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Dayton’s Bluff District Council to Host Traditional Irish Music and Dance Fundraiser on March 19

Just back from performing in New York City, St. Paul’s traditional Irish band Barra will play a ‘cell’ at the restored Mounds Theater, 1029 Hudson Road, (near Earl Street) on Friday, March 19, from 7–11 p.m. Tickets for this Dayton’s Bluff Community Council fundraiser will be $7 in advance and $8 at the door for adults, children under 12 are free. For tickets, call Dayton’s Bluff District Council at 772-2075. “Don’t miss our first community dance,” said Dave Murphy, president of the Dayton’s Bluff District Council. “Come to meet your neighbors and enjoy the music, and I guarantee you’ll feel like dancing, even if you’ve never danced before.”

A ceili is a traditional Irish dance, much like traditional American square dancing in which people of all ages are encouraged to join in line and square dances. Dance instruction is provided before each dance. There is no need to bring a partner and no experience is necessary. In addition to jigs and reels, Barra’s powerful female vocalist Carrie Oberg will perform ballads from the British Isles. Bagpipers will also perform. Traditional foods such as Irish soda bread and Irish stew are planned for a small extra price. Please come and support Dayton’s Bluff District Council so it can continue its work of building strong neighborhoods on the bluff. “If you haven’t met your neighbors up here on the Bluff, you’ll be glad for this opportunity to make new friends,” said Murphy. “This is also a great chance to see our newly refurbished neighborhood playhouse. Don’t miss it!”

Dayton’s Bluff District Council

Fund Our Community

First!

In what could become a rallying cry for other Minnesota communities, the Dayton’s Bluff District 4 Community Council on the East Side of Saint Paul passed a resolution calling for the city to “Fund Us First!” before committing any public funding to a major league sports stadium.

“The city cut our operating budget for 2004,” said David Murphy, president of the neighborhood organization, “and there were cuts to parks and public safety staffing and basic city services. Recently we’ve learned that due to the state deficit, we can expect even deeper cuts in 2005.

“Before this city creates a new tax to build a stadium for the Twins in Saint Paul, we’re simply asking that our district council and basic city services be fully funded.”

Recent news stories have reported that the Saint Paul Public Schools are anticipating up to a $13 million shortfall for next year, and that the city of Saint Paul could be facing cuts in state local government aid and other revenues as high as $20 million.

“Our neighborhood is working hard to improve its quality of life, to make Dayton’s Bluff a place where families and people of all ages want to live, work and play,” Murphy said. “Now is not the time to cut back on the services that make Saint Paul livable.”

Dayton’s Bluff District Council

Dayton’s Bluff District Council

“Stop the Stench” Campaign Beginning to Sniff the Sweet Smell of Success

The Metropolitan Council Environmental Services (MCES) has committed to upgrading how it pre-treats the wastewater before it enters the sewer system to significantly reduce odorous sulfide discharges. Twin City Tanning ordered odor-reducing chemicals will be added during the installation. At the Metro Plant, chlorine has been added to the open tanks to convert odorless hydrogen sulfide gas to harmless sulfate compounds. Nitrate is being added to the sewers leading to the plant to prevent odorous compound formation. Improved technologies are treating odorous gases collected from the plant’s tanks and buildings, including a new biofilter started up in 2002. Last fall, MCES also initiated design of several odor control improvements are being made, three of the Metro Plant’s six solids treatment processes had potential off-site odor impacts will be decommissioned in 2004 when the new Solids Processing Building with fluid-bed incinerators and state-of-the-art air pollution controls begins operation. The other three processes will attain higher levels of odor control.

If you have an odor to report in the Metro Plant area, please call 651-602-8256 or 651-602-8956. MCES has assigned staff member Tim O’Donnell to be a liaison with the Mounds Park and Dayton’s Bluff communities relating to Metro Plant odor issues. You can reach him at 651-602-1269 or tim.odonnell@metsc.state.mn.us.
National Night Out Poster Contest

East Side artists and would-be artists of all ages are invited to design a National Night Out poster. National Night Out (NNO), America’s Night Out Against Crime, will be on August 3rd this year. Prizes will be awarded for the best poster in each of the following categories:

- Pre-school through 3rd grade
- 4th through 6th grade
- 7th through 12th grade
- Adult

Posters will be displayed in local businesses, libraries, and community centers. The deadline for the contest is May 1, 2004. Prizes will be given out in mid-May.

Use your imagination.

Posters should be between 8 ½” by 11” and 11” by 17” in size. (These are standard paper sizes.) You may use paints, magic markers, colors, colored pencils, or any other drawing or coloring tools.

Here are some themes that can be used:

- The National Night Out theme this year is identity theft. You may want to use that as your theme. But you can use another theme - whatever NNO means to you: neighbors at a barbecue, kids playing games, neighborhood gardening together, police officer chatting with neighbors.

