It’s Spring! Let’s Go Fly a Kite Up to the Highest Heights!

A Free Public Art Event on Sunday, April 22, 2007 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. will be held on Harriet Island. A thousand blue kites will fill the air and hundreds of wind chimes will sound throughout the day on the banks of the Mississippi River on Earth Day, April 22, 2007. St. Paul Artist-in-Residence Marcus Young and a team of artists, along with many environmental, peace, arts and cultural organizations, are creating a free, contemporary art event.

Wishes for the Sky is a free Public Art Event to be held on Earth Day 2007, April 22nd at Harriet Island. It is a family-friendly zero-waste celebration. But what is that object in the corner of the photo? See page 5.

There are Walking Trails in Dayton’s Bluff

By Claudia Egelhoff

In an urban area like St. Paul we are not likely to get much new parkland. But our park experience can be expanded by a network of trails connecting existing urban parks. On the east side of St. Paul this means, above all, the six-mile long Bruce Vento Regional Trail.

In Fall 2006, the city of St Paul installed directional signs to the Bruce Vento Trail at seven intersections from Swede Hollow Park to Phalen Lake. Their purpose was to increase resident awareness of the trail and encourage its use, whether for walking, biking or rollerblading. Many of these newly signed intersections allow residents to park cars near the trail or direct walkers from residential neighborhoods to the trail.

Funds to fabricate and install these signs came from the Steps to a Healthier MN-St. Paul. This initiative is a joint effort of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and state and local governments to promote programs that encourage individual behavior changes to reduce the burden of chronic disease.

Later this spring, work on the new Lower Phalen Creek Trail will be completed. The Bruce Vento Trail will then extend out of Swede Hollow Park, connect with the Mounds Park Trail at the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary, and feed into the Lowertown district. Dayton’s Bluff residents will then have easy work or shopping access to downtown St. Paul on foot or by bike.

The next step in trail construction involves linking the east Metro trail system with the Sam Morgan Trail that runs along the Mississippi River. A task force has taken public comments on various design options for bridges and/or tunnels near the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary. Construction is anticipated to begin in two to three years. For more information on these developments, contact holly_larson@nps.gov.

Make “Promises to the Earth” to adopt sustainable practices

And fly a kite to carry your wish to the sky.

Everyone is welcome to attend this free, zero-waste Earth Day event any time from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., April 22, 2007. Come rain or shine to celebrate our earth.

For more information visit: www.WishesForTheSky.org.

Dayton’s Bluff Preservation Evening

We still need your help with this event. We are asking residents to bring their stories, pictures, picture boards, scrap books, etc. on big and little home repair projects to share. Last year residents brought photos, picture boards, and stories about kitchen, bathroom, porch, and whole house projects. Email Karin@DaytonsBluff.org or call Karin at 651-772-2075 if you can help or for more information.

Do you want to learn more about repairing and preserving your home? Curious about your houses history? The third annual Dayton’s Bluff Preservation Evening is April 26th from 6:30 to 8 p.m. The event will take place in the Ecolab Community Room, third floor of Metropolitan State University/Dayton’s Bluff Library, just west of the intersection of Seventh and Maria.

Come and hear about historically sympathetic home preservation and repair.

“Evening” continued on page 7

If You’re Gonna Walk the Walk then Walk the Bluff!

Joshua’s Column

Hello! My name is Joshua Yurek and I am fourteen years old. I have lived in Dayton’s Bluff all my life and am looking forward to writing for this newspaper.

First, let me tell you what I am going to be doing as a writer for this newspaper. I am going to be writing every month about things that will be mostly entertaining. This IS because I am fourteen years old and still have some humor in me. Quite a lot left I am fourteen years old and still have some humor in me. Quite a lot left above all, the six-mile long Bruce Vento Regional Trail.

Dayton’s Bluff District Plan is Completed

It will be presented to the Dayton’s Bluff Community at two gatherings in April. Find out what it’s all about and express your opinions.

See details on Page 3

If Your’re Gonna Walk the Walk then Walk the Bluff!

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“Evening” continued on page 7

If You’re Gonna Walk the Walk then Walk the Bluff!

If Your’re Gonna Walk the Walk then Walk the Bluff!
Dayton's Bluff Community Meeting

The next Community Meeting is Thursday, April 5, 2007 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 its Community Meeting on the 1st Thursday of each month. The purpose is to work with block clubs and neighborhood residents on problem properties, crime and nuisance behavior, code enforcement issues and any other neighborhood issues, concerns, or new ideas for improvement in Dayton’s Bluff.

If you would like, you can email Karin@DaytonsBluff.org or call Karin at 772-2075 with addresses of problems before the meeting. If you have the addresses of problems ahead of time I can get them to the police and NHP (code enforcement). Then they can bring information about the problems to the meeting.

Remember, it’s always on the 1st Thursday of the month. All Dayton’s Bluff residents are welcome to attend. If you need more information email Karin@DaytonsBluff.org or call Karin at 651-772-2075.

