Dayton’s Bluff Adds Three to Neighborhood Honor Roll

Hundreds of people attended the Celebrate Saint Paul’s District Council reception at St. Thomas College in January. The yearly celebration started in the 1980s as did the Saint Paul Neighborhood Honor Roll, a list of Saint Paul citizens who have done outstanding service in their neighborhoods over a long period of time. Each year all 17 District Councils can add three names to the honor roll. Past honor roll inductees volunteered for years at a church or a school, served on the community board, led projects like buckthorn removal or spearheaded ongoing community events.

This year Dayton’s Bluff added Sharon McCrea, Dave Murphy, and Margie Smith for their years of service in the Dayton’s Bluff neighborhood. The Saint Paul Neighborhood Honor Roll is located in the hallway on the third floor of the Saint Paul City Hall and Court House. The quality and amount of volunteer time that make our communities better is amazing in Saint Paul.

The Dayton’s Bluff District Council is looking for three people to add to the honor roll next year. If you know of someone who has done an outstanding job of volunteer work in Dayton’s Bluff, email Karin@DaytonsBluff.org or call Karin at 772-2075.

April Showers Bring New District Plan

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

The purpose of a district plan is to describe the community’s vision of its future development and to help guide city staff and residents in working toward that vision. The plan outlines a community’s history and charts its major development experiences and planned future directions. In short, it spells out what we have been as a community and where we want to go.

Dayton’s Bluff was added to the District Plan in 1978 and was updated in 1986. It has been our adopted plan for the last 20 years. In St. Paul, community plans should be updated or revised every ten years. Ours has five key areas:

* Commercial and Economic Development
* Community Life, Public Spaces, and Recreation
* Housing and Residential Life
* Neighborhood Safety and Livability
* Transportation, Traffic, and Parking

The Dayton’s Bluff Community Council has been guiding the development of our new plan through surveys, public meetings, research, and committee work since 2004 when it was decided to create a new plan. Watch this space for announcements of the final public meetings to present the new plan to the community, and send it to the city to be incorporated into St. Paul’s overall city plan.

Keep these two dates open so you can be part of finalizing the plan: an evening meeting on April 17, and a Saturday meeting on April 21. Details will be in the April District Forum and on www.daytonsbluff.org early in April. Call 651-772-2075 for more information.

Sharon McCrea, Dave Murphy and Marge Smith were added to the Saint Paul Neighborhood Honor Roll this year. Nominations are now being accepted for next year’s Honor Roll. Back row (l to r): Kathy Lantry, Dave Murphy, Jacob Dorer, Ed Lambert, Ellen Biales and John Smith. Middle row: Jean Comstock, Angela DuPaul and Marge Smith. Front row: Sharon McCrea and Karin DuPaul.

Dayton’s Bluff

Creating a sense of place and a place that makes sense...
Dayton's Bluff Community Meeting

The next Community Meeting is Thursday, March 1, 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 new ideas for improvement in Dayton’s Bluff. 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.

Be Your Own Boss

The next Dayton’s Bluff Neighborhood Microentrepreneur Class is starting on March 7th. 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 services. Some examples of businesses started by people who have previously taken this course include graphics, photography, food service, restoration of wood furniture and works of art, customized 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 April 2007 and class size is limited. Please email or call Karin at Karin@DaytonsBluff.org or 772-2075 for an application.

Greening Dayton’s Bluff in 2007

Plans for 2007 are well under way. We had two meetings to talk about planning for 2007. One in November with people involved in our Gardening Grant program and the other in January for everyone with ideas. We will continue some of the favorites such as the plant swap, garden tours, boulevard planting, after-school planting and workshops. We will be adding flowering pots in the business area at Hudson Road and Earl Street.

On Tuesday, March 13th we are having a workshop, “Going Wild, Natural Planting”, about the ease and limited care that native planting require in gardens. The Workshop will be held in the meeting room of the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council, 798 East 7th Street starting at 6:30 p.m.

We are in the process of scheduling workshops: Asian Gardening in Minnesota, Mexican Gardening in Minnesota, Backyard Natives for Birds. Our Rain Garden Workshop will be scheduled in May and participants are asked to bring photos, drawings, and/or plans for the site of their rain garden.

The Annual Plant Sale and Swap will be held on Saturday, May 19th. Watch for more information in the next issue of the Forum.

The Greening Dayton’s Bluff is funded by the Saint Paul Garden Club and the McKnight Foundation. For more information or to register, email Karin@DaytonsBluff.org or call Karin at 651-772-2075.

