Mounds Theatre Brings Jungle Book to Stage!
by Gabriel Garbow

This summer, the jungle comes to Dayton’s Bluff. The Mounds Theatre, already a neighborhood landmark, keeps making history. Adding to its list of distinctions, the theatre now is “the first in the nation to be granted the official rights to produce the stage adaptation of Disney’s classic animated film The Jungle Book” boasts Artistic Director Jefferson Fietek. This production includes all the classic songs like “The Bare Necessities” and “I Wanna Be Like You.”

And with an all-youth cast courtesy of the Performing Arts Youth Conservatory, the staging promises to draw actors, and audiences from all over the Twin Cities. With evening performances already scheduled for August (18-20, 25-27) and matinees (Aug 21 and 28), area residents are advised to order tickets early!

But you don’t have to wait until summer to enjoy a taste of something different. The Mounds Theatre has plenty in the works. Hot on the heels of a successful run of the inspirational musical, “Everything I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten,” the venerable theatre hosts Lunafest. Lunafest, a national festival of films by, for and about women, will be hitting the Mounds Theatre for one day only; Saturday, March 5th. The films, starting at 2:00pm cover a wide array of topics in films ranging from an animated documentary to a comedy about a booty-obsessed barber.

Planning for Future Questionnaire
by Gene Piccolo

In this age of rapidly changing realities, instant communications, competing complex issues, short attention spans, and what seems to be so little time to absorb it all – we often do not take time to reflect on this place we call home – Dayton’s Bluff. Reflecting on how it has changed, how it is changing and how we want it to change in the future is exactly what the Dayton’s Bluff District 4 Community Council has been doing this year. This reflection is not some idle or superficial activity; it has a real purpose and will have a real result. The purpose is to collect data, ideas, thoughts, opinions and visions for the new Dayton’s Bluff Plan that will become a part of the Comprehensive Plan of the City of Saint Paul.

What changes do we want that will enhance livability on Dayton’s Bluff in the future?

To answer the first two of these questions the Steering Committee has been gathering data and information such as: population, home values, vacancy rates, crime statistics, and economic activity on the bluff. One thing we know from the data is that Dayton’s Bluff has (and is continuing) to undergo enormous change. Another thing that we know is that a number of significant things that were unforeseen in 1986 have come about. We also know on the other hand that there were a number of events that no one foresaw in 1986 that have had a profound effect on the issues that currently face Dayton’s Bluff.

With a lot of the data in hand, attention now moves to the third question: What changes do we want that will enhance livability on Dayton’s Bluff in the future? This question can only be answered

continued on page 3
Starting Your Own Business?  
There is still time to register. We still have a few openings in our class that starts in March.

Have you ever wanted to start your own business? Or, have you started one but 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. All East Side entrepreneurs are welcome.

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.

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.

Childcare/Preschool Open House

Joy Preschool and Childcare is a children’s ministry of Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church LCMS – Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. It includes preschool, child care and school-age care for children ages 33 months to 5 years and grades K-4.

The open house will be held on Sunday, March 6, 2005 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. Come and worship with us at our 9 a.m. Divine Service or the 11:15 a.m. Hmong Divine Service. Sunday School is at 10:10 a.m.

Bethlehem Lutheran is at 655 Forest St., St. Paul, MN 55106. For more information call (651) 771-6982.

Take a Hike

Dayton's Bluff Take a Hike meets on the first Saturday of every month at 10:30 a.m. in Indian Mounds Park at Earl Street and Mounds Blvd. Join us on March 5th for the next hike.

We hike from Mounds Park through Swede Hollow Park and then walk the length of the Bruce Vento Recreational Trail 1 mile, and to Phalen Park.

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

The paved trail runs from East 7th Street and Page Avenue through Swede Hollow to Phalen Park. For more info, call 776-0550.

Gardening Workshop

Take thyme for herb & container gardening. Green Dayton's Bluff is offering a free Herb and Container Gardening Workshop on Thursday, March 10, 2005 at 6:30 pm in the Community Council offices, 798 East 7th Street. The instructor is Mary McPadden Lesar, a former Master Gardener who lives in Dayton's Bluff. She will let you know all about it.

Learn how to care for herbs and use them in enhance your cooking. Learn how to mix and match herbs, flowers and other plants to make interesting container gardens. To register for the workshop call Karin at 651-772-2075.

Jumpin' Jehoshaphats Concert

The Jumpin’ Jehoshaphats will present a gospel and jazz concert on Sunday, March 13, at 7 p.m. at Mounds Park United Methodist Church, 1049 Euclid Street (at Earl). There is no admission fee, but a freewill offering will be received for mission projects. All are welcome. For more information, please call 651-774-8736.

Grocery Give-Away

A Grocery Give-Away will take place on Saturday, March 19 from 10:30 a.m. to noon at Mounds Park United Methodist Church, Euclid and Earl. Free produce, dry goods and bread items will be given to anyone who can use them. No registration or sign-up is necessary. Sponsored by United Methodist churches on St. Paul’s East Side. The Grocery Give-Away takes place on the third Saturday of every month.

