Spring Cleaning in Dayton’s Bluff Parks

Above: A Girl Scout troop led by Kim Unber helped with the park clean up in Swede Hollow Park.

Hundreds of people gathered in Mounds Park for the Annual Parks and Recreation Center Clean Up Kick Off on Saturday April 14th and then moved on to other places around the Bluff. Thank you to everyone who helped with the parks and rec center clean up this year.

Right: Gary Bobb received the Parks Volunteer of the Year Award from City Council President Kathy Lantry, for all of the work he has done in Swede Hollow Park and the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary.

Big Investment Coming to Dayton’s Bluff

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

Mayor Coleman announced his Invest Saint Paul Program some weeks ago and it is picking up steam. Focused on 3-5 of the City’s inner city neighborhoods, Payne Phalen and Dayton’s Bluff are among them and will share in the proposed new $25 million Invest Saint Paul city fund. The idea is to prompt substantial and new collaborative efforts between and among city agencies, the private sector, and the targeted local communities. The Program plan seeks to spark a substantial increase in private investment as well.

As the Mayor put it recently, “While strategies will be determined in a community-based process, it is anticipated that identified strategies (for the program) will most likely fall into at least one of three categories: Jobs and Economic Development, Youth and Family, and Quality of Life.” City and Community Planners intend to seek a broad based community engagement in the process of determining strategies and setting priorities. Dayton’s Bluff Community Council President Walter Waranka expects the Council will be at the center of the process in its community of some 18,000 residents and businesses.

Mayor Coleman further stated, in a program information sheet, “the key to the success of Invest Saint Paul lies in meaningful, consistent engagement of city residents and business owners in thoughtful action-oriented planning, timely implementation, and meaningful accountability. On going, transparent, open dialogue is critical.”

The Dayton’s Bluff Community Council completed a comprehensive
Gardening Workshop—How to Grow Salsa... and other mysteries of Latin American gardening, revealed!

Would you like to grow all the ingredients for a tasty dish of homemade salsa? Ever wondered what a ginger plant looks like? Can you tell the difference between a papaya and a guanabana-blindfolded?

Join Minnesota Extension Service specialist Michelle Grabowski and Ramsey County Master Gardener Patricia Ohmans for a romp through the world of tropical plants, both edible and ornamental. Learn what grows south of the border, north of the equator, and in Latin American gardens around the world, including Dayton's Bluff. It’s free. Everyone is welcome. Spanish-speakers will be accommodated. The workshop is on Thursday May 17 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council Office 798 East 7th Street. To register, email Karin@DaytonsBluff.org or call Karin at 651-772-2075.

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 connect with 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, come 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 offer food and accommodation.

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.

Dayton's Bluff Community Meeting

The next Community Meeting is Thursday, May 3, 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.

If you would like, you can email Karin@DaytonsBluff.org or call Karin at 772-2075 with addresses of problems before the meeting. If I have the addresses of problems ahead of time I can get them to the police and NHPI (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.

Be Your Own Boss

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 services.

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 preference for house size and location.

Each year, Metro Paint-A-Thon selects the first weekend in August and raises volunteer teams from corporations, congregations, and civic groups to paint the homes of low-income seniors and people with disabilities. It serves the Twin City seven-county metropolitan area.

This program from the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches (GMCC) helps homeowners remain independent in their homes and improves neighborhood.

Homeowners must meet low-income guidelines, and homes are inspected and ranked in terms of need. Teams are assigned to a house based on the number of team members and their preference for house size and location.

This year’s Paint-A-Thon will be held on the weekend of August 4-5 (August 11-12 in case of rain). The deadline for submitting an application is May 11th. For more information contact Deidre Pope, Paint-A-Thon Director at dpope@gmcc.org or 612-721-6887, x321 or Karin DuPaul, Dayton’s Bluff Community Organizer, at karinn@daytonsbluff.org or 651-772-2075.

Paint-A-Thon Deadline Approaches

Each year, Metro Paint-A-Thon selects the first weekend in August and raises volunteer teams from corporations, congregations, and civic groups to paint the homes of low-income seniors and people with disabilities. It serves the Twin City seven-county metropolitan area.

