Historic Theatre Starts Second Season

by Jefferson Fitzek

After the successful completion of its first play season, the Mounds Theatre is proud to announce that its second season will be starting in August. Once again, the season is professionally produced and utilizes a strong mix of professional actors, as well as actors from the community. The theatre prides itself in creating quality productions and, because of its unique seasons, has given “non-theatre” people a reason to experience the joy of live theatre. Here are the shows scheduled for the Mounds Theatre’s second season:

Disney’s The Jungle Book
August 18-28, 2005

The Mounds Theatre is proud to announce that it is the first theater in the nation to be granted the official rights to produce the full-scale stage adaptation of Disney’s classic animated film The Jungle Book. The production includes all the classic songs like “The Bare Necessities” and “I Wanna Be Like You.”

“Second Season” continues on page 2

Sacrificing Animals for the Human Soul

by Nachee Lee

It’s believed that long ago the Hmong people had an agreement with animals - in a time when animals and humans could communicate with one another. One day the animals asked the Hmong if they could provide them food and shelter, because the animals could not produce food to eat and build shelter in which to live. The animals then made an offer to the Hmong that if they would agree to provide these means for the animals, in return the Hmong could eat the animals and offer the animal’s soul to the spirit. In other words, the Hmong would raise the animals, provide food and

“Animals” continues on page 6

Bruce Vento Sanctuary Grand Opening

Saint Paul’s newest park, the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary, is a unique urban natural area along the Mississippi River. A former rail yard, the land has been transformed through years of hard work by Saint Paul’s East Side and Lowertown communities and a wide range of public and private partners. The park will be open to the public for this first time this spring on May 21st, and will provide visitors with a unique opportunity to enjoy the natural world in the heart of the city.

Park features include:
- Towering limestone and sandstone bluffs.
- Stunning views of the Mississippi River and downtown Saint Paul skyline.
- Incredible bird watching.
- Beautiful spring-fed water features that include three wetlands and a meandering stream with a footbridge over a two-foot waterfall.
- Walking paths for hiking and exploring.
- A bicycle trail loop through the sanctuary and soon-to-be installed link around the park that will connect the East Side to the nature sanctuary and the Lowertown/Downtown district.
- Fascinating remnants of the land’s rail history.

“Bruce Vento” continues on page 8

Cinco de Mayo Parade Beckons

by Gabriel Garbow

Cinco de Mayo is fast approaching and Dayton’s Bluff will be well-represented in this year’s Fiesta in Saint Paul. Every year, as many Minnesotans across the state prepare to plant their gardens, thousands of Hispanic people from across this state, Wisconsin and the surrounding region, prepare for the one of the country’s largest Cinco de Mayo celebrations.

Dayton’s Bluff is proud to be home to many Mexican Americans, many of whom will gather with their friends in the nearby District del Sol for the festivities. Part of our neighborhood’s contribution to the celebration comes from Chicanos Latinos Unidos En Servicio (CLUES), located at the corner of Margaret and Seventh Street. CLUES, a leading provider of social services for the Latino community, will continue its annual tradition of building a float for the parade. Community elders will be involved in the

“Cinco de Mayo” continues on page 4

Inside This Issue
Upcoming Events.............Page 2
Plant Sale and Exchange......Page 3
Community Rec Calendar......Page 3
A Brief History................Page 4
Grannie and Marble............Page 5
Walk, Walk, Walk...............Page 6
Healthcare Budget...............Page 6
Unreliaible Narrator............Page 7
$868 Million Package.........Page 7
Waterfest 2005..................Page 8

“Cinco de Mayo” continues on page 4
Eclectic Dance at Kinetic Kitchen

by Sarah LaRose

The next Kinetic Kitchen dance performance at the Mounds Theatre will showcase the choreography of Sarah LaRose, Gerry Girouard, Anja Gallagher-Syfring, Chris Schlichting and a Chen Style Tai Chi Chuan demonstration by Fred Marych.

Sarah LaRose will present "Comparatively Elastic," a modern dance work performed by LaRose and Kris Grob. Sarah began choreography for this piece while traveling with the Christopher Walken Dance Company (CWDC) to France last fall. This work is inspired by the physical and emotional experiences of emptiness and also by the music of Beethoven. Sarah LaRose is the presenter of the Kinetic Kitchen dance series.

Gerry Girouard is a long time local dancer/choreographer in the Twin Cities. He started his dance career with the Nancy Hauser Dance Company in 1983. Gerry's choreography literally and figuratively dances off the walls. He has studied Capoeira: the rhythmic, acrobatic martial art that is the predecessor of Break Dancing. This last year and a half, Gerry has been studying Argentine Tango and is incorporating it into his own dance style. He has received a Minnesota State Arts Board grant to travel to Buenos Aires this August to study Argentine Tango and its culture. He has recently received support from the Minnesota State Arts Board and the Jerome Foundation.

