This month in 1991...

“The morning after the night before.” Halloween 1991 scared us all when it surprised us with two feet of snow.

Discovered the identity of this man and unearth his connection to a present-day Dayton’s Bluff resident on page 6.

Hamm’s Brewery Sunset Picnic

By Karin DuPaul

The Hamm’s Brewery Picnic in Swede Hollow on Friday, October 28th was a great success. The weather was good, the food was excellent, and everyone had a great time.

Planning for the evening started about a year and a half ago when Friends of Swede Hollow (FOSH) member Murph Dawkins returned home from a long business trip. To relax she walked into Swede Hollow as the sun set on the red brick buildings. The glow of the sun impressed her so much that she wanted everyone to experience it, so we started planning the event.

The evening started with around fifty people gathering at “Swede Hollow Henge” in Swede Hollow Park and watching the glow of the sun on the red brick brewery walls. People attending included Hamm’s Club members, who formerly worked at the Hamm’s Brewery; Joe Sanchelli who grew up in Swede Hollow; Friends of Swede Hollow members; and many neighborhood people. Murph spoke briefly about the glow of the sun on the red brick buildings. Carol Carey, Co-Chair of the Hamm’s Brewery Ad Hoc Advisory Committee, spoke about the work of the committee and the reuse of the brewery buildings. Then as the sun set the picnic began with the Swede Hollow and the Saint Paul skyline as a backdrop. Live music was provided by Joe Sanchelli and everyone had a wonderful time. The door prize was won by former Hamm’s employee Bill Daley. FOSH is planning to make this an annual fall event.

First Lady Laura Bush Presents Conservation Award

Members of the Community Design Center’s East Side Conservation Corps received a Junior Ranger Award from First Lady Laura Bush, Chair of the National Park Service Foundation, on July 27, 2005. Community Design Center’s Conservation Corps members were awarded for their work at the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary, a 27-acre former toxic dump on the Mississippi River in East St. Paul that is being transformed into a sanctuary for birds and other wildlife. This year the youth corps members have:

- Planted 2800 wetland plants including sedges, forbs, and grasses;
- Planted, mulched, and watered 400 trees and shrubs;
- Removed nonnative and invasive species including burdock, Common buckthorn, purple loosestrife, and common and giant ragweed;
- Installed erosion control silt fencing on slopes.

Dayton’s Bluff District 4 Community Council 2005-6 Board Members

At large representatives are Scott Van Cleave and Walter Waranka

Subdistrict A: Roy Carlson, Candice Parker and Emily Shively

Subdistrict B: Jean Comstock, Sharon McCrea, Erica Schneekloth and Erin Stojan

Subdistrict C: Greg Auge, Miranda Godfrey, Jen King and Barbara Riopelle

Subdistrict D: Jacob Rorer, Stephanie Harr, Linda LaBarre and David Murphy

There is one opening on the board in Subdistrict A, which is roughly the area bordered by East 6th Street, Forest, Phalen Corridor, and Johnson Parkway.

To learn more about the Community Council call Executive Director Nachee Lee or Community Organizer Karin DuPaul at 651-772-2075.
A Christmas Story Returns to the Mounds

A Christmas Story is returning to the stage at the Mounds Theatre this December. It’s everyone’s favorite story of the Parker family’s attempt to celebrate a peaceful, old-fashioned Christmas while son Ralphie schemes to have Santa Claus bring him an official Red Ryder BB gun and the Old Man displays his “major award” in the living room window.

This holiday classic was first produced live on stage at the Mounds Theatre in December 2004 and was a great success. This year’s production will be both bigger and better. Create or continue a holiday tradition at the Mounds Theatre. A Christmas Story is appropriate for all ages and this year there is discount pricing for children.

Performances:
- Friday, December 2 at 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, December 3 at 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday, December 4 at 2:00 p.m.
- Friday, December 9 at 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, December 10 at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 11 at 2:00 p.m.
- Friday, December 16 at 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, December 17 at 7:30 p.m.
- Sunday, December 18 at 2:00 p.m.

Based on humorist Jean Shepherd’s memoirs of growing up in the Midwest in the 1940s, A Christmas Story follows 9-year-old Ralphie Parker in his quest to get a legendary official Red Ryder 200-shot Carbine Action Range Model Air Rifle under the tree for Christmas. Ralphie pleads his case before his mother, his teacher and even Santa Claus himself. Their consistent response: “You’ll shoot your eye out.”

