

Dayton's Bluff DISTRICT FORUM

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December 2005

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This month in 1991...



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

Photo courtesy Greg Cosimini



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



Enjoying a Swede Hollow Sunset

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 grow 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 downtown 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 loosteife, and common and giant ragweed;
- Installed erosion control silt fencing on slopes;

'First Lady' continues on page 2

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 Godfread, Jen King and Barbara Riopelle

Subdistrict D: Jacob Dorer ,

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 even 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 manger, assisted by Marquis Harris and Janine Cummins.

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. ■

CLASSIFIED AD:

4BR 1BA House for rent, 1163 Burns. Avail Dec 1. \$1200/mo + utils. No smok. 651-353-5449 (hablamos espanol)

Gardening Ideas Exchange

By Mary Mac

Will you be wondering what to do after the Holidays have passed? Come join fellow gardeners in an exchange of ideas on Gardening and Landscaping on the Bluff. All levels of Gardeners are welcomed. We will look at landscaping principles, talk about various types of plants from herbs to Minnesota Natives to Water Gardens, discuss stepping stones and bird feeders, and listen to speakers on Planting for Wildlife, Front Gardens, Herbs and Gardening on a Budget.

Come join our first meeting on Thursday, Jan. 19, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at the Dayton's Bluff District 4 Community Council meeting room, 798 East 7th Street for treats and ideas.

For more information call Karin at 651-772-2075. ■

'First Lady' from page 1:

· Prepared the slope between Mounds Park and the Sanctuary for native prairie seed planting.

In addition to their work at the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary, the Conservation Corps spent the spring, summer and fall planting and maintaining rain gardens throughout the East Side, planting native plants and removing invasive plant species at Lake Phalen, and maintaining Hamms Park.

Partnering with the Dayton's Bluff Community Council and local businesses, the Conservation Corps also planted 24 pots of flowers and ornamental grasses on East 7th Street. This fall and winter these young East Siders are also making Power Point presentations of the history of the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary to the 3M Corporation, the Science Museum of Minnesota, local schools, and community organizations.

Please contact Ruth Murphy Community Design Center at 651-228-7073 for more information. ■

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. ■

INTERPRETER NEEDED

Assist human services staff to serve non-English speaking clients by translating / reverse translating Hmong, Somali, Oromo, or Spanish and English and perform related duties as assigned. Volunteers must be at least 16 years of age. Contact Ramsey County Community Human Services—Volunteer Services at 651-266-4090 for additional information

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.
- Every 3rd Sunday of the month, Mounds Park United Methodist Church also has a Tutor Program with Volunteers for the 2nd and 4th graders every Tuesday and Thursday from 3:30pm.m to 5:15p.m.AMERICAN
For more information, please call (651) 774-8736.

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

- Saturday, December 3 – Cookie Walk, 10:00am – noon
- Wednesday, December 7 – Soup Supper, 5:00 – 6:15 pm

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) 6:30pm-9:00pm (2nd Friday of each month)
No smoking on school property
For more information, please call (651) 778-3100. ■

Church of St. John of St. Paul
A Dayton's Bluff Tradition for 120 years • 1886-2006

Father Thomas Wilson, Parochial Administrator
977 E. 5th Street • St. Paul, MN 55106
(651) 771-3690 • www.stjstp.org

Celebrate a 21st century Christmas
at a traditional Catholic Church

Christmas Schedule
Confessions Dec. 24 - 8:30 am & 3:15 pm
Christmas Eve Mass - 4:15 p.m.
Christmas Day Masses - 9 & 11 a.m.

Mass Schedule: Mon - Sat: 8 am; Sundays: 9 & 11 am/Saturday 4:15pm
Confession Schedule: Daily up to 10 minutes before or after Mass
Saturday - 8:30 am & 3:15 pm; Sunday - 8:30 & 10:30 am

Metropolitan State To Host Free Concert.

Metropolitan State University presents "Holiday Pops" by the Minnesota Sinfonia, conducted by Jay Fishman, on Friday, Dec. 2, at 7 p.m. in the university's Auditorium, 700 East Seventh Street, Saint Paul. The concert is free and open to the public.

The Minnesota Sinfonia will perform holiday favorites. Featured guest soloist is Chad Hoopes, violinist and winner in the junior division of the 2005 Young Artist Competition. He will perform the third movement of the Bruch Violin Concerto.

