Get Heard…Make a Difference

By Ed Lambert, Executive Director, Dayton’s Bluff Community Council

Dayton’s Bluff has become a much more diverse community than it was even just 10 years ago. The Council welcomes all newcomers and strongly encourages everyone to contact the office (651-772-2075), or the Council web site www.daytonsbluff.org, to learn more about how they can make a difference in Dayton’s Bluff. All are welcome as we seek board and organizational participants who fully reflect the people who live and/or operate businesses in Dayton’s Bluff.

The Council is the organization in Dayton’s Bluff, open to all residents and business owners in the community, which focuses on the whole community and seeks to develop and/or support improvement efforts for the whole community. It is the place where you will be heard, and where you can make a difference, about what is happening (or needs to happen) in Dayton’s Bluff.

The Council is most effective when its elections get the attention of a large segment of the community, and its board is made up of concerned citizens from all segments of our diverse and dynamic community. Get involved, make a difference, call and ask how you can get involved in improving your community. You are needed.

Filing dates for the Community Council elections are August 20 to September 17.
Call 651-772-2075

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New!!
The Dayton’s Bluff District Forum is now mailed monthly to Dayton’s Bluff businesses and households FREE !!

Your 5” x 4” display ad gets to over 6500 addresses for only 2 cents per address. Other size ads are also available

Include the Dayton’s Bluff District Forum in your advertising plans.
Contact Karin@daytonsbluff.org Or call 651-772-2075

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National Night Out
With Your Neighbors

Celebrate National Night Out on August 7, 2007 with your neighbors and friends. Some neighborhood groups and block clubs are planning to have a neighborhood barbecue, a potluck, an ice cream social, a band playing music, a volleyball game and many other activities that a group of neighbors can do together.

National Night Out is designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness, generate support for and participation in local anti-crime programs, strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships, and send a message to criminals, letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back. Join 30 million other people in more than 9,000 communities nation-wide in a variety of events and activities. Let’s make this year even bigger!

See a list of National Night Out events on page 3
Dayton’s Bluff Community Meeting

The next Community Meeting is Thursday, August 2, 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, criminal and nuisance behavior, code enforcement issues and any other neighborhood issues, concerns, or needs 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. I/If I have the addresses of problems ahead of time I can get them to the police and NIPHI (code enforcement). Then they can bring information about the problems to the meeting.

Remember, it’s always on the 1st Thursday of each 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.

Training for Small Business Owners

The next Dayton’s Bluff Neighborhood Microentrepreneur Class is starting in September. This program helps start-up and young businesses on the East Side. All East Side entrepreneurs are welcome.

Class training lasts 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 one time with the instructor. Those who successfully complete the course and locate their businesses in target neighborhoods are eligible for ongoing business support.

Some examples of businesses started by people who have previously taken this course include graphics, landscaping, 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 651-772-2075 or email Karin@DaytonsBluff.org for an application.

Glorious Food Giveaway

The Food Giveaway takes place on the third Friday of every month at All Mounds Park United Methodist Church, Earl and Euclid Streets. Doors open at 8:30 a.m. The Food Giveaway is from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Come and receive a free bag of food, no questions asked.

Listen to music while you wait. Community meetings are at 10:00 a.m. for those who wish to participate. Call the church at 774-8736 for more information.

Local House Stars in Cable TV Program

This house at 699 Frank is in the process of getting a curb appeal make over for the HGTV (Home and Garden TV) show Curb Appeal. Look in the next issue of the Forum for an update on the project. Photo by Karin DuPaul

2nd Annual Parade of Community Gardens

As part of the 2nd Annual Parade of Community Gardens on August 19th, The Community Design Center of Minnesota garden at the Swede Hollow Café will be open to anyone interested in seeing the vegetables, flowers, and herbs being grown by local, youth gardeners. From 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., there will be gardeners at the Swede Hollow Café available for tours and questions. The youth will also be selling vegetables and providing information about the organization. Be sure to have coffee or lunch at the café as you pass through!

Coordinated by GardenWorks, a program of The Green Institute, the Parade of Community Gardens is designed to showcase the many benefits of community gardening—from beautification and food production to education and community building. Parade-goers can walk, bike, or drive from one garden to the next, soaking in each one’s unique blend of vegetables, flowers, herbs, native grasses and people. Gardens will feature a variety of attractions including tasty veggies, massage, ice cream and art in the garden.