Recycle milk cartons and juice boxes!

Eureka Recycling will now collect your milk cartons and juice boxes with bottles and cans. Recyclers should remove any caps or straws from the containers, then rinse and flatten them. Plastic pour spouts do not need to be removed. The most common types of this packaging are milk cartons, juice boxes, soup and broth containers, and cans for soy and rice beverages.

This packaging is made of 70-85% high-grade paper. To be recycled, Eureka Recycling can only collect them with bottles and cans because it allows them to easily separate them out at their facility. It is then sold to companies where the paper is separated from the plastic coatings and metal linings in a pulping process and made into new paper products. For more information, call Eureka Recycling at 651-222-SORT (7678).

Junk Car in the Way? Get Rid of it Free

Beautify your home as the plant swap, garden tours, boulevard planting, after-school planting and workshops. We will be adding flowering pots in the business area at Hudson Road and Earl Street.

On Tuesday, March 13th we are having a workshop, “Going Wild, Natural Planting”, about the ease and limited care that native planting require in gardens. The Workshop will be held in the meeting room of the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council, 798 East 7th Street starting at 6:30 p.m.

We are in the process of scheduling workshops: Asian Gardening in Minnesota, Mexican Gardening in Minnesota, Backyard Natives for Birds. Our Rain Garden Workshop will be scheduled in May and participants are asked to bring photos, drawings, and/or plans for the site of their rain garden.

The Annual Plant Sale and Swap will be held on Saturday, May 19th. Watch for more information in the next issue of the Forum.

The Greening Dayton’s Bluff is funded by the Saint Paul Garden Club and the McKnight Foundation. For more information or to register, email Karin@DaytonsBluff.org or call Karin at 651-772-2075.

Recycle milk cartons and juice boxes!

Eureka Recycling will now collect your milk cartons and juice boxes with bottles and cans. Recyclers should remove any caps or straws from the containers, then rinse and flatten them. Plastic pour spouts do not need to be removed. The most common types of this packaging are milk cartons, juice boxes, soup and broth containers, and cans for soy and rice beverages.

This packaging is made of 70-85% high-grade paper. To be recycled, Eureka Recycling can only collect them with bottles and cans because it allows them to easily separate them out at their facility. It is then sold to companies where the paper is separated from the plastic coatings and metal linings in a pulping process and made into new paper products. For more information, call Eureka Recycling at 651-222-SORT (7678).
Greetings from the Community Council

By Walter Waranka, President, Dayton’s Bluff Community Council

I just wanted to drop a quick note to say hello and briefly introduce myself to you. I have recently been given the privilege to serve as the President of the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council for the next year. I have been a resident of Saint Paul since moving here eleven years ago from Wisconsin. I have really enjoyed it all. During this time I have been working as an employment consultant and have volunteered with many groups and organizations. I have had many opportunities to serve these groups and organizations. I have been a member, a board member and served as an officer and enjoyed it very much.

I have been a resident of Dayton’s Bluff for four years and enjoy the neighborhood very much. Two years ago I was elected to the Community Council and am now beginning my third year as your newly elected President. I will do the best to keep Dayton’s Bluff moving in the right direction and I am always open to listening to any of your concerns or issues. I want to encourage all of you to attend a meeting (or more), so you can get a first-hand idea what your Community Council does.

The Community Council is comprised of many individuals who all believe in the neighborhood and want to do their best to serve. But we do need and welcome your input. I look forward to the coming year and I will do my best to represent Dayton’s Bluff.

Join New Walk the Bluff Program

By Garry Fay, Coordinator, Walk the Bluff Program

The “Walk the Bluff” program hopes to help you, your family and friends to walk Dayton’s Bluff regularly. Walk the Bluff is working to make your walks more frequent, enjoyable, and safe by helping you find walking partner(s) as well as good places or trails in Dayton’s Bluff in which to walk regularly. Our goal is to get hundreds more people out walking often – four times per week for 30 minutes. You and your group chooses when and where to walk. The Walk the Bluff program has suggestions on where and with whom you can walk. We hope to make your walks more frequent, joyful and safe. Walking is healthy fun, convenient exercise as well as a simple and efficient way to get places including school, work and shopping. One can walk off pounds and stress. When walking one can discuss issues of the day, spy the glories of nature in action or enjoy quiet time together with family or friends.

Walk the Bluff can help you find a walking partner or group. Of course, you can talk with possible partners about walking together anywhere whether it be at home, in your neighborhood, at church, at work – and lots of employers want you to walk, some even have health club medical benefits. Try asking people that you want to see healthy, that you care about.