The Dayton’s Bluff Annual Dinner Event

Each year, homeowners in the Dayton’s Bluff area offer neighborhood residents an opportunity to participate in a community dinner. Our event has been an annual spring dinner for over 10 years now. At our last event, there were over 50 participants! The spring dinner originated as a means for Dayton’s Bluff neighbors to come together and meet other others for an enjoyable evening. A schedule of events is planned and participants can look forward to visiting host homes and sharing some good food.

This event is scheduled annually on the Saturday before the Memorial Day holiday. This year, the event will be held on the evening of May, 19th. If you have participated in our dinner before, be sure to join us this May. If you are new to the neighborhood or would like to find out more, please call for further information. This event has been very successful due to the willingness of people to host a portion of the event in their home and/or by providing food. Call Marjorie Smith, event coordinator, at 651-778-1075 to find out how you can be a part of this year’s dinner event!

Dayton’s Bluff Recycling Pick up

Curbside every Tuesday.
Have your recycling on the curb by 7:00a.m.
If you need recycling bins call 651-772-2075.

Dayton’s Bluff Neighborhood Home Tour

Photo by Karin DuPaul

This house at 770 East 6th Street is one of the homes that will be part of the Dayton’s Bluff portion of the 2007 Minneapolis – St. Paul Home Tour on April 28th and 29th. Hopefully the grass will be green by then and the snow will be long gone.

The 2007 Dayton’s Bluff Neighborhood Home Tour will be held on Saturday, April 28th from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, April 29th from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. It is part of the Minneapolis – St. Paul Home Tour sponsored by the cities of Minneapolis and Saint Paul. The Home Tour is free of charge and open to the public. The complete listing of all the homes on the tour will be found in the Minneapolis – St. Paul Home Tour Brochure which will be included with next month’s issue of the Forum.

The Dayton’s Bluff Neighborhood Home Tour features beautiful homes, and buildings being redeveloped into condominiums including 770 East 6th Street, 1047 Wilson, 895 Mound Street, 771 East Minnehaha, 658-666 East 4th Street, and 1158 East 5th Street.

Volunteers are needed to help with the Home Tour. Volunteering consists of greeting people at the door to give out brochures and information about Dayton’s Bluff, and helping the homeowners for a few hours either day. If you are interested, please email Karin@DaytonsBluff.org or call Karin at 651-772-2075.

Living Green on the Bluff

By Brain Miller, Greenspace Committee Chair

Spring is just around the corner and the District 4 Greenspace Committee needs your help. Join us as we work together for a greener bluff. Our next project is a joint effort between Metro State University, Dayton’s Bluff Elementary School, Budget Towing, and the Greenspace Committee. Together we plan to place 12 new trash cans throughout our neighborhood to help keep trash off our streets and yards. Budget Towing has donated 12 cans to be painted by 4th graders from the elementary school and we need your help prepping and delivering the cans.

How you can be involved – sign up to help prep the cans at Metro State, Saturday March 24th at 9 a.m. or volunteer to help deliver the finished cans with your truck or trailer after the 19th of April. We are also looking for businesses or residences willing to have a can placed on their property.

Parks and Rec Center Clean Up on April 14

Residents of St. Paul are encouraged to help clean up their favorite park or recreation center on April 14, 2007 starting at 9:00 a.m.

Each year tons of trash is removed from Saint Paul parks and recreation centers. The parks and recreation centers in Dayton’s Bluff include the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary, Mounds Park, Swede Hollow Park, Hamn Park, Dayton’s Bluff Recreation Center, and Margaret Recreation Center. The Clean Up is sponsored by Saint Paul Parks and Recreation. Email Karin@DaytonsBluff.org or call Karin at 651-772-2075 if you can help or for more information.

Greening Dayton’s Bluff Workshops

“Create Your Own Rain Garden!”
A How-to Workshop for East Side Homeowners

Want to help the environment and beautify your yard? Join us for this free hands-on workshop! The workshop is on Tuesday, April 17th from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at First Lutheran Church in the Education Building at 463 Maria Street. The church is located one block north of Metro State on Maria. Park in the lot across the street from the church. Additional parking is located on the north side of the education building.

Local expert, Marjorie Thompson and other local experts will be on hand to provide advice tailored to your property and your interests. They will help you:

* Create a rain garden that is right for your yard;
* Choose plants that do well in rain gardens – and look great;
* Apply for funds to help with the cost of installing your rain garden;

We encourage you to bring photos of your yard – including your downspouts locations – to facilitate the design process. Also bring a drawing of your yard’s footprint and existing gardens. We will break into small groups and you will leave with preliminary plans for your yard! You are welcome to attend this workshop even if you do not have a yard!

Rain gardens are specially designed and planted to capture rainwater and snowmelt so it can seep naturally into the ground. On Saint Paul’s East Side, neighborhood and environmental groups are working to encourage rain gardens as a way to “green” our communities and protect the water quality of the Mississippi River.

The workshop is free of charge but registration is required. RSVP to Karin at Dayton’s Bluff District 4 Community Council, 651-772-2075 or Karin@DaytonsBluff.org. If you provide Karin with your home address, we can generate aerial maps of your site to aid in planning.

This workshop is presented by the Ramsey Conservation District, co-hosted by Dayton’s Bluff District 4 Community Council’s Greening Dayton’s Bluff program, the Lower Phalen Creek Project, Capitol Region Watershed District, and First Lutheran Church.