More information including maps and garden descriptions is available by calling (612) 278-7123 or visiting www.gardenworksMN.org.

Community Building, One Flower at a Time

By Jennifer Marcus Newton

On a recent rainy Friday afternoon, several members of the Margaret Rec Center Block Club donned their gardening gloves and rubber galoshes to clear 4-foot high thistle and tangled weeds from the flowerbeds in front of the Margaret Recreation Center. Time was of the essence: This volunteer gardening crew had but a few hours to make room for hundreds of pansy plants being transplanted from the beautiful gardens at the Saint Paul Hotel.

Weeks earlier, Sara Radman, one of the hotel gardeners, had reached out to Dayton’s Bluff in an effort to find a children’s garden or neighborhood recreation center that could make use of the hotel’s spring plantings. A perfect match was made with the Margaret Rec Center and plans were devised to transport the more than sixty large bowls brimming with colorful, mature pansies from the hotel gardens downtown to the terraced beds on the Bluff.

The Margaret Rec Center already has extensive native and perennial plantings in place. From gargantuan rose bushes and bleeding hearts to hearty clumps of black-eyed susans and purple coneflowers, the terraced gardens have come into their own in the recent past, much to the delight of local residents. This is a community of dog walkers, active children, and outdoor enthusiasts, so a healthy garden smack-dab in the center of the neighborhood is an important feature. That said, the existing beds by the center’s entrance were in need of a good spring weeding and a dose of fresh color. Armed with shovels, hand trowels, and watering cans, neighbors rolled up their sleeves, jumped into the brushes, and got to work. Once the weeds were cleared, holes were then dug—all sixty of them. It rained lightly off and on during the project, but the erroneously predicted downpour never came, and long after the dinner bell had rung, a tired handful of muddy neighbors wiped off hands, posed for a few pictures, patted each other on the back, and called it a day.

Much like a flourishing garden is constructed a single plant at a time, a thriving community is also built one neighbor at a time—and both gardens and communities require nurturing. Be sure to add the Margaret Rec gardens to your daily walking route so that you, too, can enjoy this extraordinary urban green space. Want to join the Margaret Rec Center Block Club or get involved in community gardening projects? Contact Karin DuPaul at 651-772-2075 for details.

A heartfelt “thank you” goes out to the Saint Paul Hotel for thinking of Dayton’s Bluff and for making this pansy project possible.

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 Assembly 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 651-774-0606 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 651-776-2710 1 block North of Metropolitan State Sun 8:00 am - Free Community Breakfast Sun 9:30 am - Worship service Sun 10:45 am - Education for all ages Handicapped accessible ALL ARE WELCOME!

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’ 2600 Pioneer Pkwy 651-774-2396 Sunday Worship - 9:15 am Education Hour - 10:30 am Wednesday Worship - 6:30 pm

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 674 Johnson Pkwy 651-771-3690 Mon-Sat 8:00 am – Daily Mass Sat 4:15 pm - Mass Sun 9:00 am, 11:00 am - Mass sun 6:00 pm - Evening Mass

St. John’s Church of God in Christ 1154 E. 7th St. 651-771-7639 Sat-Mon-Sat 8:00 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
**National Night Out is Tuesday August 7**

Here is a list of some of the Dayton’s Bluff National Night Out events:

- Mounds Park near Mounds Blvd and Earl - live music
- 5th Street East between Mounds Blvd and Maria - food and entertainment
- Maria and Euclid - for more information call Karin 651-772-2075
- Margaret Street between Johnson Parkway and Atlantic - pot luck and meet the neighbors
- Bethlehem Lutheran Church at Margaret and Forest - food, fun and entertainment
- Mounds Park United Methodist Church at Earl and Euclid - food, games and fun
- Margaret Recreation Center 1109 Margaret - food, fun, games and learn about the new playground.
- Reaney between Forest and Cypress - fun and games
- Swoe Hollow Park at Greenbriar and Margaret - potluck, The Exit Band and fun
- 1330 Conway - food, music, fun and games

Email Karin@DaytonsBluff.org or call Karin at 772-2075 for more information about National Night Out events.