Anja Gallagher-Syfring presents "Tango 1890," a two-hour long telling of a relationship of love and passion. This energetic duet depicts the varying facets of a man and woman in love, followed by powerful dance duets of many of the great women. The two pieces are inspired by the music of Astor Piazzolla and portray the tension and support between two individuals and the larger community.

Chris Schlichting is a choreographer and dancer based in the Twin Cities. He is currently generating a dance work with local performers that he will fully unveil in spring of 2006. This work is inspired by biographies about several of the things we consume. Chris will present segments from the first stages of this project's development during the May 7th Kinetic Kitchen performance.

Fred Marych will demonstrate some of the traditional Chen Style T'ai Chi Chuan forms. Chen Style T'ai Chi is one of the major branches of wushu (martial arts) in China. The Yang, Wu, Woo, and Sun styles all originate from Chen Family T'ai Chi. Each of the founders of these styles was a student of famous Chen family teachers, who after years of studying transformed the original postures to form their particular style. When competing in a Chin Woo T'ai Chi Tournament, the International Martial Arts Championships in Dallas, Fred took home two Gold medals in the Chin T'ai Chi Division. Fred Marych holds the honor of membership in the International Chen Family T'ai Chi Association and is sanctioned and endorsed by Master Rene Guang-Yi to teach Chen Family T'ai Chi. He offers ongoing classes at The Center for Performing Arts in Minneapolis.

The next performance will take place on Saturday, May 7th at 8 p.m. at the Mounds Theatre, located at 1029 Hudson Road, St. Paul, MN 55106. Tickets are $10/person. Dayton's Bluff residents receive 2 tickets for the price of 1 with this article or proof of residency. For more information or tickets call the box office 651-772-2253 or visit www.moundsdrama.org.

Have You Had Your Face Painted Lately?

by J. Wittenberg

If not, perhaps you should consider hiring from the talent pool within our own rich community, who are so willing and so happy to recommend someone. It was a cold day in March when I talked to Gloria Brodersen, who claims to have a whole palette of fun things to do so happens I can recommend someone. It was a cold day in March when I talked to Gloria Brodersen, who claims to have a whole palette of fun things to do so happens I can recommend someone. It was a cold day in March when I talked to Gloria Brodersen, who claims to have a whole palette of fun things to do so happens I can recommend someone. It was a cold day in March when I talked to Gloria Brodersen, who claims to have a whole palette of fun things to do so happens I can recommend someone.

Assassins at the Mounds Theatre

Sky's the Limit Productions will be presenting Steven Sondheim's darkest and strongest musical comedy Assassins at the Mounds Theatre in May. This is the full-length version of their 2004 Fringe Festival production. Assassins explores the presidency of historical assassins, assassinations and assassination attempts in America, for John Wilkes Booth as the way up to John Hinckley, Jr.

**SCHEDULE:**

- **Saturday, Thursday & Monday, May 12 - 14:** 7:30 p.m.
- **Sunday, May 15:** 2 p.m.
- **Monday, May 16:** 7:30 p.m.
- **Thursday, Saturday & Monday, May 19 - 21:** 7:30 p.m.
- **Sunday, May 22:** 2 p.m.

Tickets are $15.00 for adults and $10.00 for students/children. The Mounds Theatre is located at 1029 Hudson Road, St. Paul, MN 55106. Contact us at 651-772-2253 or visit www.moundsdrama.org.

Celebration of Art

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church presents the "Celebration of Art" on Saturday, May 14, 7:00pm. This service will combine music, drama, and visual art to celebrate the transforming power of the Holy Spirit, featuring adult and children's choirs and Texas artist, Natalie Rabenberg. A freewill offering will be received. Our Saviour's is located at 674 Johnson Parkway, St. Paul. For information, call 651-774-2396.

Expanded Hours

The Dayton's Bluff Branch Library at 645 East 7th Street has expanded its hours to Monday through Thursday - 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday - 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Saturday - 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Mayor Kelly announced the additional hours on April 15, 2005 at the Library.

Need Recycling Bins?

You can pick them up at 798 East 7th Street at the corner of 7th and Margaret. Call 651-772-2075 to be sure someone is in the office. Recycling pickup curbside is now every Tuesday. Have your recycling on the curb by 7:00 a.m.

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

May 2005

[Page]
ANNUAL HOME TOUR

The 2005 Dayton’s Bluff Home Tour will be held on Saturday, May 7th from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, May 8th from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., who offer the Minneapolis - St. Paul Home Tour sponsored by the Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) and Saint Paul Planning and Economic Development. The Home Tour is free of charge and open to the public. The Dayton’s Bluff homes on the tour this year are: 800 East 3rd Street, 657 & 661-3 East 5th Street, 243 Maria, 182 Mound Boulevard, 411 Eichewald Street, and 574-584 Payne Avenue. Look for the Minneapolis/St. Paul Home Tour brochure inserted in this issue of the Dayton’s Bluff District Forum.

