

# Dayton's Bluff DISTRICT FORUM

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September 2006

## Inside This Issue

Community Meeting .....	Page 2
Garden Tour Photos .....	Page 2
Local Festivals.....	Page 2
Church Directory .....	Page 2
New Art Exhibit.....	Page 3
Small Business Class.....	Page 3
National Night Out.....	Page 3
Heritage Award.....	Page 4
Neighborhood Cleanup.....	Page 5
St. John's 120th Year.....	Page 6
Local Law School Graduate...	Page 6
More Mrs. Jilk Memories.....	Page 6
Business Blogging #3.....	Page 6
Internship Reflections.....	Page 7
Word From the Beat.....	Page 7

## There Was Magic in Dayton's Bluff on National Night Out



Photo by Karin DuPaul

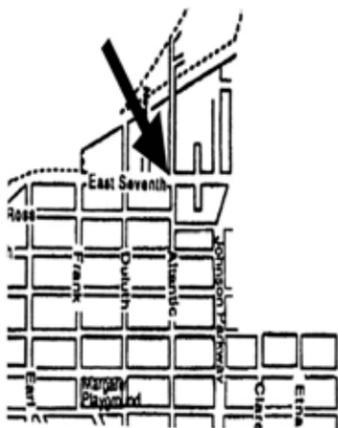
The Great Brodini (Graylyn Morris) entertains neighborhood kids with his award winning magic at the relocated Swede Hollow National Night Out event on August 1. It was held across the street from the park on a front porch due to rain. See inside for more photos of National Night Out celebrations.

## Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Cleanup

**Saturday  
September 9, 2006**

**9:00 a.m. to noon  
Ray Anderson & Sons  
North of East 7<sup>th</sup> St. at  
Atlantic and Phalen  
Corridor  
(933 Atlantic)**

**This cleanup is for  
Dayton's Bluff residents  
only.**



**See Page 5 inside for  
complete information about  
the Cleanup**

## Community Council Seeks Board Members

The Dayton's Bluff Community Council is looking for new board members. Do you want to make a difference and work on neighborhood issues? Can you attend two meetings per month, and like to meet other people working to make Dayton's Bluff a better place to live? This opportunity maybe just right for you!

Benefits of serving as a board member for the Dayton's Bluff Community Council include: you can make your voice and input count; you have the opportunity to network with other great people from the neighborhood; you can learn about neighborhood issues, participant in Dayton's Bluff Activities, and it provides a great reference for future opportunities.

Criteria for serving as a board member: Must be at least 18 years old, live or own property or operate a business in Dayton's Bluff, care about making our neighborhood better, and have interest in working on improving it. The filing deadline is September 18th at 7:00 pm.

**Election for new board members is Monday, October 16, 2006.** If you are interested in coming on board or would like more information and filing forms, please call 651-772-2075.

**Koj thiaj li yuav pab tau. Xav tau koj tuaj ua ib tug npauj.**

Lub koom haum Dayton's Bluff Community Council xav tau koj kev pab yog tias koj muaj sij hawm tuaj sab laj ob zaug ib lub hli twg, muaj lub siab pab thiab xav ntsib lwm cov neeg. Kev zoo rau yus yog yus tau ua ib tug npauj. Yus tej tswv yim thiab kev pom zoo muaj nuj qhi, muaj sij hawm ntsib lwm cov neeg zoo nyob rau ntawm thaj chaw no thiab, muaj kev kawm txog tej teeb meem nyob ntawm lub zej zog los yog thaj chaw, kawm txog kev dhia koom haum, thiab yus kuj siv tau yus txoj kev pab no mus nriav dej num lawm yav tom ntej thiab. Kev xaiv tsa ua npauj no muaj xws li: Yus yuav tsum muaj hnuv yug 18 xyoo, nyob rau ntawm thaj chaw hu ua Dayton's Bluff los yog muaj vaj muaj tsev los yog muaj lag luam nyob rau ntawm thaj chaw, muaj siab pab thiab txawj txog thaj chaw nyob, thiab yus yog ib tug neeg muaj cwj pwm zoo.

**Hnuv xaiv tsa yog hnuv Monday tim 16 lub 10 hli ntuj, xyoo 2006.** Yog koj xav tuaj ua ib tug npauj no, thov koj hu rau tus xov tooj yog 651-772-2075. Yog koj xav paub txog ntxim lub koom haum cov dej num thov koj mus saib nws hauv Internet, www.daytonsbluff.org.

El Dayton's Bluff District Four Community Council es una organización de ciudadanos que anima la participación y el sentimiento de comunidad del vecindario de Dayton's Bluff.