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Church Directory

Amazing Grace Assembly of God 1237 Earl St.
651-778-1768
Sun 9:30 am - Sunday school all ages
Sun 10:30 am - morning Worship
Sun 6:00 pm - evening Worship

Hmong Asbury United Methodist
815 Frank St.
651-771-0077

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
655 Forest St.
651-776-4737
Sun 9:00 am - Morning Service
Sun 10:15-11:15 am - Sunday School & Bible Hour
Sun 11:15 - Hmong Service

Faith Temple - Templo De Fe
1510 Payne Ave
651-771-6096
Sun 10:30 am - Spanish Bilingual Service
Sun 6:00 pm - Spanish Bilingual Service

Wednesday family night
First Lutheran Church ELCA
463 Maria St.
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’
674 Hanson 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
977 E. 5th St.
651-771-3690
Mon-Sat 8:00 am – Daily Mass
Sun 4:15 pm - Mass
Sun 9:00 am, 11:00 am - Mass

St. John’s Church of God in Christ
1154 E. 7th St.
651-771-7639
Sun 9:30 am - Sunday School
Sun 11:00 am - Worship
Wed 7:00 pm - Bible Study

St. John Ev. Lutheran
765 Margaret St.
651-771-6406
Sun 9:30 am - Worship
Thurs 6:30 pm - Worship
Dayton’s Bluff Library Walking History Tour

Dayton’s Bluff Branch Library will celebrate the anniversary on Thursday, May 24th with a walking tour of the area led by local author and historian Larry Millett and Dayton’s Bluff historian Steve Trimble.

The tour is on Thursday, May 24, 2007 and will leave the library at 6:30 pm and return at approximately 7:30 pm, to be followed with a casual reception in the library. Participants will have an opportunity to share their reminiscences about the library system in Saint Paul, and record them in a journal that will become part of the branch’s local history collection. We are particularly interested in capturing thoughts about the impact the new branch has had on the neighborhood since opening in 2004. Please let us know if the library has touched your life in some way.

National Night Out Kick Off Picnic

Plan to attend the second National Night Out Kick Off Picnic in Saint Paul on Wednesday, May 23, 2007 at the Midway Picnic Pavilion in Como Park (across from the Como Park Pool) from 6:00 – 8:00 pm.

You will have an opportunity to find out more about how to plan an event for your neighborhood on National Night Out, August 7, 2007.

The Saint Paul Police and Fire Departments will be present to visit with residents. You will have an opportunity to register your neighborhood’s National Night Out event for 2007. Permits to close off a street for your event and “how to” forms for requesting Police and Fire Department special units will be available.

You can also register to win one of the many door prizes donated by local businesses that will be given out at the picnic!

There will be FREE hot dogs, chips and beverages while supplies last, or you are welcome to bring a picnic dinner of your own.

For more information about the National Night Out picnic or hosting an event in your neighborhood, call Karin at the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council office at 651-772-2075, or Pam McCreary at the Saint Paul Police Department Crime Prevention Unit, 651-266-5625.

Waterfest 2007 --- A Free Family Festival

On Saturday, May 19, 2007 at the Phalen Park Pavilion at Wheelock Park, Waterfest, a family event from around the Twin Cities are invited to a day of lakeside fun at WaterFest 2007. Sponsoring the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District, City of St. Paul and others, WaterFest is a celebration of our clean lakes and an opportunity for hands-on learning about the water quality, wildlife, and special ecological features of our beautiful watershed.

Highlights of WaterFest activities include:
- On-the-water education in Wilderness Inquiry Voyageur canoes and by pontoon boat
- Kids’ fishing lessons and stream monitoring
- Rain garden and shoreline restoration tours
- Raptor and other live animals
- Powder Puff and 3M clowns
- Music by Mr. Jim, Girl Scout Peace Dancers, the Toonies Puppet Show and student dramas
- Watershed Awareness Expo: How to let the rain soak in and how to reduce water pollution
- Clean streets means clean water – Demo snowplow, street sweeper and vactor truck
- Harding High School Earth Club Garbage Sculpture
- Great food for sale

Everyone can play a role in protecting our water resources. At WaterFest 2007 we will help families make the connection between activities in our neighborhoods and the health of local lakes, streams and wetlands. This free event is also an opportunity to celebrate spring and enjoy one of the lakes that makes our area a great place to live!