Swede Hollow Cafe Book Chats

Friday April 15, 2005, 7 pm, Sheila O'Connor will read from her novel, Where No Gods Came. This winner of the 2003 Michigan Literary Fiction Award for original novel is a candid portrait of the unlikely faces of good and evil, and how an innocent must learn to recognize them to endure.

Friday May 20, 2005, 7 pm, Brian Malloy will read from his novel The Year of Ice, an artist's written portrait of a young man coming to terms with the world. The story is darkly brilliant, treacherously funny, and absolutely convincing. Malloy's poignant, quietly effective debut evinces plenty of talent in addition to a razor-sharp comic touch.

For more information call Dayton's Bluff Community Council at 651-772-2075. Sponsored by District Four Dayton’s Bluff Community Council and Swede Hollow Cafe. Thanks to District Four Dayton’s Bluff Community Council, Arts and Culture Committee for arranging this opportunity.

Discount Compost Bins

Ramsey County is again offering backyard compost bins at a reduced price of only $30 (an $80 retail value). The offer also includes a 2-gallon closeable bucket for temporary collection of kitchen waste, and composting instructions.

There are two ways to reserve a bin and participate: 1) Online orders are taken at www.GreenGuardian.com or, 2) telephone your order in by calling 651-292-3933. Payments will not be accepted at the time of ordering.

Bin pick up is at the Minnesota State Forest Service's central site.

First Lutheran Church

403 Maria Avenue
St. Paul, MN 55106
651-776-7210
1 block N. of Metro State

First Lutheran Church

Good Friday Service - 7:30 a.m.
Maundy Thursday - 6:00 p.m.
Easter Sunday - 8:00 & 10:15 a.m.
Evangelical Lutheran Church LCMS - Bethlehem Lutheran

655 Forest Street
St. Paul, MN 55106
776-4737

Corner of Forest & Margaret

Palm Sunday (March 20)
9:30 - Divine Service in English
10:10 - Family Sunday School
11:15 -Divine Service in Hmong

Maudy Thursday: 7:00 pm
Good Friday: 12:00 noon
Easter Sunday: 7:30 - Sunrise service
8:30 - Easter Breakfast
10:00 - Festival Service

Lutheraus Condominium Lofts at 800 East 3rd Street is being transformed into condominiums and will be featured on the 2005 Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Home Tour May 7 and May 8.

2005 Home Tour

The 2005 Dayton’s Bluff Neighborhood Home Tour will be held on Saturday, May 7 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Sunday, May 8 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. The tour is run in conjunction with the Minneapolis-Saint Paul Home Tour sponsored by the Minneapolis Neighborhood Redevelopment Program. The Dayton’s Bluff tour will include beautiful homes and buildings.

The Home Tour is an excellent opportunity to relive the history of Dayton’s Bluff while learning about the community that exists here today and getting a glimpse of what it will be like in the future. We are looking for people to help with the home tour. If you are interested in helping with the tour call Karin at 651-772-2075.

List your church in the Forum Directory, call:
651 772-2075
Irish ‘Ceili’ Returns!

by David Murphy

St. Patrick’s Day comes early to Dayton’s Bluff. Back by popular demand, St. Paul’s favorite Irish band Barra returns to the Mounds Theatre this March, once again presenting a traditional Irish ceili.

It all happens on Sunday, March 5th at 2 o’clock in afternoon at the Mounds Theatre, 1029 Hudson Road. Tickets are $7.00 in advance, $8.00 at the door. Children under 12, accompanied by adults, are free. This concert is being held as a fundraiser for the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council.

The band features Katie Oberg (vocals), John McCormick (accordion and bagpipes), Deborah Martin (fiddle), Paul Garding (guitar-sitar-vocals) and Dave Cunnuck (bodhran, tinwhistle, accordion and step dancing).

This ceili is being held in conjunction with the St. Paul Celtic Connection - the Celtic Event of 2005!! As part of this event, the Mounds Theatre will also host workshops earlier in the day with John Doyle on guitar and Liz Carroll on the fiddle. Workshops are open to people with some experience on their instrument. For the fiddlers they should already know tunes. Workshops start at 11:00 a.m. and cost $40.

For more information visit http://www.minnesotafolkfestival.org/specl.html.

Dayton’s Bluff Community Recreation Center

March – April 2005 Events

800 Broadway St. Dayton 937-3855
Director: Jody Griffin
jody.griffin@ci.stpaul.mn.us

JUDO FOR TOTS
(Ages 4-6 yrs.)
Through games and exercises as the stretch, leap, and roll the kids learn the basics of Judo. Sat., March 5; 10 am-12 pm.