El Dayton's Bluff Community Council aboga por los derechos de la gente de la comunidad, da una vía de decir al gobierno los intereses de los ciudadanos e aconseja al gobierno de las cuestiones del vecindario. El Council educa al público, sin embargo él depiende de que el público colabore activamente en la definición de lo que es importante a la comunidad. Las reuniones son abiertas al público para que él pueda expresar sus opiniones. Las reuniones tienen lugar los segundo y tercero lunes del mes a las 7 p.m.

El Dayton's Bluff District Four Community Council se compone de gente del vecindario, y todos ciudadanos adultos viviendo en District 4 tienen derecho de ser miembro. Después de las elecciones, un miembro sirve durante un periodo de dos años. Cualquier persona que desea servir la comunidad debe ponerse en contacto con la oficina del Council para informarse de las elecciones próximas.

"Board Members" continues on page 2

## Dayton's Bluff Community Meeting

The next Community Meeting is Thursday, September 7, 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.

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.

## East Side to Host Annual Festival

Looking for a fun way to celebrate the fall or make "back-to-school" not feel like a bummer? An exciting new tradition, on the East Side, will kick off this September with the "East Side Family Festival." The first annual festival will be held on Saturday, September 9th from 10:00AM to 2:00PM. This will be a fun filled event that celebrates the families of the Dayton's Bluff area and its surrounding neighborhoods. Families can come and enjoy entertainment, play games, make art projects, participate in carnival activities and eat!

The idea for the festival came about from the shared mission of its two sponsor groups, First Lutheran Church and the Young Artists Initiative (YAI). Both groups have a mission of bringing families in the East Side closer together and strengthen the community and thought that an annual celebration, such as this, would be the perfect way to do it! The event is completely free and open to the public, so make sure that you mark it on your calendars. All the activities will take place on the courtyard at First Lutheran Church at 463 Maria Avenue. If there is rain, the activities will be moved into the churches banquet hall, so come rain or shine.

If you are interested in volunteering, donating your talents or if your business would like to participate, please contact the Young Artists Initiative Information line at 651-222-KIDS (5437) or First Lutheran Church at 651-776-7210.

*"Board Members" continued from pg. 1*

El Dayton's Bluff Community Council se esfuerza por realizar adecuadas viviendas, una mejora de educación, jardines y parques públicos, un comercio mejor y más variado, y buenas oportunidades artísticas y de recreo para los vecinos.

**Las elecciones tendrán lugar en Octubre 16, 2006.** El Dayton's Bluff Community Council está en 798 E. 7th St. Teléfono: (651) 772-2075.

## Dayton's Bluff Garden Tours



**Top: Garden Tour in the Conway and Arcade area. Bottom: Garden Tour in the 5th and Forest area. Photos by Karin DuPaul**

### Sacred Heart Latin- American Fiesta Fiesta Latino Americana del Sagrado Corazon

840 East Sixth Street  
St. Paul, MN 55106

Sunday/Domingo  
September/Septiembre 10, 2006  
10: a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Fun..Fun..Fun..Diversion..Diversion

Second Hand Store – Tienda de  
Segunda Mano

American & Mexican Food –  
Americana & Mejico Comida

Gambling – Juego

Children's Games – Premios  
para Juegos de Ninos

**Questions? – Preguntas?  
651-776-2741**

### The Dayton's Bluff Community Council Needs YOU!

See the article on page 1 or  
call Karin at 772-2075

## September at the Mounds Theatre

Starting Gate Productions opens its second season at the Mounds Theatre this September with "A View from the Bridge" by Arthur Miller.

Love, jealousy and pride consume a New York longshoreman and his family in this tragic portrait of mid-century immigrants from one of our foremost playwrights.

This play is directed by Jodi Kellogg and features the talents of Bruce Abas, Robert-Bruce Brake, Anthony Brown, Grant Henderson, Benjamin Layne, John Lilleberg, Jennifer Paige, Mary Jo Pehl, David Otto Simanek, Andy Waldron and Larry Waterman.

Performances are September 8 - October 1, 2006; Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday Matinees at 2:00 p.m.

There is an ASL and Audio Described Performance on Sunday, September 24.

Tickets are \$18 general, \$16 students and seniors. Call for tickets at 651-645-3503.

Pay What You Can Night is Monday, September 18.

All Performances are at the Mounds Theatre, 1029 Hudson Road in the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood just east of downtown Saint Paul.