“Yards for Wildlife” workshop

On Monday, April 30 at 6:30 p.m. at 798 East 7th Street, gardening expert, Carrol Henderson will present this workshop that will help you plan your yard to attract more birds and wildlife. Many Dayton’s Bluff residents love to see all kinds of birds in their yards and bird feeders. What are other things you can do to attract the wildlife you want in your yard? The Yards for Wildlife Workshop will give you more ways to increase the different kinds of birds that come into your yard. To register, call Karin at 651-772-2075 or email Karin@DaytonsBluff.org.
A Message from the President
Let's Show Our Pride in the Bluff

By Walter Waranka, President, Dayton's Bluff District Council

I have been living in Dayton’s Bluff for four years, and have come to see what all of you, who have lived here longer, have come to love about this neighborhood. It begins with the wooded bluff, the many varieties of homes throughout the area, and extends to the small neighborhood businesses and diverse cultures that call the Bluff home. The abundant wildlife are yet another great thing about living here. I would like to ask all who live here to let everyone know about our pride in our neighborhood on Dayton’s Bluff. A major way we can convey this pride is by working together to make our neighborhood an even better place for all of us. We can accomplish this by watching and keeping our streets safe and clean, and by supporting the small businesses that make the Bluff their home.

Another way is by getting out and walking the neighborhood, meeting and getting to know our neighbors, so we can see what needs action and can report problems to those who are there to address them on our behalf. It makes a good neighborhood even better.

I feel strongly, as the newly elected President of the Dayton's Bluff District Council, that showing pride by keeping our homes looking nice, will impress those who pass through or come here looking for a great place to make a life. Who knows, they just might join us as new neighbors.

The pride for the Bluff is here. I have felt it many times when I have talked to some of you. We need to express this with a strong voice, and let everyone know that this is a good place to live; and we are working together to make it even better.

Let's show our pride in Dayton’s Bluff.

Dayton’s Bluff Take a Hike

The next “Dayton’s Bluff Take a Hike” will be Saturday, April 7th at 10:30 a.m. People have gathered the first Saturday of each month since 1990 in Indian Mounds Park at Earl Street and Mounds Blvd. Come explore at a relaxed pace the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary and historic Swede Hollow. For more information call Garry at 651/772-2075 or email Garry@DaytonsBluff.org.

In March’s hike we drifted down to Carver’s Cave with a local historian. Deep earthen spirits called out to us as we trod through swirling snows, enjoyed the gurgling subterranean waters. Wildlife was active: falcons circled while cardinals, doves, and crows called out below the pointing tree on the bluff line. Ducks and geese traversed the warm sunny skies. Children came in sleds and tracked animal footprints. Watercress skies. Children came in sleds and geese traversed the warm sunny waters. Wildlife was active: falcons and heard the gurgling subterranean as we trod through swirling snows, Deep earthen spirits called out to us.

Carver’s Cave with a local historian. In March’s hike we drifted down to

Dayton’s Bluff – Neighborhood Watch

Walk the Bluff, a program of the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council, is a walking program and a Neighborhood Watch. Join us to make our neighborhood safer and your health. Better. Enjoy your neighborhood. Get involved.

If you are interested in Neighborhood Watch, block clubs, nature and/or historical walks, please call Garry at 651-772-2075 or email Garry@DaytonsBluff.org for more information. Walk the Bluff is funded by Blue Cross Blue Shield MN.

Arts and Culture Committee Events

The Arts and Culture Committee of the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council has scheduled a number of events over the months to come.

* Thursday, April 26 at 6:30 pm in the Dayton’s Bluff Preservation Evening (See the article about this event on page 11).

* Thursday, May 24 Dayton’s Bluff Library 125th Anniversary Author/ Historian Larry Millet will be on hand and walk with Historian Steve Trimble and neighbors on a short walking tour of the Lower Bluff.

* Thursday, June 28 Historian Steve Trimble will talk on Dayton’s Bluff History. If you are interested in joining the Arts and Culture Committee or need more information email Karin@DaytonsBluff.org or call Karin at 651-772-2075.

DAYTON’S BLUFF DISTRICT PLAN

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

After many meetings and community surveys, the new District Plan is completed and will be presented to the Dayton’s Bluff Community in two gatherings this month.

Tuesday April 17 6:30-8:30pm Mounds Theatre 1029 Hudson Road at Earl St.

Saturday April 21 10:30-12:30am Metropolitan State University Maria Ave. at E. 7th St. In the Great Hall

(free MSU parking vouchers will be available at this meeting)

All residents, property owners, and business owners are strongly encouraged to attend one or both of these free meetings. Copies of the plan will be available at the meetings.

Any specific changes proposed at these meetings will be considered by the Council at its May 21st Board meeting before the plan is forwarded to the city.

The District Plan committee of the Community Council spent many hours in meetings to review and tabulate the surveys, develop language to reflect the community input received, and put together the final plan. When submitted to the city, the Dayton’s Bluff District Plan will be incorporated into the overall city plan.