Join "Walk the Bluff" A program designed to promote:
- Health
- Happiness
- A better neighborhood

Get involved with neighbors, friends, & family. Enjoy walking Dayton's Bluff regularly. Help us organize so you can walk more.

For more information call Garry at 651-772-2075 or e-mail Garry@DaytonsBluff.org.

A Dayton’s Bluff Community Council Program.

Recycling Pick up

Curb side every Tuesday. Have your recycling on the curb by 7:00a.m.

If you need recycling bins call 651-772-2075.

Join "Walk the Bluff" A program designed to promote:
- Health
- Happiness
- A better neighborhood

Get involved with neighbors, friends, & family. Enjoy walking Dayton’s Bluff regularly. Help us organize so you can walk more.

For more information call Garry at 651-772-2075 or e-mail Garry@DaytonsBluff.org.

A Dayton’s Bluff Community Council Program.

Get connected, get involved; it’s how we make progress in Dayton’s Bluff and improve our community for everyone. Your energy, ideas, and concerns are needed by all of us.

For more information call Ed or Karin at 651-772-2075.
New Winter Carnival West Wind Princess from Dayton’s Bluff

By Steve Trimble

Marie Scheffer, the 1886 Queen of St. Paul’s first Winter Carnival, was a resident of Dayton’s Bluff. And recently another young women, who has lived her whole life with her mother and brother on Mounds Boulevard, also became a member of the Winter Carnival royal family. Ellen Edwards was crowned Princess of the West Wind at the frigid 2007 coronation on Harriet Island.

She was recently kind enough to spend some time out from her work in the pharmacy at the East Side Target store on Suburban Avenue to talk about her background and her experiences as part of one of St. Paul’s oldest celebrations.

“I’ve lived in Mounds Park on St. Paul’s East Side my entire life,” Ellen said. “As kids we used to walk up the hill to the tennis courts, ride our bikes to Dayton’s Bluff Recreation Center for softball, and we would sit on the park bench across the street from our house to look at the view—it’s the most beautiful view in all of St. Paul.”

Our perky Princess went to St. Paul’s Adams Spanish Immersion Magnet school and was a member of the 2001 high school graduating class at Cremin-Derham Hall. After earning a degree from Bemidji State University, she said “I decided to get involved and to re-connect with the area I grew up in after I had been away to college.”

The buoyant Bluffer was encouraged to get involved in the Winter Carnival by her grandmother. Her grandfather Red Roberts was part of the King Boreas court many years ago. Each candidate is sponsored by a different local business, and Ellen’s sponsor was Windy Hill Auto Parts in north St. Paul.

Though last seen, Ellen was getting ready to go on an event in Winnipeg, a Canadian city that, unfortunately, is usually ten to fifteen degrees colder than the Twin Cities. Ellen Edwards is glad she decided to take her grandmother’s advice and carry on a family tradition. She was hoping it would be fun but, as she said, “It’s been a blast!” It was a learning opportunity and a chance to serve the community. “It exceeded all of my expectations,” she stated. As the new Princess of the West Winds remarked, “Doing this makes me happy and makes me feel successful, so I know that this is what I am supposed to be doing.”

ECFE Children Play Post Office

Good programs for very young children always provide many opportunities for them to grow socially and emotionally, to practice using their large and small muscles, and to work on the thinking skills they will need for school success. During the month of February, the Dayton’s Bluff Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) Program used a focus on the U. S. Postal Service to help children develop skills in all of these areas through play.

By Steve Trimble

There were judges at events that were held as part of the 2007 Royal Family will go to various local events and take trips to various festivals outside the state. In fact, when last seen, Ellen was getting ready to go on an event in Winnipeg, a Canadian city that, unfortunately, is usually ten to fifteen degrees colder than the Twin Cities.

Throughout the coming year, Ellen and the other members of the Winter Carnival royal family will go to various local events and take trips to various festivals outside the state. In fact, when last seen, Ellen was getting ready to go on an event in Winnipeg, a Canadian city that, unfortunately, is usually ten to fifteen degrees colder than the Twin Cities.

Ellen Edwards is glad she decided to take her grandmother’s advice and carry on a family tradition. She was hoping it would be fun but, as she said, “It’s been a blast!” It was a learning opportunity and a chance to serve the community. “It exceeded all of my expectations,” she stated. As the new Princess of the West Winds remarked, “Doing this makes me happy and makes me feel successful, so I know that this is what I am supposed to be doing.”

