of Central America in San Salvador, six Jesuit priests, their cook and her daughter were brutally killed by elements of the El Salvador army. Subsequent investigations linked many of the officers involved in this atrocity, as well as many others that occurred in Latin America, to the School of the Americas (SOA) then located at Fort Benning in Columbus, Georgia.

Efforts were initiated by Latin American human rights activists to call attention to the school and call for it to be closed. Since 1995, rallies have been held around the November 16 date as people from all parts of the world have gathered in Columbus for the commemoration.

Several years ago, the SOA was closed but reopened soon after under the name Western Hemisphere Institute of Security Cooperation, now called WHINSEC. Human rights advocates maintain that the name change meant nothing, as the function of the school in training repressive forces in Latin America remains the same, and they call for it to be permanently closed.

The Peace and Justice Committee of Sacred Heart Church has been active in the support of the vigil. Francie Carr, Joan Bergman, Art Marty (now deceased) and Wayne Wittman have taken many Veterans For Peace bus trips to the rally over the years.

This year's bus trip leaves on Friday morning, travels all night and gets to Columbus, Georgia Saturday morning. Arrangements are made for hotel accommodations in Columbus. Participants attend many spiritual, educational and social events on Saturday afternoon and evening. On Sunday there is a funeral procession honoring some of the known victims of the military atrocities committed by the soldiers trained at the SOA.

The program usually ends late Sunday afternoon and bus riders return to their bus, spend the night on the bus and get home Monday evening.

This year the Veterans For Peace bus leaves from Saint Stephen's parking lot in Minneapolis at 8:00 am Friday, November 18, and returns on Monday, November 21.

The cost is \$200.00 for the bus and the hotel room is \$100.00, but efforts are made to arrange room sharing for up to four to a room.

Persons who wish to know more about the program can contact Joan Bergman at 651-774-0595 or Francie Carr at 651-772-4513 for information. For trip information, contact Wayne Wittman at 651-774-4008.

Wayne Wittman is a long-time member of Sacred Heart Church.



Juan Cervantes, Agent

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[juan.cervantes.n7n@statefarm.com](mailto:juan.cervantes.n7n@statefarm.com)

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\*Ahorros anuales promedio por casa basados en un estudio nacional realizado a asegurados nuevos en el 2009 quienes reportaron haber ahorrado al cambiarse a State Farm. El Seguro de Propietario no está disponible en todas las áreas. Las pólizas, formularios y notificaciones de State Farm están escritos en inglés. En el caso que surja un conflicto de interpretación, la versión de idioma inglés dominará. State Farm Automobile Company, State Farm Indemnity Company, Bloomington, IL. 0904216



Photo courtesy of the Younkin-Viswanathan family.

**Welcome to the east side, Bennett! The Younkin-Viswanathan family's newest member arrived Thurs., August 4, at 2:44 am. He was 7 lbs., 13 oz. and 20.75" long. The Forum is delighted to publish your family's and/or neighbors' good news. Submit photos and details of the happy event to editor@daytonsbuff.org, or mail to 798 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street, St. Paul, MN 55106.**

**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 at far right.

**Community meeting**

The next Dayton's Bluff community meeting is **Thursday, September 1, from 6:30 to 8:00 pm** at the Dayton's Bluff District 4 Community Council office, 798 East 7<sup>th</sup> 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 Sept. 3**

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 two hours and 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, September 22, at 6:30 pm, and Friday, September 16, 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, September 7, starting at 6:30 pm**.

*Alcina's Island: A Picnic Operetta* will be performed in Swede Hollow on Saturday, September 17 (see full story, p. 7), to be immediately followed by the 7<sup>th</sup> annual "Watch the Glow of the Setting Sun on the Red Brick Brewery Buildings," which celebrates Swede Hollow history, community and the sun setting on Hamm's Brewery. Former Swede Hollow residents, former Hamm's Brewery employees, neighbors, and anyone who loves Swede Hollow is invited. A cookout follows the setting sun. Everyone is welcome. Please bring a food item to share. For more information call Karin at 651-776-0550 or email SwedeHollow@gmail.com.

**Dayton's Bluff beat phone**

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

**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](mailto:Karin@DaytonsBluff.org).

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 go to the beat phone? You may call about ongoing problems in the neighborhood; concerns about people in vacant buildings after 10:00 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.**

**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@daytonsbuff.org](mailto:june@daytonsbuff.org).

**Eastside Raingarden Tour**

Get a first hand look at some of the east side's most beautiful gardens on a free guided bus tour on **Thursday, September 8, from 6:00-7:30 pm**.