For more information contact Karin at 651-772-2075 or Karin@daytonsbluff.org

Council Member Needed

The Dayton’s Bluff District 4 Community Council has one vacancy on its 18 member Board of Directors. The Council has 4 Sub-Districts and the vacancy is in Sub-District A (roughly between Forest St. and Johnson Pkwy, and North of E. 6th St. up to Phalen Blvd). The Board consists of 4 members from each Sub-District, and two at-large seats representing the whole District.

Any resident, property owner, or business owner over 18 years of age can serve on the Board. Elections to the Board are held each October. However, the Board of Directors can fill vacancies occurring during the year at one of its regularly scheduled monthly meetings.

For more information about the position, District boundaries, and the role of District Councils in St. Paul’s city government and community affairs, contact Karin at 651-272-2075 or Karin@daytonsbluff.org.

Walk the Bluff - Save the World One Step at a Time

Join "Walk the Bluff"

A walking program designed to promote:

- Health
- Happiness
- A safer neighborhood

Get involved in a Neighborhood Watch. Join your family, friends and neighbors walking your neighborhood regularly.

Help make your neighborhood safer. We have brochures and lists of places to walk. For more information call Garry at 651-772-2075 or e-mail Garry@DaytonsBluff.org.

A Dayton’s Bluff Community Council Program Sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield MN
April 1, 2007 - A startling historic document was uncovered last week in a dusty East Side attic. While cleaning things out for an estate sale, a hitherto unknown diary of Lyman Dayton was found. Aside from a photo or two and some fragmentary pieces of data, an obituary and a few newspaper notices, little of substance is known about the man who was the only one to have written about this St. Paul pioneer.

That will now change. This thirty page manuscript gives modern readers a look at the innermost thoughts of a prominent man who is usually thought to be a well-respected businessman, civic volunteer and community leader. Judge for yourself from the excerpts below culled from the hand-written diary of Lyman Dayton.

A copy of the full volume is available at the Community Council office. According to our sources, the original will be donated to the Minnesota Historical Society or sold to a group of wealthy Japanese history buffs.

My Thoughts by Lyman Dayton

1849: My wife Maria and I arrived in the small village of St. Paul yesterday. I have great hopes that the bracing climate of Minnesota Territory will improve my health. Unfortunately, the steamboat was carrying several cases of cholera. Even here this virulent disease is present. Maria is convinced that it is a punishment for the godless life styles of the American people.

1850: Ran into Little Crow on the street. Hadn’t seen much of him as the Dakota often leave the area to hunt. He told me a crazy notion his people have. The man and only a little has been written about this St. Paul pioneer.

1851: Was told that a group of impoverished Scandinavians have started some kind of settlement near the street, holding a sign saying “Mexican-American War veteran. Will work for food. God bless.” Where do all these poor people come from anyway? Why don’t they just get a job like the rest of us?

1854: Maria and I moved to our new home atop of what people are now calling “Dayton’s Bluff.” We have a large home overlooking the Mississippi. The newspaper calls it a “suburban residence.” It’s great to be living away from the riff-raff who inhabit the area below. We have a splendid view of the marshland in the valley below and the sandbars in the Mississippi. It’s comforting to be surrounded by nice people, however I’m not sure about living so close to that rabid abolitionist Nathaniel McLean.

1855: Made a tidy profit on selling some downtown property. I told people that I’m not going to start moving into the area. They sold out for pennies on the dollar and I turned around and flipped the homes to some of the new greenhorns who just arrived on a steamboat. I like dealing in real estate and I do love suckers!

1856: Was down at the levee today and ran into a brash seventeen year old who was working as a clerk. He told me about a crazy notion his people have. The man and only a little has been written about this St. Paul pioneer.

1857: My son Lyman C. is in trouble. I suppose none of them will bother to learn English. I certainly hope the Italians won’t find out about it.

1858: I’m glad that I agreed to be an officer of the Union Benevolent Association. With the harsh winter, there has been a rapid rise in the cost of firewood. The Pioneer Press urged more fortunate residents to contribute some of their usual practice to those in need. I was able to slip away with a few cords for myself. No one will notice. I like to think of it as a per diem for all the services we do for each other.

1859: It’s becoming common to see scoury lads trying to beg money off of the hard-working public. Yesterday I almost bumped into one of them standing near the street, holding a sign saying “Mexican-American War veteran. Will work for food. God bless.” Where do all these poor people come from anyway? Why don’t they just get a job like the rest of us?

1860: Had my first taste of the beer from Andrew Keller’s new brewery at the edge of “Swede Hollow.” It’s terrible. I can imagine that by moving here he would have an opportunity to become prosperous. Thought transportation was the “way of the future.” Unless I’m miss my bet, he’ll soon return to Ontario. If I recall correctly, his name was James Hill.

1863: Harriet Bishop and her flock of wacky women are at it again. Sewing things to raise money to build a “Home for the Friendless,” or “Habitat for the Homeless”— whatever they are planning to call it. I really wonder what the authorities will do about it. I’ve heard that they’re planning to call it a “subsidized shacks for irresponsible people.” I assume we will never get any of these “affordable abodes” on the East Side.

1865: Haven’t been feeling well lately. Just got back from another trip to the outhouse. I’m afraid that I might not be able to fight off the barges who are working the area. I decided to bury all of my gold and other valuables. I often weep openly. The sound of glass bottles being dumped, I often weep openly. The men on the pick-up trucks refer to it as the “blue bin blues,” while medical professionals call it “tolling anxiety syndrome.” Sadly, the feeling is becoming more and more common.