There has been an increase of graffiti in many parts of Dayton’s Bluff in recent weeks. Community members need to help stop graffiti. The way to help stop it is to report it when you see it.

There are several ways to report graffiti:

- Check children’s backpacks for markers and/ or spray paint, as well as sketch books, pieces of paper with graffiti “tags” on them aerosol can caps and/or nozzles, white shoe polish and photographs of graffiti pieces/murals.
- Check school papers for graffiti “tags” and/ or sketches of murals.
- Know who your children are hanging out with and make sure they are home at curfew time. Curfew times are: 10 pm for ages 15 or younger, midnight for ages 16-17.

Graffiti is not an art; it’s a crime. Neighborhood residents get very upset about seeing graffiti in the neighborhood. For more information email Karin at DaytonBluff.Org or call Karin at 651-772-2075.

Happy St. Patrick’s Day

St. Patrick’s Day is an Irish holiday held on March 17th to commemorate the death of Saint Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland. It is celebrated in countries that have large populations of Irish immigrants, as well as in places like the United States where the Irish have been a historically significant minority.

The holiday is marked by parades, traditional music and dance, and various festivities that celebrate Irish culture. Many people wear green clothing and accessories as a symbol of support for Ireland and its people. St. Patrick’s Day is also a time for people to reflect on their Irish heritage and the contributions of the Irish to society.

In addition to parades and cultural events, St. Patrick’s Day is often associated with the consumption of traditional Irish foods such as corned beef and cabbage, and drinks like Guinness beer. The popularity of the holiday has been influenced by the increase in Irish immigration to countries around the world, as well as by the rise of Irish-American culture in recent decades.

Today, St. Patrick’s Day is celebrated in many parts of the world, from Ireland to the United States and beyond. It is a day to honor Irish heritage and to enjoy the joyous spirit that comes with celebrating this unique cultural tradition.
Dayton’s Bluff Rec Center March and April Activities

Dayton’s Bluff Community Recreation Center
800 Conway St.  651.793-3885
Director: Jody Griffin
jody.griffin@ci.stpaul.n.us

Winter Program (Jan.- March 2007- Events & Activities) Stop by the center to pick up your copy or visit us on line at www.ci.stpaul.gov/depts/parks
Spring / Summer Program (April-August) will be out in the middle of March.

SUMMER SPORTS
REGISTRATION Mickey Mouse T-Ball, T-Ball, Nearball, Baseball, Softball; April 2-13; Ages 3-18; Registration forms available April 2.
PARENT TOOT PLAY TIME - Mon., Wed., Fri., 10 am-12 pm; Free; Ages 0-5.
SENIOR CARDS – 500 Friday’s: 12:30-4 pm; Fee: $2 weekly fee for adult.
ADULT LUNCH TIME VOLLEYBALL & BASKETBALL. Thursday’s 11 am-1 pm; $1 / week; On-going. No children allowed.
SPRING BREAK KIDS DANCE Thurs., Apr. 5; 5:30-8:30 pm Gr. 5-8; $3
CRIBBAGE Looking to start a new group. Call if interested.
ADULT/Seniors; Tuesday’s; 12-3 pm; $5 per week; 10 wks
TEENS CLUB - The group meets on Tuesday & Thursday’s from 5-7 pm.; Free; New members wanted.

Young Artists Initiative to Premiere Disney’s Mulan Live

By Nathaniel Churchill
Students from Saint Paul’s East Side are busy rehearsing their big premiere! The East Side’s own Young Artists Initiative (YAI) was proud to be chosen as the first theater company to present a full-scale stage production of Disney’s Mulan.

The show was originally work-shopped at the North Shore Music Theater in Beverly, Massachusetts, and YAI is thrilled to be the first company to be granted the opportunity to offer audiences a fully realized stage production. Disney’s Mulan is part of Music Theater International’s “Junior” series, which adapts hit musicals and arranges the music to make it more accessible for young performers.

The story takes audiences back in time to ancient China where the Huns have invaded and it is up to the misfit Mulan and her mischievous sidekick dragon, Mushu, to save the Emperor. It is a heartwarming celebration of culture, honor and fighting spirit. For those who are fans of the original film, the stage adaptation features all their favorites like “Reflection,” “Honor to Us All” and “I’ll Make a Man Out of You.”

Benjamin Lacinia, a former Saint Paul Public Schools music specialist, is the director of the production and a big fan of the original film. He was particularly drawn to this show because of the role model that Mulan can be to young girls. Lacinia added, “We hope that this show will empower young girls on Saint Paul’s East Side and help them see that they can make a difference.”