All of your favorite moments from the film are brought to life on stage, including the family’s temperamental exploding furnace; Scut Farkus, the school bully; an unfortunate experiment with a wet tongue on a cold flagpole; the Little Orphan Annie decoder pin; Ralphie’s father winning a “major award” – a lamp shaped like a woman’s leg in a net stocking; Ralphie’s fantasy scenarios; and, of course, the big day itself.

Ian Buck, a Dayton’s Bluff resident who starred as Mowgli in the Mounds Theatre’s summer production of Disney’s Jungle Book, is playing young Ralphie, while Michael Ruth, another local resident, plays adult Ralph. The rest of the cast includes actors from all over the Twin Cities. A Christmas Story is being produced by the Portage for Youth under the guidance of Raeann Ruth, Executive Director of the Portage for Youth and the Mounds Theatre. Richard Jackson, Associate Artistic Director of Starting Gate Productions, directs. Amber Ruth is stage manager, assisted by Marion Harris and Janine Cunnings.

Ticket prices are: $15 Adults; $10 Student/ Senior; and $5 Children (12 and under).

Tickets to A Christmas Story are the perfect early Christmas gift for the whole family or for those hard-to-buy-for people on your Christmas list. But don’t delay! Tickets are going fast. Contact the Mounds Theatre to order your tickets. Visit www.moundstheatre.org or call 651-772-2253.

The Mounds Theatre is located at 1029 Hudson Road.

December Events

MOUNDS PARK UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
- Dec. 18, 2005—Hand Bell Concert 10:30a.m.
- Every 3rd Saturday of the month, Glorious Grocery Give-A-Way (Haircuts, Music and Church Services for the People) 10:30a.m. to 12:00a.m.

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
- Saturday, December 3 – Cookie Walk, 10:00am – noon
- Wednesday, December 7 – Soup Supper, 5:00 – 6:15 p.m

PARKWAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
1363 BUSH AVE. ST. PAUL, MN 55106
- Dec. 7, 2005—Early Release Day-School Dismissed at 1:05p.m.
- Dec. 15, 2005—Grandparents Day Winter Concert
- Dec. 19, 2005—Winter Break For times of events and information, please call (651) 293-8845.

AMERICAN INDIAN MAGNET
1075 E. THIRD AVE. ST. PAUL, MN 55106
- Dec. 9, 2005—POW WOW (Indian Education Program) 6:30p.m-10:00p.m (2nd Friday of each month)

No smoking on school property For more information, please call (651) 778-3100.

FREE HANDYMAN SERVICES
If you are a senior and/or handicapped, a Dayton’s Bluff resident and need some help with repairs on your house.

Call Karin at 651-772-2075.

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Call Karin at 651-772-2075.
CRIME ALERT

The Saint Paul Police Department is alerting all residents of an ongoing crime. Two white males have been approaching homeowners asking for money, rides or to use their telephone.

This is UNSAFE.

The two suspects are described as white males, 25-32 years of age. They are polite and convincing which leads residents to give them rides, money, or even allow them into their homes. Police are tracking residential burglaries possibly connected to these suspects. They are believed to have taken wallets, cash, and keys from residence.

* Do NOT become a victim!
* Do NOT open the door if you don’t know who it is - suspects have claimed to be a neighbor in distress. Offer to call 9-1-1 for them but do not open your door!
* Do NOT give money to a stranger - suspects have stolen from homes once they are let in

Be prepared to give as much information as you can including

BE ALERT, SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS, AND REPORT ALL SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY!!

Call 291-1111 or 9-1-1

Be prepared to give as much information as you can including gender, race, age, height, weight, clothing description, facial hair, possible vehicle, and direction the suspect went. A partial description is better than nothing!

For more information call Karin at the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council 651-772-2075.

FREE CURTAIN ROD/BINDLES

Free 60” to 110” curtain rod and nine plastic window blinds (some white and some blue) 27” x 64”.

Stop by and pick them up at the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council, 798 East 7th Street or call 651-772-2075.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Advent Worship Service, 6:30 pm Wednesday, December 14 – Soup Supper, 5:00 – 6:15 pm.

Sunday School Christmas Program, 6:30 pm.

Saturday, December 24 – Christmas Eve Service, 4:00 pm.