DINGO (Ages 7-adult) Judo builds and develops balance, quick reactions, speed, stamina, power, flexibility, endurance, and accuracy in the Judo techniques. Sat., March 5; 12:22 pm -15$/

PARENT & Tot Play Time
(Ages 5 & under) This unstructured time is for all ages! Be sure to bring your blanket & their kid’s toys to play in our gymnastics room. Mon., Wed. & Fri. 10 am - 12 noon; Free; On-going

BOYS ONLY!! (Family) Grandpas, dads, and sons, this is your day! We will build a great project and enjoy some tasty treats. Sun., Apr. 24; 1-2 pm; Fee: $5/ family

GIRLS ONLY! (Family) Grandmas, mothers, and daughters of all ages, dress in your finest for flower crafts, beadwork, jewelry, tea and treats. Sun., Apr. 10; 1-2 pm; Fee: $5/family

POPCORN & MOVIE NIGHT
(Ages 10+) Movies shown will be G or PG. Sun., Apr. 3, 6:30-8:30 pm; Fee: $3; On-going

AREA VILLAGE FAIR (All ages) Calling all fans of big and little trucks, cars and other special equipment to join us as we take towering modest Sat., Apr. 10; 1-2 pm; Free

BUTT- Q GONG This martial art, similar to Tai Chi focuses more on improvement of the individual’s health. Mon., Mar. 7; 6:15-8:15 pm; Fee $20; 8 sessions

SUMMER CELEBRATIONS
(Ages 4-14) Positive social, cultural, and community service activities, field trips, homework help & more. Tues. & Thurs. 3:30-5:30 pm; Fee: On-going

SELF DEFENSE / CHEER AMERICA
(Ages 4& up) Call 651-793-3855 for more information.

SHOREVIEW WATERSLIDE
Opening the last week in April

RAYMOND DAVIS
(Ages 5-8 yrs.) Open gym supervision. Fee: $20/month. (Ages 9-12 yrs.) Open gym supervision. Fee: $30/month. (Ages 13-15 yrs.) Open gym supervision. Fee: $45/month.

HEALTH EAST!
HealthEast from pg. 1...

‘Questionaire’ from pg. 1...
by all of us who call Dayton’s Bluff home.

To solicit your answers to that question the Steering Committee has established two formats for you to share your hopes and concerns, your ideas and thoughts about the key issues and visions for Dayton’s Bluff.

Format 1 – A Questionaire

Enclosed with this issue of the Dayton’s Bluff Forum is a questionaire that asks your thoughts and opinions on a variety of issues related to life on Dayton’s Bluff and your three priorities for the future on several broad topics.

This questionaire will also be distributed to folks through block clubs and people will also receive it in the mail – all in an effort to encourage people to take time to fill it out and return it to the District Council Office. The questionaire is also available in Spanish and Hmong at Dayton’s Bluff District Council Office, 798 E. 7th St.

Format 2 – Neighborhood Meetings

A series of neighborhood meetings will be held this spring to give folks an opportunity to identify the issues people would like to see occur over the next ten years in Dayton’s Bluff. Watch for more information on these sessions.

In addition to these neighborhood meetings, sessions are planned with the major institutions, businesses, faith organizations and schools in Dayton’s Bluff. The Steering Committee also plans to survey youth that live and attend school on Dayton’s Bluff.

The future direction for Dayton’s Bluff is in your hands - if you don’t want to work – then others from outside our neighborhood will direct the future of your neighborhood.

Lend a neighborly hand in the task of directing our neighborhood’s future. Fill out and return the questionaire and then join with your neighbors to chart a course for the future of this place we call home – Dayton’s Bluff.
Chapter 6: The Beginnings of a Community

From the 1870’s through the early 1880’s, Dayton’s Bluff began to form itself into a community. Land further away from the water was developed into a mixture of homes, businesses and workplaces. The foundation being laid for full neighborhood development was to be laid in the ensuing era.

Many of the changes were spurred by changes and improvements in the transportation system. The building of railroads into Minnesota from Chicago and Iowa brought economic development to the state. St. Paul and its local communities also began a spillover effect because of the new commerce that was expected to be generated.

Tracks were laid in the 1870’s from downtown to the northeast, along the bed of Phalen Creek. Factories began to be built along the route. One of the most important workplaces was the Harvester Works that moved into the area around today’s East Seventh and 19th Street on Parkway in 1875. They made farm machinery that now could be shipped out by rail.

A nother effort that improved transportation was the building of a bridge from downtown across a deep ravine and wetlands to the East Side. Making the community less isolated than before, the 1,900 foot long bridge was built over the Lake Superior and Mississippi railroad track and Phalon’s Creek with a long hill on Fifth Street where we walked up the hill. In the winter we used a comfortable wooden sleigh, which had been made for us and always having a rewarding ride. The evenings were filled with picture books, while some fingers were adjusting the height. The evenings were warmed by the large coal stove. We could give him an empty basket with something should be done to find the school facilities for pupils out on the long wait to get home. But the principal and the principal. According to the book was Dayton’s Bluff and also out near the home of Supreme Court Justice McLean’s School’s small building was adequate and recommended that “Eichenwald,” after his boyhood home in the old country. The two story frame dwelling cost $7,500 dollars, a high cost at the time. Other homes, several owned by Irish families, were modest or low priced. Daniel Egan put up a $2,200, two story frame dwelling on Fourth Street. James O. Farnell built a two story frame structure on 5th for $1,800. Over in today’s Mounds Park area in 1871 “Mr. Rother, Dayton’s Bluff,” constructed a two story frame dwelling for $2,500.