Event Schedule:
- 5K Run-Walk around Lake Phalen 9:30 am
- Pavilion Exhibits and Activities 10am – 2pm
- * Water Activities around the Lake 10am – 2pm
- * Food for sale at the Pavilion 10am – 2pm
- * Performances at the Pavilion 10:30 am – 2pm
- * Raffle Drawing at the Pavilion Noon The Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District is bounded by I-694/494 corridor and 35E and the Mississippi River, which encompasses sections of North St. Paul, Maplewood, White Bear Lake, Vadnais Heights, Little Canada, Oakdale, Woodbury, Landfall, Gem Lake and St. Paul. The District works to protect and improve local water quality and natural resources. For more information, call Louise Watson at 651-792-7956 or visit the website at www.rwmwd.org.

Dayton’s Bluff Take a Hike

By Garry Fay

Spring hiking is warming up so come join us Saturday May 5th at 10:30 am at Indian Mounds Park Pavilion located at Earl St. and Mounds Blvd. Plenty of flowers will be out in the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary and Swede Hollow where we will enjoy several hours of a comfortably paced hike through our local urban oasis.

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

Glorious Food Giveaway

The Food Giveaway takes place on the third Saturday of the month at Mounds Park United Methodist Church, Earl and Euclid Streets. Doors open at 8:30 a.m. The Food Giveaway is from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Come and receive a free bag of food, no questions asked.

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

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By Steve Trimple

Donald L. Empson’s The Street Where You Live: A Guide to the Place Names of St Paul was not merely a reprinting of his earlier book because the author took great pains to update the information, add new streets and, for the first time, to in- clude place names of parks, bodies of water, caves and many colorful names of certain sub-sections of the city.

The Forum has decided to share some of the information in the book that concerns our Dayton’s Bluff neighborhood over the next two or three issues. We will be adding our own touches to avoid the possible problem of copyright infringement. Think of the articles 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 earlier issues. Last month we covered the “A” and “B” streets. This month we start with the “C” streets and get part way through the “M” streets.

Cherry: Named for a fruit tree in 1857 as part of the Lyman Dayton Addition. The street-plum- follows the theme.

Clarence: Empson wrote that this street—which starts in Dayton’s Bluff and ends around Lake Phalen—“is said to remember Clarence Bergman,” whose father came to St. Paul in 1867 where he ran a prize and took part in the community.

Clermont: Near today’s Indian Mounds Park, it was named Rivein because of the landscape there. In 1872 it was changed to Clermont. At the same time, another street was renamed Fulton, suggesting that the one in our neighborhood was named after Robert Fulton’s steamboat, the Clermont. St. Paul officials probably thought this was appropriate for a river city.

Commercial: The Empson book described this little known street as “in a backwater of the city” that was named in 1857 by an “optimistic de- veloper.” At one time, however, there was a bridge from downtown across the railroad tracks that ended near Commercial and there were a number of small businesses and houses on or near the street.

Conway: Replaced First Street and Levee in 1872. Charles R. Conway was born in Indiana and arrived in St. Paul in 1849 where he dabbled in real estate. However, according to an early writer, he wasn’t a booming success because “he knows how to make money, but he can’t get it because he won’t cheat and steal.” Conway was a journalist by avocation and left for California in the 1860’s to edit a news- paper in Los Angeles.

Cypress: This street was originally bounded by Maria until 1872, when its name was changed to become another of the tree names. It was in McLean’s Addition and early maps show a size-able area between Cypress and Earl at the time that has obviously disappeared.

Dayton Place: This short dead end street off of Maria between the Eagles Club and a group of garages south of East Third was platted out in 1880. It was there to allow street access to 284 Mound Street, the address later given to the Lyman and Maria Dayton home. The house lasted until the early 1970’s but was taken by the high- way department. There also was once a fountain, but no photos of it have surfaced. There’s been plenty of in- formation on Lyman in earlier papers, so we’ll save room for others less well-known streets.