Christmas Eve Service, 11:00 pm Sunday, December 25 – Christmas Day Festival Service in both English &Hmong, 10:00 am Saturday, December 31 – New Year’s Eve Service, 7:00 pm.

Mounds Park United Methodist

Dec. 11, 2005–Children Christmas Pageant and Potluck: 10:30am.

Contemporary Worship 10:30am.

(Month-to-Month events)


Community Recreation Centers

Margaret

Dayton’s Bluff

Phalen

1109 Margaret St. 800 Conway St. 1000 E. Wheelock Pkwy

651-298-5719 651-793-3885 651-793-6600

TUMBLING TOTS Ages 3-4 Sat., Jan. 20 10:30-10:30 am $22. 6 ses.


MOM, DAD & ME TUMBLING Ages 3.5 Mon., Jan. 30 2:10-2:40 pm $22. 6 ses.

BUBBLING POTIONS Ages 2-5 Thurs., Mar. 2 11-11:45 am $4 per child. Limit 20. 1 ses.

SPORTS FOR SHORTIES (TEAM GAMES for TODDLERS) Ages: 3-5 yrs Tues., Feb. 21. 1:30- 2:30 pm $12. 6 weeks.

TEENS IN ACTION - The group meet on Tuesday & Thursday’s from 5-7 pm. Free New members are wanted.

WOMEN’S SELF DEFENSE Mon., Feb. 6 6:15-8:15 pm $45. 8 ses.

KICKBOXING FOR ADULTS Tues., Feb. 21. 6:30-7:30 pm $45. 6 ses.

ADULT CO-ED VOLLEYBALL Friday’s 6-8:45 pm $1 / week

SWIM, GYM & MOVIE TRIP Gr. 6th & under Fri., Jan. 27 9:30 am-4 pm $45.

SEASAME STREET LIVE PRESENT SUPER GOVER READY For Action Fri., Jan. 27 9 am-12:30 pm $14

TUBING AT GREEN ACRES Fri., Feb. 3 2-7 pm. $12.50

WINTER BLAST Gr. 6th & under Mon., Feb. 13/20 4- 7 pm. $4 per day.

Gr. 6th-12th. Mon., Feb. 13/20 6 - 9 pm $4 per day

ICE FISHING Ages 6-12. Thurs., Feb. 2 4-6 pm. Free. 1 ses.

MEADOWOOD COMM. CENTER SWIMMING Ages 7 & up Fri., Mar. 10 12- 4 pm $0.50 per week. 10 wks.

WINTER ADVENTURES Gr. 7-9. Fri., Jan. 20 5-7 pm $4 per child.

DISNEY ON ICE – THE INCREDIABLES IN A KINGDOM MAGIC ADVENTURE Sat., Mar. 11 am-2 pm. $15

PARENT’S NIGHT OUT Ages 6-12. Fri., Feb. 10 6-9 pm. $10. 1 ses.

TEN DOLLAR PROM Gr. 9-11 Fri., Feb. 17 7-10 pm $10 per couple

FIRST AID FOR CHILDREN TODAY Ages 5-8. Sat., Feb. 18 11 am-1 pm. $1. 31 ses.

MUSICAL BABIES Ages 6 mos.- 3 yrs. Fri., Feb. 3. 9:30-10:15 am $180. 15 ses.


WATER CARNIVAL TEEN DANCE Gr. 7-9. Fri., Jan.20 7-10 pm $5

INFANT / CHILD CPR COURSE Adult. Wed. Mar. 1 5:30-8:30 pm $45. 2 ses.

COMMUNITY CRAFT & BAKE SALE. Sat., Mar. 4. 9 am-2:30 pm $10 per table

AMAZING GRACE ASSOCIATION OF GOD

2337 Earl St.

651-778-1768

Sun 9:30 am - Sunday school
Sun 10:30 am - morning Worship
Sun 6:00 pm - evening Worship

Hinckley Asbury United Methodist

815 Frank St.

651-771-0077

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

655 Forest St.

651-776-4737

Sun 9:00 am - Morning Service
Sun 10:15-11:15 am - Sunday School & Bible Hour
Sun 11:15 - Hinckley Service (see more information to left)

First Lutheran Church ELCA

463 Maria

651-776-7210

Sun 9:00 am - Worship service
Sun 10:15 am - Education all ages (see more information to left)

Our Savior’s Lutheran “LCMS”