## Church Directory

### Amazing Grace Assembly of God

1237 Earl St.  
651-778-1768

Sun 9:30 am - Sunday school all ages

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

### Hmong Asbury United

**Methodist**  
815 Frank St.  
651-771-0077

### Bethlehem Lutheran Church

655 Forest St.  
651-776-4737

Sun 9:00 am - Morning Service  
Sun 10:15-11:15 am - Sunday School & Bible Hour

Sun 11:15 - Hmong Service

### Faith Temple - Templo De Fe

1510 Payne Ave  
651-778-0096

Sun 10:30 am - Spanish Bilingual Service

Sun 6:00 pm - Spanish Bilingual Service

Wednesday family night

### First Lutheran Church ELCA

463 Maria  
St. Paul, MN 55106  
651-776-7210

1 block North of Metropolitan State

Sun 9:00 am - Worship service

Sun 10:15 am - Education - all ages

Fellowship following Worship

Handicapped accessible

### Mounds Park United Methodist

1049 Euclid St.  
651-774-8736

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

10:30 am - Worship

### Our Savior's Lutheran 'LCMS'

674 Johnson Pkwy  
651-774-2396

Sun only - 8am Worship, 9:20 education hour

Sun 10:45am - Worship

### Sacred Heart Catholic Church

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

Sat 4:00 pm - Mass

Sun 9:00 am - Mass

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

### St. John's Catholic Church

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

Mon-Fri 8:00 am - Mass

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

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

### St. John's Church of God in Christ

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

Sun 9:30 am - Sunday School

Sun 11:00 am - Worship

Wed 7:00 pm - Bible Study

### St. John Ev. Lutheran

765 Margaret St.  
651-771-6406

Sun 9:30 am - Worship

Thurs 6:30 pm - Worship

## New Art Exhibit at Metro State

Metropolitan State University Third Floor Gallery is pleased to present Folk Nouveau, featuring art by five Minnesota artists—Beth Barron, Minneapolis, Dean Lucker, Saint Paul, Judy Onofrio, Rochester, Douglas Padilla, Minneapolis, and Ann Wood, Saint Paul.

The exhibit opens Thursday, Sept. 7 with a reception from 4–7 p.m. The exhibit continues through Friday, Sept. 29. Gallery hours are Mondays–Thursdays, 11 a.m.–7 p.m.; Fridays–Saturdays, 11 a.m.–4 p.m. The gallery is located in the Library and Learning Center, 645 East Seventh Street, Saint Paul.

The artists of Folk Nouveau are a far cry from the traditional notion of folk artists. They are not uneducated or isolated. Rather, they are informed citizens of the world working in a visual and tactile format. What they share is an appreciation for a humble hand and everyday materials.

For example, Baron embroiders domestic textiles that may be small in scale, but relay monumental sentiment. Band-Aids, handkerchiefs and duct tape tell stories of personal and communal grief. These works are not without beauty or an inkling of optimism, for they are often embellished with elegant threads and glass beads that seduce the eye.

Onofrio's figurative sculptures, which reflect events in the artist's life, are encrusted with what others might consider to be debris of a consumer society. Bits of vintage jewelry, bottle caps, pottery shards and other oddities provide rich textures for her whimsical works.

Wood and Lucker find inspiration in the work of Mid-Western folk artists and low-tech animated toys and games. When working as a team, they craft kinetic objects, which are playful and engaging. They allow people to rekindle their childhood imaginations. As individual artists they conjure emotive works that are often technically sophisticated.

Padilla's raw and energized paintings often address his Norwegian and Mexican heritage. His ethnic background is evident in the iconography and palette he chooses. His work is adorned with surprising and accessible media. Anything from spray foam insulation to architectural fragments make their way into Padilla's work.

For more information, contact Erica Rasmussen, gallery director, at 651-793-1631.

*Metropolitan State University, a member of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System, is the only state university in the Twin Cities metropolitan area.*

**Advertise in the  
Dayton's Bluff District  
Forum**

**Call Karin at 772-2075**

## Last Call - Small Business Training

There are still a couple openings for the Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Entrepreneur Class starting at the end of September. This program helps start-up and young businesses on the East Side. All East Side entrepreneurs are welcome.

Class training lasts approximately 8 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, plus 8 hours of one on ones with the instructor. Those who successfully complete the course and locate their businesses in target neighborhoods are eligible for ongoing business support services.

Some of the businesses that people who took the course have started include graphics, photography, food service, restoration of wood furniture and works of art, custom floral design for weddings and events, and exterior and interior painting.

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 September and class size is limited. Please call Karin at 772-2075 for an application.

## Mounds Park Restoration Event

**Indian Mounds Park Restoration  
Saturday, October 7  
8:30 a.m. – Noon  
Earl Street & Mounds Blvd**

Volunteer and be part of important work to restore land in the metro area!

Help Great River Greening remove invasive buckthorn and plant oak trees in Indian Mounds Park this fall. Located within the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area, the Park contains one of the few surviving remnants of native oak savanna in the river valley.