A cashier at the Rainbow grocery store on Arcade told our reporter that when recent customers have been asked “paper or plastic,” many somberly respond, “What does it matter?”

For Whom the Road Tolls?

April 1, 2007 - Some East Side drivers may need to start opening their pocketbooks a little more often in the future. Following a trend started several years ago, the city plans to impose a fee to generate income without raising property taxes. The Mayor’s office and the City Council are going to ask the State Legislature to let St. Paul turn Phalen Corridor into a toll road.

A spokesman for the city explained, “We faced the problem of how to fund light rail and other transportation needs.”

Editor’s note: Unfortunately, the rest of the pages were nibbled away by mice. The diary ends here. Lyman Dayton died soon afterwards of “inflammation of the bowels.” No one has ever found the treasure, estimated to now be worth several million dollars.

April 1, 2007 - Eureka Recycling recently received frantic calls from neighbors of a man living in the 900 Block of Reaney Street. They reported that he had informed them of his plan to discontinue his practice of setting out his blue bins. The Ramsey County provider jumped into action to try to retain this valuable customer.

Unfortunately, the reluctant recycler has stuck with his decision. There was no change even when Eureka sent out their premier pickup truck “Siv Dua” to try to bring him out of the doldrums. When asked why, he replied, “It has just gotten to be too much. I was tired of taking paper labels off of glass jars and cans.” Then there was the confusion over guidelines. “It’s so challenging,” he lamented. “I can never remember what can or can’t be on the curb. I was frightened that I might put out the wrong kind of plastic.”

He also felt belittled for his meager contributions. Some neighbors always filled up two or even three containers with their cans and glass, while his were usually half empty. “The final straw was when I cancelled my subscription to the Pioneer Press and had almost nothing to recycle. For a while I even took old papers from the Burger King, but I was asked to stay away when I accidentally grabbed someone else’s.”

The distraught Dayton’s Bluff resident is considering moving away. “I can’t face my neighbors,” he sadly said, “and every Tuesday when I hear the sound of glass bottles being dumped, I often weep openly.” The men on the pick-up trucks refer to it as the “blue bin blues,” while medical professionals call it “tolling anxiety syndrome.” Sadly, the feeling is becoming more and more common.

A cashier at the Rainbow grocery store on Arcade told our reporter that when recent customers have been asked “paper or plastic,” many somberly respond, “What does it matter?”

Local Man Has Stopped Recycling

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"Tolls" continued on page 5
April 1, 2007 - At a sparsely attended press conference, a local Department of Interior official recently announced that the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary would soon be off limits to people. He explained that was the result of a lawsuit brought by a local chapter of the Society for Animal Pals Serenity (SAPS).

The basis of the court action revolves around the use of the word “sanctuary” in the name of the new area. As attorney for SAPS pointed out, that the dictionary definition of the word is “a place of private refuge or retreat, away from disturbance.” In his decision the administrative law judge ruled that the only way that the wildlife could be “away from disturbance” was to ban all humans from the area.

SAPS and its supporters lauded the decision with a vegan banquet. Their press release said: “We were able to document the fact that eagles, raccoons, deer and other of our furry and feathered friends lived along the river before people arrived. This is going to be one of the first in what we hope will be a series of giving the animals back what is rightfully theirs.”

So people can at least look at the sanctuary, telescopes will be mounted on the edge of the bluff. For a small fee, people will be able to look at the flora and fauna below. In the future there may also be a chance to take rides in specially designed vehicles, similar to those used for transport through African wildlife refuges.

The new regulations will not go into effect until the beginning of May, so, they want to see the restoration that has been done, glance at the entrance to Carver’s Cave or take a last look at the limestone bluffs from the banks of the Mississippi, you had better hurry. Remember to take along a camera, and send your best digital images to the Forum. You could win a prize in our best nature photo contest.

New Bank Coming to Dayton’s Bluff

April 1, 2007 - As any Dayton’s Bluff resident who has tried to bank in our community has observed, we don’t have one. A bank, that is. We used to have several but like our hospitals they are long gone. This is all about to change, although not necessarily for the better. Way back when, in the 1850s to be exact, our namesake Lyman Dayton operated a bank here. It was an odd bank. It even had its own money. That wasn’t so strange in those days. The odd part was that its currency was backed by gold or silver, but by produce, as in vegetables and fruit, and even some assorted flowers.

This worked surprisingly well until 1855, the “year without a summer.” It was extremely cold, the crops failed, there was a great drought, and everyone was hungry. To make matters worse, the Mounds Bar, which is similar to our own Mount Rushmore, was formed during this time. The Mounds Bar blocked the Mississippi, and everything below it was flooded. The farmers who had just ended up in another warzone had to figure out a way to get their crops harvested. The only solution was to build a temporary dam, which they did. This may not seem like a big deal, but it was a huge accomplishment at the time.

So what happened to the Weatherballs? To make a long story short, Northwestern National Bank became Norwest (now Wells Fargo) and the Weatherball didn’t fit in with their new image. All of the Weatherballs were taken down and scrapped, never to be seen again.