Meet at 731 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street (next to Swede Hollow Café)

After seeing the nationally-known Maria-Bates raingarden, we will board the bus and visit four other garden sites, including the Bruce Vento Regional Trailhead at 7<sup>th</sup> and Payne, several residential gardens, and the new gardens at the First Covenant church.

All gardens were coordinated by the nonprofit Lower Phalen Creek Project with planting by youth interns from the Community Design Center of Minnesota and involvement from local watershed districts.

The tour is a great opportunity for gardeners, people thinking about a raingarden, and anyone interested in St. Paul's eastside.

The event is free, but please register by contacting Hannah Rusch at 651-228-7073 or [info@comdesignctrmn.org](mailto:info@comdesignctrmn.org).

**ECFE enrollment**

Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) is a unique Minnesota program designed to help parents feel empowered as their children's first and best teachers. Classes are open to all families with children aged birth through five years. Join this robust, supportive community and find your family strengthened.

Sign up at [spps.ecfe.org](http://spps.ecfe.org) or by calling Dayton's Bluff at 651-293-5343.

There will be two Open Houses the week before classes start: **Wednesday, September 7 from 4:00-7:00 pm; and Thursday, September 8 from 10:00 am-4:00 pm**. Classes will begin the week of September 12, and registration will be ongoing throughout the year based on class availability.

**Vacant Home Tour**

The Dayton's Bluff Vacant Home Tour will be held on **Sunday, October 9, 2011 from 1:00-5:00 pm**. The tour will showcase opportunities on how to acquire, finance and remodel one of our neighborhood's wonderful homes.

The Dayton's Bluff Community Council and the St. Paul Area Association of Realtors are tour co-sponsors.

For more information, contact Realtor Brad Griffith at 651-263-2830 or [Brad@BradGriffithRealtor.com](mailto:Brad@BradGriffithRealtor.com).

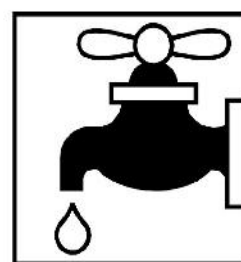
**Plan Ahead!**

Celebrate Community on **Monday, October 17**. Dayton's Bluff Community Council Presents a Community Dinner, complete with entertainment, awards ceremony, and council elections. This event is free and open to all who live or work in the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood.

Watch for details in next month's *Forum*.

**For more information...**

...about anything on this page, contact Karin: [karin@daytonsbuff.org](mailto:karin@daytonsbuff.org) or 651-772-2075.



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651.774.6995-office  
[www.dbnhs.org](http://www.dbnhs.org)



# American Bald Eagles of Indian Mounds Park

article and photos by Stan Wandersee

It is the beginning of August 2011, and I am sitting on my deck in my back yard writing this article. At the moment, I am listening to the adult eagle calling for the young eaglet to return to the nest for food. At the same time I am hearing black walnuts hit the ground as the little red squirrel has been dropping them from the tree. It is a very pleasant evening, about 70 degrees. This is quite a change from the high 90 degrees with the extreme humidity.

My first encounter with an eagle was when I was in Wyoming hunting mule deer. Apparently I was a little too close to an eagle nest. I was sitting on a cliff and just under me is where the nest must have been as the eagles flying around me were scolding me with their shrill, eerie cry. And now I have eagles right across the street from my house. The eagles do not pay any attention to any of the neighborhood residents or any daily activities in the neighborhood.

People have stopped by my house many times asking several questions about the eagles as they observe the nest. Here are a few statistics about the American Bald Eagle. The American Bald Eagles are among the largest birds of prey in the world. What a beautiful bird to have as America's symbol. They were on the endangered species list and now have had a great recovery. The declining numbers were due to the use of DDT and other insecticides.

The average weight is anywhere from 8 to 12 pounds, the female being the larger of the two. They stand 30 to 35 inches tall from the top of their head to the tip of their tail. Their beaks are 2½ inches long with a hook of an inch or more for ripping

their food. Their feet are yellow in color, with long curved talons for grasping or catching their food. The mature adults have a white tail and head, and mate for life. They are dark brown-black in color in



One of this year's twin juvenile eagles squawks at Mom.

various shades. They don't get their white crown and tail until they are about four years old. Their wing span is six feet and more. They mate in February, flying very high in the sky. I have witnessed this twice, and sometimes they are so high you can hardly see them.