674 Johnson Pkwy

651-774-2396

Sun only - 9 am Worship, 9:20 education hour
Sun 10:30 am - Worship Service

Sacred Heart Catholic Church

840 E. 6th St.

651-776-2741

Sat 4:00 pm – Mass
Sun 9:00 am – Mass
Mon, Wed, Fri 8:30 am – Wednesday Service

St. John’s Catholic Church

977 E. 5th St.

651-771-3690

Mon-Fri 8:00 am – Mass
Sat 8:00 am & 11:15 am – Mass
Sun 9:00 am, 11:00 am – Mass

St. John’s Church of God in Christ

1154 E. 7th St.

651-771-6739

Sun 9:30 am - Sunday School;
Sun 11:00 am - Worship
Wed 7:00 pm - Bible Study

St. John Ev. Lutheran

765 Margaret St.

651-771-6406

Sun 9:30 am - Worship
Thurs. 6:30 pm - Worship

December 2005
Dayton’s Bluff District Forum Page 3
Chapter #12: The Twenties

The decade between World War One and the Depression are usually portrayed as a period of social abandon. Books about it are named "fords flappers and fanatics" or call it the jazz age. St. Paul histories usually focus on prohibition and the criminals who lived freely in the wide-open city.

But a close look at the experience of Dayton’s Bluff suggests that the story of this and other neighborhoods is richer and far more complex. It is true that the automobile did have a major impact, but people should not overlook the new building boom, changes in the urban landscape, social shifts as well as cultural continuity.

The increased use of automobiles had several effects on the community. Land that had remained vacant because it was not served by the streetcars - the Mounds Park area comes to mind - was filled in with bungalows, duplexes and other new housing styles. On the east, new houses started to be built as far out as Johnson Parkway.

The commercial areas of Dayton’s Bluff made way for automobile-oriented businesses. This was never more evident than on East Seventh Street where the Six Corners garage arrived with four mechanics on duty for "auto repairing." A new Kemper Chevrolet Building went up on the street and Tower Auto Wrecking Company a few doors down offered car parts. There was also the beginning of a continuing tradition of used car lots in the community.

Car use had social effects and the new term “motoring” began to appear. In 1924, the term "motoring" began to appear. In Car use had social effects and the new used car lots in the community.

Chickens in the foreground, the Kelly residence in the back, circa 1920. Photo courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society.

The Margaret Recreation Center, built in the 1920’s. Photo from 1983 Dayton’s Bluff History Calendar
neighborhood and their activities were
manifest as the different events took
place and when the high jumps were
made. "In February the inter-city ski meet
was held at the new facility and East Side resident Ray Solie was predicted to be a strong competitor.

Large crowds also came to the annual
tournaments of the Dayton's Bluff Commercial
Club, often held at Lake Phalen. The
1925 event would be kicked off with
a baseball game at 11:00. There would be
a putting green contest and balloons bearing tickets for a chance at $150 in
gold were released. Since members of all
other commercial clubs in the city were
invited, they were expecting around
15,000.

There were many other social get-togethers. In the fall of 1924, a group called the Five Corners Improvement
Association was going to sponsor a
"chicken bouillion" at Casey Heights. 250
Association was going to sponsor a
social called "soft drink" establishments.

There was also a growing concern over
the attitudes of youth and fears of
delinquency. "One man recalled his
experiences at the M argaret Recreation Center, "We used to go down to the playground and find three or four kids
engaged up on the director," he said. "It
was getting so bad you couldn't keep a
teacher more than a few months. We
decided to do something about it."

As a result, the Margaret Boosters was
organized in November of 1920. They
to the city to see if they could help
with the running of the playground. They
gave $1,000 to the city for a new facility.
They went around, "signing up new members
and holding dances, bingo games, playground festivals," and, "mooching"
from local merchants. Within a
year, the group had thirty members.

At this point, the Margaret Boosters
were actually turned around, and because and by 1924 M argaret continued
to break attendance records. Daily
activities were horseshoes, tennis, kettlenball, O'Leary, track work and
efficiency tests. Tennis was "always a
strong feature with M argaret men."

Eighteen men had participated in
horsehoe pitching contest. Thirty-five
girls enrolled in basketry, which met three
times a week.

In 1926 an organization named the East
Side District Recreation Council
was formed. The group discussed concerns and how to deal with what they saw as
growing problems. At one early gathering they discussed the impact of moving
tickets and the need to ensure that
children were exposed only to healthy
communications.

