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SIGNs OF THE TIMES ON LOWER BLUFF

Anyone who ventured down on Maria Avenue during the month of May could tell something was going on. A majority of the homes between East Third and the I-94 sound barrier sported a homemade sign in their yard—some had two. What was going on?

It was “Sign Campaign 2006”, the brainchild of area resident Diane May, co-founder of the Lower Dayton’s Bluff Block Club. She had noticed how when spring comes, the snow melts revealing a winter’s worth of trash and the arrival cop cars. Perhaps something else more positive could bloom in the neighborhood.

A creative person, she said she “just made up the idea” of putting up signs along the street. The highly visual effort was a collaboration between the block club and an often untapped resource in our community—the kids.

Diane called up the Dayton’s Bluff recreation Center ad found that there was a teen group that had been focusing on crime issues. It turned out to be a good match.

The kids were enlisted to make the signs themselves—with a little advice. Diane knew that getting them printed might have produced a more professional look; however she felt strongly that hand made ones would give the young artists a sense of ownership and the messages would get across better if they made them up.

When Diane May talked to the teen group at the Recreation Center, she stressed that everything boils down to a need for respect. Here are some of the points Diane made while talking to the teens during the planning stage of Sign Campaigns 2006"

RESPECT YOURSELF: Don’t do illegal drugs. You shouldn’t put garbage into the body that you will throw in our communities. Don’t put drugs in the body or throw them in the street.

RESPECT OTHERS: Don’t use racial slurs or call another person other hurtful names. Everyone has good in them and it is up to each of us to take the time to see it. Do not lump someone in a category because of skin color. Remember that racism comes from all different types of people and toward all different types of people.

RESPECT PROPERTY: Don’t damage other people’s stuff. You wouldn’t like it if someone destroyed your things. A lot of kids in our neighborhood don’t realize when they remove things take rocks (a.k.a. lawn landscape material) out of another person’s yard or ride their bikes over the lawn. The kids were enlisted to make the signs themselves with a little advice.

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At this year’s “Plant Swap.”

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Many of the kids also created slogans against smoking and getting drunk.

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MN Mercury Laws Will Lead Nation

By State Rep. Sheldon Johnson, District 67B

It’s not every day that we have good news to report from the State Capitol on the environment, but recently the Legislature passed and the Governor signed the best mercury reduction law in the country in percent reduction and the number of facilities affected.

I am as proud as anyone to help lead our state in this major first step. It has taken tireless persistence to broker an agreement between utilities, environmental advocates, the Governor, and House and Senate leadership, but we have succeeded in passing legislation unanimously in the House to reduce mercury emissions from the four major coal-burning power plants in Minnesota by 90% before 2014. This bill should reduce overall mercury emissions in Minnesota by one-third.

It is critical that Minnesota take the lead on mercury emissions reductions, Minnesotans love to fish – just watch the line of trailers and canoes heading North for the fishing opener and people fishing on the banks of Lake Phalen or the fishing piers on the Mercury” continues on page 7
Dayton's Bluff Community Meeting

The next Community Meeting is Thursday, June 1, 2006 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the meeting room at the Dayton's Bluff Community Council, 798 East 7th Street at the corner of 7th and Margaret.

Bob Kessler Director of Neighborhood Housing and Property Improvement (NHPI) and Licensing, Inspections, and Environment Protection (LIEP), will be back to tell us more about the properties that were seen during the Dayton's Bluff Walk, Talk, Take Action tour.

The Dayton's Bluff Community Council holds the Community Meeting monthly. It is designed to work with block clubs and neighborhood residents on problem properties, including criminal, nuisance behavior and code enforcement issues as well as other neighborhood issues, concerns, and improvements.

All Dayton's Bluff residents are welcome. If you need more information call Karin at 651-772-2075.