HOME PRESERVATION EVENT

Want to learn more about repairing and preserving your historic home? Curious about the extensive rehab project your neighbor has taken on? Metropolitan State’s Center for Community-Based Learning, Dayton’s Bluff District 4 Council Community, and the Dayton’s Bluff District of the St. Paul Public Library are co-sponsoring a special event for Preservation Month this May. On Thursday, May 5, from 6:30 to 8 p.m., please come and hear about historically sympathetic home preservation and repair. Dayton’s Bluff is a historic district, and many neighbors have had extensive experience preserving and repairing their historic homes. Some of these neighbors will be on hand to speak about their homes and show before and after images. Have a historic home you want to preserve and research and don’t know where to start? Staff from the Central Library will talk about researching your home and its previous owners in the library. We will also hear from experts in 5:00 p.m. to offer technical advice, assessment, and hand-to-find classes such as historic masonry. Questions will be answered, and the event will take place in the Ecolab Community Room, third floor of Metropolitan State University’s Learning and Learning Center, just east of the intersection of Seventh and Maria. For more information, call Rebecca Ryan, 651-793-1296.

SWEDE HOLLOW BOOK CHAT

On Friday, May 20, 2005 at 7:00 pm in the Svede Hollow Cafe, Brian Malick will read from his novel The Year of Ice. This book is an artistically written portrait of a young man coming to terms with the world. “Darkly brilliant, treacherously funny, and absolutely convincing. This is a debut to heed, a writer to cherish. Malloy’s poignant, quietly effective debut... shows plenty of talent... the author also displays a razor-sharp comic touch.”

This is the second book reading arranged by the Dayton’s Bluff Community Arts and Culture Committee.

TAKE A HIKE

If you would like to learn more about Dayton’s Bluff, join the monthly Dayton’s Bluff Take a Hike on Saturday May 7th. It starts at 10:30 a.m. at Mounds Boulevard and East Street in Indian Mounds Park and lasts until about 1:30 p.m. The group will take the regular tour through historic Svede Hollow and then visit some of the home tours stops on the way back to the starting point. Take advantage of this great opportunity to learn more about Dayton’s Bluff and meet others who share your interest.

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

DEADLINE EXTENDED FOR POSTER CONTEST

The deadline for entries is May 15, 2005. In recognition of National Night Out, Saint Paul’s Eastside District Councils will be sponsoring the annual poster contest for all ages! Our purpose is to inspire and promote crime prevention and a spirit of community that lasts the whole year. Poster Contest Theme: SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS! What does neighborhood safety mean to you? Draw a picture of what a safe neighborhood looks like to you, at home, school, or at neighborhood parks. Who can enter? EVERYONE! Be creative and design your poster using paints, crayons, colored pencils or magic markers. Posters need to be either 8 1/2 x 11” or 11” x 17”. The poster contest features four entry categories: Pre-K - 3rd grade, 4th - 6th grade, 7th - 12 grade and adults.

Every entry will receive a prize and special selected prizes will be awarded in each category after judging. Prizes will be awarded for posters in each category. All entries MUST INCLUDE name, age or category entry, gender, schoolgrade, full home address and phone number. Prizes will not be awarded to entries without this information. Entries will be returned and will become the property of contest sponsors and may be used for publicity purposes.

Bringing or sending the posters to: Dayton’s Bluff District 4 Community Council 798 East 7th Street, Saint Paul 55106 For more information call Karin at 651-772-2075.

Plant Sale / Exchange

The Third Annual Greening Dayton’s Bluff Plant Sale and Exchange will be held on Saturday, May 14, 2005 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the corner of East 7th Street and Bates in the car park outside the Svede Hollow Cafe. Plants for sale will include perennials and annuals. If you have plants in your garden that you have too many of or do not like any more, dig them up and bring them to the plant exchange and take home something you would rather have in your garden. For more information call Karin at 651-772-2075.

NEIGHBORHOOD SALE

The Dayton’s Bluff Community Council will be holding a Neighborhood Sale on Saturday, June 11. The Neighborhood Sale is from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Hamm Park, located at East 7th Street and Greenbrier. This is an open event. If you have something to sell, each family participating is asked for a $10 donation to help cover advertising and other expenses. For those who are selling items, set up in Hamm Park at East 7th Street and Greenbrier at 8:00 a.m. on the 11th. Or if you have items to get rid of and do not want to spend the day selling them, donate the items to the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council and they will sell them as part of their fundraiser.

The Dayton’s Bluff Neighborhood Sale will feature many great items for the home and family. This is a great way to clear out clutter and find new treasures. Come meet your neighbors! Call the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council at 651-772-2075 for more information.

May Events at the Community Rec Center

800 Conway St. 651-793-3885 Director: Jody Griffith, jody.griffith@c2.spauld.mun.

SUMMER SPORTS REGISTRATION

April 4-15. Late registration will be accepted where space allows. Ages 3-18. Pick up a form at the center.