Dayton Place: This is a short di- agonal street that runs behind the Cerenity nursing facility. It was origi- nally part of Eighth Street. The origi- nal plat that contained it ran parallel with the river, which explains why this road is not in a north-south alignment. According to local historian Karin DuPaul, who is mentioned in Empson’s book, the name for this street and Fountain Place was contri- buted by William Hamm, Jr. when he was on the St. Paul City Council.

Duluth: This is a short street off of East Seventh that originally was named Phalen. Its new designation came in 1885, surely because the street ends at the tracks of the St. Paul and Duluth railroad.

Earl: This arterial street was platted in 1857 and named Ward’s evidently because it was on the eastern edge of the city at the time. Some lo- cals used to believe the street referred to one or both of the Earl Brothers, who were doctors at the Mounds Park Sanitarium that was once along side it. This seems highly unlikely, since the name was changed to Earl in 1872, long before the medical facility arrived. Empson says merely that it is “a per- sonal name of uncertain identity.”

Eichenwald: This is a short block with a long history. It was platted out in 1877 by John Keller, who named it after his German home village Eichenwald which, in English, is “oak woods.” He built a house (see draw- ing at top of page) between Sixth and Seventh on the north side of the street (an apartment is now there) and also called it Eichenwald. A master car- penter, Keller became prosperous run- ning saw mills on Phalen Creek be- low Dayton’s Bluff for his and other lumberyards. Herbert Keller, his son, became mayor of St. Paul and a Ramsey County Commissioner. He was the source of the names for Keller Lake and Keller Golf Course. Long-time Hamm’s brewmaster William Figge lived on the street. Another locally prominent union and community ac- tivist Robert “Bob” Bleakmore lived with his family in the old Figge house until his death this year.

Etna: When the street was named in 1880 by land owner Franz Sigel. William English was the Democratic candidate for vice-president. Sigel was a Civil war General and friend of the presidential candidate. While he lived in New York, this real estate specu- lator visited New Ulm and St. Paul and invested in property in Minnesota.

Fremont: It was originally Hazel Street but it was changed in 1872 to honor John C. Fremont. Known as “the Great Pathfinder,” he was a noted explorer, served in both the Mexican-American and Civil Wars and was an anti-slavery activist and the first Re- publican candidate for president in 1856.

Gotzian: Adolph and Josephine Gotzian came to St. Paul from Ger- many in 1860. He worked with his brother Conrad who was a major player in the boot and shoe trade. He was the doing of William Hamm, Jr., who lived on the street. What does Cable mean? Because of the steep grade, the streetcar on East Seventh could not make it up the hill. A cable system was installed to help pull them up and the mechanism that ran things was located near the street’s intersec- tion with East Seventh. At some later time the name was later changed back to Greenbrier.

Griffith: Named by Benjamin Hoy and John Burns in 1856 as part of the Suburban Hills plat, Empson said it was “likely a personal name,” but it is not known whose it might be. To-
ward the end of the nineteenth century there was a major metal manu-
facturer called the Griffith Wheel Works and their name likely came from the street. Perhaps a little more re-
search is needed here as well.

Hancock: General Winfield Scott Hancock was running for the presi-
dency as a Democrat in 1880 when a politi-
cally connected former General Franz Sigel—who also gave us English-
Hill street—named this route for his friend.

Hoffman: This street, now swallowed up by I-94, was originally Dayton Av-

eue, obviously named after Lyman Dayton. There was also a Dayton Avenue on St. Anthony Hill (he also owned a hunk of land there) so avoid-
ing confusion was probably the rea-
son to make the switch. James K. Hoffman came to the city in 1851 and oper-
ated at least three different saw-
mills at the base of the Dayton’s Bluff. He was also a businessman and poli-
tician served at the base of the town, the mem-
ber of the City Council. Some sections of Hoffman were absorbed into the newly created Mounds Bou-
levard.

Hope: The name of this street, which comes off of East Seventh, went from Hill to Hope in 1872, but no explana-
tion is given for the change.