Or so everyone thought. One of the Weatherballs surfaced recently when an old building was being demolished, as old building so often are in this city. It was found in the warehouse portion of the building buried under 20 years of dust and dirt. No one recognized it so it was soon on its way to the scrapyard. But, as a saving grace, the Metropolitan Airport Commission (MAC) decided to decommission the Mounds Park Airway Beacon. This upset a lot of people. There were protests. The governor, the mayor, and city council members got involved. There was name-calling, threats of lawsuits, and all sorts of unpleasantness.

The Minnesota Historical Society wrote a nasty letter to MAC. MAC sent them back a form letter stating they weren’t responsible for anything, whether it made noise or lit up. A compromise was finally reached. The tower could stay but the beacon would have to go because it cost too much to maintain. Like most compromises, no one was happy. With or without a beacon the tower looked more like an oil well derrick than anything else. It was at this point that our eccentric friend stepped in. He said he would cover the operating costs under two conditions: First, he would get the old beacon and second, it would be replaced with his Weatherball. A deal was struck after much grinding. A glowing ball wasn’t exactly a rotating beacon, but it did light up at night.

As anyone who has visited Indian Mounds Park recently, or looked in its direction at night has probably noticed, the Weatherball is now forecasting weather just as it did in the past. Well, not exactly as it did in the past. It has been upgraded considerably. According to a spokesperson with the National Weather Service, the Weatherball is now equipped with a direct link to a number of weather satellites, a network of Doppler radars, a gaggle of supercomputers, and the offices of the Old Farmer’s Almanac. “With all this modern technology I can safely predict that the Weatherball will be accurate almost 50% of the time,” the spokesperson bragged.

So the next time you want to know tomorrow’s weather, look towards Mounds Park and remember: “When the Weatherball is green, no change in weather is foreseen. When the Weatherball is red, warmer weather is ahead. When the Weatherball is white, colder weather is in sight. If colors blink by night or day, precipitation’s on the way.”

April 1, 2007 - The old Northwestern National Bank’s Weatherball has been receiving a lot of attention lately. KARE-11 News recently did a feature story on the one formerly located in downtown Minneapolis and the St. Paul Pioneer Press Bulletin Board has been publishing readers’ memories of them. Up until 1983 they could be seen all over the Twin Cities. Even Dayton’s Bluff had one.

So what happened to the Weatherballs? To make a long story short, Northwestern National Bank became Norwest (now Wells Fargo) and the Weatherball didn’t fit in with their new image. All of the Weatherballs were taken down and scrapped, never to be seen again.

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Dayton’s Bluff ECFE Program Celebrates April Volunteer Appreciation Month

Walk into a class in the Early Childhood and Family Education (ECFE) Program at Dayton’s Bluff Elementary School and it is likely that you will meet someone who is a volunteer in the programs. Children have graduated from the program, but could not be done without the dedication of its volunteers.

Portage for Youth Summer Camps

Explore - Learn - Create

The Portage for Youth will launch a new summer camp program this year featuring classes in drama, dance, music, mosaic art, photography and video. Seven-week-long sessions will begin June 18th and run through August 17th. Morning, afternoon and full day options are available. The program is open to girls and boys, ages 8 to 13 or 13 to 18 years old.

Activities will take place at the Mounts Theatre building located at 1029 Hudson Road in Saint Paul. Application deadline is May 1st or until all sessions are filled.

SUMMER CAMP FEES
$110 - per week/per child - 1/2 days (morning OR afternoon)
$200 – Per week/per child-full days (morning AND afternoon).

Morning classes are from 9am to noon and afternoon classes are from 1 to 4pm. Some scholarships are available.

You may register online at www.theportage.org, or you may call and get an information packet and registration form sent to your home. For registration packets and more information, please call 651-772-8674 or 651-772-2253.

The following Summer Camp sessions are available:

SESSION 1: June 18-22
Thursday 9am-noon; Dance (ages 8-12) 1-4pm or Mosaic Art 1-4pm

SESSION 2: June 25-29
Thursday 9am-noon; Dance (ages 13-18) 1-4pm or Video Production (ages 9-15) 1-4pm or Mosaic Art 1-4pm

SESSION 3: July 9-13
Thursday 9am-noon; Dance (ages 8-12) 1-4pm or Photography (ages 9-15) 1-4pm or Mosaic Art 1-4pm

SESSION 4: July 16-20
Thursday 9am-noon; Dance (ages 13-18) 1-4pm or Photography (ages 9-15) 1-4pm or Mosaic Art 1-4pm

SESSION 5: July 23-27
Thursday 9am-noon; Dance (ages 8-12) 1-4pm or Video Production (ages 9-15) 1-4pm or Mosaic Art 1-4pm

SESSION 6: Aug 6-10
Thursday 9am-noon; Dance (ages 13-18) 1-4pm or Mosaic Art 1-4pm

SESSION 7: Aug 13-17
Thursday 9am-noon; Dance (ages 8-12) 1-4pm or Mosaic Art 1-4pm
Street's of the Bluff... And Other Good Stuff

By Steve Trumble

For history enthusiasts, one of the high points in the world of local history had to be the release of Donald L. Empson’s “The Street Where You Live: A Guide to the Place Names of St. Paul. It was not merely a reprinting of the earlier work because the author took great pains to update the information, add new streets and, for the first time, to include place names of parks, bodies of water, coves and many colorful names of certain sub-sections of the city.