SAFE KIDS FUN NIGHT - For kids ages 12 and under. The safety and fun in kids’ names isn’t kidnapping, drugs, or disease. It’s injuries. Learn ways to keep your family safe from unintentional injuries. Meet SPARKY the Fire Dog, learn what to do during severe weather, play “Be Safe Bingo!”, learn Poison Prevention, see a fire truck and ambulance, try the “pain o’ meter”, test your skill in the fire safety obstacle course, and see a demonstration on electricity. Food will be available for a small fee. Thurs., May 19, 5:30-7:00 P.M.

PARENT/CHILD SOFTBALL GAME A looking for families to start an annual event. All you need to bring is your glove. Hot dogs, chips and drinks will be available to purchase for $3. Register by May 18th, Mon., May 25, 6:45 p.m. Free.

ADULT VOLLEYBALL - Friday nights 6:45-8:45 pm. Fee: $1.

PARENT TOT PLAY - Mon., Wed., Fri., 10-12 am-11 pm; Free; Ages 0-5.

 SENIOR CARDS - Wed., Fridays; 12:30-4 pm; Free; weekly fee for the kitty.

SUMMER PROGRAMS will be out May 1. Stop by the center for a copy. Lots of great things planned! Hope to see you at the center.

Summer Classes at the Mounds Theatre

The Mounds Theatre Performing Arts Youth Conservatory (PAYC) will be offering the following classes this summer.

CREATE YOUR OWN MUSIC

August 15-27; Fee $50 Participation limited to 16 girls, ages 11 to 14 Cost of the workshop includes all supplies and lunch.

Create your own music with “Hearing Girls!” Spend the summer exploring the sounds of Indian Mounds Park! Become an expert listener as you learn how to capture sound with a microphone and then transform it into music using a computer. Invent and play your own musical instruments and create “sound art” using your body and voice. Maybe even write a musical composition for the wind and a chorus of trees!

Composer Michelle Nagai will collaborate with a group of girls to help them understand the sonic ecology of Indian Mounds Park and Dayton’s Bluff through creating, recording and listening to sound exercises. At the end of the summer, the Hearing Girls! group will present an exciting and totally original multimedia performance in the park. Each girl will contribute to the show by writing and performing music, making instruments and helping out behind the scenes. This is a hands on, performance-oriented workshop designed for girls only. No musical training or special equipment is needed. At the end of the summer, each girl will take home a folder full of notes, drawings and photos from the workshop, plus an audio CD.

Schedule: August 15 to 27 - Monday through Saturday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. August 27: Hearing Girls! Performance! This class is madly affordable by the American Composers Forum through the 2004 McKnight Visiting Composer Program.

SUMMER THEATRE PROGRAM

Fee $50 Open to students in Grades 3 through 12. Be a part of this unique intensive theatre experience. Students will not only rehearse and perform a show but each week they will explore a new component of theatre. Students will have the opportunity to work with professionals in the theater community to learn about auditioning, acting, design, vocal techniques and dance. The students will also be taught theatre terminology and how to be successful as theatre artists.

The Mounds Theatre and PAYC are proud to say that they were the first theater in the nation to be given the right to stage Disney’s The Jungle Book as part of this course. Due to high demand and limited number of spots available, actors must audition to be a part of this program. Pre-registration is not required; simply show up at the audition time you choose.

Schedule: Auditions: June 13 and June 14 from 7 to 9 p.m. Rehearsals: July 6 - August 17 from 6:30 to 9 p.m.

Eight performances of Disney’s The Jungle Book: August 18 through 28; Thursday at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday matinees at 2 p.m.

Scholarships are available for all classes through the generous support of the Target Foundation. For more information call the Mounds Theatre at 651-772-2283 or for an application form or more information.

Dayton’s Bluff District Forum Page 3
by Steve Trimbble

I recently attended the funeral of Gareth Hiebert, a long-time newspaper columnist who chronicled the city and surrounding area for three decades. He died of pneumonia at the age of 83. Under the pen name “Oliver Towne” he explored a variety of interesting and unusual people and places, including Dayton’s Bluff.

“Gary” as friends called him, grew up in New Ulm, where he got his start in journalism as a high school sports editor. He attended the University of Minnesota, where he was a campus correspondent for the Dispatch, a paper he joined full-time before joining the military in 1942. After a stint with the Army Stars and Stripes magazine, he returned to St. Paul, raising a family and serving as assistant city editor.

Hiebert was also a colleague of mine at Metropolitan State University where he offered a class in Twin Cities history. I sometimes team taught the course with Gary. So I have decided to do something a little different this month. Instead of writing another chapter in the continuing saga of Dayton’s Bluff, I’ll get back to it in June, I’m going to share portions of some of Hiebert’s descriptions of our neighborhood.