The eggs are laid in March and incubation is about thirty to forty days to hatching time. The female lays the eggs but the male and female both take turns keeping them warm during incubation time. The eggs are three inches by two inches, twice the size of chicken eggs. They are white in color and turn yellow in the nest during incubation. The young eaglets are grayish

white in color and as they mature they lose the fluffy down and get their flight feathers which are brown with streaks of white until they become an adult. The baby eagles are called eaglets and when they begin to fly they are called juveniles. The correct name for the nest is Eyrie pronounced Air-ee. As a rule they only lay two eggs; it is very rare to have three eggs. The first one hatched is larger and more dominant and will take more than its share of food and attack the smaller one repeatedly and may even kill it and eat it. So to have two eaglets survive from the hatching is remarkable. Life span of the eagles is twenty to fifty years.

The scenario on our neighborhood birds of prey all began back on a Sunday morning in February 2009. One of the adults flew into a cottonwood tree on Burns Avenue. They frequented the neighborhood trees, deciding where to build their nest. They picked a white pine tree where the top was broken off during a previous winter storm. They started bringing in sticks and tried to build their nest, some of course falling to the ground, but the sticks that stayed started to resemble a nest in progress. Then heavy equipment started arriving to work on Burns Avenue to complete gas, water, sewer lines and new pavement. This heavy equipment with all the noise caused them to leave for the 2009 season. When the street work was completed in October of 2009 it was apparent they wanted to take up residence in the neighborhood as they returned and started building once again.

In the spring of 2010, nature called the eagles to their mating rituals and they mated and returned to their nest in the neighborhood for the female to lay the eggs. In April two eaglets were hatched. In June they started to exercise their wings and flopping around the nest, testing their skills to fly. It was July 16, 2010 when the little ones took off flying. One was successful and the other not so lucky as it crash landed up the street on Burns and was rescued and taken to the Raptor center where it was nursed back to health and released in Red Wing in November 2010.

Fast forward to the spring of 2011; nature took its course and we had another family of two eaglets hatched in April 2011. It was obvious that these two really wanted to fly and not injure themselves. They practiced hopping with wings flapping like little helicopters over the nest. I was worried about the July 4 fireworks and they appeared to be nervous as well as one of the adults stayed there all night. On July 5, one of the eaglets took its leap of faith to one of the branches in the pine tree. On July 6, the other eaglet took its leap of faith to a branch. This continued to be their daily exercise and ritual to test their flying abilities. On July 16, they took their

first flights out of the pine tree to another tree in the neighborhood across the street and it was another pine tree. This first flight was on the same date as it was in 2010. During one of our severe wind storms with lightning and heavy rain, I watched as one was in the nest and the other clinging on to a branch and every so often flexing its wings to keep its balance as the wind blew the branch almost vertical. Now that the juveniles can fly, the adults still gather food and bring it to the nest, calling the young to come and eat.

The adults bring food and tear the food in small pieces for the eaglets for about six weeks. As juveniles, they do not know how to hunt, catch their own food or even where to find it. They learn by watching the adults. The adults continue to bring food to the juveniles for months. The adults have left many leftovers from their meals in my back yard, such as catfish heads, feathers from pigeons, snake skins, fur from squirrel, rabbit and even cats. They are not fussy as to what they eat, whether it is fresh or rotten road kill. They have to be very hardy to survive snow, sleet, hail, rain and eating rotten food. The parents are very protective over the young eaglets, shading them from the hot sunlight or rain and hail by hovering over them with their wings spread. They do not drink anything except the moisture that



A young eagle practices hovering – flapping just above the nest – while its sibling perches above with a parent.

comes from their food. It is surprising how they can survive the 100 degree temperatures without water. NATURE IS TRULY AMAZING.

We should feel very fortunate to live in a neighborhood to have this marvelous sight. We are probably the only one or at least one of the very few in an urban setting to have this privilege. Hopefully you'll hear from me next year at this time with news of another hatching.