How to enter:

Bring or send your poster to the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council offices at 798 East 7th Street (between Margaret and Sinnen), Saint Paul MN 55106. The deadline is May 1, 2004. For more information call Karin DuPaul at 651-772-2075.

Grocery Give-Away

A Grocery Give-Away will take place on Saturday, March 20 from 10:30 to 12 noon at First United Methodist Church, Euclid and Earl. Free produce, dry goods, and other items will be given to anyone who can use them. No registration or sign-up necessary. Sponsored by United Methodist churches on the East Side.

Mounds Park Pavilion Renovation Begins

The long anticipated renovation of the Mounds Park Pavilion at Mounds Blvd. and Earl St. began in November with the demolition of its roof. Work continued throughout the winter and the new roof is nearly finished. Photo by Robert Johnstone.

Around the Bluff

By Karin DuPaul, Community Organizer

Dayton’s Bluff Community Council

Chicanos Latinos Unidos en Servicio (CLUES) will be breaking ground on its new building at East 7th Street and Margaret in April. The building will be a 2-story brick building with two commercial businesses on the first floor and CLUES’ offices and services on the second. CLUES was founded over 20 years ago. Its mission is to enhance the quality of life of the Chicano Latino community in Minnesota. CLUES will be a welcome addition to our East 7th Street business community.

Two new libraries will be opening on East 7th Street near Mounds Boulevard this year. The new Dayton’s Bluff Public Library will be opening in May. This is something toward which Dayton’s Bluff residents have been looking forward for many years. The Metropolitan State University Library will open in the fall.

A Dayton’s Bluff couple, Virginia and Luis Ibarra, found the Saint Paul Winter Carnival medallion at Phalen Park. Congratulations!

Where are all the Historic District signs?

Thirty-three new Historic District signs have been installed in the historic district in the lower bluff. The district is roughly between Mounds Boulevard, Hudson Road, Maple/Hope and Swede Hollow Park. Look for the signs on light poles throughout the historic district and help us make a list of their locations. Mail the location of the signs to us at Dayton’s Bluff District Forum, 798 East 7th Street, Saint Paul MN 55106.

DFL Caucuses

The Senate District 67 DFL precinct caucuses are on Tuesday, March 2, 2004 at Harding High School. Registration begins at 6:30 p.m. and the caucuses will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Dayton’s Bluff Take a Hike

Dayton’s Bluff Take a Hike meets on the first Saturday of every month at 10:30 a.m. in Indian Mounds Park at Earl Street and Mounds Blvd. Join us on March 6 for the next hike.

We hike from Mounds Park through Swede Hollow Park and then walk the length of the Bruce Vento Recreational Trail (formerly the Phalen Creek Recreational Trail) to its end, near Phalen Park.

The hike is about 6 miles with some moderately rough terrain. Near Johnson Parkway and Maryland, transportation will be available to return to Mounds Park or you may hike back if you wish.

Join recreational trail supporters and explore this recreational trail. The paved trail runs from East 7th Street and Payne Avenue through Swede Hollow to Phalen Park.

Dayton’s Bluff Take a Hike started in December of 1996 and over the years hundreds of people have attended these events. For more info, call 776-0550.

Identity Theft Workshop

Learn ways to protect your family and yourself from identity theft. A workshop on how to protect yourself will be held on Thursday, March 25, 2004 at 6:30 p.m. in the community meeting room of the Eastern District Police Station at 722 Payne Avenue (corner of Payne and East Minnehaha Avenues). Call Karin DuPaul at 651-772-2075 to register for this workshop.

Dayton’s Bluff Community Council

The Dayton’s Bluff Community Council is a community organization that works on neighborhood improvement projects and programs. It started in the early 1970s and has had undertaken a variety of projects over the years. Some of the current projects include greening Dayton’s Bluff, the Dayton’s Bluff Neighborhood Home Tour, the Arts and Culture Committee, the Green-space Committee, updating the District Plan, and Block Clubs.

For more information call 772-2075.
Common Sense Gardening

By Ruth Murphy, Community Design Center of Minnesota

Soon, spring will be springing and, with it, you can be part of some of the most significant and environmentally efforts in the Metro area! How? Plant an organic garden! The East Side of this Capital City is a leader for environmental awareness and action. The restoration and reclamation of Swede Hollow Park and the Bruce Vento Bird Sanctuary, the many rain gardens that have been built (and there will be more), and the Community Design Center’s Children’s Gardens (seven of them) - all point to East Side renewal.

Residents and businesses can participate in this environmental leadership by organic home gardening. The beauty a garden can create should not be underestimated. How yards look can make all the difference in what people think of a neighborhood. Gardens - whether borders around the house or garage, in pots or freestanding, on the boulevard, or a rain garden catching run-off water - can transform a community. While people are aware that actions have consequences, they are modeling for others and are true environmental leaders. That’s where organic gardening enters the picture.