Our work will begin the savanna restoration and enhance habitat for rare plant species. Mounds Park is the on-the-ground kick-off for Greening's Million Acorn Campaign, a five-year community-based effort to restore oak savannas and forests throughout the Twin Cities. Saint Paul Parks and Recreation and the National Park Foundation are event partners. Tools, work gloves, breakfast and lunch will be provided. This event will be the largest of our fall season.

Individuals, families with supervised school-age children, and groups of any size are welcome to participate. Pre-registration is required.

You can register online at [www.greatrivergreening.org](http://www.greatrivergreening.org) under "Volunteer" or contact the Greening Volunteer Event Coordinator, Tessa Pinkstaff, at 651-665-9500 ext. 11 or [tpinkstaff@greatrivergreening.org](mailto:tpinkstaff@greatrivergreening.org).

*Funded by the Mississippi River Fund of the National Park Foundation*

## Rain Didn't Dampen National Night Out



Photos by Karin DuPaul

**Umbrellas were everywhere at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. The 654 Beech/Margaret Block Club holds their meetings at the church and they work together on National Night Out each year.**



Photos by Karin DuPaul

**The National Night Out event at Mounds Park moved into the pavilion. Local Celtic band Barra put on a great show.**

# Dayton's Bluff Home Restoration Effort Wins Saint Paul Heritage Preservation Award

By Steve Trimble

"Love reveals beauty in old house" read a *Pioneer Press* headline on May 17, 2006. The Nelson home at 653 North Street was one of the projects featured at the recent St. Paul Heritage Preservation Awards. This is the sixteenth annual recognition of worthy efforts given out by the St. Paul Heritage Commission, a group charged with protecting and preserving the heritage of St. Paul.

For this particular honor, the Heritage Preservation Committee and the St. Paul chapter of the American Institute for Architects presented the Nelsons with a special "Vote of Confidence" award for all of their work. The city reporter who covered the event only had room to say a little about the Dayton's Bluff family. Here is some of the rest of the story.

Thomas and Kristenza Nelson were residents of the Macalester-Groveland neighborhood when a 1998 fire destroyed the house they were leasing. It proved very difficult to find another rental space that would let them have their 110 pound German Shepherd. They house sat for a while, but were constantly looking for a place of their own.

Kris admits that at the time they had never heard of the area she now proudly calls home. Then while surfing the internet, her husband ran across the Upper Swede Hollow Neighborhood Association web site that had listings for a few houses in need of owners. She'd never even heard of the neighborhood.

It didn't seem to be on any of the maps they looked at. But, as Kris remembered, "We were really scrambling for a place to live" so they decided to visit. When they did, they liked "the kinds of grass roots things that were happening." But when the couple strolled through Swede Hollow Park and looked up at the Victorian structure as it reflected the evening sunset, they knew that it was the only place for them.

In a swift timeline that amazed their friends, they were soon owners of an 1889 Queen Anne style house. It needed a lot of work, but they were ready to take it on. "We came with the keys and each other and a bottle of champagne," Kris remembered. They started peeling up old carpet the first night they were in their new home.

Kris remembers a good feeling about the place from the beginning. The sense was reinforced when they were closing on the property. They found out that the firefighter who had been first on the scene when their former rental house went up in flames had grown up in the North street house. "Without trying to sound hokey," she remarked, "it seemed like we were meant to be there."

They were going to have to do a lot of work to make the building into their dream house. They loved nice woodwork, but most of it on the lower



Above: Tom Nelson working on 653 North Street. Below left: 653 North before the renovation began. Below right: The same house today.



floor had been stripped out and replaced. Kris has coined a name for what happened to the old home. It had been "Menardized," and needed a lot of restoration.

Kris and Tom did much of the work themselves, with some welcome help from family and friends. The efforts ranged from general clean up and painting to tearing the asbestos siding off of the three story structure. A major project was building a new front porch to bring back the structure's original look.

One early surprise was discovering a hidden stained glass window that had been concealed by interior and exterior sheets of plywood. It was so old and dirty that they couldn't see much but then there was a second part

to the surprise. When it was cleaned off they discovered that the glass was primarily green, yellow and purple—the colors that they had earlier chosen for their exterior paint.

Kris took a little time off when the couple had their first child. Shortly after the birth of a second child, tragedy struck 653 North Street. Thomas unexpectedly died in his sleep of a heart attack in January of 2006. He was only thirty-five years old.

Sometimes after such an event, people decide to move away to avoid bad memories. Not so for Kris, who believed their family's love was clearly intertwined with the house "Through everything, it is this house that has sustained us. I feel all of the work Tom put into it."