Hudson Road: This road, part of which was an early highway that went to Wisconsin, was previously design-
ated as Hastings. It was changed in 1940 to reflect a town in our neigh-
boring state. Its upgrading into a free-
way eliminated much of the remain-
ing route, though there are still seg-
ments (including the parts that go by the Mounds Theatre and Leo’s Chow Mein) that run parallel to I-94.

Johnson Parkway: There was a Johnson Street in this area on the early plats of Suburban Hills. Prob-
ably named for Gates A. Johnson, a sau-
lager brewer who bought the property to St. Paul in 1855 where he worked

Joshua’s Column - The Sounds of Silence
By Joshua Yurek
Hello everyone! If you read my article last month it was pretty short.
Well, that was the intro and now I will start writing about real stuff.

For the Easter holiday I went to my uncle’s house where he owns five acres of land along the St. Croix River. This is basically where our relatives and my family get together all the time. If you did not figure this out it is be-
cause of its size. I love the place but it also reminds me of how much I like the city. Whenever I go walking alone there it is very quiet…..too quiet. Makes you feel like somebody or something will come out and kill you.
I especially feel this at night. On the Fourth of July we camp out over in their woods. So, when I lay in my tent I can hear all these noises and can hear raccoons right on the tree over our tent. But, otherwise it is a very fun place to go.

I like the city better because there is more civilization. Out there it is you and right next door there is another

for the railroads. The street was wid-
ed in 1930 and became a parkway that went from Mounds Park to Phalen Park. Empson says that this new iteration was in honor of Gover-

Don Boxmeyer, well-known St. Paul Pioneer Press newspaper col-
umnist and author of the recently pub-
lished book, A Knock for Knowing Andy, was the featured guest at a March 22nd event sponsored by the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council’s Arts and Culture Committee.

Don Boxmeyer wanted to be the kind of reporter who sought out not the fa-
mous folks, but the everyday people who gave the city its flavor.

As he stated, “I realized that the in-
teresting people and places nobody ever wrote about held more fascina-
tion for me, and for my readers, than the governors, mayors, and city council members who never seemed to be much persuaded by my opinions anyway. We began to discover hobo roads, bare-knuckle bar brawlers and bread-baking nuns, order cooks and hockey coaches, drake mallards named Jake, and bridge tenders, bear hunters, and quiet old men who wept softy when we talked about the friends they’d left on the battlefield.”
This is still his philosophy today. While Boxmeyer understands the im-
portance of the distant past, he firmly believes that “not all history is an-
cient… it’s happening now and should

Don Boxmeyer, on the right in the back row, poses with some of his fans at a recent event sponsored by the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council Arts and Culture Committee.

Don Boxmeyer is also thankful that many “av-

erage Joes” share his belief in the im-
portance of recording everyday life.

He offered the example of several East Side Italians-Sanchelli, Yekaldo and Vangusso- who took the time to record their personal experiences growing up on the East Side. Their writings, which can be found today in local historical archives, are valuable resources that help to fill in the every-
day lives of first and second-gen-

Boxmeyer related one story that subsequently appeared in the paper.
It had to do with the Hi-Lex Co. that once had a plant in St. Paul. Like many other businesses at the time, they were active in the Winter Carni-
val. Their contribution was the Hi-Lex “gnomes,” that represented drops of

bleach. There were several dozen white fiberglass figures of various sizes that fit over marchers, who then waddled down the streets in a loose formation, amusing parade onlookers.

An out-of-town company who had no sense of local heritage brought Hi-

Lexus a few years ago, and one of their first moves was to send workers to the plant, then located in Eagan, to clear out the warehouse. They were provided with chain saws and told to cut up the mysterious figures that were stored there.

Thankfully, one long-time em-
ployee discovered what was happen-
ing and saved some of the gnomes from decapitation and the dumpster. He bought eight of them to West Seventh antique dealer Wally Wescott in 2001, who bought them all. He has no plans to sell them, however, and always loans them out-usually to Scout Troop 13-so they can be used in the Winter Carnival parade.

One of the more interesting topics of discussion was former Mayor

“Boxmeyer” continued on page 7
Mounds Theatre Summer Camps

EXPLORE - LEARN - CREATE

The Portage for Youth will launch a new summer camp program this year at the Mounds Theatre 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.