They wanted an increase in athletic programs at the recreation centers and
school-sponsored clubs to keep kids busy with
what they saw as positive activities.
In 1929, the group again stated its desire
to increase its educational programs, especially for "the underprivileged.

W hether or not they were a cause for
column, moving entertainment, or giving
an important social force. W hile theaters
did exist in the previous era, most
historians would agree that the Tonight
were the beginning of a heyday for movies. In
1916, for instance, the Dayton's Bluff Moving Picture theater was established at
894 East Seventh, run by the A ndreas brothers, along with C. I. Graham's Forest
Theater a little further down the street at
924 East Seventh. In 1922 J. M. V elat started the Radio M ovie T heater at 1195
East 7th."

The M ounds M ov ing Picture T heater at 1029 H eights (today's H udson Roa l) in
1922. T he silent films of the time screened at "The Pride of Dayton's Bluff" had "musical accompaniment of
excellence by the M ounds Ladies String Orchestra." Like other theaters at the
time, the M ounds however, had amateur and professional live acts on stage along
with movies.

A s often the case with new ventures, the initial movies were bought up by
local operators. In April, 1925, an East Side Journal said that "Finklestein &
Ruben had purchased "three leading
movie houses" located on the East Side.
They were the M ounds and Radio T heaters in Dayton's Bluff and the Venus on Payne Avenue.

The first picture the new management
offered at the remodeled M ounds was "Wolves of the Border," said to be typical of the "romance and action" movies that were
going to be offered. "T he pride of Dayton's Bluff" had the added feature of
the "musical accompaniment of
excellence by the M ounds Ladies String Orchestra."

There was no need to go downtown for entertainment. A person could walk
a few blocks and see a different movie
almost every night. There was a typical
week of offerings at the M ounds: Sunday and M onday featured R ichard Dix, in "M anhattan" and on the first night of
1925 there were ten vaudeville acts. Tuesday through Wednesday was a showing of "T he Border Legion." On T hursday and
Friday, feature films appeared in "M usic Bluebird" and Saturday, featured the bi-monthly movie of the week — "Wolves of
the Border."

While it was still a bit of a novelty, a air travel was starting to become important
in the twenties. The end of the decade
saw the construction of an area landmark — the navigation beacon. Built in
1929, the 110 foot high beacon with
its twenty-four inch rotating light was part of a network that helped pilots find
their way at night as they delivered mail.

At one time over 600 of these beacons
defined nighttime airway corridors across A merica. The M ounds Park beacon
was part of the system that lighted the route between St. Paul and Chicago, the
electronic guidance equipment eventually made the beacons obsolete. Our beacon is the last of its kind.

People were fascinated with the development of flight. The Dayton's Bluff
Commercial Club even went on record asking the city to create an "airport
landmark." A corresponding newspaper article, "during the summer months large
crowds of onlookers thronged the bluffs overlooking the airport." It thought that
"if the territory south of M ilan Street
was utilized for the purpose of accommodating these people, an important
improvement to M ounds Park would be effected."

On June 24, 1929 crowds did, indeed, gather in and near the park to gaze at an
crash. A correspondent for an important improvement to M ounds Park

A few months later another crash
would signal the end of the era. T husime, however, it was a stock market crash,
which meant and end to the era of prosperity and community building and the arrival of economic hard times
followed by the war years. However, that's a story for another issue.

Crowds gather to inspect the remarkable plane crash June 24, 1929. Photo courtesy of the M innnesota H istorical Society
**Teacher Meets Challenge**

Trinity Catholic School teacher, Mr. David Heller, has his hair cut & colored after the K-8 students at Trinity surpassed their Marathon fundraising goal.

Mr. Heller challenged the students to meet and exceed the $8,000 goal and he would allow one of the students to “cut” his hair. The students raised $8,800 in their Annual Marathon for Non-Public Education.

One of the students did the honors on Friday, October 14 and gave Mr. Heller a totally new look with a cut and new color.

**Letter to the editor:**

I wanted to second a letter to the editor thanking Steve Trimble for his hard work. The paragraph about older mansions that “split off their excess land and had it platted out into new lots” held a particular interest for me. You see, I think I live on one of those “two and a half story homes.”

My home is located on Maria and Euclid Street…I have other houses around me that have pretty much the same design, but with different stained glass, built in buffet and other unique design elements.