Some of his work has recently been reprinted by a local publisher and the original books he wrote are available at the library. I happen to have an extra copy or two of the artimails and am willing to send them out to any two readers who send in their own memories of Gary Hiebert or any of the places included in this article.

It is not generally known, I suppose that the last battle of the Revolutionary War was fought in St. Paul 67 years ago in front of a house at 258 Bates, on the East Side...

They called it the Noble riot and it occurred on July 4, 1892.

Percival Noble, an Englishman, lived at 258 then and determined to assert his rights in a free country by flying the British flag on a pole in front of his house.

John DeCourcy of 717 Conway... ran across the Van Buren schoolyard to protest. DeCourcy pulled down the British flag, folded it and handed it to Noble with a diplomatic protest in the name of the fathers of the American revolution.

But Noble only waited until Mr. DeCourcy had returned to his home, then he ran up the Union Jack again and cut the halyards.

Mr. DeCourcy returned, shimmed up the pole, pulled down the flag and started to slide back to the ground. But Noble was waiting with a horse whip and laid on DeCourcy heavily.

Whereupon John Morris, headwaiter at the formal dining room of the Van Buren hotel, was attracted to the scene from his house at 705 Conway. An adroit hotel bouncer, Mr. Morris stepped on Noble’s toes and punched him in the nose.

Mr. DeCourcy now reinforced by the reserves, grabbed Noble’s whip and counterattacked, driving him into the house.

The neighbors, aroused by the commotion, moved in as shock troops, tearing off parts of the porch.

It was in this atmosphere of disagreement that Paddy Hines, 721 Con-way, made a plea for law and order, and took his family to Winnipeg. Thus was the last outpost of the British empire wiped out in the United States...

Back in 1959, when the next article was penned, the railroads were still major employers and many of the workers lived in this vicinity. This now vanished landmark was the kind of unique remnant that Gary Hiebert loved. If you go to the edge of the bluff behind the Mounds Park pavilion, you can see where it once stood.

Any readers ever eat there?

“A Railroad Beanerie”

In the rapidly ebbing era of the old time railroad beanerie hotel, there remains between Chicago and San Francisco only one worth a reputation. And that is the Burlington Hotel, set on a shelf at the foot of Earl Street, just to the left of the Warner road overpass...

It has breached the space of time between the old and the new in communication, for instance. You see at once a new French-style telephone and an old-time railroad beanerie hotel, there remaining few remaining in use hereabouts. That is for special calls - incoming only, from the ‘call boy’ in the yards who summons his minions at all hours to come down and start the wheels of a fast or slow freight rolling south or west. Upstairs in the 12 box-shaped rooms holding 21 beds you will find odd-looking ropes, looped near the windows. These are fire escape ropes, swinging exits to the ground below...

The hours of dawn and 7 p.m. are the noisiest and busiest... when the railroaders swarm into the place. They climb the long stairs from the sea of red and green switch-lamps below, while wiping shaving soap off hastily trimmed faces, shuffle bleary-eyed into the glare and grope for steaming coffee cups.

“Ham and cake!” That is railroad fare...

Yard Clean Up

The compost site nearest to Dayton’s Bluff is at Sims and Frank. You can bring leaves, grass clippings and other soft-bodied plant materials. Brush and tree waste except roots can also be brought to the Frank and Sims site. They also have compost and wood chips from time to time.

Hours of operation are:
Monday, March 26th through Wednesday, November 30, 2005 (weather permitting)
Saturdays: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sundays: 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Monday, March 26th - 7 p.m.
Tues and Thurs: CLOSED


While you are at the compost site stop and talk to the attendant and find out if your efforts are paying off and helping people for the last 10 years.
icy, iron ranges of a boxcar at the end of a string of freight cars. Historically, the Burlington has enjoyed a tenure of more than 50 years on the East Side.

The Burlington enjoys one more distinction that few other hotels in American claim. If you stand on the lawn in front, it is possible to see every form of transportation known to man—the planes at Holman field, trains, boats in the river, cars, buses, trucks, people walking, bicycles and motorcycles.

At every room comes with a view.—from Gary Hiebert, Once Upon A Towne.

Although the street is now paved, the segment of Point Douglas Road described below in a 1958 article is still there. The dead end mentioned is across from today's Obb's Bar. One thing Hiebert did not mention is that Point Douglas is itself a remnant of the old Territorial Road which snaked across Dayton's Bluff in the 1850's.

"Bricks and Opera"

I drove down a winding stretch of old brick paving on the East Side of the city the other day. And there would be those who scoff at the idea that a row of bricks could spawn even the haze of a memory.

But there is more than one along Old Point Douglas Road, as it runs like a meandering stream from Hudson Road near Earl, to a dead end at Burns and Clarence.

It was St. Paul's most imposing entry to its present status....

There is only one mark of its former glory—at the Burns and Clarence intersection. An ancient highway sign with arrows, and one which reads—Hastings 19 mi.