Home Tour Successful

The weather was great and hundreds of people visited Dayton's Bluff during the 2006 Home Tour. People from all over the Metro area and even a few people from out of state visited Dayton's Bluff, and marveled at the beautiful houses and great people in our neighborhood.

Homeowners mentioned that they were very happy about meeting neighbors who they did not know before the Home Tour.

The Minneapolis – St. Paul Home Tour is a project of the Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) and the City of Saint Paul. We were very happy to be able to part of the home tour again this year.

Thanks to everyone who helped make the Home Tour a great success.

We are looking for homes to be on the tour next year. If you have any ideas call Karin at 651-772-2075.

Dayton's Bluff Gala

By Raeann Ruth, Executive Director, The Portage for Youth

Baseball season is in full swing! And Minnesota Twins catcher Joe Mauer and Saint Paul Mayor Chris Coleman would like to invite you to attend a baseball game for the benefit of a great cause - the at-risk youth served by The Portage for Youth.

The event is the Portage for Youth's "Grand Slam Gala" held in conjunction with the July 17, 2006 Minnesota Twins game against the Tampa Bay Devil Rays. We'll begin at 4:30 p.m. with food, live entertainment, free-t-shirts and special guests at the picnic area outside the Metrodome then continue inside the Dome with more festivities and (we hope) a win for the home team.

One lucky gala attendee will even be throwing out the first pitch! First pitch honors will be determined through a drawing among gala ticket buyers who sign up by June 15th. Drawing will be limited to the first 500 people. Odds of being selected to throw out the first pitch are 1-in-500.

The Portage for Youth, located in the Mounds Theatre in Dayton's Bluff, is an after school and summer enrichment program for girls ages 8-15 in Saint Paul. The Portage provides academic support, educational, and personal development programs for at-risk girls as an alternative to gang involvement, drug use, teenage pregnancy and crime and violence prevalent among youth in the neighborhood.

Tickets make a great gift, family outing, or performance award for your business employees. You'll be helping youth, hanging out with friends and family, and having a great time!

Right now 500 tickets for lower reserved seats are available at $45 apiece but they are going fast! For more information or to register yourself, your family, or your employees - call the Portage at (651) 772-8674, email grandslam@theportage.org, or visit the Portage's website at www.theportage.org.

This event is made possible through the generosity of the Pohlad Family Foundation and the Minnesota Twins.

Dayton's Bluff Garden Tour

Greening Dayton's Bluff is planning a number of walking garden tours in Dayton's Bluff this summer. Generally ten to fifteen Dayton's Bluff people go on the tours looking at the beauty and getting new ideas for their gardens. If you would like to have your garden on a tour or have one of these tours in your area call Karin at 651-772-2075.

Neighborhood Sale

The Dayton’s Bluff Community Council will be holding a Neighborhood Sale on Saturday, June 10. 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. Each participating family with something to sell 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 and Greenbrier is at 8:00 a.m. on the 10th. Or if you have items you want to get rid of and do not want to spend the day selling, donate them 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.

Calling All Girls

By Raeann Ruth

Do you get home from school, what do you do for fun? Do you watch TV or sit and play mindless video games? If these are two of your major activities and you are bored, why not join us at the Portage for Youth, an after school and summer program for young women in the Dayton’s Bluff neighborhood for the past 11 years. We offer classes in mask making, music, theater, computer and much, much more.

The classes meet between 4 and 6 p.m. daily at the Mounds Theatre, located at 1029 Hudson Road in Saint Paul and they are free. To participate you just have to be within walking distance of the theatre or have a ride to and from classes.

If this is of interest to you and you’re "bored senseless" with your normal after school routine, please give us a call at the Portage at 651-772-8674 to register for classes.

If you would like to find out more about the Portage for Youth as well as the Mounds Theatre, please visit our websites at www.moundstheatre.org or www.theportage.org.