For special accommodations call Disability and Special Services at 651-793-1540 or 651-772-7687 (TTY).

This concert is the first in a series of four free performances at Metropolitan State by the Minnesota Sinfonia, thanks to a grant from the Anna M. Heilmaier Charitable Foundation. The next concerts are on Fridays, Jan. 13, Feb. 3 and 24.

Metropolitan State University, a member of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System, provides high-quality, affordable education programs for adults seeking baccalaureate and master's degrees. It is the only state university in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. ■

Mark Your Calendar: Monthly Community Meetings

The Dayton's Bluff Community Meetings will work with block clubs and neighborhood residents on problem properties, both nuisance behavior and code enforcement issues, as well as other neighborhood issues, concerns, and improvements.

The group will meet monthly on the first Wednesday of each month. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, December 7, 2005 at 798 East 7th Street at 6:30 p.m. At this meeting a representative from the Saint Paul Police Department Gang Unit and graffiti expert Meredith Vogland will discuss the gang and graffiti problems in Dayton's Bluff. Please come or call with your problem addresses. Please call with your problem addresses.

Mark your calendar with the January and February meeting dates because the next issue of the *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* won't be published until March 2006. The January 2006 meeting is on Wednesday the 4th and the February 2006 meeting is on Wednesday the 1st. If you need more information 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 phone.

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 residents.

* 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 cash, wallets, credit cards, and keys.

* DO NOT allow a stranger into your home - suspects have stolen from homes once they are let in

* DO NOT give strangers a ride.

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/BLINDS

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. 10:30a.m.

Contemporary Worship 10:30a.m. (Month-to-Month events)

Christmas Eve (Dec. 24, 2004) 10:30a.m.

Christmas Day (Dec. 25, 2005) 10:30a.m. Worship. ■

Community Recreation Centers

Margaret

1109 Margaret St.
651-298-5719

Winter-Spring Program will be out this month! (Jan.- May 2006 Events & Activities) Stop by the center to pick up your copy or visit us on line at www.ci.stpaul.mn/depts/parks

SPRING SPORTS REGISTRATION - Volleyball, Indoor Soccer, Floor Hockey. Feb. 6-17. Ages 5-12. Registration forms available Feb. 6

PARENT TOT PLAY TIME - Mon., Wed., Fri.'s 10 am-12 pm. Free. Ages 0-5

SENIOR CARDS - 500 - Friday's 12:30-4 pm Fee: \$2 weekly fee for the kitty.

JUDO - Ages 7-12 Sat.'s 12-2 pm Fee: \$15/month = 4 weeks On-going

JUDO FOR TOTS - Ages 4-6 Tues.'s 5-7 pm Fee: \$15/month = 4 weeks

CAMP FIRE COMMUNITY FAMILY CLUB This club offers an opportunity for families to interact together positively with experiences and activities that are structured, educational and fun.

Meetings are led by two or more trained adults, using the nationally developed CampFire USA outcome-based curriculum. Includes food & activities. 6-8 pm

Dec. 19, Jan. 30, Feb. 27, Mar. 27, Apr. 24, May 22, June 26 \$4 per session or \$20 per family if you register for all of them.

OVER 30 VOLLEYBALL & BASKETBALL Thurs., Dec. 8. 11 am-1 pm. \$1 / week On-going

ICE SKATING LESSONS Ages 4-7. Wed., Jan. 11 6-7 pm \$12 6 ses.

Ages 8-12 Wed., Jan. 11. 7-8 pm \$12 6 ses.

MOVIE MYSTERY NIGHT All ages Wed.'s, Jan. 11. 6-8 pm. Free. 12 weeks

CRIBBAGE Adult/Seniors Tues., Jan. 11 12-3 pm. \$0.50 per week. 10 wks.

SCOTTISH DANCING Ages 7-12. Tues., Jan. 17 6-7 pm. \$40. 8 ses.

IRISH DANCING Ages 5-12 Wed., Jan. 26 6-7 pm. \$30. 6 ses.

CHEERLEADING (Cheer America) Ages 5 & up. Mon., Feb. 6. 6-7:30 pm. \$5 registration fee + \$6 / week. 12 ses.

YOUNG AMERICANS SELF DEFENSE Ages 5 & up. Wed., Feb. 8 6-8 pm \$5 registration fee & \$6 / week 12 ses.

PRE-BALLET Ages 4-6 Fri., Jan. 27 12-12:30 pm \$40 + costume fee 10 ses.