In July we had a scare as an injured adult eagle was spotted in Mounds Park. Neighbors thought it might be one of ours but it wasn't, as we have spotted both of our adults back in the nest feeding their juveniles. Keep your eye to the sky and you may just see one flying overhead.

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16, they took their

**Ghost tours at the Mounds Theatre**

by Raeann Ruth

This Halloween – why visit a “fake” haunted house? An historic theatre, three resident spirits and shadows that move whilst you watch, perhaps they're watching you back...

You've heard about the spirits at the Historic Mounds Theatre in St. Paul; now this is your chance to experience it for yourself and be part of a real paranormal experience.

The Historic Mounds Theatre has a strong history as a recognized haunted location. Over the years, there have been paranormal TV show episodes filmed there and professional and amateur investigations held there.

From the end of September to the beginning of November, the Mounds Theatre will be inviting you to come for an hour-long tour, led by professional paranormal investigators, in which you will hear the history and maybe even meet the ghosts who reside there.

Check our websites for exact dates and times and to purchase your tickets: [www.moundstheatre.org](http://www.moundstheatre.org) and [www.realhauntedtours.com](http://www.realhauntedtours.com).

The Historic Mounds Theatre  
1029 Hudson Road  
St. Paul, MN 55106  
651-772-2253



**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*, will be appearing here on the east side. Lush gardens become a truck stop on the American highway, and Handel's early baroque is melded 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.

This year two performances will be in Dayton's Bluff: 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. Immediately following the Swede Hollow performance, all are welcome to stay for the 7th annual "Watch the Glow of the Setting Sun on the Red Brick Brewery Buildings" cookout and potluck. To reserve show tickets, on line go to <http://www.mixedprecipitation.org/shows/alcinas-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](mailto:Karin@DaytonsBluff.org) or call Karin at 651-772-2075.



**Cuba remains mysterious; not so untouchable**

by Carla Riehle

"Been to Cuba Lately?" That's the title of a recent *Huffington Post* article by actor Mike Farrell. His answer is, appropriately enough, "Oh, that's right, you're only a U.S. citizen; you can't."

But actually some U.S. citizens do manage to get there. I'm one of them.

Last April I was able to squeeze myself into one of the convoluted "license" categories that our government has created to make it difficult for us to get there. The Cubans, on the other hand, welcome us with warmth and hospitality.

I went to Cuba as part of a wonderful group of filmmakers and writers, mostly Minnesotans, who visited the island for 10 days to coincide with Cuba's international festival of "poor cinema," featuring low-budget, independent films from all over the world. While there, we met with ordinary Cubans and also visited art galleries and studios, churches and historic sites and made a side trip to Santiago de Cuba, on the southern part of the island. We also ate some pretty great food and saw some amazing music, dance and films.

One of the things that surprises many first-time visitors to Cuba is the depth of its immersion into art and culture of all kinds. There are free or low-cost performances, exhibitions and lectures everywhere. Walking down a Havana street, you are likely to glance through a window and see children taking dance lessons; you may pass by a museum devoted to an unexpected subject like perfume, chocolate or cigars; you'll find musicians jamming on the street corner. Cuba's beautiful but crumbling colonial structures are being rehabilitated and its become a big destination for ecotourists.

In the words of David Schnack, a

cinematographer from our trip: "... everywhere you look is something you've never seen and yet impossibly old, everywhere you go, the music, singing and laughing drift to you, belying the difficulty people face to live their lives."

So why, exactly, does our government want to keep us out of Cuba? Is it because its government is so horrendously bad that we would be propping up a brutal dictatorship with our tourist dollars? Even the staunchest supporters of the travel restrictions and the accompanying economic embargo can't make that case with a straight face. After all, we can freely travel to North Korea, Myanmar, and even Libya and Iran, and our government has an even lower opinion of their governments. Plus, there are all those Europeans and Asians and Africans - actually everyone else in the whole world - whose governments don't restrict them from going. What's that all about?

It's true that President Obama has loosened things up just a bit. Cuban-Americans can now travel freely back and forth, rather than once every three years, and they are taking full advantage of the opportunity. And Obama reinstated the category of people-to-people travel that was eliminated under President Bush. But it's still difficult for the vast majority of us to go, and we're also held back because potentially large penalties are involved.

So don't tell anyone, but I've been to Cuba five times, twice without a license. And nobody cares.