Written in 1958, this Hiebert column looked at the history of one of the oldest residences in St. Paul. It is still standing, though greatly remedied, on Mound Street just off Mounds Boulevard and is now the Mount Park Rest Home. To get a sense of its architecture, it is best viewed from Batare Street below. The article below is a shortened version:

"Captain's Roost on Mounds Park"

It was on one of those April-like December afternoons before Christmas that Ary Scheffer and I went back to review the strange but fascinating history of his old home, a stately, 19th-century fortress that has commanded a stirring panorama of the city and valley for more than a century...it stands, a sentinel of grandeur up there near the peak of the ridge leading into Mounds Park.

A Commodore Davidson built the place in 1856. Like a lot of other steamboat captains and nautical persons who built houses along the Mississippi, he put this place at what he considered to be the best possible vantage for looking at the river. In addition, Commodore erected on the roof a glassed-in pilot house...

1872, the house, having fallen into run-down times, became part of a newspaper raffle and Dr. J. H. Murphy, well-known St. Paul physician got it for a five dollar bill.

The Scheffer reign began in 1886 and lasted until about the turn of the century. It was during that period that the yard boasted a fountain and artificial lake and a long, winding gravel driveway.

It was a wonderful place in which to grow-up, says Ary, referring to his own childhood and that of his four sisters, one of them the late Mrs. William Hamm, Sr. of the brewing company.

But the panic of the late 1890's took the house out of Ary's life and it took an erratic course until the early 1940's when Mrs. Evans moved in and restored to its present status....

And I think this is one of the reasons the house holds so much fascination for me. I have written about many an old building and landmark, but usually in a minor key, observing the demise or fall.

Not so with the old dowager up there on the bluff, who wears her pride as jauntily as any new home of style finished in the city within the last month.

—Gareth Hiebert, St. Paul is My Beat.

More Variety in the Cities

The Twin Cities premier variety show is once again bringing its family-friendly live matinee performance to the Mounds Theatre on Saturday, May 14 at 2:00 p.m. This month's performers are magician Don Campbell, jugglers In Capable Hands and physical artists Kirsten & Renee. Don Campbell is a retired orthopedic surgeon who presents the cutting edge of classical magic with unusual twists and turns. Psychotic overtones and a layer of comedy create an enjoyable magical experience.

In Capable Hands is a zany, classy, sophisticated, clever, inventive and extremely diverse mixture of juggling and musical theater. Coming from the varied backgrounds of circus and musical theater, the comedy duo of Steve Russell and Kob Shaw is a two-person vaudeville extravaganza.

Kirsten & Renee present an unusual and highly entertaining combination of mime, dance and comedy. Kirsten attended the Marcel Marceau School in Paris and furthered her studies with Karl Margolis in Minneapolis. Renee also studied with Karl Margolis and has a B.A. in theater from Jacksonville State University.

Tickets are $10 for adults and $6 for children—with special family pricing for more than one child. Check www.wildtheater.com for details.

The Mounds Theatre is located at 1029 Hudson Road, St. Paul, MN 55106.

For more information call the box office at 651-772-2253 or visit www.moundstheatre.org.

Brewing Beautiful Granite and Marble

One of the businesses in the former Hamm Brewery complex is Saint Paul Marble Company owned by Mark Sciamanda. The company fabricates interior elements such as countertops and architectural embellishments out of marble, granite and slate.

His work has been featured in the Architectural Digest. He has installed marble and granite in homes and businesses all over the metro area and recently installed beautiful Royal Blue Pearl granite counter tops in one of the old Hamm family homes on Dayton's Bluff.

Mark installed tile for many years before getting into the marble and granite business. He had always liked the look of marble and granite products. So when Drake Marble went out of business, Mark purchased much of their stock. He stored the stone in garages in Minneapolis before moving into the Hamm's Brewery complex where he now has his workshop.

Mark has two employees and they work on commercial as well as residential projects. They do extra touches such as hand polishing the surface of the stone and finishing the under edges to give it a smoother finished look.

Want to learn more? Call Mark at 612-812-1222.

Volunteer Opportunity: Social Services Assistant

Make a difference and impact your community by supplementing agency staff in the provision of services. Duties to include: assisting with clerical/administrative duties, locating vendors or community resources, conducting and documenting home visits, and assisting staff or clients with form completion.

If the volunteer is placed with a Child Protection Unit: monitoring supervised visits between children and their parent(s). Volunteers must be at least 18 years of age.

Contact Ramsey County Community Human Services—Volunteer Services at 651-266-4090 for additional information or e-mail to volunteerServices@co.ramsey.mn.us.
VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:

We are seeking caring and compassionate individuals of all ages and from groups to spend some time with clients. You must have or be available to make a commitment to volunteer at a minimum of one hour/week for at least six months.

- **Healthcare Providers:** Volunteers are needed to provide healthcare services to clients who are unable to pay for their care. Volunteers can provide healthcare services such as nursing, physical therapy, and social work.