All activities will take place at the Mounds Theatre located at 1029 Hudson Road in Saint Paul. Application deadline is May 15th 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

Young carpenters need the right equipment to hammer nails.

Young Carpenters Sing a Happy Song

“Bling, Blang, Hammer with my hammer, Zang-o, Zang-o. Cutting with my saw.” Through much of March, Woody Guthrie’s house building song rang through the Dayton’s Bluff Early Childhood Family Education Program. Although it is one of the most challenging songs we sing at ECFE, it is one of the most popular with kids and it introduces our carpentry theme.

Why do a focus on carpentry with young children? Because the theme provides many opportunities to support the whole child – physical, social, emotional and intellectual – seamlessly through play. An opportunity to construct buildings with wood scraps and glue begins with a day of practice construction giving children an opportunity to explore concepts of bigger, smaller, straight, tilted, balance, shape, and much more while figuring out what they need to “work” in their constructions. This helps them see that making mistakes is part of learning and helps them take a problem solving approach. Constructing a permanent structure the way they want it, waiting a week for the glue to dry, painting and waiting another week for the paint to dry help them expand their ability to wait for things that take time.

Pounding – whether with pounding benches and balls or with real hammers and rooftop nails and wood (wearing safety goggles) or plastic hammers and golf tees and Styrofoam or tiny nails and hammers – develops both large and small muscles and eye-hand coordination. Measuring and sawing do the same. These support school readiness in hugely important ways and provide a rich opportunity to use lots of general and technical (drill, tape measure, c-clamp, etc.) language which supports both pre-read and writing and skills and contributes to children’s growing sense of the meaning and uses of numbers.

Accomplishing real jobs of nailing, constructing, cutting rhythm sticks and the like enhances children’s sense of competence. The support of parents and teachers reinforces their sense of personal value. Bling! Blang! Zing-o! Zang-o!

Dayton’s Bluff Recreation Center May Activities

Spring-Summer Program (Apr.-Aug. 2007 Events & Activities) Stop by the center to pick up your copy or visit www.ct.spaul.gov/deparks/parks

JUDO FOR TOTS – Mon., May 7; 4:30-6 pm; Ages 4-6 pm; $15; 3 sessions.
JUDO – Tues., May 8; 4:30-6:30 pm; Ages 7-12; $25; 5 sessions.
GONE FISHING – Thurs., May 17; 4:30-6:30 pm; Ages 8-14; Free; 1 session
SCIENCE OF MAGIC – Wed., May 9; 4-5 pm; Ages 5-13; $6; 1 session.
KICKBOXING – Tues., May 1; 6:30-7:30 pm; Adult; $45; 6 ses.

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MANNERLY MANNERS CLUB – Mon., May 14; 10-11:15 am; Ages 3-6; $70; 4 sessions.
COOKING CLASS – Wed., May 16; 4:30-5:30 pm; Ages 6-12; $6; 4 sessions.
SAFE KIDS FUN NIGHT – Thurs., May 17; 5:30-7 pm; Families; Free; Food available for a small fee.
BABYSITTING COURSE – Thurs., May 24/31; 5-8:30 pm; Ages 11-16; $62; 2 sessions.
SIGN, SAY & PLAY BABY SIGN LANGUAGE CLASS – Thurs., May 31; 10-11 am; Family; $60; 3 sessions.
BABYSITTING JOB FAIR – Wed., June 6; 6:15-7:15 pm; Free
update of its Community Plan last month and is well positioned to help the community engage with this new initiative. The Community Council’s plan was three years in development and involved many meetings, surveys, focus groups, and interviews. The city mandates that its 17 local Community Councils have a comprehensive District Plan, and update it every 10 years or so.

As part of the process, the Community Council will focus on informing and engaging the community in this initiative. A major part of that effort is to attract more candidates to seek election to the Council’s Board of Directors next October. It will also focus outreach efforts on encouraging residents and businesses to participate on its committees.

The Community’s new District Plan will help guide and prioritize public and private investments in Dayton’s Bluff. The engagement of residents and businesses with the Council’s committees and Board of Directors is an important way they can be part of the plan’s implementation, and in the direction of the Invest St. Paul Program.