In 2009, I went to Cuba with the Venceremos Brigade, which, along with Pastors for Peace, makes annual, unlicensed humanitarian trips. In fact, Pastors for Peace refused to accept a license even when they were offered one. Interestingly enough, on my 2009 trip, one member of Congress reached out to help us just in case we ran into any trouble. Each one of our 12-member Minnesota delegation took along a personal letter of introduction from Senator

Amy Klobuchar.

We never had to use the letters, though. The thing is that the officialdom is not really interested in going after unlicensed travelers. In fact, several years ago the hearing office that processed penalties against travelers was shut down. It also helps to know that there is a self-described "wall of lawyers" who would like nothing better than to take on the government's denial of our constitutional right to travel. But the government doesn't want the publicity and it doesn't want to lose in court.

So if you think you might be interested in visiting Cuba to see what it looks like when a populace has free medical care, totally free education and low-cost housing for everyone, visit the local Cuba committee website at [www.minnesotacubacommittee.org](http://www.minnesotacubacommittee.org). There you can get information about trips sponsored by national as well as local groups that have jumped through the hoops necessary to qualify for a license. Several Minnesota delegations will be going next year.

And no, Cuba's not quite a paradise. It's got lots of problems and plenty of contradictions and it's still a poor, third-world country. But if you're wondering why exactly our government wants to keep us from going, go down there and take a look. See if you can figure it out.

**Any luck at the State Fair?**

Forum staff report

It's Minnesota State Fair time again. The *Forum* would like to hear from anyone who entered an exhibit in the State Fair or the Ramsey County Fair, whether it won a ribbon or not. Remember, as reported in our July issue, these competitions can yield both fame and fortune for the exhibitor. So maybe the fame is minimal and fleeting and the fortune is almost non-existent, but you might as well make the most of it while you can.

In that regard, Greg Cosimini entered his "A Century Ago in Dayton's Bluff" postcard collection in this year's Ramsey County Fair. He won a second place red ribbon in the Collections category and a check for three whole United States dollars. Along with his first place (blue) and sweepstakes (purple) ribbons from last year's State Fair, he has now accumulated a whopping \$19 dollars in total prize money.

For those readers needing more instant gratification, information on any entries in this year's State Fair can be emailed immediately to [karin@daytons-bluff.org](mailto:karin@daytons-bluff.org). The details will be distributed to local residents on the Community Council's email list so they may be checked out at the Fair while still on display.

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# A summer to remember



Photo by Sage Holben.

The heat; the rain; the beetles... and does anyone else feel like we're still recovering from last winter? Summer 2011 brought both joy and heartbreak to Dayton's Bluff.

Here, we bring you some snapshots from the summer. Enjoy, and keep in mind that your submissions are welcome any time at [editor@daytonsbuff.org](mailto:editor@daytonsbuff.org).

Left: A young Dayton's Bluff resident feels the weight of St. Paul police officer Tina Kill's uniform cap and bulletproof vest. Kill was a big hit at the National Night Out celebration at 4<sup>th</sup> Street and Bates on August 2.



Photo by Sage Holben.

Above: The first of four August rallies, held by the East-side Neighbors for Peace at the corner of Mounds and 6<sup>th</sup> Street.

Right: Roger Tetu, of 1057 Margaret Street, was killed July 26 in a hit-and-run accident while on his way back from cleaning this field at Margaret Rec Center. Tetu was often seen in the neighborhood cleaning up trash, making an effort to keep the community strong.



Photo courtesy of Steve Trimble.

At bottom: A member of Open Eye Figure Theatre (and co-author of the show) sprays the audience with water at the August 8 performance of *Cow Boat* at Mounds Park. Dayton's Bluff ECFE sponsored the performance, which was well-attended by area families.



Photo by Hannah Johnson.

## Dayton's Bluff District Forum

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Monthly Circulation: 7,500

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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: October 2011. Deadline for material: September 11, 2011.

## Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Cleanup & FREE Stuff Area

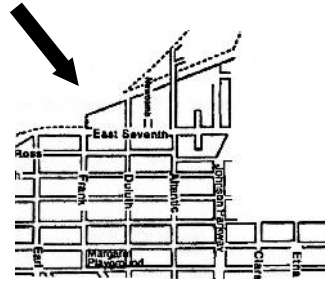
Saturday, September 10, 2011

9:00 a.m. to Noon

Ray Anderson & Sons

North of East 7<sup>th</sup> 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.