A few years ago our sewer line broke and I got a copy of the original permit for the sewer line and it listed one P. H. Kelly as the owner in 1908. So thanks, to Steve Trimble for teaching me about the history of my house. Now could you tell me about P. H. Kelly? Namely, where exactly was his residence or the Tuxedo Playground? What grocery store chains did he own and any other fun facts you can dig up.

Sincerely,

**Diane M. May**

**Response to the letter to the editor:**

Here are some fun facts our crack Forum research team was able to uncover. We even found a sketch of Kelly and a real estate map showing his holdings.

First, who was Mr. Kelly? Patrick H. Kelly was born in County Mayo, Ireland and came to this country via Canada as a teenager. He arrived in Minneapolis with his brother in 1857 and entered the grocery business. Kelly relocated to St. Paul in 1863, where he bought into a food wholesale business that was eventually located at Third and Sibley.

He and his family lived in Dayton’s Bluff and by the 1880’s were living in the old J. F. Thompson house at 230 Hoffman, an old name for Mounds Boulevard. The Northwest Magazine described it this way in 1885:

> Hon. P.H. Kelly may sit upon the spacious veranda of his stone mansion on Dayton’s Bluff and look almost directly down upon every business house in St. Paul. From the cupola of the dwelling house one may enjoy a bird’s-eye view of the entire city…a landscape that Turner could not have imagined.

> “Mr. Kelly’s house is, architecturally, much like the famous grocer-square and solid to look upon. The mansion is built in the center of the entire block of ground, and a private park reaches from the opposite side of the street upon which the houses fronts, to the bluff line, so that the priceless panorama upon which the mansion looks may never be hidden from full view.

Always a strong Democrat, Kelly served two terms in the state legislature from 1892 to 1894. According to his obituary he was pivotal in making sure the news capitol building remained in St. Paul and making the city the permanent location of the State Fair. He also served on the city water board for many years.

Kelly was said to be worth a million dollars at one time, and even though he had some reverses toward the end of his life, he remained well off financially. When he died in 1900 at the age of 69 he was living at 489 Holly Avenue.

In its obituary, the St. Paul Dispatch “It was his Irish generosity that made him loved and it was his Irish recklessness that lessened his success.”

As to the second query of the letter—where the old Kelly estate (and the Tuxedo Playground that later sat on the land) was located. A look at the plat map shows that the home was between Hoffman (Mounds Boulevard) and Maria and south of Euclid Street.

It also shows that Kelly had other holdings nearby and this may explain why he was listed as an early owner of our letter writer’s home. As an owner and/or developer, Kelly would have been responsible to pay for the initial sewer work. Keep those cards and letters coming in and we’ll try top answer any other questions you readers may have.

---

**Help Stop Graffiti in Dayton’s Bluff**

Dayton’s Bluff has suffered from an increase of graffiti over the last several months. We need the community to help in order to stop it. Residents need to report graffiti if they see it on a neighbors’ property, city property or on their own property. Report graffiti as soon as you see it to Citizen Service at 651-266-8989 or email citizen.service@ci.stpaul.mn.us

If you see someone making graffiti in Saint Paul and they are still there call 9-1-1.

If you are the victim of graffiti on your property call 291-1111 to make a police report. Police reports are important tools for the police to track and identify the culprit. Graffiti is not an art: it’s a crime.

Graffiti vandalism is an ongoing problem in Saint Paul. Youths aged from twelve to their mid-twenties are responsible for approximately $300,000 to $500,000 in property damage each year. The Saint Paul Police Department has taken this crime very seriously and has been very aggressive in identifying graffiti vandals, as well as arresting them for their crimes.

In response to concerns from business owners, block clubs and district councils, the Saint Paul Police Department has formed the Metropolitan Task Force On Graffiti Vandalism to crackdown even harder on these crimes. The task force began meeting June 17, 1997 in an effort to share information among all metropolitan-area police departments about graffiti vandals and plan strategies to apprehend these criminals.

One of the things the task force has learned is that most parents have no idea their children are involved in these crimes and are not aware of some of the indicators of graffiti vandalism activity.

**Tips for Parents**

- Check backpacks for markers and/or spray paint, as well as sketch books, pieces of paper with graffiti “tags” on them, aerosol can caps and/or nozzles, white shoe polish and photographs of graffiti pieces/murals.
- Check school papers for graffiti “tags” and/or sketches of murals.
- Know who your children are hanging out with, and make sure they are home at curfew time: age 15 or younger by 10 p.m. and age 16-17 by midnight.
- If you see someone making graffiti in Saint Paul and they are still there call 9-1-1.