Working families often had trouble getting mortgages from banks. Starting in the 1870’s they often turned to self-help groups, such as the cooperation building societies. These organizations, very popular among the Germans, loaned out money to assist artisans own their own home. If a family settled in Dayton’s Bluff, small businesses and other institutions began to develop. Children needed education, so in 1871 McClean’s School was built on Conway between M aria and Bates. In 1873, Miss Ellen Cathcart, an Ohio native, was a teacher and the principal. A cording to the school directory, she boarded nearby on Hoffman—today’s Mounds Boulevard.

By 1880, the school board says that McLean School’s small building was adequate and recommended that “something should be done to find school facilities for pupils out on Dayton’s Bluff and also near the Plow works.” In a few years Van Buren Elementary would be built. The old school, with an addition, still stands at 695 Conway and was the boyhood home of Supreme Court Justice Warren Burger.

A Pioneer Press article at the end of 1882 said that new lumber yards and large dwellings were being placed along the railroad tracks in Dayton’s Bluff. “The earthen ware and terra cotta works opened in the last few years,” the article stated, “has resulted in a great increase of the development of the city during the coming year than were erected in that just closed.”

In the 1880’s, The Industries of St Paul, featured several Dayton’s Bluff businesses. One of them, The M innnesota Terra Cotta Lumber Co. was located at “Post’s Siding,” a name owned by a small railroad depot near today’s 7th and Earl. It produced a unique material that was lighter than just anyway but brick. The enterprise, later called Hamm’s, was the largest in the city in the 1880’s, with a daily capacity of 60,000 barrels a year. Seventy-five employees kept fifteen to twenty wagons going each day.

As I Remember... Little Glimpses of Life

by Marie Willis Claseen

There were elm trees planted along the street. They grew well. A picket fence outlined the property. Inside of the fence lilacs flourished, from the house down the line of the garden, the fence outlined the property. Inside of the house, once located on the street that was named W eichenwald, after his boyhood home in the old country. The two story frame dwelling cost $7,500 dollars, a high cost at the time. Other homes, several owned by Irish families, were modest or low priced. Daniel Egan put up a $2,200, two story frame dwelling on Fourth Street. James O. Farnell built a two story frame structure on 5th for $1,800. Over in today’s Mounds Park area in 1871 “Mr. Rother, Dayton’s Bluff,” constructed a two story frame dwelling for $2,500.

The Last of an Era

by Karin Dupal

The Hamm twins, Marie and Theodora, granddaughters of Hamm’s Brewing Co. founder Theodore Hamm, died in 2004. Their father, William Hamm, ran the Hamm’s Brewery Company for most of his adult life. William Jr. (died in the 1970s) and William Sr. (died in December of 2004) were identical twins born in the early 1880s near today’s southeast corner of Mounds Blvd. and East 7th. They grew up, went to college, later got married and raised their families. In the 1890s they both had small businesses. William Sr. lived on the same street in Wayzata. He opened a boatyard. William Jr. started the Hamm Memorial Hospital. In 1950s the Hamm family started the Hamm Foundation. They also supported the mental health project at Saint John’s University.

Marie and Theodora thought of their family’s past. They had sold for the same price. “How is that for high?” the paper commented. Typical of “walking cities” throughout the country, the housing in Dayton’s Bluff was mixed. There were spacious homes, especially overlooking the River and on the top of hills. But there were also homes designed for middle and working class families.

The 1870 and 1871 newspapers listed some of the new construction. One of the most elegant was that of German immigrant John Keller. The house, once located on the street that bears its name was called “Eichenwald,” after his boyhood home in the old country. The two story frame dwelling cost $7,500 dollars, a high cost at the time.

Other homes, several owned by Irish families, were modest or low priced. Daniel Egan put up a $2,200, two story frame dwelling on Fourth Street. James O. Farnell built a two story frame structure on 5th for $1,800. Over in today’s Mounds Park area in 1871 “Mr. Rother, Dayton’s Bluff,” constructed a two story frame dwelling for $2,500.

Working families often had trouble getting mortgages from banks. Starting in the 1870’s they often turned to self-help groups, such as the cooperation building societies. These organizations, very popular among the Germans, loaned out money to assist artisans own their own home.

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By 1880, the school board says that McLean School’s small building was adequate and recommended that “something should be done to find school facilities for pupils out on Dayton’s Bluff and also near the Plow works.” In a few years Van Buren Elementary would be built. The old school, with an addition, still stands at 695 Conway and was the boyhood home of Supreme Court Justice Warren Burger.