Don Empson was gracious enough to take the time to visit this community. A few days after a well-attended event at Pop’s restaurant, where he discussed “The Street Where You Live,” showed photos and maps and answered questions.

For those who couldn’t make the event, the Forum decided to share some of the information in the book in the next two or three issues. We will be adding our own touches to avoid the possible problem of copyright infringement. Think of these columns as a sort of lengthy book review. We will go in alphabetical order, so if your street starts with later letters, make sure you read later papers.

Arcade: Don Empson felt that Bernard Sinnen, who farmed and then sold the land in the area around this old section line, was expressing “pioneering optimism” when he chose the name for this portion of his property in 1872. It conveys the notion of a covered passageway, especially one that is surrounded by shops. Though it may not have been exactly what Sinnen had in mind, there are numerous businesses that line today’s Arcade Street.

Adams: This thoroughfare started out as Collins Street but it was changed to its current name by the City Council in 1874. Nearby there is an Ocean Street and the two were probably meant to be linked, but it is not known why.

Bates: This avenue was named after Maria Bates Dayton. Her father, according to Empson, was Master Bates from Providence, Rhode Island. Some years earlier she had been the wife of real estate magnate Lyman Dayton who named the street after her in 1857. The two of them came to St. Paul in 1849 on a boat that also delivered cholera to the city. One pioneer remembered that Maria was the best to tend to one of the victims, but unfortunately she died. She was very active in the First Baptist Church.

Bush: The name (alphabetically) of the many tree names in the neighborhood. It appeared in an 1857 plat map as Franklin Street. In 1872 the city changed it to Beech to end the confusion with a Franklin street that was downtown.

Birmingham: Named in 1884 for an early family involved in the platting of Birmingham’s Addition, Thomas and Mary Birmingham and Tom’s brother William. The family came to St. Paul in 1857 and the two brothers ran a grocery store and later dabbled in real estate.

In 1856 John Burns and his wife Priscilla spent $10,000 on land (probably over $250,000 in today’s money) in the Suburban Hills Addition. Empson believes that although they were experienced investors, they left their names on the landscape, they never resided here.

“Original” name for Beecher: In 1857 for a county in Virginia. The name was hard to pronounce and subject to certain insinuations, so many people were thankful when the City Council changed the name a century later to honor Archibald Bush.

Bush was born in Minnesota and started out with “The Mining” (3M) as an assistant accountant in 1909. He worked his way up until he was head of the executive board by 1949. Because of the change of the name, some of the 3M buildings rest on a street named after one of their leaders.

Next month we’ll continue on with the “C” streets. If you can’t wait, feel free to buy your own copy of “The Street Where You Live” by Donald L. Empson. This U of M Press publication is available in bookstores as well as the Ramsey County Historical Society. The Minnesota Historical Society has in it its gift shop or you can order it on-line if you go to www.mhs.org.

April 2007 Dayton’s Bluff District Forum

The April Foolishness Continues

Could this be the future look of the Mounds Theatre?

“The Mounds” continued from page 5

lawsuit, Hershey claims that sales of its Mounds Bar has plummeted in recent years in large part due to confusion between it and the Mounds Theatre.

A spokesman for Hershey had this to say, “There is no other possible explanation for this sales decline. We started having problems about the same time the Mounds Theatre website appeared on the Internet. You have to realize that people aren’t as smart as they used to be. In the past people could tell the difference between a candy bar and a theatre. That’s the case now any longer.”

Hershey states it has priority ownership of the Mounds name because the first Mounds Bar was produced in 1921 while the Mounds Theatre didn’t open until 1922. The Mounds Theatre closed in 1967, long before the Internet became a factor in marketing and sales, so Hershey never pursued legal action prior to that time.

However, since then it has successfully forced both Mounds Park Elementary School and Mounds Park Hospital to close. Hershey would also like to have the name of Mounds Park changed but their lawyers haven’t figured out how to sue a park yet.

A spokeswoman for the Mounds Theatre couldn’t comment directly on the lawsuit, except to say, “Every once in awhile we get an email inquiry about buying a few cases of Mounds candy bars but we always direct the sender to Hershey’s website. There hasn’t been any problem with local people because very few of our neighbors here in Dayton’s Bluff know that the Mounds Theatre exists.”

She went on to say that that rather than forcing the Mounds Theatre to change its name, she is hoping Hershey will become a major financial supporter in exchange for exclusive concession stand rights and other considerations, such as some discreet exterior signage.

The Globe manufacturing site – This site isn’t large enough for a ballpark and parking lots so they would have to be partially constructed over Phalen Boulevard. This could be expensive but not prohibitively so. A 5% increase in sales tax for the East Side would cover it.

Downtown St. Paul Airport (Holman Field) – The Metropolitan Airport Commission is getting tired of waiting for permission and funding to build a dike around the airport and is threatening to close the facility altogether. This would be an ideal place for a ballpark with plenty of room for parking. The noise created by the stadium would be much less than that from the airport, except on game nights and during rock concerts. To alleviate the problem a combination sound barrier and dike would be built around the area.