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**August Shows at the Mounds Theatre**

**Fading to Grey**

Diversity Productions Presents Fading to Grey at the Mounds Theatre this August 2 – 19.

Fading to Grey is a new full-length play by Twin Cities playwright Richard A. Pettry. The play explores the true meaning of family. It follows Alan and Terry, a couple on the day of their twenty-fifth anniversary. We learn through encounters with family, friends and a surprise visitor what family and relationships really mean. But most of all you will appreciate the two men and the life they have together.

For more information go to www.diversity-productions.org.

**Haunted House Movie**

Jon Hyers’ new independent haunted house docudrama will be showing at the Mounds Theatre August 25th and 26th.

“The Haunting of N 3rd Street” covers a one-year period of the Dr. Conrad Hyers family when they lived in an old house in St. Peter, MN.

The bulk of the movie centers on the Hyers family story while living in the house. Part two is a search for answers, with historical research on the house, discussion of the deaths and murders that took place there, and in some cases were said to have taken place there, and an actual historical scene which paints the picture of one possible cause of events.

Visit www.MoundsTheatre.org or call 651-772-2253 for show times. The Mounds Theatre is at 1029 Hudson Road.

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**It’s in the Mail - Not on Your Doorstep**

By Ed Lambert, Executive Director, Dayton’s Bluff Community Council

85% of Dayton’s bluff residents and businesses received this issue of the Forum by U.S. Mail; the rest will get theirs via volunteer distributors, or from one of our 10 paper racks in Dayton’s Bluff.

It’s an exciting moment because community businesses now have an effective tool to reach all their Dayton’s Bluff customers, and all residents and businesses will get the news from Dayton’s Bluff. Ad rates remain as established in 2001.

This readable and informative newspaper has been published monthly (Mar-Dec) since 2000. However, up until now, we have relied upon volunteer resources to hand deliver each paper to households and businesses in Dayton’s Bluff. This is a big job, and very difficult to do on a reliable and regular basis, so we are using the mail to strengthen assurances that our whole community gets the whole paper each month.

Early response from prospective advertisers has been very positive. Our informal survey of readers has also encouraged us to make this change. Residents seek news about the community, the people who live and work here, as well as information from businesses and organizations about the services and resources available in and about Dayton’s Bluff.

Past issues of the Forum will continue to be available on the Community Council’s web site www.daytonsbluff.org, so you can always visit there to find an article or photo that appeared in a previous issue. The web site also carries comprehensive information about Council programs, services, and resources available to local residents and businesses.

We have a wonderful, dynamic, and diverse community with extraordinary parks, several hundred local businesses, and scores of effective and dynamic community organizations. Dayton’s Bluff is changing and growing, with new opportunities emerging even as some long standing ones pass from the scene. Reading the Dayton’s Bluff District Forum is an effective way to stay abreast of these changes, and advertising in the Forum is a very effective way to get the word out about your products, services, and events. Check it out, and pass it on; it’s your community newspaper.

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**Dayton’s Bluff Circulator**

The Circulator is a FREE bus that goes around Dayton’s Bluff this summer to make it easier for Dayton’s Bluff kids to get to youth activities. It runs Monday-Friday from 10:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. until August 24th.

Children under 7 should have a parent or guardian with them on the bus. You can get on or off at any of the stops and there are lawn signs at each stop. For more information visit www.daytonsbuff.org, or call 651-793-3885.

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By Steve Trimbble

In the last few months in the Forum I have been listing, adding to and sometimes subtracting from, a list of the street names of Dayton’s Bluff as listed in Don Empson’s newly issued book, The Street Where You Live. We made it from A to Z. But the Subcommittee (725) “A Guide to Place Names of St. Paul,” so far, for the encore, let’s take a look at the non-street names that are included in the Empson volume.

Some of the places listed in the book—such as Carver’s Cave, Swede Hollow and Indian Mounds Park—have been written about in past issues of the Forum, so they will be mentioned but not covered extensively. As before, I am making this in the form of an extended book review and adding new information so it doesn’t look like I am a plagiarist historian.