Dayton’s Bluff Garden Work Day

A work day is planned at the Hamm Woodland Gardens. It is located near the working lot in Swede Hollow Park at Greenbrier and Margaret. Friends of Swede Hollow are looking for volunteers to help with weeding, planting and clean up in the garden on Saturday, June 3rd starting at 9 a.m.

The woodland garden started about ten years ago when Friends of Swede Hollow began removing tons of Buckthorn from the site. The garden was mapped out and over two thousand dollars worth of native plants have been planted in the gardens.

The garden is on the site of the Hamm family home at 671 Greenwood. The Hamm family's first fire was in 1954. The Hamm family operated the Hamm’s Brewery from 1865 to 1956 in the red brick buildings at the bottom of the bluff.

If you are interested in helping please call Karin at 651-776-0550.

Teacher Retires After 40 Years

Patti Jilk, who has taught kindergarten for 39 years, and has taught for Saint Paul Public Schools for 40 years, is retiring this June. I’m sure many of your readers may have had Mrs. Jilk as a kindergarten teacher. We are looking for stories about her from students and families who had her for a teacher. Contact Karin at 651-772-2075 with your stories.
it include people who don’t go to school and their messages would reach a broader audience.

A lot of spectators have commented on the attitude that came with the messages: “Racism-Don’t Think So-” and “Pick yo’ trash upppppppp.”

There are also the brutally honest slogans like “No Knives, No Guns” and “Drugs= Death.”

These kids seemed to know exactly what they wanted to say to the neighborhood. They came up with “Slow Down” with a picture of a speeding car and “Keep your noise down.”

Recreation Center director Jody Griffin, who helped out with the project, agreed that the youth in Dayton’s Bluff know what’s going on in their neighborhood. “These kids have seen so much,” and “have been put into less than ideal situations in their young lives.”

When given an opportunity to express their wants, needs, concerns and comments Jody feels the kids “are eager to have people listen and know they have a voice to make a difference. She wants them “to take pride and ownership in the Recreation Center.”

“I would definitely volunteer again,” said Diane May, “but I would definitely do things differently like paint outside and have another adult with me. Yep, messages of respect are something that cannot be emphasized too much.”

Diane also wanted to say “thank-you” to the people that made this possible: the workers at the Ramsey County Household Hazardous Waste Site for all the paint; Tom Kaysen who generously donated time and materials to make the sandwich board signs in front of the Eagle’s Club and the Children’s Safety Center; Steve Trimble for providing most of the sign boards; Sheldon Johnson and Kathy Lantry for loaning their rebar to put up the signs; Karen and Les Suzuki for loaning painting brushes and, of course, Mike May for transporting materials and copying the “Code of Conduct” forms.

A final note from Diane: “And THE BIGGEST thank you of all goes to the Recreation Center staff for all the cleaning up they had to do. Thanks and sorry the arts and crafts room was such a mess. Things will be done differently next time.”

Diane also proved that doing something like “Signs Campaign 2006” doesn’t need to have a large financial backing to be undertaken.

Her total out-of-pocket cost for the campaign was twenty five dollars. Can you think of a better use for twenty five dollars?

June at the Mounds Theatre

Starting Gate Productions finishes up its first season at the Mounds Theatre in June with the final performances of their production of *The Boys in the Band* written by Mark Crowley and directed by K. Jason Bryson.

Arguably the most significant gay play written, this groundbreaking, searing comedy-drama brought “homo’s” out of the closet and placed them center stage in the 1960s.

This play features the talents of Nickalaus Early, Andrew Fafoutakis, Moore, Matthew Vire, and Clarence Wethern, with set design by Michael Hoover, light design by Mark Webb, props by Greg Johnson, sound design by David Schliep, costumes by Kat Pepmiller, choreography by Rik Kutcher, and fight choreography by Zach Curtis.

*The Boys in the Band* runs from May 19 - June 10, 2006 with evening performances Thursdays - Saturdays at 7:30 p.m, and Sunday matinees at 2:00 p.m.