If you have any questions about graffiti and the typical graffiti vandal, email meredith.vogland@ci.stPaul.mn.us in the FORCE Unit or call her at (651) 266-5625. You may want to try talking to your children about graffiti and the cost of this “innocent crime.” Once people are aware of all the information, things can become a lot clearer and decisions are made from a position of knowledge and not ignorance.
A Homeless Voice

By J. Wittenberg

I met John, who is also known as "John the Baptist," during a ramble through the Bruce Vento nature walk. He followed us and asked if we would wish to hear his philosophy about a new state capital. I thought, with such a potentially stimulating topic as this before me, and being a future candidate for mayor myself, how could I refuse? So I gave him his say.

"The capitol should really be in the center of the state, because people want to be in the middle, like planets in the solar system, you know. They need this," John declared. "It’s human nature. Kandiyohi would be better, and it’s the geographical center. It’s not quite inhabitable, and a little wild, but we would keep out the riff raff. Our population needs to go down, we need more emigration by the thousands. People should go to Kandiyohi! It’s paradise, and quiet. I think we have too many people here in St. Paul. Look at the traffic, and the development, it’s horrible!"

I asked John about his nickname, and he said – "I’ve been known to baptize people in my day. And I’ve also trained as a minister.”

John told me he is homeless, and lives where many of the engineers can see him upon their daily routes, far below the 3rd Street Bridge. I asked him if he was worried about the upcoming winter. “My skin must be getting tougher and thicker… I just don’t get as cold as I used to… or maybe it’s global warming. Life used to be grand for me, and I guess it still is, when I think about it. Out here, even the coffee tastes like wine,” John said, before breaking into a smile and giving a deep belly laugh.

John told me about the simple pleasure of seeing bald eagles below the bluff, and then we sat down to people-watch. Before long, politics came to the fore, and he said – “These politicians don’t care about the homeless, but then again who does? People die down here, and maybe they’ll print a sentence in the paper about a body found by the railroad tracks or someone floating in the river. But usually, the public doesn’t hear about it… it’s just not news.”

John wore an old khaki army coat, and has long black and gray hair. His gloves were leather, with holes exposing more than half the fingers. Even with his difficult circumstances, he smiled often and easily. John spoke of having a fine car once, a Pontiac, and a “happy home.” He said how angry he is about the outsourcing in this state and country. “We need jobs here, in St. Paul… I think it’s worse than people believe it is, you know. It just keeps getting worse and worse.”

John, it turns out, is an artist, and gave me a small wood carving of a dog’s head for proof. If you happen to encounter John, maybe he’ll show you some of his woodcarvings, and truly they are of fine quality. He said – “The dog is my favorite animal, and I can’t think of nothing I’d rather carve. I like to carve other things too, but not as much as dogs. It’s the high point of my day, you know.”

John really seemed to enjoy our visit, and was in light spirits upon our amiable parting. “I think I’ll go for my free coffee at a place on E. 7th. They don’t seem to mind seeing me when I come by,” John said, before adding – “But other than that there’s my carving, and the trains and the eagles. I’m very grateful… maybe as grateful as a man can be.”

‘Doctor’s Office’ Open for Appointments

By J. Wittenberg

As part of a month long unit called “All About Me,” preschoolers in the Dayton’s Bluff Early Childhood Family Education Program can explore many aspects of what happens when you go to a clinic or hospital. They can pretend to be the receptionist, answering the phone, making appointments, and greeting patients. They can play many other roles: doctor, nurse, patient, patient’s mother or father. If they want to be the people giving the shots, listening to hearts, applying bandages, and the like, parents, teachers, and dolls are willing patients.

The “doctor’s office” like any good theme in an early childhood programs extends itself in multiple directions helping children build and consolidate knowledge and skills in many areas. Social and emotional growth occurs as children take turns playing different roles and sharing syringes, blood pressure cuffs, stethoscopes and the like. They begin to master their feelings about getting shots, about being sick, and other experiences they may have had like having a broken limb set or x-rays taken. They experience receiving and giving empathy.