What exactly is organic gardening? Organic gardening means gardening without using synthetic fertilizers or pesticides on plants. It means gardening in harmony with natural systems.

Greening Dayton’s Bluff

Greening Dayton’s Bluff is looking for new members. All you have to do to register is call us. Greening Dayton’s Bluff is designed to organize interested neighbors, block clubs and neighborhoods around beautification. Members establish and maintain community gardens, work to green at local parks, remove Buckthorn, and participate in greening and gardening workshops, to name just a few activities.

Greening Dayton’s Bluff also cooperates with Up-Front Gardeners, a program that highlights gardens which have their neighbors who are working to make Dayton’s Bluff a better place to live. To register or for more information call Karin at 651-772-2075.

Dayton’s Bluff Artist and Geneticist Ruby Valencia

By J. Wittenberg

Ruby Valencia is an artist and geneticist; two words not ordinarily used in the same breath. Ruby, however, is an extraordinary woman, and both titles she may claim. Miss Valencia still remembers her days growing up in south Indiana, where her father had a filling station, and where she worked as a carhop at the local drive-in.

Ruby’s artistic inclinations began to take shape as she painted dishes as a teen - to express herself and make a few pennies after school. At the University of Indiana, Ruby received an Education degree, and finished with a license to teach Biology, English, French, and Commerce. “But at that time, my heart wasn’t into looking for a job,” Ruby said. “And so I decided to get my Masters in Botany.”

“Twas here, she met her future husband, a scientist from Taxonomy from Argentina, who was there as a Guggenheim fellow, working with fruit flies.

With her latest degree secure in her back pocket, Ruby decided, rather casually, to secure her PhD in genetics, a growing field at the time. Here she endeavored to explore the effects of radiation, “muta-genesis,” and environmental chemicals. She became a woman that good old Uncle Sam needed to learn how genes were altered and mutated - important items for our country’s always altruistic agenda.

Having married and made much scientific progress in her field, Ruby and her husband moved south to his homeland where, for a time, Ruby undertook her days as a professor’s wife. “I accepted that for a time,” she said, “but eventually, Argentina wanted a geneticist, and started a lab of their own at the University. With my ex-pertise, I was asked to head the genetics program.” And thus, Ruby gave lectures in Spanish, where the doctors took her course in genetic effects, such as gamma rays.

To become one of Argentina’s leading geneticists, all the way from south Indiana roots, in a field predominantly taken by men, was quite a feat.

Alas, successive military coups prompted her and her husband to return to the U.S., where new opportunity awaited her in the dairy-land of Wisconsin. There, she began another genetic lab at the University of Wisconsin, where she remained 20 years, until retirement in 1978. She remembered her mother taking up painting later in life. “She had such a good time of it,” Ruby mused. And thus, she in turn was inspired to take up pencil and brush as a creative outlet - for the pleasure of painting landscapes, and all the places she has experienced. “Each one reminds me of a particular place and time ... they are souvenirs of my life,” Ruby said, as I perused her colorful, well-done works lining the walls of her dwelling.

Ruby started out with an evening watercolor class, and it went from there to an oil painting class, to more advanced workshops; until she took a correspondence course through the Northlight Arts School to receive her certificate of achievement, from this fine institution of learning. “I thought I’d never finish the course. It took a lot of determination ... but I gritted my teeth, and got through it. I think you have to have tenacity,” she said, before adding, “So many are afraid of failure.” Certainly, such fearlessness is one great step toward at least a mediocre outcome.

“Life is a matter of attitude,” Ruby said, as I continued to scan her paintings- all skillfully and thoughtfully executed - displaying Argentina you wish to see- scapes of Maine. Her works displayed to me a mixture of both impressionism and realism.

I believe there are many who would enjoy her landscape oils and watercolors, and may wish to own these “Souvenirs” of a life.

Ruby has shown her work in Indiana, and sold many of her paintings through private viewings and word of mouth. Miss Valencia has also painted people’s house portraits; and thus, if you want your home immortalized by this talented lady you wish to pursue hers.

Ruby also has expressed an interest in creating, or joining a Dayton’s Bluff painting group; one for more mature adults to learn, or just for fun. She can be reached at (651) 495-1954, or at rubvee@hotmail.com.

Ruby has, and continues to live an adventurous and exciting life, one rather remarkable. And now, at 83, I believe she shall carry on, with even richer days ahead.

Call anytime for service or information
Dayton's Bluff Memories and Musings

Holiday Heritage Recipes

By Steve Trimble

Food is a vital ingredient of most cultures, and meals or special dishes play an important part of many rituals and celebrations. This article was originally written for the December issue, and was going to focus on holiday recipes from local cooks. But after all, there are more holidays than those in December and you can clip these recipes out (or see them on the www.daytonbluff.org website) and use them later. Besides, who says you can’t have turkey, cranberries, hot drinks or pumpkin items at Easter or the 4th of July. Unlike the last two articles, this time I am going to reach outside the Dayton’s Bluff area and dip into cookbooks from the greatest East Side. Some are new, but others are from the long ago. All of them reside in the now defunct Minnesota Cookbook Archives, which is always looking for more donations.