Tickets are $18 general, $16 students and seniors. Call 651-645-3503 for tickets or visit www.startinggate.org.

Volunteer Editor Needed!

Pagemaker experience a +. Call Karin @ 651-772-2075.

Dayton’s Bluff Community

Open to all members of the Dayton’s Bluff Community

Now accepting new patients, HealthEast Salud Integral is a family health clinic, caring for all members of the family.

Come visit our clinic and meet our friendly staff. Find out about the resources we have to offer, right here in Dayton’s Bluff, including onsite lab and x-ray capabilities.

Get more information about our clinicians, Dr. Sara Velasco and Julia Oulman, our certified nurse midwife.

Dr. Sara Velasco, MD, has more than 20 years of experience as a family doctor

HealthEast Salud Integral

797 East 7th Street, St. Paul | 651-326-4900

www.healeast.org

We accept almost all insurance plans.

St Joseph’s Hospital

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Pow Wow

American Indian Magnet School

Pow Wow

Friday, June 2, 2006

1 pm to 9 pm

East 3rd and Earl

Everyone is welcome

“I’ve got a new pedometer on my belt and I’m ready to count my steps. How about you?”

-Officer Jamie Sipes, St. Paul Police

Pick up your free step counter at Dayton’s Bluff Branch Library and get walking!

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A Short History of Dayton's Bluff  
by Steve Trumble

Chapter 16: The 1970's and 80's

Powerful and influential people did not stop the building of the highway. It was the neighborhood itself, because all the people who worked in downtown were waging a righteous struggle to save their home from the bulldozers. It was the first successful opposition by a neighborhood to stop construction of a highway under the new highway act.

— Ed Krahmer

A urban historians point out—and as most people already know—neighborhoods are continually in flux. While some of the characteristics of residents may remain the same, individuals leave and new people take their place. Blue collar workers or a particular ethnic group may be the primary group in an area over several decades, but different individuals will cycle through the neighborhood.

Many national developments, such as economics, building cycles and transportation impact local communities. What shapes the history of a particular neighborhood is its response to these external forces. What follows is the way in which Dayton’s Bluff dealt with the situations that faced many St. Paul communities in the 1970’s and 80’s.

Like many other urban neighborhoods in the 1970’s and 80’s, Dayton’s Bluff was going through what some planners have called “deindustrialization.” The loss of manufacturing jobs began to hit St. Paul and the East Side in the 1970’s and picked up force in 1985 when the neighborhood’s Whirlpool plant shut down. This was followed quickly by the closing of Stroh’s Brewery and by cutbacks at 3M. There was a 46-percent closing of Stroh’s Brewery and by cutbacks at 3M. There was a 46-percent

...
has also acted as a development agency. It was incorporated in 1980 and is currently located at the corner of East Seventh and A Arcade.

A resident-generated non-profit was the Upper Swede Hollow Neighborhood Association (USHNA), which began as a block club in 1981. It was an organization of neighborhood residents actively improving the quality of life of the neighborhoods near Swede Hollow.

One important neighborhood achievement of the era was the creation of the Dayton’s Bluff History Calendar, which printed its first issue in October 1982. Neighborhood people had been talking about the need for a new community newspaper for some time, feeling that the existing one was not meeting the needs of the community council or the area residents. “Voice of the Community” was published by Kay Wotais and many other hard-working residents. It lasted for several years and was one of the first neighborhood publications.

COMPAS, a city-wide arts organization, helped fund cultural workers in the neighborhood who did murals, wrote and performed plays and produced, among other things, a series of linoleum art prints of local points of interest. For four years there was also a highly regarded Dayton’s Bluff History Calendar that hung on many a kitchen wall.

The community does not have a lot of open space, and so the community has created and maintained its own parks to compensate. The Dayton’s Bluff neighborhood has Parkway Elementary. Its modernistic building replaced Bates. Its modernistic building replaced Van Buren. Sibley Elementary’s aging building eventually chose as the new location and is now an important asset for the community and the entire Twin Cities.