YAI believes that the arts should be accessible to all young people regardless of their race, beliefs or economic status. Young Artists Initiative offices and classrooms are located within First Lutheran Church.

Performances are March 16th through March 25th and are taking place at the beautiful Neighborhood House Theater located within the Paul and Sheila Wellstone Center, 179 Robie Street East, Saint Paul, MN 55107-2360. Ticket prices are family friendly at only $8 for adults and $4 for students/seniors. If you would like specific show times, to order tickets or to learn more call the YAI Information Line at 651-222-KIDS or explore their website at www.youngartistsmn.org.

At the Mounds Theatre

MYTH OF XEE

CHAT (Center for Hmong Arts and Talent) and the Portage for Youth have worked collaboratively with a group of Hmong youth to produce the MYTH OF XEE to be staged live at the Mounds Theatre on March 2-4. It is directed by A. Yang and Katie Vang. The public is invited to this live stage production.

MYTH OF XEE is a fictional portrayal of the first Hmong female guerrilla soldier. The play raises questions about stories that might have been overlooked or told never.

“I think there were woman soldiers before the stories that my mom told me. It seems like the women had to fight and run from the war too, but they just weren’t called soldiers,” explained one of the students, Lee Vang. “I was asked if he believed there were really female Hmong soldiers.

CHAT’s Art Saves Us program is an after school arts program for youth to be introduced and engaged in different art forms. The Creative Drama class began in October 2006 and has met three times every week to work on character development, props, set, sound and costume design for the staging of MYTH OF XEE. With an all Hmong youth cast, MYTH OF XEE was written by the Live to Inspire team made possible by CHAT’s Art Save us Program and the Portage for Youth.

Where: MOUNDS THEATRE 1029 Hudson Road Saint Paul, MN 55106

When: March 2nd and 3rd at 8 p.m. March 4th at 2 p.m.
Tickets: $5.00 General Admission
For ticket info contact Kathy at 651-603-6971 or kathy@aboutchat.org.

True West

Coming off their highly successful run of Amadeus, Starting Gate Productions’ next play at the Mounds Theatre will be True West.

A showdown between brothers for dominance and understanding injects this brutal comedy with the tension of a gunsight. True West was written by Sam Shepard and is being directed by Bryan Bevell

Where: Mounds Theatre 1029 Hudson Blvd. Saint Paul, MN 55106

When: March 23 - April 15, 2007 Friday & Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2:00 p.m.
Tickets: All tickets are $18; $16 for seniors and students. Call 651-645-3503 or go to www.startinggate.org.

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 Mounds Theatre 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/or more information, please call 651-772-8674 or 651-772-2253.

The following Summer Camp sessions are available:

SESSION 1: June 18-22 Theatre 9am-noon; Dance (ages 8-12) 1-4pm or Mosaic Art 1-4pm
SESSION 2: June 25-29 Theatre 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 Theatre 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 Theatre 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 Theatre 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 Theatre 9am-noon; Dance (ages 13-18) 1-4pm or Mosaic Art 1-4pm
SESSION 7: Aug 13-17 Theatre 9am-noon; Dance (ages 8-12) 1-4pm or Mosaic Art 1-4pm

Shop Dayton’s Bluff
Come and hear about historically Bluff Library, just west of the community room, third floor of Metropolitan State University April 26th from 6:30 to 8 pm. The Curious about your house's history? Or for more information.

Dayton's Bluff Preservation Eventing people to answer questions a certain way, but rather empowering people to ask questions that most dare not ask. He was very effective, innovative, and compelling, even from the very beginning as he approached the podium.

After he was introduced, we heard a voice singing but could not tell from where. It was Rice, who slowly approached the podium while strolling through the crowd and singing about joy, acceptance, and coming forward to live your life for something greater than yourself. I have heard many speakers, but have never seen this innovative entrance before. He then launched into a powerful and inspiring talk that reached us all with its clarity and insight.

He reminded us that we are all “Keepers of the Village,” and must ask ourselves “in whose hands, (not ours, is the keeping in)?” How are you ‘gonna use YOUR hands? He left us all concerned about what we are NOT doing to help Keep Our Village. I’ll bet there’s someone you can get a fresh dose of inspiration, and insight, about all of us…. as a People… don’t miss it!

Some ten groups worked on this event led by the African American Student Association, among others at Metropolitan State University.

By Ed Lambert
February is Black History Month in the Twin Cities. The shortest, coldest month of the year in Minnesota brings many occasions in the Twin Cities to learn about Black History, and to celebrate it as well. The annual Soul Food Dinner at Metropolitan State University (MSU) is one of the most interesting and joyful such occasions. This year’s took place in the Great Hall of MSU where some 200 people were served catfish, fried turkey, and other delicious items on Friday, the ninth of February.