The last of an era, the investors and friends of German heritage who had daughters... It was during their grade school years they were brought to our house on Saturday afternoons. We sewed and crocheted together, making gifts while mother read to us. Mrs. Emil Muncy, son of young people and children (she had none of her own) was interested in our group. She called us the Wreath of Rose Buds... Marie Willis Claseen lived with her husband and two children in the early 1880s near today’s southeast corner of Mounds Blvd. and East 7th.

**A Short History of Dayton’s Bluff**

by Karin Dupal

From the 1870’s through the early 1880’s, Dayton’s Bluff began to form itself into a community. Land further away from the water was developed into a mixture of homes, businesses and workplaces. The foundation being laid for full neighborhood development was to be laid in the ensuing era.

Many of the changes were spurred by changes and improvements in the transportation system. The building of railroads into Minnesota from Chicago and Iowa brought economic development to the state. St. Paul and its local communities also began a spillover effect because of the new commerce that was expected to be generated.

Tracks were laid in the 1870’s from downtown to the northeast, along the bed of Phalen Creek. Factories began to be built along the route. One of the most important workplaces was the Harvester Works that moved into the area around today’s East Seventh and 19th Street on Parkway in 1875. They made farm machinery that now could be shipped out by rail.

A nother effort that improved transportation was the building of a bridge from downtown across a deep ravine and wetlands to the East Side. Making the community less isolated than before, the 1,900 foot long bridge was built over the Lake Superior and Mississippi railroad track and Phalon’s Creek with a long hill on Fifth Street where we walked up the hill. In the winter we used a comfortable wooden sleigh, which had been made for us and always having a rewarding ride. The evenings were filled with picture books, while some fingers were adjusting the height. The evenings were warmed by the large coal stove. We could give him an empty basket with something should be done to find the school facilities for pupils out on Dayton’s Bluff and also near the Plow works.” In a few years Van Buren Elementary would be built. The old school, with an addition, still stands at 695 Conway and was the boyhood home of Supreme Court Justice Warren Burger.

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They grew up, went to college, later got married and raised their families. In the 1950s the Hamm family started the Hamm Foundation, established the Hamm Memorial Psychiatric Clinic, and the Radio Talk Book at the Minnesota Communication Center for the Blind.

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The Queen Roller Mill, which used Phalen Creek for its water power, was also owned by Hamm. Originally started in the 1860s, it had eleven sets of double rollers and made different special flours including “Queens Fancy” and “Red A’chorn.” The mill was able to handle 250,000 bushels of wheat and other grain a year.

Hamm often invited the farmers who brought their grain to the mill to stay and have a beer. This soon turned into having a meal and the decision was eventually made to have a beer garden. When the road to the brewery was widened, people started driving on the Sundays and the beer garden became a reality.

In those days, the Hamm’s Brewery was a bit distant from town, especially in the winter. They built a dormitory for single men and his wife Louise cooked them meals. Louise hired extra help with the ever increasing hotel and cooking. Finally, the company started selling nearby land to workers so they could live near their job, helping increase the community’s population.

One of the first things new residents did was to start churches. One of the earliest was “The Little Swiss Church,” formed in the late 1870’s by German and Swiss immigrants. Its official name was “Die Deutsche Evangelische Reformierten Gemeinde.”

In 1883 a church was built at Forest and Raneoy. Now in a newer structure, it is called Peace United Church of Christ. Theodore Hamm, James Hill and a Mr. Janders gave money to help build a parsonage with the condition that the women of the church bake bread every week and give it to the poor.

Some of the folks living in the area at this time did not appear to have been regular church goers. On New Year’s Day in 1884 the Pioneer Press had the headline “Murder on the bluff.” According to them, Peter Kask, known as “State Prison” Kask was killed “in the shanty he calls home, numbered 917 Hudson Avenue on Dayton’s Bluff.” The fifty-eight year old Norwegian wood sawyer was murdered by a man named Johnson who lived with him in a “16x10 shanty divided into two rooms with a shed behind.” The victim’s daughter Augusta reported the crime. “She is a domestic,” said the paper and added that she often “stops at Peter Beldis’s saloon near the brickyard.”

The early 1880’s seem to have been a real take-off point for the full development of Dayton’s Bluff. Large numbers of houses were being built and the land filled in as part of a new city-wide real estate boom.

What a Difference 20 Years Makes Dayton’s Bluff 1986-2005

by Gene Piccolo

To remember how things were on a certain date or even a particular year is often very hard to do. Time has a way of melding things together so that it sometimes seems that the way things are today are the way they have been for a long time, or at least as long as we can remember.

Even though remembering can be hard to do, the first task in planning for the future is to look back at how things were and how things have evolved over time. So when the Dayton’s Bluff District 4 Plan Steering Committee began its work last year the first question was:

What was life like on Dayton’s Bluff in 1986?