The oldest East Side cookbook currently in the collection is dated around 1908. It was produced by the ladies group of the Grace Church, a congregation that once had a home at Minnehaha and Burr. Seems like a good place to start and a good recipe too. It was back in the days of the Wednesday church offering. Goes great with ham or turkey. The only problem may be to figure out what is meant by “a quick oven.” Here is, exactly as it was printed in the Grace Church Cookbook.

SCALLOPED CORN

Put a layer of rolled crackers in a buttered pudding, then a layer of corn, season with butter, salt and pepper to taste the suit. Then another layer of crackers, corn, butter and salt pepper used to do this is finished with a layer of cracker crumbs. Pour over milk enough to moisten the crackers thoroughly. Bake in quick oven about 1/2 hour. Mrs. Reagan

Back in the day, as young folks now say, some of the favorites of local homemakers sometimes ended up in unlikely places. One interesting fact this month was an old East Side Fair Cookbook, published a couple of decades ago. It included information and recipes starting in 1906, the twenties, the Depression through the 1970’s. It also included addresses of prizewinners and as it turns out, there were several from our own community in Great State Fair Recipes.

Among them were Mrs. Ruth Brager, who lived at 1113 East Cook and Mrs. Edward Glende, 1164 Duluth Street. Some of the recipes also included short self-descriptions. For instance, Mrs. Ethel Clarke of 1087 East Jessamine wrote “I crochet and knit and take care of lap robes for the elderly at the East Side Leisure Club. I’ve been a foster mother for many years, and have done quite a bit of canning and baking. I lost a son in Vietnam in 1968.” So what and where was the East Side Leisure Club? Any ideas?

An interesting sidebar in the State Fair Cookbook was the presence of two East Side women with the interesting name of Haag. Edith, of 1084 Case St., was a cafeteria manager for the St. Paul Bureau of School Cafeterias. “I was the oldest in my farm family and helped my mother with the baking,” she wrote. “I kept at it till the finished products turned out pretty well. I bake for shut-ins and make lots of birthday cakes for my three children and 11 grandchildren.” The following recipe, very appropriate for the holidays, was in the 1906 section:

WHOLE EGG BUTTER CAKE

2 1/2 cups cake flour
1 cup milk
1 1/2 cups sugar
2 eggs
3 teaspoons baking powder
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon almond extract
1/2 cup butter
Sift dry ingredients into large mixing bowl. Add butter and 2/3 cup milk. Beat two minutes at medium speed. Add eggs, flavorings, and remaining 1/3 cup milk. Beat two minutes. Pour into two 9-inch round pans or one 13x9-inch loaf pan. Bake at 350° for 25-30 minutes.

Then there was Barbara Haag, residing at 679 East Jessamine, who I originally thought might have been a sister. But Barbara provided a different answer. “Besides being a homemaker and mother of five, I’m also an evening health nurse at Macalester, College,” she said. “I like the challenge. My four daughters are active in Girl Scouts in the fall, I am a Scout leader and an advisor for our unit chairperson. I like the challenge and innovation of baking. I bake to suit the tastes of my family. Mrs. Edith Haag is my mother-in-law. I’ve also received much inspiration from my mother, Olga Holson.”

Here’s her 1927 recipe:

ROSETTES

2 eggs
1 cup milk
1 cup flour
1 tablespoon salad oil
1 tablespoon sugar
1/2 teaspoon salt

Of course, for this traditional Scandinavian recipe, you need to have a rosette iron. A few of our readers may need to take a trip to the attic. Out of curiosity, I wonder if Bill Goodwin has one in his hardware store—they say he has

everything you might be seeking. I’ve seen quite a few old and new rosette irons on ebay lately and actually bought one that was marketed by a Mrs. T. B. Wheelock who lived at 599 Selby in the early 1900’s. A few of you readers related to either of the Haags or were you their neighbor? I’d love to find out more about them. Incidentally, sometimes readers do get in touch. A while back, someone called and gave an answer to one of my written questions. He said he was pretty sure that the undated Asbury Cookbook was published in 1926. I didn’t get a chance to talk to him and no name was left with the message, so thanks to whomsoever you are.

Comparing two publications from the same group provides interesting historical information. One example uses two cookbooks published by East Immanuel Lutheran Church at 1173 Payne Avenue.

Both had special hot dishes sections. The first, In the Adventures in Our Kitchens (1963) had many Scandinavian recipes throughout the various sections. The more modern one, East Immanuel Cook Book (1981) had ethnic foods—burritos and Korean kim chee and sushi.