The dinners were also treated to a number of entertaining and powerful performances, including an “a cappella” rendition of the Black National Anthem, “Lift Every Voice and Sing.” After dinner, most attended to the Founder’s Hall for more performances, and to view a remarkable photo and text display of Black History in the United States. I was struck by the richness of the display, and the realization that there is a lot to Black History that many of us do not know.

The Keynote Address, “Black History: Learning it, Living it, Loving it,” was presented by George Rice III. He is a sought-after speaker and educator who, as a Curator of Energy, believes that education is about training people to think in a certain way, but rather empowering people to ask questions that most dare not ask. He was very effective, innovative, and compelling, even from the very beginning as he approached the podium.

After he was introduced, we heard a voice singing but could not tell from where. It was Rice, who slowly approached the podium while strolling through the crowd and singing about joy, acceptance, and coming forward to live your life for something greater than yourself. I have heard many speakers, but have never seen this innovative entrance before. He then launched into a powerful and inspiring talk that reached us all with its clarity and insight.

He reminded us that we are all “Keepers of the Village,” and must ask ourselves “in whose hands, (not ours, is the keeping in)?” How are you ‘gonna use YOUR hands? He left us all concerned about what we are NOT doing to help Keep Our Village. I’ll bet there’s someone you can get a fresh dose of inspiration, and insight, about all of us…. as a People… don’t miss it!

Some ten groups worked on this event led by the African American Student Association, among others at Metropolitan State University.

Touring Dayton’s Bluff by Foot or Car
A surprising number of people informally visit Dayton’s Bluff each year to tour the neighborhood, drive by the historic homes, and visit the parks. Last November we had two folks show up at the District Council office from Bloomington who intended to do just that. Cathy Berg and her mother Katja Rouse had learned about Dayton’s Bluff by viewing a TPT “Hands on History” show featuring Dayton’s Bluff, along with two other communities.

Cathy had never heard of Dayton’s Bluff and was intrigued enough to visit our web site www.daytonsoffluf.org to learn more. As it turned out, the site was down at the time but she did get contact information for the District Council Office. On November 5th she and Katie visited the office to get some maps and historic site information for their tour. While they spent three hours here, had lunch at the Swede Hollow Café (they said it was excellent), and drove by about 20 sites. They stopped at each to read the maps, gave the sites a look, and then moved on to the next.

Next month we are expecting a tour group from Eau Claire, Wisconsin to bring a busload of folks to tour the district and have lunch here. They might even present some homes whose open houses are available on the Saturday they arrive. Like Cathy, they saw something in the newspaper or on TV that got them interested, took a look, and wanted to lead to making a visit, and then to coming back. Cathy, her mom, and several friends will also be back to finish their tour in April or May.

Our web site has a load of information about the community, its history, and the Historic District; as well as maps and photos of several walking and driving tours one can take. You can find information and photos about the parks, business districts, and plans for the future here. You may have heard about Carver’s Cave, but what do you know about Montana Bill’s Cave?

Touring Dayton’s Bluff is as easy as opening your Internet browser, or getting in your car with maps and photographs that you can print off www.daytonsoffluf.org. Go to the Culture and History link on the home page and take a tour yourself. Encourage your friends to do the same. It can bring people here who learn about our community and want to come back. A lot more than St. Paul is looking up to (checking into?) Dayton’s Bluff.

Dayton’s Bluff has a historic district, and many beautiful homes are in all parts of Dayton’s Bluff. Neighbors have had extensive experience preserving and repairing their homes. Some of these neighbors will be on hand to speak about their homes and show before and after images. If you have a historic home you want to preserve and research and don’t know where to start, you can learn about researching your home and its previous owners. Hear from experts in the field, who offer technical advice, assessment, and hard-to-find classes such as historic masonry.

Metropolitan State’s Center for Community-Based Learning, Dayton’s Bluff District 4 Community Council, and the Dayton’s Bluff Branch of the St. Paul Public Library are co-sponsoring the event. For more information, call Rebecca Ryan at 651-793-1296.

We 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 house’s history? We are planning our third annual Dayton’s Bluff Preservation Evening on April 26th, from 6:30 to 8 pm. 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.