So what’s the answer? Let’s just say 1986 and the 1980’s in general were not the best of times on Dayton’s Bluff.

According to 1986 Dayton’s Bluff Report and Plan:

The population on Dayton’s Bluff had declined by over 20% from 1970-1985.

The population of the Bluff was less educated than the overall population of the city.

The median family income on the Bluff was 15% the city median income.

The manufacturing and health care jobs on the Bluff were on the decline.

Whirlpool had just recently closed, to be followed by the closing of Mounds Park Hospital, the moving of St. John’s Hospital, the closing of Hamm’s Brewery, U.S. Gypsum and the 3M manufacturing plants.

The Mounds Park streetscapes were suffering from the devastation of the first wave of the Dutch elm disease epidemic.

The housing stock was deteriorating and the number of 2, 3 and 4 unit buildings had risen to 28% of all housing on the Bluff compared to 16% in the rest of the City. Almost all of these units were in buildings that were originally single-family houses.

The Bluff was a loud and smelly place, with noise from helicopter training flights overhead and odors from factories and from the pigs Eye Waste Water Treatment Plant.

The property crime rate was 20% higher on the Bluff than the rest of the City and 40% higher for crimes against people.

The majority of streets east of Earl St., in Mounds Park and south of Fifth Street on the lower bluff were unpaved and poorly lit.

The Mounds Park streetscape - E. 7th, 3rd & Maria and Earl & Hudson were suffering – businesses were closing and streetscapes were considered lacking in appearance and vitality.

So – what has changed since 1986?

The quick answer is: a whole lot – for the better. It would be safe to say that Dayton’s Bluff is in a period of renewal and revitalization.

According to the 2000 Census, the population of the Bluff grew by 4,000 between 1990-2000.

The Bluff has become the second most diverse community within the city and is more diverse than the city as a whole.

Dayton’s Bluff has become the home of Metropolitan State University.

The Bluff is now home to a public library branch for the first time in its 50-year history.

Sweede Hollow Park has become a true urban amenity—with paved trails, native plantings, restored helical tunnel and the day lighting of a portion of Phalen Creek.

New bridges over the tracks on Arcade and Earl Streets have replaced bridges that were crumbling and even condemned as unsafe.

The Dayton’s Bluff Historic District became a reality in 1992 and has led to the restoration of countless homes on the lower bluff and the now famous Stutzman Building.

The Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary is in the midst of becoming a reality – turning the old rail yards into recreational and open space below the Bluff.

Mounds Park has been upgraded and restored – with iron fences around the historic Native American Burial Mounds, new picnic, restroom and playground facilities, native plantings and a restored pavilion.

The housing stock is being converted back to single-family homes and aggressive code enforcement initiatives have been undertaken.

The streets east of Earl, south of Fifth and a large portion of Mounds Park have been paved and lit.

The gatesways on E. 7th, Sixth and Third Streets have been enhanced by new buildings, streetscape improvements and traffic calming measures...

New housing units have been built on vacant lots – including the Fifth Street Commons development and the Johnson Brother Liquor Store site.

3M has torn down obsolete manufacturing and tank farms.

Mounds Park Hospital became Marian Consulate Office being established in Minnesota.

The crime rate has dropped significantly. The Bluff no longer has a higher crime rate than the rest of the city.

Student achievement at Dayton’s Bluff School has turned around for the first time in a decade.

The list goes on how things have changed on the Bluff since 1986. But there is a lot that yet needs to be done. The Dayton’s Bluff District 4 Planning Process now underway provides the opportunity to chart the course for the years to come.

Remember the story that people write about the Bluff in the future will be based on the work done today. Be part of the writing of the story of this place we call home — by responding to the enclosed questionnaire and by participating in one of the upcoming neighborhood meetings.

You can make a difference.
Eastside Pizza Grill is Open for Business

by Greg Cosmini

Pizza has returned to Hudson Road and we have Pat Hammes to thank for it. On December 1, 2004, Pat opened his Eastside Pizza Grill at 1047 Hudson Road in the old Monda’s location. He is renting the space from Tom Kokkaisel who owns the building and also runs Paul’s Lounge next door.

The Eastside Pizza Grill is mainly a take out and delivery business for the moment. Seating is limited to one table in the lobby but customers of both Paul’s Lounge and Mounds Park Lounge can order take out and eat at those establishments. Pat hopes to eventually open the basement banquet room, which seats about 90, for casual seating during lunch and dinner whenever it isn’t being used for banquets or other private parties.

Pat Hammes grew up in Oakdale but spent 14 years in Scottsdale, AZ where he worked as a banquet chef and food and beverage manager at some of the upscale hotels and resorts in the area. He moved back to the Twin Cities in 1997 where he worked at Alliant Food Service, selling supplies to restaurants and learning the other side of the restaurant business.

During this period he met and got to know Romolo Monda, owner of Romolo’s on Arcade St. and former owner of Monda’s on Hudson Road, and his son Jay. They encouraged Pat to finally follow his dream of having his own restaurant. And he did just that with the Eastside Pizza Grill.