Both of the volumes had some “celebrity recipes” as they were called—contributions from people of note locally or nationally. The older one had directions for “Mrs. Eisenhower’s butter cookies” and the latest featured “Nancy Regan’s Brownies.”

One of my great estate sale buys is From the Kitchens of St. Ambrose Parishioners published in 1978. It is filled with great recipes from members of the Italian Catholic Church that was located for many years at Burr and Minnehaha in the Railroad Island neighborhood. It’s hard to pick from the various pastas, rich sauces, candies and cookies that are available. In keeping with the holiday theme, I had originally included Christmas Beer Cake, but as long there was a rewrite, it seemed better to take a different, more timely recipe from another St. Ambrose member. Besides, it probably wouldn’t have been the same now that Hamm’s Beer is gone.

EASTER BREAD

2 dozen eggs
15 cups flour
4 cup sugar
3 tbsp. salt
1 1/2 cups melted shortening
1-2 oz. bottle lemon extract
1 lb. yeast cake (dissolved in 1 cup warm water)
Beat eggs well; add sugar and mix well. Add cooled shortening, lemon extract and yeast mixture. Put flour in a large pan and mix in salt. Make well in center; mix in egg mixture and work and knead well until smooth; medium hard dough. Cover and let rise until doubled or more. Form into loaves and braid. Grease pans with solid shortening. Let rise to double in size. Bake in oven at 275 degrees for 1 1/2 hour and 300F degrees for 1 1/2 hour. —Dorothea Peterfeso

And now, before going any further, a Minnesota food article isn’t worth its salt unless there is a “hot dish” included. There are so many to choose, but it seemed like one using leftovers from all the turkeys you’ll be making would be making. It’s from what’s Cooking at Beaver Lake, published by the women of the Beaver Lake Lutheran Church in 1972. Looks good to me:

CHICKEN OR TURKEY HOT DISH

2 or 3 cups diced chicken or turkey
2 cups diced celery
2 cans cream of mushroom soup
1 medium onion diced
2 cups chow mein noodles
Mix first 4 ingredients together, then fold in noodles. Bake at 350F for 30 minutes. Very good! —Amanda Anderson

It takes a while for groups to get around to doing a cookbook, so I wasn’t able to easily find recipes from African American, Asian, Somali, Latino and other of our newer neighbors. Readers! Please send in your own favorites and we can include them in our next issue.

Thinking ahead, why not put together our own neighborhood cookbook. Maybe it could be called Dayton’s Bluff Dining or The Bluff Baked. If you don’t like those names, I’m open to suggestions. Contribute your mother’s or grandmother’s favorite. Don’t get left out. Stories about the food in your family would be great. A little history of people cooking and family food gatherings are needed. You send in the recipes and I’ll see about getting them assembled and published.

Hoping to hear from you.

P.S. The former St. Ambrose Catholic Church from the cover of From the Kitchens of St. Ambrose Parishioners published by the altar and Rosary Society in 1978.

The former St. Ambrose Catholic Church from the cover of From the Kitchens of St. Ambrose Parishioners published by the altar and Rosary Society in 1978.
Volunteers Needed for the Dayton’s Bluff District Planning Committee

By Jacob Dorer

You are invited to serve in the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council District Planning Committee. The District Planning Committee will have a total of eight members, which will include community members, Dayton’s Bluff Community Council board members, and staff.

The task of the District Planning Committee is to review the old district plan that helps refine city development policy, makes change and recommendations, seek community input, and help staff and city planners work and coordinate the completion of a new district plan. The time commitment to serve on the committee is for two years - from now to the completion of the new District Plan in 2005.

We would prefer that people stay on the committee through the duration of the project but it is not required. The majority of the committee meetings and activities will be in the evenings. At this point, we are not sure how often the committee will be meeting, but information from other district councils suggests that they meet about every other week for a couple hours. Anyone who is interested in serving as a District Planning Committee member is welcome. A benefit of serving as a District Planning Committee member is that you will be involved in the planning process of Dayton’s Bluff.

A couple hours. Once all the committee members are identified they can decide on a schedule.

Community members are eligible to serve on the committee as long as they are residents of the district. The District Planning Committee is open to anyone who has lived, worked, or owns property in Dayton’s Bluff or who has a commitment to their local community.

Chairman Doug Sinclair – 651-774-8475.

There are:  Your effort will be...
Metropolitan State Univ. Update

By President Wilson G. Bradshaw

Metropolitan State University continues to seek out new and better ways to serve its diverse student population. Our traditional classroom-based instruction is more popular than ever—enrollments for the Spring Semester are currently running over 2% ahead of last spring. In addition to every classroom and lab, our evening classes are increasingly signing up for daytime and Saturday classes to fulfill their learning and career goals.