Kris is now a stay-at-home mom of sorts; however, she does work part time, mostly as a free lance photographer with a degree from Minnesota College of Art and Design. A personal love of growing things has also led to some small jobs doing landscape work for other people.

She does a lot of her own work at night with outdoor lights after the kids are sleeping and jokingly remarks that in the neighborhood she is known as "the midnight gardener."

Kris also has a darkroom in the house and has been doing a lot of photography in the area, focusing currently focusing on Swede Hollow Park.

Historic St. Paul, a group that advocates for preservation of older homes, has been a big help. The Nelsons received one of their matching grants that help people pay for exterior restoration. But beyond the financial assistance, "It was just nice to have the support of the group," Kris states. "It's a little scary as a home owner to undertake this kind of work. They help you negotiate all the hurdles." She thinks they are "great with their outreach and making revitalization accessible, including having fliers in three languages.

In the *Pioneer Press* article, Kris Nelson praised the city's efforts to retain and restore older housing stock. She had participated in some old siding tear-offs before coming to Dayton's Bluff, but never dreamed that she would get involved in such a major effort herself. "It really is such an important program and such an important thing in this neighborhood." The community "has really become better as we go backward."

Kris also never dreamed that she would get a big award. "It was a total surprise." She had received a few small awards for her volunteer work, including helping design and build local rain gardens. But attending the program at the Landmark Center and being recognized by city elected officials was a thrill.

Kris does not agree with the people who say that a sense of neighborliness can't be found in big cities. "There are so many young families here," and they made them feel welcome. One example she loves to point out is that they were invited to inherit a tree house from the nearby Carey household.

Whenever time permits, the house restoration proceeds. Painting is an ongoing project, with the goal of doing one side of the house a year. Kris is working on the second coat on one section. Right now the kids are a little too young to use a brush. Andreas is two and a half and his younger brother Alexander is a little over one year old.

With them in mind, Kris is determined to complete the work. "Community is just so important," she often says. "This is such a great neighborhood... I can't imagine raising my kids anywhere else."



## Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Cleanup

Saturday, September 9, 2006

9:00 a.m. to noon

Ray Anderson & Sons

North of East 7<sup>th</sup> St. at Atlantic and Phalen Corridor

(933 Atlantic)

**This cleanup is for Dayton's Bluff residents only.**



### Costs

**Entrance:** \$7 per car, \$10 per small truck or mini van, \$25 per pickup truck. **No dump trucks.**

**Extra Fees:** \$15 per mattress, box spring, couch or love seat.

\$3 fee car tire, \$8 per truck tire, plus \$2 if on rim.

\$10 to \$25 per TV, \$10 VCR or computer monitor or CPU, etc.

\$5 other small electronics.

**No Charge** - Fluorescent bulbs and ballasts

*All guidelines will be strictly adhered to and we reserve the right to turn away any person or vehicle. The Dayton's Bluff Community Council reserves the right to refuse any item or close the site early if costs exceed budget.*

### What to bring

**A proof of Dayton's Bluff residency in the form of a driver's license or utility bill is required to gain entry.** Be prepared to unload your own materials. Assistance is not available at the cleanup site. Materials will be sorted at the site into different dumpsters to maximize recycling.

**In order to simplify unloading, vehicles should be loaded up in the following manner:** **On the bottom of the load:** concrete, bricks, rocks, and construction debris. **In the middle of the load:** bikes and scrap metals, mattresses/box springs, broken furniture and other trash. **On the top of the load:** reusable household items, electronics: TVs, VCRs, computers, etc., tires and fluorescent bulbs and ballasts.

**Remember: DO NOT bring appliances to the cleanup.** Call JR's Appliance at 651-454-9215 before Thursday, September 7, to arrange to have your appliances picked up at your curb on Monday, September 11. Cost \$25 for one appliance, \$10 for each additional appliance. There is extra fee of \$10 for each air conditioner (\$35.00).

### What not to bring

**Not all materials are accepted at the cleanup.**

**For more information about how to recycle or dispose of these or other items, call 651-222-SORT (7678). TTY for the hearing impaired: 651-221-9832.**