Pat prides himself on having one of the cleanest kitchens in the city and using only the finest and freshest ingredients in his recipes. He is a firm believer in supporting other local businesses and buys his meat at Big Steer Meats and produce from Jerry’s Produce. He will not compromise on quality and does not use food additives such as MSG.

As the name implies, the Eastside Pizza Grill serves more than just pizza. It also has a line of sandwiches, such as Hot Dogos, Philly Steak, French Dip and Pat’s very own The Eastsider – a combination of homemade sausage, meatballs and dago served open face on Italian bread. You can also get fresh chili or the soup du jour to go with your sandwich.

Should you want a more conventional Italian meal, there is spaghetti, mostaccioli, ravioli and lasagna on the menu. For those leaning towards leafy lunches, a variety of fresh salads are offered. As our culture gets more diverse, so do our Italian restaurants. Also available are nachos, ponchos, Italian and Southwest quesadillas and Buffalo wings.

Because breakfast is the most important meal of the day, the Eastside Pizza Grill has all of the typical menu items such as eggs, pancakes and omelets, as well as the not so typical such as breakfast pizzas and burros.

With Lent now upon us, the Eastside Pizza Grill is offering baked cod and vegetarian pizza specials on Fridays until Easter.

The Eastside Pizza Grill hours are: Monday through Thursday, 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Friday, 8 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Saturday 11 a.m. to 11 p.m; Sunday 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. Delivery hours are weekdays, 11 - 2 and 5 - 9; Saturday, 5 - 9; and Sunday, 4 - 8. The delivery area includes all of Dayton’s Bluff and outward to White Bear Ave. and the Battle Creek area. Call 651-771-EAST (3278) for take out or delivery orders.

First Impressions

by Laurie Dehmel

My husband and I had been searching for a home for five months when I first entered the Dayton’s Bluff neighborhood. We had started our search in south Minneapolis in the hopes of minimizing our daily drives to work and back. After several weeks of walking through houses and shouting at each other to be heard over the airport noise, we decided to cross the river and see what Saint Paul had to offer.

We weren’t disappointed. My husband and I both fell in love with the feeling of history that pervaded Saint Paul. The city had a large number of proud old homes and brick buildings that hinted at treasures of stained window, hardwood floors, and built-in buffets and bookcases. We also saw stone structures that seemed much older than any home we’d driven past in Minneapolis. We started looking in the West 7th and Riverview/Chehokee neighborhoods, still clinging to our original idea of trying to minimize the now lengthening commute.

On a rainy day in late April, I decided to take the Mounds Boulevard exit off of Interstate 94. I turned south at Not Exactly the Ritz and meandered through the Foxlow Avenue area. I was truly surprised to see that what Dayton’s Bluff needs are affordable single-family homes for low-income people and handicap accessible homes for people with disabilities and the elderly.

Also needed are funds to help low-income families rehab and maintain some of the most beautiful historical homes in Dayton’s Bluff. Many of these homes are still in very good shape and would have sold years ago. They just need cosmetic fix ups and improvements. Folks I spoke to said that what makes Dayton’s Bluff unique and a good neighbor to downtown are its historical homes and the bluff. Many said it is in their best interest for Dayton’s Bluff Community to maintain and keep their older homes rather than seeing money go to building new developments that use cheap quality, vinyl siding with bonded wood chip sheathing underneath. Many times new developments do not fit in well with the existing historical homes, but instead, throw off the imagery of the neighborhood.

Please focus your issues, concerns and needs around crime prevention, the homeless, affordable housing for the elderly, people with disabilities, and low incomes families.

As a vital citizen of the Dayton’s Bluff neighborhood, addressing your issues, concerns and needs for this plan is very crucial. This is a great opportunity for you to make a difference for yourself and your neighborhood.

Dear Dayton’s Bluff Forum,

I thought I had seen everything in the way of creeping commercialization until mid-January. I saw that at least three different St. Paul thrift stores—one of them in Sun Ray Center—were selling “Martin Luther King Birthday Sales.” The ads included photos of the late civil rights leader.

I suppose, given what has happened to Christmas and Easter, I should not have been surprised. But I was. Wasn’t the holiday created to reflect on what King had done and to have gatherings and events to honor his memory. What is happening here is that, as the times change, we feel we have a better idea to close the stores so their employees could have participated in the day’s events? Or maybe, instead of giving price reductions, they could have donated a percentage of the sales to the Martin Luther King Center or a civil rights organization.

Maybe I’m wrong, but that’s my reaction. What do other readers think?

-- G. B. LeRoy

Letter to Editor

Dear Dayton’s Bluff Forum,

Our previously waning enthusiasm for the house search was renewed. Within one month, my husband and I were signing the purchase agreement for our home—complete with hardwood floors, high ceilings, and the original woodwork. In late June of 2004, we unlocked the door to our house and became residents of Dayton’s Bluff.