Augustus Gauger Park

This park, nestled between Greenbriar North and Seventh Street was named after the local German-American architect. He began his work with the famed Edward Bassford and before he died in 1929 had designed hundreds of buildings. The Park was located between North and Seventh) that abuts the park was one of his commercial works. In the 1970’s it had become a crime-ridden apartment building. Then it was purchased by a nonprofit neighborhood group who upgraded the units and sought out tenants and renters. Probably the most visible one has been the Swede Hollow Café. Today’s park once had two small billboards. Money was raised, the land purchased in the 1980’s and the giant billboards. Money was raised, the land purchased in the 1980’s and the giant

Bruce Vento Regional Trail

Previously the Burlington Northern Trail. It goes from the base of Dayton’s Bluff to the north and meets up with the Gateway trail and soon will connect with downtown and trails further south. It was re-named for Bruce Vento after he died in 2000.

Carver’s Cave

This popular place has had numerous articles about the place that Empson calls “one of the oldest and best known natural land marks on the Upper Mississippi River,” so it’ll just include one. Jonathan Carver’s 1766 visit and the 1867 Carver Centennial celebration sponsored by the Minnesota Historical Society, and the fact that there were a series of times that the cave was lost due to erosion and then found again, most recently in 1913 and 1948. Then, as Empson says, “in 1977, the entrance was once again found under investigations of county, and plans were formulated to work with the American Indians on a long-range plan for this singular place—now the centerpiece of the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary.”

Commemara Patch

According to Empson, it started out as “a collection of modest working-class homes at North and Johnson Road and Johnson Parkway as “brickyards.” Though there are not a lot of details, it is known that least one concern did make bricks there in the area.

The brickyards were along side what appeared on the map to be a sizeable body of water—probably a shallow lake or deep wetland. Some old-timers talked about going there to play when they were children. It apparently ended up being used as an unofficial dump, and some mentioned discarding Seeger refrigerator shells that could be used as rafts and polled around in the probably stankky water.

Many residents remember when Johnson Brothers Grocery and then Johnson Brothers Liquor were there. Even then some of the underground water would still seep up through the low-lying sections of the parking lot. Recently a developer bought the land and put in a large senior apartment complex.

Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary

The Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary is a twenty-seven acre park located in the flood plain just below Dayton’s Bluff. It features history culture, and a natural landscape that is being slowly restored. It is a park where he served for many years. As chair of the house subcommittee on public lands, he was very interested in national scenic rivers and wilderness areas and was able to get large sections of the upper Mississippi declared a Scenic and Natural area. The park was officially dedicated in 2005 and work still continues to improve the site.

Fish Hatchery Road

In 1977 the state legislature appropriated money for the construction of a fish hatchery. The “Willow Brook” facility was opened within a year. It became a popular tourist attraction. People often ventured down a steep zigzag road from today’s Indian Mounds Park to the area between the bluff and the river to look at the fish, visit a wildlife museum and later see remnants of the fish hatchery, and beer. The cave was covered up by the natural erosion of the limestone bluff years ago.

Forest Street Triangle

This Triangle first appeared in our community in 1902 at the southwest corner of East Seventh and Forest. It has been much used as some of the “improvements” on Seventh Street. It was somewhat absorbed into a parking lot and there are now only remnants to the triangle. But there have been bus bruches and a slab or two. As FM follows through with its downsizing plans, perhaps this triangle and the entire parking lot could become a much needed public space on the busy street. Anyone want to work on creating a Minnesota Mining Triangle at the corner of East Seventh and Forest?

Ham Park

This small, well-manicured park on the north side of East Seventh at Hamm Park is surrounded by those created by the meeting of two early additions, The one-quarter acre site was given to the city in 1910 in honor of brewing legend Theodore Hamm by his son. William Hamm was a member of the park board at the time. It is now larger than originally because of the vacation of part of a street.

Im-In-I-Ja Sku

As before, I have not sent in some of your favorite stories about the park that can be included? Maria Avenue Triangle

The parks department got this small park back and at the Mount Will in 1911 and McLean in 1911, but the source of the donation is not currently known. It is also unclear whether it was named specifically for Maria Bates, Lyman’s widow, or just because of the vacating of the street of the same name. It unfortunately lost some of its size when the city redid the streets and reluctantly kept the granite curbs in the park, planned with the neighbors, and carefully tended by one of the nurses at Metropolitan State.

We made if from A to the start of the M’s this month We’ll try to finish in the next issue of the Forum.