Magnet School Play-ground in the Making
The American Indian Magnet and World Cultures Magnet are working together to improve their school playground. Both schools are in the old Harding High building on 3rd and Earl. The playground that is there now was installed in 1993 and is too small. It needs to be upgraded and expanded. Both schools have 330 students making a total of 660 in the building. Both are Magnet schools that have students who attend from all cultures and live everywhere in the St. Paul school district. They have been in the building since 1990.

Our school has a long history on the East Side. It was built in 1934 and first used as Harding High School. After the new Harding was built our school became Mounds Park Jr. High. This was in 1965. The building was closed and used for storage until it was renovated from 1999 and our schools began in 1991.

The cost of a new playground is estimated $120,000. No school funds can be used for the playground. All funds must be raised by grants, donation, and fund raising. The schools are asking all businesses in the Dayton’s Bluff area to contribute.

Our schools will be having a Silent Auction on April 26th to raise the money needed for the business and private donations. This is a great way to promote your business and also a great way to find a deal at the same time. The Silent Auction will take place from 6:30 to 9:30. It will be an evening of fun. A Foods of All Nations buffet will be served for $3.00 a person. There will be entertainment in the gym and over 150 items to bid on. The items include a Vikings football, art prints, jewelry, and also many family fun coupons as well as lots of other surprises. We look forward to a great night of fun.

There will be no childcare or children’s activities available. Please call us at the school for more information, 651-778-3100 and ask for Donna.

Copper Pipe Theft is a Growing Crime
All over the city there has been a rash of break-ins into vacant homes and buildings and even occupied apartment buildings where the copper piping including gas lines is stolen. In several cases the gas was on which resulted in serious gas leaks. These gas leaks could easily be ignited into an explosion that could destroy the entire building. The price of copper is up, which makes stealing and selling it appealing to thieves.

If you see unusual activity around homes or buildings or smell gas call 911. All vacant homes and buildings should be secure without any open or broken windows or doors and the snow and ice should be removed from sidewalks. If there are problems call 651-266-8899 or email citizen.service@ci.stpaul.mn.us.
Neighbors Succeed in Closing Unwanted Corner Store

By Martin Russo

Clerk: “What can I get for you?”
Customer: “Let’s see. I need milk, eggs, and bread. Oh yeah, and throw in a cracker pipe, some papers, and bong.”

Thankfully, this is one conversation that will not happen again in our neighborhood grocery stores.

Thanks to the grassroots efforts of several folks in the Mounds Park neighborhood, Adams’ Market, located at the corner of Burns Avenue and Earl street, has closed. And anyone interested in selling drug paraphernalia will not be able to operate at that spot again.

A group of neighbors, upset with the latest incarnation of what was once a nice little neighborhood grocery store, met a few times about the problem, and documented their concerns. It became clear that no one (at least those neighbors attending the meetings) felt comfortable with the kind of store Adams Market had become thanks to a violation of the existing non-conforming use permit (interestingly not even related to the drug paraphernalia issue) the neighborhood group, along with city code inspectors, asked the planning commission to have a public hearing about Adam’s Market. That meeting took place in city hall on January 4, 2007. Before the hearing, the neighborhood group met again and clearly defined what restrictions they thought should be placed on the current (and any future) commercial tenants of the building.

At the hearing, the business owner and the neighbors were able to express their opinions about the issue, and the planning commission ultimately approved new non-conforming use permit restrictions (see below).

Just another example of the power of like-minded neighbors!

The New Code:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Saint Paul Planning Commission, under the authority of the City’s Legislative Code, that the re-establishment of Nonconforming Use Permit approved in Zoning File # 99-178351 for a grocery and carry-out restaurant at 241 Earl St is hereby re-approved for a grocery only (carry-out restaurant deleted) and modified with the following conditions:

1. The sale of tobacco products at this store shall comply with Chapter 324 of the legislative code and shall be limited to packaged cigarettes, cig, and smokeless tobacco, and lighters.
2. No other tobacco accessories shall be sold at this store.
3. 378 Maria Café, corner of 6th and Earl street, has written years of articles about St. Paul, has lived in the 378 Maria Café, corner of 6th and 7th Street/Dayton’s Bluff Façade Improvement Program and was voted an Entrepreneur of the Year of the program by the Mounds Park Community Council. She has received $400,000 from the state to work on the planning process and raise funds to redevelop the buildings. They plan to put in a theater, banquet area, library, gift shop, classrooms and offices. They will be doing design work and raising funds for the construction over the next year.

936 East 6th St.

The building at 936 East 6th Street was sold to Alex Haug, owner of Twin Cities Tae’s, a company that will be using the building for production of silk-screened and embroidered tee-shirts. Back in November before purchasing the building Alex met with the local block club and talked with the neighbors about his plans for the building. The neighbors were supportive and Alex moved forward with his plans.