— Nachee Lee

Voice Your Concerns

by Nachee Lee, Executive Director, Dayton’s Bluff Community Council

I need you to voice your concerns and needs for the City of St. Paul’s 2005-2009 Consolidated Plan. The City is in the process of gathering and collecting inputs from the community for submission to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The Consolidated Plan is an application to HUD for Community Development Block Grants, the HOME Investment Partnership Program, and Emergency Shelter Grant funding.

The Plan will also serve as the City’s planning document for the use of these funds over the next five years. The proposed funding is estimated to be about 18 million dollars, which is already included in the City’s 2005 budget. The Plan includes proposals for housing needs, homeless needs, and non-housing community development in the city.

I would like to bring your attention that the Mayor’s 5000 home development plan concerns mostly new developments and town homes for singles and small families. I truly believe that what Dayton’s Bluff needs are affordable single-family homes for low-income people and handicap accessible homes for people with disabilities and the elderly.

Also needed are funds to help low-income families rehab and maintain some of the most beautiful historical homes in Dayton’s Bluff. Many of these homes are still in very good shape and would have sold years ago.

They just need cosmetic fix ups and improvements. Folks I spoke to said that what makes Dayton’s Bluff unique and a good neighbor to downtown are its historical homes and the bluff. Many said it is in their best interest for Dayton’s Bluff Community Council to maintain and keep their older homes rather than seeing money go to building new developments that use cheap quality, vinyl siding with bonded wood chip sheathing underneath. Many times new developments do not fit in well with the existing historical homes, but instead, throw off the imagery of the neighborhood.

Please focus your issues, concerns, and needs around crime prevention, the homeless, affordable housing for the elderly, people with disabilities, and low income families.

As a vital citizen of the Dayton’s Bluff neighborhood, addressing your issues, concerns and needs for this plan is very crucial. This is a great opportunity for you to make a difference for yourself and your neighborhood.

Please send or email your information to me by March 15, 2005 and I will compile it for submission to the city. Mailing address: Nachee Lee, Dayton’s Bluff Community Council, 798 East 7th Street, St. Paul, MN 55106. Email address: nachee@daytonbluff.org.
The Truth, the MAC, and Holman Field
by Jane Prince

As a 20-year resident of St. Paul’s Mounds Park neighborhood, I have been a big fan of the little Holman Field airport across the river from my home, bringing my son to air shows when he was young and enjoying breakfasts at the old Flanigan’s restaurant where we could watch planes take off and land.

After years of following the issue, it is clear to me that there is no cost-benefit basis for the $30 million floodwall — unless MAC is going to increase air traffic at the downtown airport. MAC staff have been willing to admit at various times that once the dikes go in, cargo traffic will be moved to Holman Field from MSP International, to free up tarmac there for commercial airlines.

In the mid-90s, a small start-up commercial airline ran two trips a day to Midway Airport in Chicago. Now MAC tells us that Holman will not be used for commercial passenger flights because they don’t have the security set-up for passengers and they don’t have a fire station on site. Both of these expenditures are tiny compared to that of the floodwall. Mayor Kelly’s zeal to help current users at the airport is not the problem, but his unwillingness to ask the tough question about airport expansion is. Indeed, how can St. Paul consider the construction of a floodwall that will lead to increased air traffic without public discussion?

The environmental impact statement done on the floodwall includes impacts on the river environment, wildlife habitat, flooding upstream in our own city, and downriver in Newport and Hastings. The project is opposed by railroads with tracks adjacent to the river. The St. Paul Riverfront Corporation, of which the mayor is a member, testified during the EAW process that the city should support the construction of the floodwall only if the MAC agrees to assist in the net cost of flood clean up at Harriet Island.

It is a crime.
Sprinkling Pink

Beauty is forever, If it lies beneath the skin, Time can’t reach to sever, That which blossoms from within.

Cheeks may crack, revealing All the decades drifted by. But there’s no concealing, What still sparkles in the eye.

by Sharyl Kaase

Several Mary Kay Independent Beauty Consultants joined forces with individuals and local businesses to adopt the seniors at the HealthEast Care Center on Dellwood Place for Valentine’s Day. A special thank you to all of the Mary Kay Independent Beauty Consultants involved with this project, and to all of the generous individuals and businesses who personally made donations to the gift bags: Maplewood Dental Associates, Dr. Grabowski, Dave Frechette, Mary Pat Cummings and family, Bakers Square, Rob Meysembourg, Key Medical Supply Inc., Maracon Health Care Center, Rider Bennett Funeral Home, Maple Oaks Funeral Home, Mueller Parkway Chapel, Phalen Park Funeral Home, Western Bank Peoples Bank, Jonathan Kijner, Jim Mulfin—Senior Financial Advisor, Lighthouse of Red Wing, Bon Gioiño Italian Restaurant, Blyert’s.

Beauty is forever, Given what should be its role. Age is not so clever, As to wrinkle up the soul.