If you want to buy your own copy of The Street Where You Live by Donald L. Empson, the University of Minnesota Press publication is available at most bookstores as well as the Ramsey County Historical Society and the Minnesota History Center. Or even better, you can order it directly from the author. Send a check or money order to Donald Empson at P.O. Box 791, Stillwater, MN 55082. The price is $19.95 + $4.00 for postage and packaging and a total of $25.25. If you do, please tell how you would like the book dedicated. Visit Empson’s website at www.empsons.com.
Our walk started at the Saint Paul Library, Dayton’s Bluff branch. Larry’s smiling assistant daintily carried a portable microphone and speaker. So, if you have hearing issues, fear not on these walks. The weather for our event was a bit chilly, but was a nice reprieve after a few hot days and it was refreshing to wear a simple winter jacket.

We walked to 7th St., thus named, as it was once the seventh street back from the Mississippi River. Larry spoke a bit about the fact that it was graded in 1884 and cable cars were quick to follow. Grading roads in that time was incredibly expensive, but people certainly thought it was worth it.

We then walked towards 1st Lutheran Church, raised in 1917 on the corner of Maria Ave and 8th St. Directly northwest of that is Fountain Plaza. Lyman Dayton named Maria Ave in 1857 after his wife. Many locals pronounce it “mah-rye-ah.”

Fountain Plaza was named thus because it was significant to the homes in early 1900’s overlooking Swede Hollow to have beautiful fountains.

Larry took us into Swede Hollow Park. The park is home to much history. The Hamm mansion, built by Theodore and Luigiritta Hamm, was built here. I also learned that many of the homes around Swede Hollow Park were once owned by Hamm family members. It’s also important to note that most of the homes in this area are official historical homes. It’s wonderful that most of the families living in these homes now have restored much of their original architecture.

Our walk then took us to view a few historic homes near the Cerenity House located at the tri-corner of Dellwood Pl., Greenbrier St. and Maury St. The Cerenity House is sitting on top of the property that once was the site of the Mayall family manse. There are also three homes on Greenbrier St. that have unusual and unique architecture for this area.

We then walked back SW towards the Library via 7th Street. Swede Hollow Café is located here. Swede Hollow Café has a lovely garden for enjoying your morning coffee or pastry. The garden is a nice little oasis with spring flowers and fountains. The garden itself is about 1500 square feet and reminded me a bit of dining in a very small village in Europe. You can contact Swede Hollow café at 651-772-2075 or check out their website at www.swedehollowcafe.com.

Our walk ended by leaving the Library with Larry giving his time to answering questions from guests and signing his new book for people. I felt this added a very personal touch to the entire event.

If you would like more information on the history of our area, our website, www.daytonsbuff.org, has all the past issues of the paper and also has more information on our Walk the Bluff program. The Walk the Bluff program is a wonderful way to get out and learn about the rich history that is Dayton’s Bluff.

A Walk Down Memory Lane

By Louise Letnes

Mounds Park United Methodist Church sponsored a walk down Wilson and Wakefield Avenues (between Earl and Cypress) on June 20, 2007, as a part of the celebration of its 150th year of ministry (86 years on the corner of Earl and Fais). The walk was led by Richard Harper, a retired United Methodist pastor who grew up in the neighborhood during the 30s and 40s, first on Wilson, then on Wakefield Avenues.

Pastor Harper told of his memories of a neighbor asking him as a young child to stop and help her with the extra donut holes she had from that day’s baking. Memories of the excitement caused by the first Nash to arrive on the block, and the feelings of security that the Mounds Park beacon gave him as it flashed through his bedroom window each night.

He also remembers, as a child, the feeling that something important had happened as he sat in a neighbor’s house while they listened to the radio reports of Germany’s invasion of Poland. He told of sliding down the hills between Wilson and Wakefield where houses now stand. Neighbors and members of Mounds Park Church ended the evening in the church Fellowship Hall with more reminiscing while enjoying root beer floats.