- **Mental Health Volunteers:** Volunteers are needed to provide mental health services to clients who are struggling with mental health issues.

- **Social Services Volunteers:** Volunteers are needed to provide social services to clients who are in need of assistance with daily living tasks.

- **Cleaning Volunteers:** Volunteers are needed to provide cleaning services to clients who are unable to do their own cleaning.

- **Transportation Volunteers:** Volunteers are needed to provide transportation services to clients who are unable to drive.

- **Childcare Volunteers:** Volunteers are needed to provide childcare services to clients who are unable to provide childcare.

- **Home Maintenance Volunteers:** Volunteers are needed to provide home maintenance services to clients who are unable to do their own home maintenance.

- **Cooking Volunteers:** Volunteers are needed to provide cooking services to clients who are unable to cook for themselves.

- **Horticulture Volunteers:** Volunteers are needed to provide horticulture services to clients who are in need of garden assistance.

- **Pet Care Volunteers:** Volunteers are needed to provide pet care services to clients who are unable to care for their pets.

- **Technical Volunteers:** Volunteers are needed to provide technical services to clients who are in need of assistance with their computer or technology.

- **Business Volunteers:** Volunteers are needed to provide business services to clients who are in need of assistance with their business.

- **Legal Volunteers:** Volunteers are needed to provide legal services to clients who are in need of assistance with their legal issues.

- **Religious Volunteers:** Volunteers are needed to provide religious services to clients who are in need of religious assistance.

- **Recreational Volunteers:** Volunteers are needed to provide recreational services to clients who are in need of assistance with their recreation.

- **Other Volunteers:** Volunteers are needed to provide other services to clients who are in need of assistance with other needs.

To volunteer, please visit our website at [Volunteer Opportunities](#) and apply online. You can also call our Volunteer Coordinator at [Volunteer Coordinator](#) to discuss the volunteer opportunities and how you can get involved.
Warning: Unreliable Narrator Ahead

by Mary Petrie

That’s right. I can’t be trusted to tell the truth. And neither can you. Instead of pretending that we are anything like honest Abes, I say it’s time to stand up and admit: “truth,” as a value, is being battered about in a dangerous way.

Consider a couple of our biggest cultural collisions: Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny. Nearly every adult will jump in and justify the truth, wink and delay. Your four year old pops questions in the minivan, during rush hour. Where do butterflies come from? How do you say the word “Who?” will I go away forever? Can you promise me you won’t die tomorrow? Moms? And my personal favorite: If I’m reincarnated, how will I recognize you in your next life, Mommy? I’ve fielded all these. I stooped to magic, hidden doors; heaven and Buddha and everything reassuring wrapped together. Part of my job as a parent—as I see it—is to introduce children to the various realities and uncertainties of life when they’re ready. As one mother put it, she alters the truth a tad every time she turns the radio on. She flips the paper to hide the horrible headline of the day. We easily admit that we, as parents, omit, evade, shut our eyes; monitor, hide, delay. Much of this isn’t exactly lying. But it’s not the truth, either.

Just as some evasions may be benign, others are heinous. Match the fancy footnote to the politician: weapons of mass destruction; I am not a crook; I did have sex with that woman; I didn’t testify, that word comes to mind) or put your hand on a Bible and vow, truth is more than a moral or mundane, but a virtue to be valued, a principle to be acted upon.

Warning: Unreliable Senators

by State Senator Mee Moua

Senate Democrats accomplished one of our major goals for the 2005 session recently, passing a comprehensive capital investment package that could create as many as 6,000 jobs. Minnesota. The full Senate voted 61-3 to pass the $886 million bonding bill that had been agreed upon in a conference committee two weeks ago.

The bonding package is heavy on funding for the state’s higher-education systems, transportation initiatives and environmental projects—three areas that I believe are vitally important to sustaining the quality of life we enjoy in Minnesota.

Education

The state’s higher education institutions have been hit very hard by budget cuts in recent years, and many are resorting to tuition hikes and fee increases to stay competitive. The bonding bill dedicates $10.9 million is secured for the renovation of construction-trades space at St. Paul College.

Transportation

Four transportation projects funded in the bonding bill will directly benefit the East Metro area. Combined, the projects will work to bring us dramatically closer to the goal of having an expanded, efficient transit system available in our neighborhoods.

I was the chief author of legislation designating money for the Central Corridor Transitway, so I am very happy that it will be built at $5.25 billion, rather than the $20 billion that some have predicted. The bonding bill. The Cedar Avenue Bwayway project also will receive $10 million, and the transitway $30 million to expand the Red Rock Line Corridor Transitway. Finally, the Phalen Corridor will receive $14 million.

Metro Parks

Metro Parks are granted a substantial amount of money in this year’s bonding bill, which will help enhance our city’s public spaces and the thriving environment in which Minnesotans are so proud. Specifically, Raspberry Island will be receiving $4.6 million and Des Moines Park will get $388,000 toward renovation and clean-up efforts.