Phalen Village – Although Cub Foods would like to build a grocery store in this area, a combination ballpark and Cub Foods is not out of the question. Who doesn’t wish they could do some grocery shopping and attend a baseball game at the same time? In addition, it’s location at the end of Phalen Boulevard would finally give the road a reason to exist.
Word from the Beat

Since you are reading this we can assumed you have survived another Minnesota winter. Warm weather is here and is a beautiful sight to see.

While January marks the beginning of a new year, this season begins the new year for me. It is a time of change and opportunity. Neighbors are out of their homes, the birds and other creatures can be seen, plans are made for the upcoming warm months and new opportunities are all around us. With the warm weather it is time to become active in our neighborhood block clubs. Being active in your block club is a great way to meet your neighbors, stay informed on issues in your area as well as with local law enforcement. The Dayton’s Bluff community has many great groups already meeting. If you are not sure when or where your neighborhood meets, contact Karin DuPaul at the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council office, 651-772-2075. Or consider starting a new block club. Karin can help with this as well.

With the new season comes change at SPPD also. Many of you met Officer Chris Byrnes who worked with me on the Dayton’s Bluff beat. February marks the beginning of the new year at SPPD. For the new year, Byrnes was assigned to the Payne/Aracde beat with Officer Todd Feroni. While we are sad to see Byrnes transferred we are happy Commander Polyak chose Officer Len Manning as his replacement. Manning has worked the East side his entire career and had asked for this assignment. Manning is known by his co-workers as being caring and a hard worker who enjoys new tasks. If you see Len at a community meeting, introduce yourself and welcome him to the beat.

Warm weather will hopefully draw you and your neighbors out of your homes to enjoy the season. The weather will also encourage those who might commit crimes to join us. Make sure you lock your homes even if you are working in the yard or garage. Keep your car windows all the way closed and doors locked even if they are parked in your driveway. These small steps take “opportunities” away from potential criminals and make their job that much harder.

If you don’t know your neighbors on both sides, get out and meet them. Exchange phone numbers for emergencies and act as each others safety net. The SPPD often receives calls from citizens who are concerned about their neighbors. This can be your first line of safety against crime and maybe your best new friend.

Until next month, get out and enjoy the weather and remember to always treat each other with respect.

If you have a question or concern please contact me at jamie.sipes@ci.stpaul.mn.us or call the Dayton’s Bluff beat phone at 651-341-7637.

Officer J. Sipes
East District Tour 3

CLUES Receives Grant from the Comcast Foundation

Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio (CLUES) was recently awarded nearly $9,000 from the Comcast Foundation for its partnership in the annual Comcast Cares Day volunteer event. More than 300 Twin Cities Comcast employees/family members joined CLUES and the Latino community on Saturday, October 7, 2006 to assist the Latino organizations and neighborhoods with clean-up and painting and helped Latino elders with household tasks.

On Comcast Cares Day, teams of volunteers spent the morning at Latino nonprofit agencies, elementary schools, Latino neighborhoods and homes of Latino elders. They painted ESL classrooms, cleaned nonprofit offices, picked-up trash in Latino neighborhood parks and streets as well as assisting Latino elders with small household chores including raking leaves and winter proofing homes. Comcast volunteer efforts that Saturday morning were valued at over $4,800—a significant contribution to CLUES and its Latino partners.

CLUES is Minnesota’s largest behavior health and human service agency for the Latino community. A community builder and catalyst for change, CLUES provides services that holistically advance and enhance the quality of Latino’s lives here in Minnesota. With a Latino population expected to reach 241,000 by 2015, CLUES helps Latinos achieve success through assisting them to realize their full potential and wellness.

Comcast Cares Day is the marquee event of Comcast’s on-going employee volunteer initiative called Comcast Cares, which contributes volunteer time to numerous area organizations, including Neighborhood House, Saint Paul Public Schools, United Way and the Salvation Army.

About CLUES (www.clues.org)
CLUES is Minnesota’s premier provider of behavioral health and human services for the Latino community. Celebrating 26 years of service, CLUES provides a continuum of five linguistically appropriate and culturally proficient core services: Mental Health, Chemical Health, Elder Wellness, Education and Employment.

CLUES has six service sites in St. Paul and Minneapolis. A community builder and catalyst for change, CLUES provides services that holistically advance and enhance the quality of life of Latinos in Minnesota. In 2006, CLUES had over 27,800 client visits. Visit www.clues.org to learn more.

About Comcast
Comcast Corporation is the nation’s leading provider of cable, entertainment and communications products and services. Comcast is principally involved in the development, management and operation of broadband cable systems and in the delivery of programming content.

Attend daily Mass within steps of your home.

Ceremony Care Center and Residence – Marian of Saint Paul is a continuum of care campus including Neighborhood House on every level of care. 

> Independent Living  > Assisted Living  > Adult Day Center
> Board and Care  > Memory Care  > Skilled Nursing

Please call 651-793-2100 today to schedule a tour.

Dayton's Bluff Beat Officer Jamie Sipes and his Beatmobile

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Dayton’s Bluff District Forum