Mounds Park United Methodist Church will hold a 150th anniversary Service of Celebration on Sunday afternoon October 21, 2007 at 3 p.m. The public is invited.
After an interval of many years, the Dayton’s Bluff Early Childhood Family Education Program will once again offer a two afternoon per week class for children who will start kindergarten in the fall of 2008. The four year olds (4 on or before September 1, 2007) will come to school on Monday and Thursday afternoons. They will have a certified teacher who provides a friendly and fun classroom with activities that excite children and motivate them to learn. We will explore themes such as The Apple Orchard, All About Me and My Family, The Gingerbread Man, The Bakery, The Post Office, Colors of the Rainbow, Butterflies and more. Through songs, stories, field trips and a classroom of dynamic materials, children will learn that school is an important and wonderful place to grow.

On Thursdays, parents and their other children who are not yet in school come to ECFE with the four year olds. The parents join the parent educator to discuss ways to strengthen children’s developing skills during the important year before kindergarten when their involvement in their child’s education enhances his or her school readiness skills in every area - in language, pre-reading, pre-writing, and math understanding, self-help, and getting along with others. The siblings will have a separate classroom with a teacher who provides a warm, loving, developmentally appropriate curriculum.

On Mondays the fours come again to expand and consolidate the learning and growing they are doing on Thursdays. Each parent comes a few times each semester to assist the teacher on Monday afternoon. If you are interested in this class, or any other ECFE class, call 651-793-5410 for information about registration.
By Nick Duncan

It is now a lot easier for Dayton's Bluff residents to pedal to Lowertown or Downtown or Swede Hollow or just about anywhere else their bicycle can take them because the Lower Phalen Creek Project officially opened the Bruce Vento Trail Link on Saturday July 14th. This new bike/walking path connects the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary with Swede Hollow Park, Lowertown at Fourth Street and Mounds Park at Commercial Street.

The new trail links the Mounds Park/Dayton's Bluff neighborhoods with the already extensive Bruce Vento Regional Trail system, a system that runs almost ten miles ending just north of Highway 694 at Buerkle Road in White Bear Lake. And if that's not enough riding for you Lance Armstrong wannabes, just north of Frost Avenue, the Bruce Vento Trail intersects with the even more extensive Gateway Trail, which stretches all the way to Pine Point County Park north of Stillwater in Washington County. Now that's quite a workout.

But for the less ambitious riders, those of us just wanting to reach the farmers market or to visit a restaurant downtown, the new trail allows a peaceful, scenic pathway to the heart of Lowertown without the hassle and danger of having to navigate the heavy auto traffic on the Third Street Bridge or along East Seventh Street. The trail descends along Commercial Street from the northwest end of Mounds Park. The path continues under the Third Street Bridge or along East Seventh Street. The trail descends along Commercial Street from the northwest end of Mounds Park. The path continues under the Third Street Bridge or along East Seventh Street. The trail descends along Commercial Street from the northwest end of Mounds Park. The path continues under the Third Street Bridge.

Indeed, all along the new trail link are signs of past uses of this lowland area between the homes on Dayton's Bluff and the warehouses and commercial buildings of Lowertown. Early in St Paul's history this area was deemed unsuitable for development. It was a swampland where Phalen Creek emptied into the Mississippi. Though the swamps have long ago been drained, from the bike trail it is still possible to see the old aqueduct as it carries water runoff toward the river. And if one takes a short detour south into the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary, you can even get an idea what this place looked like before human settlement.

But the link to the past that is most apparent is the link to this area's once great railroad days. In the 1800's St Paul was the most northerly navigable point on the Mississippi River for steamboats. Lowertown or the Lower Landing, because of it's flat and relatively low topography, was the ideal spot in St. Paul to load and unload cargo. We need to remember, this was a time when there were no interstate freeways or 18-wheelers, and a time when shipping by rail was still in it's infancy. That meant riverboats were the fastest, cheapest method of shipping goods. And to be the Northern most port on the biggest river in the country meant the Lower Landing was a booming hub of activity.

Soon rail lines from across the Upper Midwest flowed into the port of St Paul. Remember that in the 1880's Minneapolis' Mills, powered by St Anthony Falls, produced a staggering one-eighth of the entire world's flour supply. The area of the Vento Trail link, this undeveloped lowland area adjacent to the Lower Landing, was the ideal place for building railroads. In fact, a great number of rail lines once covered this entire area. Only a couple of these lines remain, crossing over the bike trail on a stone and wood bridge that is only a small part of the beautifully crafted old stone bridge-works that line the bike trail along Commercial road. The craftsmanship is absolutely incredible. Further on toward Lowertown is a row of buildings that line the bike trail along the 1880's once used as railroad machine shops.