Like many other neighborhoods, Dayton’s Bluff went through many changes in the 1970s and 1980s. Some of them good, some not so good. But the residents were building the capacity not only to respond to problems, but to plan ahead, establish priorities and develop proposals.

One of the big announcements was that the land to the East of Field #3 had finally been purchased thanks to the fundraising efforts of many people. It will provide more room for parking, one of the biggest needs for Parkway. The concession area and the fields have also been greatly improved since last year. Mention was made of the early efforts of Harold Dahlgquist in getting the organization started. While no documentation is available, it is estimated that over 8,000 boys and girls have played in the system. Last year alone there were 195 players and this year 215 signed up so far. In 2006 there will be four T-ball groups, seven minor league and six Little League teams. For the first time ever there was a 13-year-old group made up of former little league members.

All of the team members and their coaches were named over a loudspeaker at the ceremony. There were two special awards presented to adult volunteers. One of them, Carrie Dimmick, is the group’s current vice president and has been a longtime volunteer at the concession stand. Connie Hecht, the other honoree, had anchored the concession stand for many years. She had a softball ball on all of the teams “a long time ago.”

As always, prominent folks were invited to address the gathering. Upper Swede Hollow Neighborhood Association member Kathy Lantry said she was “happy to be here today,” and was “so honored to be invited to speak at this event.” She described Parkway as “an important asset for the East Side.” Incidentally, Kathy also lost one of her favorite earrings somewhere on the grounds. So if you found something round and gold, please contact the organizers.

The special guest this year was Nick Punto, a Minnesota Twins infielder who made his major league debut in 2001. He told the players how he had started out in California, with little league baseball just like them, with “the same hopes and dreams that many of them had that day.”

He advised the kids to “play hard as you can”, but also “make sure you are having fun.” After his short talk, he stayed around to chat and sign autographs.

After the ceremonies, as might be expected, there were several hard-bouled games. So if you like to hear the cry of “Batter up!”and want to get out to a local outdoor base field this summer, drop by the outdoor stadium this summer. Every weekday evening there will be six games and two practices going on. Admission is free, so come out and help Parkway by buying a hot dog or two.

**BATTER UP!**

Dozens of uniformed kids were arranged on the fields off Third Street, just east of Earl. The stands were filled with proud parents and family members. It was a beautiful Saturday in May. The ceremony celebrated the fifty-second opening day for Parkway Little League. Before the games began, there were a few announcements by Ken Sabota; this year’s president. He reminded parents that the program is “for the kids.” The goal is “not just winning, but learning the fundamentals of the game and improving skills of everyone.”

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**BATTER UP!**
By Jason Hoelzel

“Never judge a book by its cover,” my mother has always said. This was the case when I ventured out to the East Side in search of fine, well as fine as I could afford, dining. I had gone in search of an establishment that not only epitomizes the very essence of the East Side, but also one that has been talked about for decades. As I aimlessly drove around the East Side, I suddenly remembered my grandmother often spoke of Obbs Sports Bar & Grill. So I had to go and, at least, pay homage to my grandmother’s spirit. Obbs, which was established in 1919 by the Johnsen family, is an East Side icon located at 1347 Burns Ave. As I pulled up to the bar, which is older than some cathedrals, I had thoughts of toothless patrons still clinging to the Hamm’s days and slumping bar flies watching their lives pass them by on TV.

As I entered Obbs and sat down, the bar’s owner Jim Johnsen invited me in and handed me a menu. As soon as I opened the nicely formatted menu, my mouth started to water and my stomach was no match for my eyes. At this point, I knew this was not your typical bar-food establishment. They had an extensive menu with every tantalizing entrée ranging from your typical right-of-passage bar-burger to an upper-scale top-sirloin steak dinner. They even had a section of homemade dinners for the traditionalists.