Disappointments

As good as this news may be, I am disappointed to see that the major parks—Como Zoo and Henry Park—did not receive capital investment dollars. Both of these park areas have statewide significance and reach far beyond just local residents. Henry Park, in particular, is part of a 30-year effort by the State of Minnesota to protect bluffs and shore land that, along with Port Crosby, covers more than 70 miles and 54,000 acres.

The state dedicated this land as a Critical Area to preserve a valuable state resource, and I have been working for several years to ensure this area remains protected. Unfortunately, because funding was not included in the bonding bill, the state missed its last opportunity to designate the area as regional parkland. This means developers can go forward with plans to build on the land and we now risk the potential loss of a very important piece of our environment.

Another provision of the bonding bill that disappoints me is the Holman Field-Wood-protection project. This was not a priority of the St. Paul legislative delegation because many of our constituents told us they did not approve of building a floodwall around the airport. But despite the interests of most St. Paul residents, the Holman Field project received $1 million in the bonding bill—money that perhaps could have been designated to other areas such as Henry Park.

The Governor and Mayor Randy Kelly had very different priorities when it came to this project. Rather than listening to the requests of St. Paul lawmakers and the people we represent, they insisted the project be included in the final bill. Mayor Kelly went so far as to verbally threaten a member of the conference committee to ensure the success of Holman Field. Although I was encouraged by the compromise and geniality that went along with this year’s bonding process, the blatant disregard for constituent interests and legislative authority I witnessed from our mayor and governor was a truly depressing learning experience.

Other projects

Besides these local projects, the bonding bill allocates $37.5 million for the Northstar commuter rail system; $27 million for flood hazard mitigation grants throughout the state; $18 million for a new Red Lake school; $22 million for the Minnesota Zoo; $50 million for road and bridge maintenance and improvement; $84 million to expand the correctional facility in Faribault; $22 million for the Minneapolis Planetarium; and nearly $22 million for the U of M/Mayo biotech research facility in Rochester.

The spring construction season is nearly upon us, meaning that the time for getting projects started and getting Minnesota back to work is now. I am pleased we got this job done so the bidding and construction process can begin as soon as possible—this is truly a wise investment of taxpayer dollars.

If you have any questions or comments on the bonding bill or any other issue, please do not hesitate to contact me at 651-296-5285; sen.mee.moua@senate.mn; or 235 State Capitol, 75 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., St. Paul, MN 55155.
Dayton's Bluff District Forum
May 2005

"Bruce Vento" from page 1:
that will get people excited about using
this new park. The National Park Service's
John Anfinsen will be leading history and
ecology walking tours of the site, and the
Audubon Society will have banding experts
on hand to provide tips for seeing eagles,
migrating songbirds and other species that
are already using the area as critical urban
habitats. "Freddy the Flat Head Cat Fish," the
National Park Service's mascot, will
greet families and provide information on
places to visit along the Mississippi River.
The area's value as a place for bicycling
will also be highlighted. We expect up to
300 people at this festive event.

For more information on the event,
contact Karin DuPaul at 651-772-2075, or
check out the Lower Phalen Creek Project
website at: www.phalenecreek.org.

Advertise@ Dayton's Bluff District Forum
Call Karin: 651-772-2075

Dayton's Bluff District Forum
798 East 7th Street
Saint Paul, MN 55106
Phone: 651-772-2075
Fax: 651-774-3510
E-mail: KarinDD@msn.com
Monthly Circulation: 6,000.
Also available online at www.daytonbluff.org. This is a publication of Hopewell
Communications, Inc. and is
intended to provide a forum for the ideas and opinions of its readers
and to be an instrument for
developing community awareness
and pride. No material contained
in this paper may be reprinted
without consent of the author. Guest
articles and letters to the editor are
welcome and may be emailed to
KarinDD@msn.com or faxed to
651-774-3510. The Dayton's Bluff
District Forum is delivered to every
home in the Dayton's Bluff area.
If you live outside this area,
subscriptions cost $12 and may be
arranged by calling 651-772-2075.
Board of Directors: Allen Clausen,
Greg Cosimini, Robert Johnstone,
and Karin DuPaul.
Editor & Layout: Gabriel Garbow.
Next issue: June 2005.
Deadline for material: May 10.

Volunteer Writers Wanted
Dayton's Bluff District Forum. No pro-
fessional experience needed. Call Karin.
651-772-2075.

M & A Market
361 Earl St.
(Corner of Earl & Hudson)
(651) 793-5124

Western Union
and Money Transfers
Western Union Money Orders
up to $1000 only 49¢
Buy three money orders
and get the fourth "No Fee"

Marlboro $28.49/carton + tax
Winner $17.99/carton + tax

2 Liter Pop 79¢ + tax
All Brands
Expires 5/31/05

Open 7 a.m. to 11 p.m.