BEGINNING BALLET Ages 7-12 Fri., Jan. 27 12:30-1:30 pm. \$44 + costume fee 10 ses.

INTERMEDIATE BALLET Ages 13-18. Fri., Jan. 27. 1:30-2:30 pm. \$44 + costume fee. 10 ses.

CONTINUING BALLET FOR RETURNING STUDENTS Ages 7 & up 5-6 pm \$44+ costume fee 10 ses.

Dayton's Bluff

800 Conway St.
651-793-3885

Phalen

1000 E. Wheelock Pkwy
651-793-6600

TUMBLING TOTS Ages 3-4 Sat., Jan. 28 10-10:30 am \$22. 6 ses.

KINDER TOTS Ages 4-6. Sat., Jan. 28. 10:30-11:20 am. \$26. 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.

SPORTIES 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 \$7

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

TUBING AT GREEN ACRES Gr. K-6th 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.

MAPLEWOOD COMM. CENTER SWIMMING

Ages 7 & up Fri., Mar. 10 12-4 pm \$10 youth, \$12 adults

WINTER ADVENTURES Gr. K-6th Fri., Mar. 10 9 am-4:30 pm \$25

DISNEY ON ICE - THE INCREDIBLES IN A MAGIC KINGDOM ADVENTURE Sat., Mar. 11 10 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 mo.-3 yrs. Fri., Feb. 3. 9:30-10:15 am. \$180. 15 ses.

MUSICAL TODDLERS Ages 2-4. Fri., Feb. 3. 10:30-11:15 am. \$180. 15 ses.

WINTER 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 Assembly of God

1237 Earl St.
651-778-1768

Sun 9:30 am - Sunday school

Sun 10:30 am - morning Worship

Sun 6:00 pm - evening Worship

Hmong 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 - Hmong Service

(see more information to left)

Faith Temple - Templo De Fe

1510 Payne Ave
651-778-0096

Sun 10:30 am - Spanish Bilingual Service

Sun 6:00 pm - Spanish Bilingual Service

Wednesday family night

First Lutheran Church ELCA

463 Maria
651-776-7210

Sun 9:00 am - Worship service

Sun 10:15 am - Education all ages

Fellowship following worship.

Christmas services are on December 24th at 4:30 pm and 10:00 pm

Mounds Park United Methodist

1049 Euclid St.
651-774-8736

9:15am Sunday School, 4-year-old

through Adult. 10:30 am worship

(see more information to left)

Our Savior's Lutheran 'LCMS'

674 Johnson Pkwy
651-774-2396

Sun only - 8am Worship, 9:20

education hour

Sun 10:45am - Worship

Sacred Heart Catholic Church

840 E. 6th St.
651-776-2741

Sat 4:00 pm - Mass

Sun 9:00 am - Mass

Mon, Wed, Fri 8:00 am - Weekday Service

St. John's Catholic Church

977 E. 5th St.
651-771-3690

Mon-Fri 8:00 am - Mass

Sat 8:00 am & 4:15 pm - Mass

Sun 9:00 am, 11:00 am - Mass

St. John's Church of God in Christ

1154 E. 7th St.
651-771-7639

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

A Short History of Dayton's Bluff *by Steve Trimble*

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 August, 1924, the *East Side Journal* noted that the Kochsiek family who lived at 1097 McKean had made a "motor trip" to Duluth, Superior and Hibbing and returned home via Mille Lacs. A year later the paper reported that Al Schaber, 995 East Sixth and Fred Dunkel, 813 East Minnehaha, had come back from a lengthy "motor trip" to Michigan.

Local organizations were quite aware of the growing love affair with the automobile. The need to get rid of the "chuck holes" on arterials was often brought to the attention of city officials. In 1924 the Dayton's Bluff Improvement Association took credit for the installation of "go and stop" signals at Minnehaha and Earl and Seventh and Arcade. That year the community held a large parade up and down East Seventh followed by a street dance to celebrate the completion of paving from Hope to Duluth Streets.

But like today, this new form of transportation brought some problems. Even before the 1920's, newspapers were starting to bemoan the lack of parking for



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

automobiles in neighborhood retail areas. In 1924, a group called the Dayton's Bluff Property Owners Improvement Association had a safety chairman, who was said to be actively working against "reckless and drunken drivers of automobiles."