After a long indecisive process, I ordered the California burger. I felt I needed to order a meal that typified the common-era bar. While I impatiently waited for the burger to come, I could not help but notice the comforting motif that surrounded me. The wood-grain bar, the pictures of Albert Obbs and the up-to-date video games were all amenities that added to a great ambiance. There was also a nice area where a family could come and enjoy a quiet dinner. While I had been sitting at the bar writing some prep notes, people had begun to peer over and wonder why I had a pen in one hand and a pad of paper in the other. I did not have much of a formal agenda, so I started making small talk with owner Jim and bartender Casie. After a short stint of fill-in small talk, the conversation turned to the recent smoking ban. So I asked Jim if he has seen any loss in business since the ban’s inception.

“I’ve seen a 10-15% decrease in business since the ban,” Jim said. Although he feels it is too early to tell if the ban has made for a significant reallocation of funds. Jim remains hopeful that a nice patio deck and a weather-friendly summer will be conducive to bringing back some lost business. The conversation quickly turned back to odds-and-ends questions that were being batted across the bar, like a form of conversation tennis. After a few volleys, I went back to taking notes and wondering when my burger was coming.

My burger finally arrived. As I looked down at the centerfold-quality hamburger, my taste buds started to tap dance on my conscious. I picked up the healthy-sized burger and took a rather large bite. As soon as the batter-so-soft-patty formula had been introduced itself to my taste buds, it was love at first bite. I devoured the burger like a wild dingo on the Serengeti. I have never tasted a burger so fresh and flavorful. I had found burger Nirvana. Visions of ordering one-of-everything on the menu were starting to haunt me, but my wallet said otherwise. It was either pay the electric bill or eat another couple of meals; I chose electricity.

As I placed my napkin on the plate, I turned to Jim and told him how much I had enjoyed the meal and our dialogue. Obbs is much more than I had thought; it’s a place where hopes and dreams come to drink and souls stay for the music. As I got up to leave, Jim shouted, “Hey, good luck in whatever you do.” That sentence is why so many people love the Obbs atmosphere. Everyone from the owner to the cook truly does care where you have been, where you are at, and where you are going in life.

Letter From the Editor:

Dear Dayton’s Bluff,

I regret to write that I will be leaving the position of Editor at the Dayton’s Bluff District Forum after July’s issue to focus on my business: Blue Leaf Cheesecake. Working on the paper has been an often-rewarding job bringing this paper to you each month, and also nerve-wracking. I encourage everyone who reads the paper to help make it the best it can be. Contributions to whatever way you can: make a small donation of money, write an article or two (is it really that much to ask?), or apply to take over as the paper’s Editor. Contact Karin at 651-772-2075 for more information on any of the above. If nothing else, let us here at the Dayton’s Bluff District Forum know that what we’re doing means something to you. Write or email now and then with your thoughts.

Sincerely,

Gabriel Garbow

Obbs – A Diamond in the Rough

By Irene Saponara-Gottwalt

On Friday, March 17, the Dayton’s Bluff Early Childhood and Family Education (ECFE) Program parents and children went on a fieldtrip to the Minnesota Orchestra to see and hear “The Bremen Town Musicians.” All program four-year-olds and their parents were invited to the fieldtrip. Our teachers prepared us for our visit to the orchestra by teaching us about how to be good audience members and what high and low sounds sound like. We even heard the music played in our ECFE classes before our field trip.

At Orchestra Hall, we first learned about some of the instruments we would hear later. Then we played some instruments. We played the drum and a violin just our size. Did you know that bottom of the bow for a violin is called a frog? The four-year-olds got to use streamers to dance to some music. Next, we went into the hallway that connects the lobby to the concert hall. Did you know that the walls there are covered with carpeting? The carpeting on the walls helps keep the noise out of the hall when the orchestra is playing. We got to touch the carpeting.