For more information about the Lower Phalen Creek Project visit www.mepartnership.org/sites/LOWPHALENCREEK/index.asp.

Dayton's Bluff Recycling Pick up

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

Good Free Stuff at the Cleanup

Even if you do not have junk or trash to get rid of and come check out the Free Stuff Swap Stuf. 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 clothes, furniture, building materials, cabinets, lawnowers, bikes, toys and other items in good condition will be set aside in the Reuse Area for someone to take home. All materials in the Reuse Area are free and there is no charge to enter this area. Items must be handed away from the Free Stuff area by noon cleanup day or it may be taken in the dumpster. So bring your car, truck or trailer.

Vendors 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 full lunch will be provided. Call 651-772-2075 if you would like to help.

Sponsors and Thanks

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

The above guidance is gratefully acknowledged. 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 if any of the above guidelines are violated or cost exceed budget. There will be limited senior pickup service for more information or to register call the Dayton's Bluff Community Council at 651-772-2075.
Designed by Kids, Built by Volunteers

The Minnesota Vikings, KaBOOM!, and Toro helped build a new playground at the American Indian-World Cultures Magnet Schools at Earl and Third Streets in Dayton’s Bluff. More than 200 volunteers, including 100 Vikings coaches, staff and players, joined forces to build the new and safe playground in just one day. The playground’s design is based on drawings provided by students who attended a Design Day in April and will use the playground.

Elaine Raspel-Booth, Assistant Principal, commented that the students and staff are ecstatic about the new playground and encouraged by the outpouring of community support.

Christmas is Returning to the Mounds Theatre

A Christmas Story returns to the Mounds Theatre for the fourth year, live on stage this December for nine performances.

Humorist Jean Shepherd’s memoir of growing up in the Midwest in the 1940s follows 9-year-old Ralphie Parker in his quest to get a genuine Red Ryder BB gun under the tree for Christmas. Ralphie pleads his case before his mother, his teacher and Santa Claus himself, at Goldblatt’s Department Store, with the even Santa Claus himself, at 1029 Hudson Road.

In answer to Clyde’s question, A LAH/BNP allows elder’s 65 years and older to remain as independent as possible by providing supportive services in their home. “Basically it is neighbors helping neighbors,” stated Malcolm Mitchell, Executive Director of the Elderberry Institute an organization set up to help launch Block Nurse Programs.

Tickets: Ticket prices are $15 Adults; $10 Student/Senior (55+); and $5 Children (12 and under). Advance purchase group discounts are available.

Performances: Fridays, Dec. 7, 14 & 21 and Saturdays, Dec. 8, 15 & 22 at 7:30 p.m. Sundays, Dec. 9, 16 & 23 at 2:00 p.m.

Tickets: Visit www.moundstheatre.org for a ticket order form or call 651-772-2253 and leave your name and number. Someone will call you back to take your order.

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

New Kid on the Block

By Maryann Chowen, PHN

Dayton’s Bluff has a ‘New Kid on the Block’. The Dayton’s Bluff Living At Home/Block Nurse Program held it second meeting June 8 at Parkway Garden’s senior living apartments on 1145 Hudson Road.

“Who does a Block Nurse Program do?” asked Clyde, a senior who volunteered to work on the steering committee. Currently, there are 41 Living at Home/Block Nurse Programs.

“My father won a decoder pin; Ralphie’s father winning a lamp shaped like a woman’s leg in a net stocking as a major award; Ralphie’s fantasy scenarios and more. The 2,500 sq. ft. playground features several unique slides, climbers and interactive panels for the 600 children in the community who attend the school. The playground construction cost is being split by the Minnesota Vikings and their community partner Toro.

“Providing a fun and safe outdoor play environment enhances the youth educational experience,” says Stacy Bogart, Toro Foundation president and assistant legal counsel. “We are pleased to partner with the Minnesota Vikings, KaBOOM! and the Saint Paul Public Schools on this great community building project.”

This is the Block Nurse planning group that held its second meeting at Parkway Gardens on June 8. Meetings are being held regularly to get the program going.