We are also finding an immensely strong response to the growing number of degree programs we offer on-line. These on-line courses are not just for people who live too far away to commute—they also offer another solution to schedules that are constrained by work, child-care, health issues, and other factors.

Metropolitan State recently received approval from our accrediting agency to eventually offer on-line all the degrees from our College of Management, First College, School of Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice, and School of Nursing.

The legislature is in session. While MnSCU’s biennial budget allocation was acted on last session, this session includes a focus on capital bonding for construction projects. In addition to four projects related to asset preservation and renewal, we are part of a system-wide funding request for demolition projects. On our St. Paul campus, we need to remove the two-floor structure above our heating and cooling systems, between New Main and St. Johns Hall. Current early plans call for a student services center to be built later in the same space.

The Governor’s State of the State address revealed that the Citizen’s League will be asked to conduct an in-depth study of what outcomes Minnesota needs from its public higher education systems in the new century and how available resources can best be deployed to reach those goals. We will all watch the work of this commission with great interest.

Construction work on our new community and university library has moved inside for the winter. We are still on-budget and on-schedule.

In fact, we are moving up the opening date for the library, from July to May. Stay tuned for more details about when the doors will open; the public celebration of the new facility is still scheduled for October 9th.

Metropolitan State is a finalist for an award, to be presented by former President Jimmy Carter, for community engagement and service learning, through our involvement in Minnesota Campus Compact. The opportunity to compete for this prestigious award is a reminder to us of how much our Dayton’s Bluff community means to our mission and our success in serving the people of the metropolitan region. Thank you for your role in making Metropolitan State University the place “Where life and learning meet.”

Purchase An Enduring Legacy

Is there someone special you’d like to honor in an exceptional way? Or was there someone in your life who has passed away but you’d like to memorialize in a public and permanent manner? Now you have an opportunity to do so, at the Metropolitan State University/Community Library and Information Access Center, nearing completion on East Seventh Street.

You no doubt have noticed the construction progress of this new landmark as you travel east on Seventh Street or west on St. Paul. The result of a unique university/community partnership, this state-of-the-art library will house the Dayton’s Bluff branch of the St. Paul Public Library and will provide in-formation resources to Metropolitan State students and East Side community members alike.

An enclosed skyway spanning Seventh Street between Mounds Boulevard and Maria Avenue, connects the library to the Metropolitan State University campus, and allows library patrons easy and safe access to the campus and adjacent parking lots. The skyway will feature 12” x 12” tiles that individuals may have inscribed to commemorate their support of the library or to honor or memorialize someone special. Available for purchase by individuals, groups or businesses, each tile is $500 and will be engraved with one or two individual names, or a business or group name.

This is a chance for you to become a permanent part of this wonderful new resource in Dayton’s Bluff. For more information, please contact Debra Vox at 651-793-1802 or e-mail at deb.vox@metrostate.edu.

Metro’s Bluff School Beat

By Cassandra Moe

Dayton’s Bluff Achievement Plus to Offer Early Kindergarten

Dayton’s Bluff Achievement Plus (DBAP) successfully competed with 25 sites to be chosen as one of nine Early Kindergarten Program sites. This free, half-day kindergarten program will start in September, 2004. Children who are age 4 before September 1, 2004 qualify for the program.

To apply for one of the 40 spaces in this program, call the DBAP office (651-293-8915). Two Early Kindergarten Open Houses are scheduled: Monday, March 1, 9-11 a.m.; Wednesday, March 3, 3:30-5:30 p.m.; Thursday, April 15, 3:30-4:30 p.m. (Round-up).

DBAP also offers full-day kindergarten for children age 5 before September 1, 2004. Full-day kindergarten Round-up is scheduled for Tuesday, April 20.

Mrs. Goulet’s first grade class at DBAP studies writing. Students shared their reports with parents, students, and staff. Above, Willie reads his report to Ms. Schneider.

The Cozy Corner Comes to Trinity Catholic School

It all began with a rocking chair. Trinity Catholic Principal Sandra Krekelor saw an old rocking chair and imagined a room filled with volunteers rocking in chairs, and reading stories with students. She dubbed it the Cozy Corner.

Through the combined efforts of the school, the Capital City Education Initiative, community donations, and volunteers, the Cozy Corner will make its home in Trinity’s Extended Day program. The vision behind the Cozy Corner is a place where students read with volunteers for the pure enjoyment of a story. No tests, no pressure. After-school volunteers will settle on couches and pillows beside their young reading partners. They will read by the light of lamps instead of fluorescent ceiling lights. Student art will adorn the walls. And, of course, there will be brightly-painted rocking chairs.

The volunteer program at Trinity is just one component of the Capital City Education Initiative. Started by Mayor Kelly in 2002, the Capital City Education Initiative calls everyone in this diverse community to action on our most pressing education needs. Volunteer Coordinators throughout the city recruit volunteers who help K-3 students learn to read. By sharing their love for reading, volunteers in Trinity’s Cozy Corner help to ensure that today’s students will be prepared to sit in the rocking chair and share a story with the next generation of readers.