The Twenties saw a major building boom in all cities and their neighborhoods. Prosperity and increasing population brought the need for newer, larger, buildings and more homes. In general, the homes built in Dayton's Bluff in this era were smaller as well as a large number of duplexes.

Businesses were growing and needed larger quarters. In 1925 the Dayton's Bluff Bank moved to East 7th and Reaney. "The new building is the last word in modern bank construction," the *East Side Journal* stated. Its two large vaults were so well constructed that "it would be impossible for the most expert burglars to enter them after they had been closed and locked for the night." For instance, an alarm will go off if the dial is touched during the night.

"Workmen are busy putting the finishing touches to the interior," a local paper said. "To say the least," the article

continued, "the new building lends added prestige to the street and is a structure of which the Bluff can well be proud." 2,000 people attended the bank's "House Warming" and every lady who showed up was given a carnation.

Changes were occurring throughout Dayton's Bluff. The growing population and the aging of old construction required upgraded facilities. A new brick building replaced an 1880's frame structure that housed the Sacred Heart school. A new Asbury church was built at the corner of Frank and Ross. It would have a full basement and a pipe organ.

By the early 1920's, St. John's Catholic Church also needed more room. The cornerstone of the building, designed by a parish member, was laid on August, 1921 and on Easter Sunday, March 25, 1923, the parishioners attended their first solemn service in the new brick and stone structure. It was almost double the size of the old church, seating 710 people.

A changing population was behind some new congregations. The ethnicity that had been fairly prominent began to fade. In 1920, for instance, the Dayton's Bluff Methodist church, founded in 1884, changed all of its services from German

to English. The "English Lutheran Church of Our Savior" was started at Earl and Minnehaha in 1924. Its name reflected the fact that they also services were catering to a new generation.

Educational developments included the opening of the Hand Memorial library at Van Buren School on May 24, 1928. It was named in honor of the highly respected Laura Hand, who was principal from 1893 to 1917. The furniture and many of the books were given in memory of Miss Hand by her friends. The room, located in the basement, was open every Monday afternoon and all day Thursday.

The library, that was an official branch of the St. Paul system, opened toward the end of the tenure of Miss Justine Long, another long-time principal who headed up Van Buren from 1918 to 1930. The following reminiscence of her was penned in the 1940's:

"Holidays at the Van Buren will always be remembered by pupils and teachers who were associated with Miss Long. At Thanksgiving, children brought their gifts of food. The fruits, vegetables and other foods were spread out on long tables in the spacious halls by some of the Mothers. Each of the classes came in turn to see this interesting Thanksgiving display and stood around the bountiful tables and on the stairway singing beautiful autumn songs.

"At Christmas time, the children went to the markets and came back laden with branches of pine and spruce. The older pupils made wreaths and one was hung in every window. The railings of stairways were trimmed with garlands of evergreen. In each of the lower halls there was an enormous spruce tree where children would gather to sing the lovely Christmas carols and read stories.

"The two large trees were always sent later to the children's ward of Ancker Hospital. The fragrance and beauty of the evergreens brought into the building for a number of days, that old-time genuine Christmas spirit that can hardly be put into words but which can never be forgotten."

In addition to the holiday activities, there were many other special events at Van Buren that were implemented by Miss Long. "Several times a May fete was given on the lower playground. each child took part and the variety of colorful costumes, the gay Maypole, and the folk



The Margaret Recreation Center, built in the 1920's. Photo from 1983 Dayton's Bluff History Calendar

A Short History of Dayton's Bluff *continued*

dances brought in the real spirit of the English May Day."

More students and an increasing number of students continuing beyond the eighth grade led to the need for additional classrooms. In 1925 the cornerstone was laid for a Junior-Senior High school at Third and Earl that was named after president Harding. The celebration, sponsored by several community groups, drew an estimated 3,000 people. Children from Sibley, Van Buren and Mounds Park elementary schools sang songs.

An even larger crowd, said to be around 10,000, turned out for the grand opening of the new municipal ski slide in Mounds Park in January, 1925. It was located near Johnson Parkway and Burns Avenue and had been an expensive project. The Dayton's Bluff Commercial Club had raised money and many St. Paul lumber companies had donated material for the slide to help out.

According to the paper, "dedication ceremonies were under the auspices of the St. Paul Ski Club and much excitement was manifest as the different events took place and when the high jumps were made." In February the inter-city ski meet was going to be 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 picnics 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 smaller 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 people attended. "Electric lights had been installed for the occasion." The activities—besides eating—included volleyball, horseshoes and throwing baseballs at dolls for money prizes.