**No Rail Road ties or Chemically treated wood:** **No Appliances:** Call JR's Appliance at 651-454-9215 before Thursday, September 8, to arrange to have your appliances picked up at your curb on Monday, September 11. Cost \$25/1st appliance, \$10/each additional appliance (there is an \$10 surcharge for each air conditioner). JR's Appliance accepts air conditioners, dehumidifiers, dishwashers, dryers, furnaces, garbage disposals, heat pumps, microwaves, refrigerators, stoves, trash compactors, washers and water heaters. **No Car Batteries:** Bring car batteries to a store that sells them. All stores and services stations that sell car batteries are required by law to accept up to five batteries per person for free. **No Paint, Pesticides, Motor Oil or other Hazardous Wastes:** Free disposal at Ramsey County household hazardous waste drop-off site: Bay West, 5 Empire Drive, Saint Paul, open Wednesday-Friday 11-6 and Saturday 9-4 (April-October) and Saturday 9-4 only (November-March) **No Leaves, Grass or Brush:** Free disposal at Ramsey County compost site: Frank Street and Sims Avenue, open Monday, Wednesday and Friday 11-7, Saturday 9-5 and Sunday 11-5. **No Curbside Recycling Materials:** Dayton's Bluff District 4 curbside recycling is picked up every Tuesday. Have your Recycling at the curb by 7 am.



### Good Free Stuff at the Cleanup

*Even if you do not have junk or trash to get rid of come and check out the Free Stuff. Swap Stuff.* The cleanup will once again feature a Reuse Area so that used items that still have some life left in them can be shared with new owners. Good stuff like dishes, furniture, building materials, cabinets, lawnmowers, bikes, toys and other items in good condition will be set aside in the Reuse Area for anyone to take home. All materials in the Reuse Area are free and there is no charge to enter this area. **Items must be hauled away from the Free Stuff area by noon on cleanup day or it all goes in the dumpster. So bring your car or truck.**

### Volunteers are Needed

Help neighbors clean up the neighborhood. All skill levels are needed. Work four hours and get free entry for one load of material. A free lunch will be provided. Call 651-772-2075 if you would like to help

### Sponsors and Rules

The Cleanup is sponsored by the Dayton's Bluff Community Council and the Eureka Recycling, with funding provided by the city of Saint Paul.

The above guidelines will be strictly adhered to. The Dayton's Bluff Community Council reserves the right to turn away any person or vehicle, to refuse any item or to close the site early if dumpsters are filled or costs exceed budget. **There will be limited senior pickup. Call the Dayton's Bluff Community Council at 651-772-2075 to register or for more information.**

## Business Blogging on the Bluffs #3

You've decided your purpose for your blog. To develop a more personal contact with customers? To build a new customer base or try going international? Another thing you can do is to use your blog to develop new revenue lines. (Down the road, I'll discuss how this can be done.) Whatever your reason, it will determine if you need to be highly ranked, or not, by search engines. For the sake of this article, I'm assuming you want the ultimate Search Engine Optimization. There are some techniques you can use to help you become ranked highly.

As always, you want to write good content in your blog postings. Make people want to read what you have to say. That said, there are concepts you can use to change your ranking significantly. It's important to use the best keywords and phrases possible. What sounds better to you, "A beautiful yard" or "A thick, lush carpet of deep green grass"? This gives the search engines a number of keywords, and phrases to choose from. Think of words, and phrases, that people will use when doing searches. Periodically, check keyword popularity by searching for different, but similar, words and phrases.

The length of your posts can make a difference. A minimum of 250 is the standard. Although, you don't always need lengthy posts, you want to have several paragraphs of naturally keyword rich content. Also, you want to put the keywords, as close to the top of posts as you can.

## St. John's Celebrates 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Dayton's Bluff

St. John's Catholic Church at 977 E. 5<sup>th</sup> St. is celebrating its 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2006. Archbishop Harry Flynn will officiate at the anniversary Mass on Saturday, October 28. Other activities are also in the planning stages for that weekend.

St. John's would like to hear from former parishioners, students, staff, teachers, clergy and anyone else who has memories or memorabilia of the Church or school, or would just like to be included in the anniversary festivities. Call Carol in the church office at 651-771-3690.

Watch for more information about the anniversary celebration in local newspapers or visit the St. John website at [www.stjstp.org](http://www.stjstp.org).

## Walk, Don't Run Your Way to Better Health, a Cleaner Neighborhood and a Nifty Tee Shirt



Photo by Karin DuPaul

Members of the Dayton's Bluff Good Neighbor Walking group, joined here by Councilperson Kathy Lantry, gathering before the Saturday, July 22nd walk. The group meets every other Saturday at 9:00 a.m. and walks around the neighborhood picking up trash along the way. Saint Paul/Ramsey County Public Health Steps Program donated Irish green tee shirts for participants of the Dayton's Bluff Good Neighbor group. The next walk is September 2nd. If you are interested in joining the group or have questions call Jay at 651-251-4806.