If you would like to volunteer at the Cozy Corner and join a citywide movement to support our community schools, contact Kate Hagner, Volunteer Coordinator, Trinity Catholic School at (651) 776-2763 Ext. 231 or khagner@trinity-catholic.org. The Cozy Corner also seeks donations of couches, lamps, beanbag chairs, pillows, and rocking chairs. Find out more about the Capital City Education Initiative at www.stpaul4schools.org.

Awards Day at Trinity Catholic School

The second all-school Awards Day took place on February 6 closing the second semester of the year. Students eagerly anticipated the day. Awards were given for A Honor Roll, B Honor Roll, Citizenship and Special Achievement.

The Trinity Catholic School A Honor Roll recipients are: Back Row L to R: Kirsten Renstrom, Jake Wukem, Thuy Lan Doan, Alije Erickson, Tara W ander, Stacia McAllister. Middle Row L to R: Jake Erickson, Samatha Richie, Josh Whitesell, Alex Beseman, Michael Swinehart, Chinaza Nwaneri, Ana Laura Maya. Front Row L to R: Jennifer Richie, Mark Schauer, Victor Wang, Marilyn Martinez and Charlie Arriogu.
County Government 101

By Ramsey County Commissioner Jim McDonough

County government has a history that goes back a few years. Way back. Believe it or not, various forms of county government date back more than a 1000 years ago in England. Then, as now, the main job of county government was to act as an administrator for the national government. Because of the way our republic is set-up, counties, for the most part, play a role of “arm of the state” government carrying out programs and policies adopted by the State Legislature.

I’ve learned as Commissioner that County government may be the most misunderstood form of government. When it comes to your city, your school district or your local recreation association, the answer to the question “what do they do” is usually pretty straightforward. Unfortunately, I wish the work of county government were easier to explain, but it’s not.

County government activities range the spectrum from plowing and maintaining roads; jailing inmates; administering elections; managing a hepatitis outbreak; intervening on behalf of vulnerable children and adults and providing a safety net for the poor. Those examples only scratch the surface of all the work carried out by our county workforce.

The simplest way is to break it down into categories. The biggest piece of the budget and county staff is dedicated to Health and Human Services, which many people refer to as the “safety net.” This department deals with vulnerable children and adults, foster care, adoption, senior programs like meals on wheels, welfare and welfare to work programs, homelessness, chemical dependency, mental health, subsidized child care etc. If you are in a tough spot, and need to seek assistance, chances are your first call would be to our Human Services department.

Public Safety is the next largest category of county service. This includes the Sheriff’s department, the Corrections department, Courts, the County Attorney and Public Defenders Office. Our Sheriff’s deputies and Corrections staff play the role of “jailer” not only for St. Paul, but for all the suburban communities. At any given time they are also overseeing thousands more clients who are finishing some kind of sentence for everything from violent crimes to check forgery.

“The safety net” and public safety spending accounts for about 70% of what Ramsey County does. The rest is made up of Public Works (roads and highways), Public Health, Parks, Suburban Libraries, Property Records, property tax collection, elections, U of M Extension, Veterans affairs and County administration.

I’m grateful to the local neighborhood newspapers for allowing me to offer these articles on County government 101. In the coming months, look for our stories to cover more specific areas of how Ramsey County serves you and your community.

SPRING BREAK ACTIVITIES

For boys & girls ages 6 & up. Please call Dayton’s Bluff to register. 2:30 pm each day.

Mon., March 29; Craft Day; Free Tues., March 30; Swimming & Movie Trip; $5 Wed., March 30 Karaoke Contest; Free Thurs., April 1; Science Museum Trip; $3 Fri., April 2; Pie Eating Contest; Free

KIDS GARAGE SALE

Kids clean out your toy box and closet. Bring in items that are in good shape & still usable. One’s person’s trash is another person’ treasure. Sat., May 1 9:30 am - 2:30 pm Kids can rent a table for $2. To register for a table, call by April 23.

YOUNG AMERICA SCHOOL SELF DEFENSE / CHEER AMERICA

(Ages 5 & up) Cheerleading is on Mondays. Self Defense is on Wednesdays. Classes are between 6-8 pm. Classes started the week of Feb. 16, but you may join at any time. This session runs for 12 weeks.

TOTS ARTS & CRAFT TIME

(Ages 3-5 yrs.) Let the imagination run free. Bring the little ones to color, paint & create fun little creations. Supplies will be provided. Parents will be responsible for watching over their children. Fridays thru March 16; 10:30-11:30; Fee: $50/wk * A new session will begin April 23 for 8 weeks. Come to one or all 8. Please call to register.