Playing “doctor” or “patient” is also a rich intellectual experience for children introducing and reinforcing the science of human growth and development. Children bring pictures of themselves as newborns helping them understand that all of us begin life as infants, a huge leap in knowledge for those who as recently as a year ago may have identified their own baby pictures as those of their baby siblings. They look at books that show “what’s inside” the human body and use their senses to hear a human heartbeat or feel their bones in their arms and legs. They read stories about other people’s experiences and feelings when they are hurt or sick. They are weighed and measured on the scale borrowed from the Dayton’s Bluff school nurse and can then compare their size to other people or objects in the classroom. They can make a “First Aid Kit” and count out for themselves “5 cotton balls, 1 bar of soap, 3 band aids, 2 plain and one fancy” practicing their counting skills. When they tell the stories of their own bad “owies” they are practicing story telling, an important pre-reading activity. If they wish, they can write their names in their “charts” at whatever skill level they have reached.

The experience of playing with doctor themes will be similar in many ways for all children but every child makes the experience personal in a unique way. All of them grow and learn while having fun. They also increase their understanding of themselves and of their world.

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6 Days a Week
1059 Hudson Road

Lowertown Liquor
Lends a Hand

By Barry White

Back in early October, our neighborhood held a very special fundraising event in the Mounds Park neighborhood. The money was raised to promote community programming in District 4. We received a lot of help from many people in Dayton’s Bluff and beyond. Two bands entertained at the event, whose members come from both St Paul and Minneapolis. The group’s name is The Benevolent Dictators sounded great and everyone enjoyed the show.

Lowertown Liquor donated beer for the event. I spoke to owner Gerry McNemery about his business.

What do you love about your business?

Gerry: “The people. The neighbors, people who come in, we believe downtown St Paul should be vibrant”. What is your demographic?

Gerry: “We see a lot of people from the surrounding arts community. Also downtown employees after work, and condominium dwellers. We are beginning to see people from Dayton’s Bluff more and more.”

What would you like folks to know about the store?

Gerry: “Our Motto: your neighborhood specialty beer and wine source. It is the communities store, we are just here to manage it.”

What are your top bottles right now?

Gerry: “Grey Goose is just great vodka. Panarroz is a Spanish red that received 90 points from Robert Parker, the Wine Spectator. Hop Devil beer is a Pennsylvania brewed beer that is hoppy and different”. Who is in business with you?

Gerry: “My business partner is former Councilman Jerry Blayke. We ran a block club together in the Summit-University neighborhood. We also employ two people, Larry in the cooler and Drew who does wines and cash register.”

How long has the store been here?

Gerry: “Since October 27 2004. Lowertown Wine and Spirits is located at 262 E 4th Street, across from the St Paul Farmers Market. 651-222-3661”
Meet The Reverend Mr. Hamilton

By June Bennett

Rev. Hamilton is what we would call a go-getter. He has the drive and ability to build up the community and to extend all of his services and programs to the community. Rev. Hamilton already has a church and a restaurant and his next dream is to open a food shelf for the people of the Dayton’s Bluff and East Side area. He hopes to do this at 1150 East 7th Street where his church and restaurant are located. He is not afraid of hard work or working long hours and will do whatever it takes to fulfill his latest dream.

He established St. John’s Church of God in Christ on East 7th Street nine years ago and the restaurant, known as Pastor Hamilton’s Bar-B-Que, has been open for 8 months now. He is very satisfied with the way it is going. The restaurant’s hours are: Tuesday - Thursday: 11 a.m. – 9 p.m., Friday - Saturday: 11 a.m.-10 p.m., Sunday and Monday: closed.

Rev. Hamilton is also involved with the Urban League and was once offered a job to teach cooking at the St. Paul College.

He is very concerned about young people. He is a good example for young people by showing them that lessons of freedom while he struggles to establish his identity. This innocent and passionate comedy runs from January 13th to the 28th.

St. Bernard’s High School will be presenting their annual Night of Comedy and Desserts on February 2nd.

Magnolia Musical Theatre moves in from February 10 – 26 with one of their special musical presentations. Kinetic Kitchen returns on Friday March 3rd at 8 p.m. with performances by Maria Tierney (Faculty at Gustavus Adolphus College), Third Rabbit Dance Ensemble (Directed by John Munger), Carla Bode and Maria Boscaino.

Winter ends and spring arrives with CHAT presenting Hamong CIA from March 5th through April 16th.

The Mounds Theatre is located at 1029 Hudson Road. For more information and updates, contact the Mounds Theatre at 651-772-2253 or visit www.moundstheatre.org.

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