Alex has been working with the East 7th Street/Dayton’s Bluff Façade Improvement Program making necessary repairs and upgrades to the building. Alex is an alumni of the Microentrepreneur Training and Support Program and was voted an Entrepreneur of the Year of the program in 2005. Dayton’s Bluff offers this class to any East Side businessperson or resident in the spring and fall of each year.

869 East 5th St.

Victory Through Faith, Inc. who has the Micah Halfway house in Minneapolis wanted to open another halfway house at 869 East 5th Street, the former convent at Sacred Heart Church. They have been running the Minneapolis program for the last 2½ years and from all reports they run an excellent program in Minneapolis. They planned to start with 26 clients and go up to 40 in the future.

The local block club, many neighborhood residents, Sacred Heart Church, and Trinity Elementary School were less than supportive about the halfway house moving into the old convent building. Some of the concerns included: the school/community tot lot is located next door; the effect the halfway house would have on the elementary school because many parents said they will take their children out of the school if the halfway house went in; there is already a high concentration of recovery facilities in the area; the lack of parking in the area; and its effect on property values.

The Zoning Commission of the Planning Commission passed a resolution to deny the Conducational Use Permit 7 – 0. The full Planning Commission unanimously denied the Conducational Use Permit.

Hamn’s Brewery

The Asian Pacific Cultural Center has received tentative developer status from the city to re-use a portion of the southern buildings at Hamn’s Brewery. They received $400,000 from the state to work on the planning process and raise funds to redevelop the buildings. They plan to put in a theater, banquet area, library, gift shop, classrooms and offices. They will be doing design work and raising funds for the construction over the next year.

378 Maria Ave.

378 Maria Cafe at 6th and Maria (former POP’s Café) is under new management. It’s new phone number is 651-776-7000.
The Prosperity Campaign’s – Multi-Cultural Resource Fair

The East Side Neighborhood Development Company (ESNDC) announces a new three-year initiative called the “Prosperity Campaign” with funding from the Otto Bremer Foundation. A grand opening multicultural celebration will take place on Saturday, March 24, 2007 from 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Hmong American Partnership Building at 1075 Arcade Street in St. Paul. All are invited to this community resource fair featuring food, entertainment and networking opportunities. Metropolitan State University President William Bradshaw will offer remarks about our community vision.

The Prosperity Campaign will use community organizing, networking and marketing strategies to connect East Side residents and business in creating and sustaining community and personal wealth. These opportunities will develop awareness about community challenges—safety, poverty, isolation; connect people to programs; and inspire residents to take action and achieve their wealth creation goals.

The campaign is designed to equip residents with the skills needed to earn living wage jobs, escape poverty and elevate their overall standard of living. The major components of the Prosperity Campaign are to create a “pipe-line” of existing and new opportunities and services to the East Side.

This Campaign is necessary because 19% of all residents and 27% of our children are living at-or-below the poverty level. 78% qualify for free or reduced-price school lunch (compared to the St. Paul average of 65%). The Payne/Phalen Lake community has more participants in the Minnesota Family Investment Plan (MFIP) and more families in federally subsidized Section 8 housing than any other neighborhood in Ramsey County.

To combat our community challenges, join East Side residents, businesses, clergy members, schools and non-profits at the March 24th Multi-Cultural Resource Fair and discover the many trainings and products that are coming to the East Side. Enroll in homeownership classes, debt counseling services, small business classes, youth programs, and leadership development courses on-the-spot or just get information for your future.

Mari Bongiovanni, new executive director of ESNDC, is excited about the Prosperity Campaign’s broader perspective of community development. According to Bongiovanni, “Wealth can be evidenced by something as simple as the number of relationships formed in our own neighborhood by those who have been isolated by fear, or by more traditional measures of home ownership, education, jobs, entrepreneurship, leadership and youth development and financial literacy.” These measures are a perfect fit with ESNDC’s mission: To create wealth and well-being in a multicultural neighborhood.

For more information, contact: Mari Bongiovanni, ESNDC’s Executive Director, mbongiovanni@esndc.org, Phone: 651-771-1152, x106

What should residents of Dayton’s Bluff be called?

A) Bluffers  E) Bluffites
B) Bluffonians  F) Bluffopolitans
C) Bluffaloes  G) Not late for dinner
D) Blufftonians  H) _____________

Send your choice to: Dayton’s Bluff District Forum
798 E. 7th St., St. Paul, MN 55106