## Young Artists Initiative's "James and the Giant Peach" Production a Hit

By Nathaniel Churchill,

The Young Artists Initiative's (YAI) summer production of Roald Dahl's classic children's story, James and the Giant Peach, was a big success and its cast has something to be very proud of. The production featured nineteen youth actors from the East Side, as well as its surrounding neighborhoods. The cast was enrolled in YAI's summer program called the "Summer Theater Experience." In this program, students spent five weeks participating in theater workshops and rehearsing a full-scale production. While in the program the young actors learned such things as improvisation, creating character voices, using their bodies to create believable characters, theater terminology and even how to make costumes.

The highlight of the five weeks was to mount an actually fully designed production and supported production that ran for the last two weekends of August. The students also had the privilege to be the very first theater company to perform in the brand new Neighborhood House Theater located in the Paul and Sheila Wellstone Center for Community Building on the Westside of Saint Paul. The show's director, Jefferson Fietek, said, "the new theater space is perfect for the

work we do. Even when you walk into the lobby the artwork and the design celebrates the diversity of our community and the youth we are trying to reach. Also, every seat in the theater makes you feel a part of the action!"

An Opening Night Fundraiser Gala kicked off the Young Artists Initiative's production. The evening was full of entertainment, food and a silent auction. Fietek was pleased by the organizations that stepped up to help out with such organizations as the Twins, the Vikings, the Timberwolves, the Thunder, the Swarm, the Chanhassen Dinner Theaters, the Children's Museum, and the Actors Theater who produces the interactive hit "We-Gotta-Bingo." The YAI is run by all volunteers, so the money raised through ticket sales and the Gala went to support student scholarships and support future youth programming.

The organization is not taking a break however now that this show is closed. They are already gearing up for an interactive Halloween show based on the children's story "The Witches" that will open in October. To learn more about them and the work they do, you can explore their website at [www.youngartistsmn.org](http://www.youngartistsmn.org).

## More Memories of Mrs. Jilk

By Randy Garcia.

Mrs. Jilk was my Kindergarten Teacher at old Sibley Elementary for the school year 1969-1970.

I have thought often of Mrs. Jilk over the years. She impacted me in a way very few educators, no let me say, people ever have. For me there was an unconditional acceptance that exuded from her. In her presence you understood that you were ok.

As I look back to that time I recall making butter from whipping cream, visiting a farm for a field trip, taking naps on a braided rag rug, developing my first friendships outside of my immediate neighborhood, missing her when we had the occasional substitute, and most important to me - looking forward to each day of school.

I currently live in Martinsville, VA. Many miles and many years removed from 1960's East 6th Street. I do not know what prompted me to conduct a "Google Search" this evening for Mrs. Jilk. But I am glad I did. Please extend to her my heartfelt thanks for the acceptance she extended to one student so many years ago.

## Area Resident Graduates from Law School



Left to right: Brother Nick, Father Greg, Dan in graduation regalia and Mother Linda after the ceremony at Valparaiso Law School

Dan Stahley, the son of Dayton's Bluff residents Greg and Linda Stahley, recently graduated from law school. He grew up on Maria Street in the Mounds Park area with two brothers. Dan attended Harding High School where he played basketball and won awards for his mastery of the French language. He graduated in 1999.

Stahley then went on to earn a B.A. degree from Hamline University in the spring of 2003. He had decided he wanted to become an attorney so that fall he entered law school at Valparaiso University in Indiana.

Why Valparaiso? Dan said he was looking for "a rural setting near a bigger city".

He is currently studying hard for the Minnesota bar exam. Stahley plans to stay in the Twin Cities and hopes to start work as a clerk for a judge or find a position with a small law firm.

Watch out for school buses and students when driving.

## The Dayton's Bluff District Forum Needs Your Help!

We need volunteer writers, photographers, salespersons, cartoonists and an editor with Adobe PageMaker experience.

If you are interested in doing something positive for your community, call Karin at 651-772-2075

## Reflections on an Internship at the Community Council

For the past several months Beatrice Collins has been interning with the Dayton's Bluff Community Council. She went through the block club manual and helped rewrite it, attended meetings and generally helped around the office. As this assignment ended, she was asked to write about her life and the impact of the internship on her personal development.

Beatrice was born in Illinois, growing up in a tough area on Chicago's West Side. Even as a child she had, as she put it "seen violence unfold before me," and observed "gangs that became an organized crime force terrorizing neighborhoods, businesses and other communities and schools all over the Chicago area."

She attended George W. Collins High School, which was located at 1313 S. Sacramento Street. Unfortunately, Bernice "fell behind in class" but, as she put it, "I did not let that stop me from earning a diploma." She realized that a diploma was "very much needed" to reach the dream of starting to "begin living at what I call middle or average class." Bernice ended up graduating from night school in August, 1982, at the age of eighteen."