STAGE COMBAT I

(Gr. 7-12) Learn the “language” of stage combat - basic terminology, fight notation, and safe basic stage combat - basic terminology, fight notation, and safe basic stage combat skills. Instructor: Mark Dumpig; $5 - includes both tours, snack, supervision & transportation. ($3 extra for in-line skate)

AMERICAN RED CROSS

(Ages 11-15) Participants will receive information & skills necessary to provide safe & responsible care for children in the absence of parents or guardians. This training will help participants develop skills in five critical areas: leadership, safety and safe play, basic care, first aid and professionalism. Instructor: American Red Cross; $35 - includes admission, supervision & transportation. (Gr. 4-8) Come discover the secrets of multi-object manipulation in this beginning juggling class. Instructor: Homeward Bound Theatre; Mondays, March 8,15,22; 6:7:30 pm; Fee: $35, 3 sessions

SPRING EGG HUNTS

Each on Thursday, April 8 Join us for a hopping good time. No registration is needed. Call your local rec. center for more details. Dayton’s Bluff & Margaret are doing one together at Dayton’s Bluff. Grades 6th & under. 6-7:30 pm. Bring your flashlight for the flash light egg hunt.

FIELD TRIPS

ALL TRIPS - Children 10 years & under are welcome, but must be accompanied by an adult. Some trips may be specified for certain age groups; such as high school only. Permission slips must be filled out. You may pick one up at your rec. center office. Staff ratio is 10:1. All times are approximate.

CROWLEY’S GYMNASTIC THEATER SHOW

This session runs for 12 weeks. This is only a partial listing. Visit www.ci.stpaul.mn.us/depts/parks for a complete listing of all activities. Call or visit the Rec Center to register or obtain more information about any activity.

Director: Jody Griffin
jody.griffin@ci.stpaul.mn.us
651-793-3885

This is only a partial listing. Visit www.ci.stpaul.mn.us/depts/parks for a complete listing of all activities. Call or visit the Rec Center to register or obtain more information about any activity.
Volunteering at the Marian Center

We are seeking caring individuals of all ages and groups to spend some time with our Elders. Whether you have an hour or two, or several hours of time you can donate per month, we’d love to hear from you. Here’s what we currently have to offer: Visiting or reading to our Elders, Beauty Shop Helpers, Chapel Services Helpers, Recreation Programs Assistants for Arts and Crafts and/or Group Activities, Musical Entertainers (singers, play the piano or organ, or any musical instrument), Men’s Discussion Group Leader, Grocery Shopping Helper, and so much more!

Are you a High School student? You can get credit for volunteering! Many schools require a number of hours in “Community Service”. By volunteering at our facility, you will get extra credit, gain experience in Senior Care, contribute to the community and have fun ... all at the same time.

Volunteering is very rewarding to everyone of all ages and opens opportunities you never dreamed of.

If you are interested in joining our wonderful team of volunteers, please contact Robert Johnstone, Volunteer Services Coordinator at (651) 793-2116.

World Premiere of London in the Springtime: A Musical in Two Acts at the Mounds Theatre

London in the Springtime: A Musical in Two Acts will have its world premiere at the Mounds Theatre this March. Brought to you by the people who created and directed Jack the Ripper: A Musical Mystery in 2001, this is the second play produced by JTR Productions.

Synopsis

Anything could happen, and probably will, when a professor with a hidden agenda and an unlikely mix of seven American university students discover that neither life, nor a study abroad course innocently titled “London in the Springtime”, are quite as simple as they seem.

Music by Donovan Stohlberg
Lyrics by LB Hamilton
Book by Donovan Stohlberg and LB Hamilton
Directed by Yvonne A.K. Johnson

Tickets Information
$16.50 for Adults, $14.50 Seniors (60+) and Students except Monday, March 8 - all tickets $10.00. Tickets may be reserved by calling the Mounds Theatre box office at 651-772-2253, purchased at the door, or bought 24/7 online with a major credit card at www.moundstheatre.org.

This production also marks the first major stage performance at the Mounds Theatre since it reopened in October 2003. Other plays planned for the 2004-2005 season include: Charlotte’s Web, Night of the Living Dead, Hmong Tapestry, A Christmas Story, The Destiny of Me and Ruthless! The Musical.

The Mounds Theatre is located at 1029 Hudson Road, St. Paul. Visit www.moundstheatre.org for more information or call 651-772-2253.

Listening to our residents and empowering them to make decisions about how they want to live each day.

The new HealthEast Residence - Marian of Saint Paul includes Independent Living, Assisted Living and a Chapel. It is connected to the existing Care Center, offering every level of care for you and your loved one on the same campus. We are located across the street from beautiful Mounds Park.

There are still a few openings for both independent and assisted living apartments. Please call 651/495-1819 for more information, or to schedule a tour.

HealthEast Residence – Marian of Saint Paul
651/495-1819