Like other urban areas, Dayton's Bluff was experiencing social changes as it entered the modern era. There were still many "upper crust" families in the neighborhood and their activities were noted. In October of 1924, for example, the Hamm twins Marie and Theodora would leave for "the east" to attend

college football games.

At the same time, local newspapers were starting to mention the need to help area poor families. People were concerned with what seemed to be an increase in East Side vice. One local newspaper vigorously attacked various scourges and urged increased city efforts to end them. One illegal activity that was singled out was the presence of what they labeled the "so-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 Margaret Recreation Center, "We used to go down to the playground and find three or four kids ganged up on the director," he said. "It was getting so bad you couldn't keep a director 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 went to the city to see if they could help with the running of the playground. They went around, "signing up new members and holding dances, bingo games, playground festivals," and, "mooching" money from local merchants. Within a year, the group had thirty members.

Things were apparently turned around, because and by 1924 Margaret continued to break attendance records. Daily activities were horseshoes, tennis, kittenball, O'Leary, track work and efficiency tests. "Tennis was 'always a strong feature with Margaret men.' Eighteen men had participated in horseshoe 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 pictures and the need to ensure that children were exposed only to healthy content.

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."

Whether or not they were a cause for concern, movies were obviously becoming an important social force. While theaters did exist in the previous era, most historians would agree that the Twenties



The layout of Dayton's Bluff, from an 1884 insurance map.

were the beginning of a heyday for movies.

In 1916, for instance, the Dayton Moving Picture theater was established at 894 East Seventh, run by the Andreas brothers, along with C. I. Graham's Forest Theater a little further down the street at 924 East Seventh. In 1922 J. M. Velat started the Radio Movie Theater at 1195 East 7th.

The Mounds Moving Picture Theater at 1029 Hastings (today's Hudson Road) in 1922. The silent films of the time screened at "The Pride of Dayton's Bluff," had "musical accompaniment of excellence by the Mounds Ladies String Orchestra." Like other theaters at the time, the Mounds However, had amateur and professional live acts on stage along with movies.

As is often the case with new ventures, the initial movie theaters were bought up by larger operations. 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 Mounds and Radio Theaters in Dayton's bluff and the Venus on Payne Avenue.

The first picture the new management offered at the remodeled Mounds was "North of 36," was said to be typical of the "romance and action" movies that were going to be offered. "The pride of Dayton's Bluff" had the added feature of

the "musical accompaniment of excellence by the Mounds 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. Here is a typical weekly offering at the Mounds: Sunday and Monday featured Richard Dix, in "Manhattan" and on the first night there also were ten vaudeville acts. Tuesday through Wednesday was a showing of "The Border Legion." On Thursday and Friday, Bebe Daniels appeared in "Miss Bluebird" and Saturday, featured the biggest movie of the week—"Wolves of the Border."

While it was still a bit of a novelty, 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.