Our excitement continued to rise as we got to sit on the actual stage of the concert hall! The storyteller introduced each instrument and the person who played it. The instrumentals wore hats that told us which animal they played in the story of the musicians from Bremen. Some of the instrumentals played a short song for one. One even played the song from Sesame Street and a song from Barney. Finally, the narrator read the story and the instruments played. What a funny story it is. The music was beautiful. We saw all the instruments up close and learned their names. Finally, we got a bus ride home. What an exciting day!

ECFE takes several fieldtrips a year. One of the many great things ECFE does is give parents and their children access to many fieldtrips and experiences. This year we got to go to a farm, to an apple orchard where we picked apples, and the Children’s Museum. If you are interested in learning more about this program, call the Dayton’s Bluff ECFE at 651-293-5343.
Walking Along the River with Bob

By J. Wittenberg

By persistent popular demand, I’ve once again taken up my typewriter at the Dayton’s Bluff District Forum, hoping to do my humble part in furthering talent, unique citizens and artistic events of our fair neighborhood. I have emerged from my long winter’s nap a more robust figure, with a slightly longer beard. Have no fear loyal readers, though I am unaccustomed now to working the beat, I shall do my utmost to find those nuggets of gold hiding in our midst. Speaking of treasure hunting, I found myself one early morning down by the banks of the mighty Miss., whereby I had the fine fortune of attracting the attention of a gentleman, who was taken with my buggy, which never fails to turn the heads of young and old alike. After exchanging the typical Dayton’s Bluff pleasantries, I learned this man, named Bob, has lived in these parts for over ten years. He claims to be a mystic, a palm reader, and something of a magician. I also discovered my newfound acquaintance was homeless, so to speak, that he didn’t have an address per se.

We walked along the river for a time, and he claimed it was dying. He told me of large Asian fish that are destroying the natural stock of the river. He claimed all the fish are full of toxic chemicals and mercury, though he said the squirrels around here are fine. “I’m living down by the river, just south of Lowertown. He claims to know many of the engineers who pass in their trains. He said those horns we hear from time to time are on his behalf. Bob went on to share his concerns about global warming, and said that those who don’t believe it, probably still believe the world is flat. “Now that it’s spring, I’m just thankful to know I’ll wake up tomorrow morning, and not find myself frozen to the ground,” Bob said.

He claimed to have ‘conversations’ with each other. This is where “the power of the Blog” comes into play. A Blog allows your customers to post comments on your site. Wouldn’t you agree that our friends have a huge influence in our buying decisions? Movies, clothes, cars, etc. - who better to extol the virtues of your business than happy customers? Also, Blogs can let you know if something could have been better.

They can help you find ways to better serve customers. Do you have the products/services they want? What about service - do they want employees? Parking lot clean? Remember, little things mean a lot.

To view some blogs go to: www.blogsport.com and/or www.blogsarama.com and search for a subject that interests you. Because they’re updated frequently, Blogs attract Google more than websites.

Blogs are used for a variety of reasons but this column will be about helping small businesses build profits. A Blog is simply a tool. In the future, I’ll discuss developing business Blogs.

Business Blogging on the Bluffs

By: Jerry Cangemi

Have you heard the term “Interruption Marketing”? It was in a book I was reading about ‘Blogging for small businesses’. It describes how marketers and advertisers have treated consumers for 50+ years. The definition: “unanticipated, impersonal and irrelevant ads hurled at involuntary audiences.” Sounds rather negative.

These days, people are overwhelmed and tend to ignore advertisements. What’s a business to do? One idea is “tap into the power of Blogs”.

I’m sure most of you are asking, “What’s a Blog?” Basically, it is a website with content updated frequently, although, they can be much more.

Blogs allow you to have ‘conversations’ with others. For businesses, “others” are customers and potential customers. Customers can even have ‘conversations’ with each other. This is where “the power of the Blog” comes into play. A Blog allows your customers to post comments on your site. Wouldn’t you agree that your friends have a huge influence in our buying decisions? Movies, clothes, cars, etc. - who better to extol the virtues of your business than happy customers? Also, Blogs can let you know if something could have been better.