She faced a lot of personal and family sadness as a youngster. Her stepfather died in a car crash. She struggled with the demise of her brother, Willie Round—they always called him Junior—who died in jail from a health ailment that was not properly treated. Other family members, including grandmothers, passed away around the same time. As she put it: "I knew then and still know now that life is precious with every waking moment."

Bernice, who arrived here around 1983 in her twenties, had heard Minnesota was a "women and kid's state" where a person can get a lot of support for raising families. She has been in the Twin Cities ever since. "I love it here but I miss my family back in Chicago. Not that I did not enjoy Chicago it's home and always will be but I have a new home here in Saint Paul Minnesota."

Bernice lives in the Dayton's Bluff area. She has three children. Two of them are young adults in their twenties and off on their own. Her seventeen-year-old boy is still living at home and attends Johnson High School. She has become active in the neighborhood and is a very active block club member, recently helping to organize a Nation Night Out event for her organization.

Upon arrival here, "college was just a thought in my mind," she reflected. "Before I was not motivated enough to go beyond high school." But Bernice did end up getting additional education. When Bernice decided to enter Brown College, she was con-

sidering a career in music. "Singing is what drives me because I love music. It is what I wanted to pursue. But I felt the years had slipped by and that it was too late to seek that dream."

After looking at other programs, "I thought criminal justice would be a good area of learning because I was not as clear about what my rights were growing up. Now I realize how that can make a difference in one's life." She especially hopes to affect "the youth of today whose minds are distrustful and corrupted with violence in the media and elsewhere."

"The course of furthering my education beyond high school while in mid-forties," Bernice remarks, "has been one of my most challenging experiences. Even while enduring life hardships, much was accomplished. The teaching and learning about the criminal justice system and the Dayton's Bluff Community Council is where reality sinks in."

Before interacting with these two groups she had lacked the knowledge to make the most of her talents. These experiences helped Bernice be more aware of possibilities and "make changes in my life and apply what I know to those resources offered in their neighborhood. They are there but what you do with the information really makes a difference—it did for me."

Bernice reflects that on turning a negative into a positive. "Knowing what I had no knowledge of before just became a strength that most do not recognize," she stated. "Wants" also push "a need for change and give a person a desire to grow and excel in a career I never thought I would remotely pursue."

"I had the privilege to intern at Dayton's Bluff Community Council," Bernice wrote. She credits Community Organizer Karin DuPaul with being a good role model by "demonstrating commitment, strength, and dedication in areas I have yet to grow in."

She also gives much credit to the staff of Brown College "where learning is possible. When you reflect back to what you did not imagine ever accomplishing, you realize that without the role college and the Community Council played, along with my ambitions to strive, none of this would have gone forth."

Bernice leaves readers with some last thoughts when she says "Brown College and the Dayton's Bluff Community Council have opened up doors of communication and opportunity for me to take the tools I have and put them to good use. I have been in bad situations but was able to find positive outcomes. Now I am living what I had always only thought about. And now the journey begins."



Photo by Karin DuPaul

**L to R: Officer Chris Byrnes, Roy Carlson, Beatrice's husband, Beatrice Collins, and Officer Jamie Sipes at the Reaney Avenue National Night Out event. Roy and Beatrice were the organizers of this event. Officer Byrnes joins Officer Sipes as the second Dayton's Bluff Beat Officer. See related stories at left and below.**

## Word From the Beat

Greetings from SPPD Eastern District.

On behalf of the SPPD I would like to thank all of you who participated in this year's National Night Out. Many of you came out in the rain to fellowship with your neighbors in park pavilions, church basements, blocked off streets and parking lots. It was clear to me that the residents of Dayton's Bluff are committed to their community. I was impressed that many of you were not deterred by the rain and continued with your plans. What was even more impressive was that I never heard any of those getting wet complaining. This was a perfect opportunity to meet with old friends in the neighborhoods and be introduced to new ones.

Speaking of new friends, many of you have by now had the chance to meet and talk with Officer Chris

Byrnes. Chris is a senior officer on Tour 3 and has had assignments in the Patrol Division, Motor Unit, FORCE Unit and has served as a department trainer. Chris has now been assigned to the Dayton's Bluff Beat and we are lucky to have his knowledge and experience. We work opposite shifts which will ensure a Dayton's Bluff Beat Officer is working each day to stay in touch with issues in the neighborhood. If you have not met Chris yet, come out and say hi when you see him drive by.

Before we know it the warm weather will be gone. Make an effort to get out of your homes, take a walk with a neighbor and remember to always treat each other with respect.

Officer J. Sipes  
East District Tour 3  
651-266-5565

### Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Cleanup

Saturday, September 9

See page 5 for more information



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