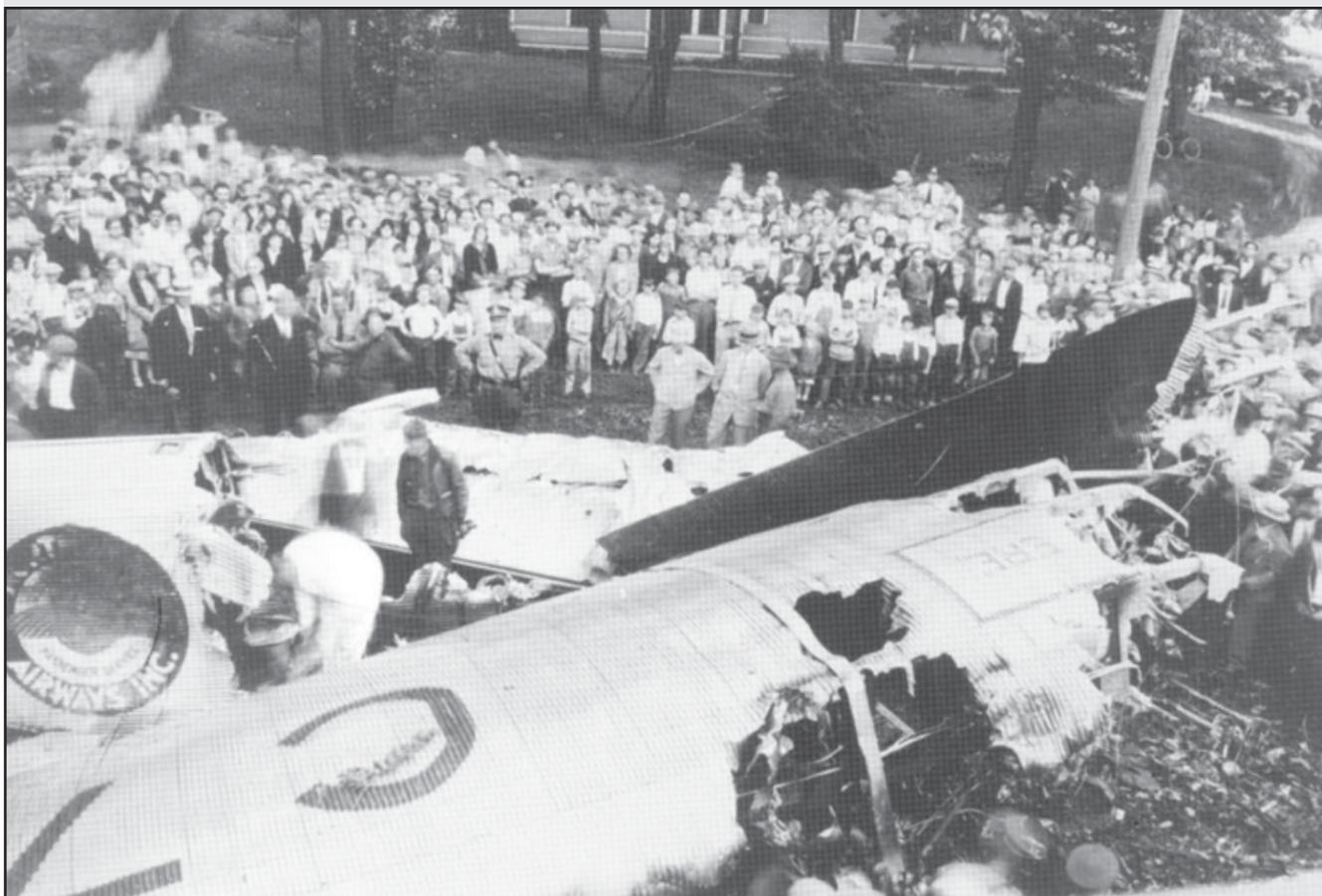
At one time over 600 of these beacons defined nighttime airway corridors across America. The Mounds Park beacon was part of the system that lighted the route between St. Paul and Chicago. But electronic guidance equipment eventually made the beacons obsolete. Our beacon is the last of its kind.

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 lookout." According to a 1929 newspaper article, "during the summer months large crowds of onlookers throng the bluffs overlooking the airport." It thought that "if the territory south of McLain Street was utilized for the purpose of accommodating these people, an important improvement to Mounds Park would be effected."

On June 24, 1929 crowds did, indeed, gather in and near the park to gaze at an airplane. Unfortunately, it was not taking off or landing, but was a Northwest Airlines tri-motor Ford passenger/air mail plane that had lost power and crashed near the intersection of Mounds Boulevard and River (Wilshire) Street.

It smashed against two houses and damaged but did not destroy them. The veteran pilot died in the initial impact. The plane caught fire but all of the seven passengers escaped, thanks to several neighborhood residents who rushed to help, sustaining serious burns.

A few months later another crash would signal the end of the era. This time, however, it was a stock market crash. It would mean 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 Minnesota Historical 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 \$9,800 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 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 some of 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 to 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 vandal 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 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. ■



Photos from the Ramsey County Judges Forum. About fifty East Side residents attended and had questions for the judges. The Judges offered to come to Dayton's Bluff and meeting with our community. If you are interested call Karin at 651-772-2075.



UofM Natural Resources Capstone Class working with the Dayton's Bluff Community Council to research and evaluate Dayton's Bluff parks, trails and recreational facilities.

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 capitol. 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. Kandiyohei would be better, and it's the geographical center. It's not quite inhabitable, and a little wild, but it would keep out the riff raff. Our population needs to go down, we need more emigration by the thousands. People should go to Kandiyohei! 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

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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." ■

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 groups, The Very Idea and The Benevolent Dictators sounded great and everyone enjoyed the show.

Lowertown Liquor donated beer for the event. I spoke to owner Gerry McNerney 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 Blakey. 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 cashing.