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Word From the Beat

Greetings from SPPD Eastern District. This month I want to share with you two programs we are working on which may help you.

The first is a new report system called Tele-serve Reporting. When citizens call the police communications center, their call is prioritized based on the incident and circumstances. With the number of calls for service always increasing, citizens will sometimes wait up to two hours to make a report. To alleviate some of this waiting, our department has started a telephone based reporting system called Tele-serve. If you call to make a report, you may be transferred to the Tele-serve officer. A police officer will be assigned to this desk to take your reports and answer your questions 24 hours a day.

The second program is the Dayton’s Bluff Beat Officer phone program. We are working on establishing a system where you the citizen can call the beat officer directly. In non-emergency situations you can call the beat officer to ask general questions or have us stop by your home or business. We hope to have this program started by June 1st and will keep you posted in next month’s Dayton’s Bluff District Forum.

Volunteer Editor Needed!

Pagemaker experience a +, Call Karin @ 651-772-2075.

Officer J. Sipes

June 2006

Dayton’s Bluff District Forum

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We have moved our opening date due to unforeseen delays in our kitchen construction. We apologize. POP’s Family Cafe will be open soon.

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“Robberies” continued from page 1:

place at or near Metro Transit bus stops, they have been a particular concern to police because the victims have primarily been women who were walking alone and carrying a purse or bag with them. The victims reported that the suspects came to them from behind, knocked them down and stole their purses and bags. In some cases, the suspects even took jewelry right off the victims. According to the reports, no weapons have been seen by the victims, but one victim was injured by a cutting instrument during one of the incidents.

In all cases, the victims reported that there were at least two suspects involved. Another common thread between the cases is that in all instances the suspects reportedly wore hooded sweatshirts that concealed their faces. The victims were unable to give more detailed descriptions to police other than the suspects are black males approximately sixteen to twenty-five years old.

According to Eastern District Police Commander Tina McNamara, the robberies occurred between 1:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. at the victims made their way to or from home before or after a trip to work, the store or church.

The St. Paul Police Department has taken these incidents very seriously and has engaged in an ongoing investigation. Commander McNamara reported that officers immediately notified the Metro Transit Police Department. In response, Metro Transit has increased patrols from their police department and has notified drivers to be more alert when picking up and dropping off customers in the area.

Commander McNamara also reported that the police have been conducting robbery details with decoys and unmarked squad cars and monitoring bus stops.

Commander McNamara noted that these types of crimes of opportunity usually increase as the weather becomes more decent and more people spend time outside. Since warmer weather is in the forecast for the next several months, it’s a good idea to review some things that everyone can do to survive the long, hot summer.

By following some basic personal safety suggestions, you can prevent such a crime by not providing the opportunity to a suspect looking for a target. Here are some tips provided by the St. Paul Police Department:

-Tell someone where you are going, the route you are taking to get there and what time you expect to arrive.

-If possible, don’t walk alone.

-Call the police for help or an escort if you need it. Call 651-291-1111 to make arrangements for an escort.

-Be aware of your surroundings. Keep your head up and look at the people who are around you.

-Know the area you are in.

-Do not display jewelry or electronics.

-Keep an inventory of your property including make, model and serial number.

-Report suspicious activity.

-Do not carry large amounts of cash, credit cards, ATM cards, or your checkbook if you are not planning to use it.

-Drop jewelry or electronics.

-Report an inventory of your property including make, model and serial number.

-Raise suspicious activity.

-Do not carry large amounts of cash, credit cards, ATM cards, or your checkbook if you are not planning to use it.

-Carry a crime promptly with as much information as possible.

-The writer is a four-year resident of Dayton’s Bluff. You may reach her at stpaulgirl76@yahoo.com.

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