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 ■

' Doctor's Office ' Open for Appointments

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, 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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Community Design Center's Holiday Open House!

At the open house, Community Design Center's youth interns will be selling a variety of handmade products that will make great holiday gifts.

Products for sale include:

1. Herbal Vinegars. Made with herbs grown in our seven organic gardens in St. Paul's East Side. Vinegars come in 5 ounce bottles and are \$4 each. Types include: Champagne Vinegar with Thyme, White Wine Vinegar with Thyme, Red Wine Vinegar with Basil & Peppercorn, Red Wine Vinegar with Rosemary and Red Wine Vinegar with Sage.

2. Wreaths. Dried flowers and herbs from our gardens are used to create the wreaths. Wreaths are six inches in diameter and are \$10 each.

3. Garden Ornaments. These hand-sewn felt garden ornaments are great for any decoration. Ornaments are \$4, \$5, \$6 each and come in a variety of garden themes.

4. Notecards. Youth in our internship program use their experiences as inspiration to create these notecards. A set of five cards with envelopes is \$5.

5. Fresh from the Garden Cookbook. A collection of 32 delicious recipes from our staff, friends, local restaurants and chefs. Cookbooks are \$10.

Our Open House is a great time to meet our staff and youth interns! The open house will take place:

Wednesday, December 7 from 2:00 - 7:00 p.m. at our office, 731 East 7th Street, Suite 100, St. Paul, MN 55106. (We are located next to the Swede Hollow Café)

Light refreshments will be served. We look forward to seeing you and thank you for your support!

If you are unable to attend and wish to purchase something please feel free to call us at 651.228.7073. ■

This Winter at the Mounds Theatre

If you feel the need for some entertainment this winter but don't want to waste expensive gas driving all over the Twin Cities, check out what's happening at the Mounds Theatre this winter.

The live stage production of *A Christmas Story* will be playing from December 2nd to the 18th. Continue or start a family tradition by watching the Parker family try to celebrate a quiet, old fashioned Christmas while nine-year old Ralphie schemes to have Santa Claus bring him an official Red Ryder air rifle and the Old Man displays his "major award" in the living room window.

The 2006 season of the Kinetic Kitchen dance series kicks off on Saturday, January 7 at 8 p.m. with performances by Danielle Robinson-Prater, Carla Bode (Dance Program Coordinator from the Dance Conservatory in Mankato), Cara De Lavallade and Sharon Mansur (Faculty at Winona State University).

Starting Gate Production's inaugural season at the Mounds Theatre continues with *Butterflies are Free*, the story of how blind Donny learns the 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 2 - 5.

Magnolia Musical Theater 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), Maria Boscaino and Michael Yonkers.

Winter ends and spring arrives with CHAT presenting *Hmong 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. ■

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: 11a.m. - 9 p.m., Friday - Saturday: 11a.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 all things are possible. To stand up and say "I am a faithful user for God" is not a statement that can be made easily. The church does not have many members but the members put forth every effort to offer their services to those who need them.

Thanksgiving Day will be a great event for the church. The church will be feeding the homeless on that day and the members will help. Other churches have offered to make donations of food.

Rev. Hamilton has other ideas for the community and with the help of church members he believes all things are possible. So make a little time in your day and drop by to visit and enjoy the food and the conversation at Pastor Hamilton's Bar-B-Que. And remember - the restaurant is closed on Sunday but the church is always open to the people.

For more information, please call 651-772-0279. ■

Start Your Business

Have you ever wanted to start your own business? Or, have you started one and are realizing that you need more education to make it successful? If so, sign up for the Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Entrepreneur Training and Support Program. This program helps start-up and young businesses on the East Side.

Class training lasts approximately 16 weeks and includes topics such as operations management, marketing, financial management, one-to-one assistance with creating a successful business, and preparing a business plan. Those who complete the course and locate their businesses in target neighborhoods are eligible for ongoing business support services.

Some of the businesses that people who took the course have started include graphics, photography, food service, restoration of wood furniture and works of art, and custom floral design for weddings. The course is sponsored by the Dayton's Bluff Community Council and the Neighborhood Development Center. There is a small registration fee based on a sliding fee scale. The next session will start in March and class size is limited. Please call Karin at 772-2075 for an application. ■

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

798 East 7th Street

Saint Paul, MN 55106

Phone: 651-772-2075

FAX: 651-774-3510

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