In the above map, the Priority Areas of the Invest Saint Paul Program are shown as dashed lines. The proposed Focus Areas are marked with solid lines.

King Lear Rules Mounds Theatre in May and June

Starting Gate Productions wraps up its second season at the Mounds Theatre with William Shakespeare’s King Lear. The arrogance and blindness of unchecked power, the disintegration of the family, and the elusive wisdom of the simple, unspun truth weave the fabric of the story. The show runs May 4-20 at Weyerhaeuser Auditorium in the Landmark Center in downtown St. Paul.

Cultures collide in A Lion’s Tale when two young Somali immigrants attend their first American birthday party. What their friends see as generous and fun, Ali and Aasha take as materialistic and greedy. As the friends overcome their cultural differences, they are magically transported to Somalia where they become characters in a series of ancient folktales about village life and a dangerous lion. Performances of A Lion’s Tale: Somali Folktales are Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m., and 12:45 p.m.; Fridays at 7 p.m.; and Saturdays and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets are $11 for adults; $9 for children ages 2-17 and seniors; and $6 for groups of 20 or more by calling (651) 225-9265. Complete information is available at www.steppingstonetheatre.org.

Winners Are in the Game

Dayton’s Bluff has a significant number of residents and local groups already involved in making change and performing important services in the community. However, to be Winners in the Game of Community Development we not only need to have a plan, and active “players,” we need substantial numbers of persons from all sectors of our community in the game. We cannot have major wins in Dayton’s Bluff without substantial community involvement – engagement in the process of making things happen for the community.

Whether you are one of those whose family or culture has been long present in Dayton’s Bluff, or one of the new faces from other countries, cultures, and places, your engagement and commitment is needed; indeed necessary, to moving the community forward to meet its aspirations.

You are needed in local block clubs, on the committees of local organizations, and on the Council’s Board of Directors. New faces bring new energy and fresh dreams. Make civic engagement in Dayton’s Bluff part of your life, be part of defining needed changes and making them happen.

Email Karin DuPaul (Karin@daytonsbluff.org) or Ed Lambert (ed@daytonsbluff.org) at them at 651-772-2075 and find your connection to making a difference in your community. To win the Community Development game we need all the players we can get, from them come the winners who move things forward; more players, more winners.

Call now.

Download a draft copy of the proposed Dayton’s Bluff District Plan at www.DaytonsBluff.org
Word from the Beat - And His Beat is the Bluff

I was recently patrolling the Dayton’s Bluff Beat and could see summer is in full effect. Children are playing outside, residents are working in their yards, the birds are chirping and there is even the smell of fresh cut grass in the air. With the change in weather we also see an increase in police calls for service. Recently, I have heard concern from residents that they felt the police did not respond quickly to their calls for service.

If you have attended a block club meeting, you have heard me talk about police response to calls and how the Communications Center prioritizes these calls for service. When a call for service comes into the Communications Center the information is taken by a telecommunicator and entered into the computer. The call is then assigned a priority number from 1 to 5. The lower the number, the quicker the call is required to be dispatched to a police officer. Calls for service that are waiting to be responded to are referred to as “pending calls”. When an officer clears a call he or she is sent the next pending call based on priority. Based on staffing levels and pending priority calls, lower “priority” calls such as report calls or parking complaints for example may not immediately be responded to.

If officers are responding to but not at the scene of a non-priority call, the dispatcher may divert them to a priority call. This will also increase the waiting time on those calls classified with a lower “priority”. However, it is critical that officers respond to calls of violence and in progress calls as quickly as possible. These high priority calls usually involve some type of violence or threat of violence. This requires more officers to respond for public and officer safety. At times, all officers in one district may be on a single major incident. This essentially means there are no officers available for call response for the district, priority or not. It is important that you, the reader, understands that all calls for service are a priority to the police department and that the term used in this article refers only to the classification of a call.

The next question that has been a recent topic is staffing levels - how many officers are working each day and do we need more police officers.

Currently there are approximately 267 police officers responsible for responding to calls for service. This number includes East District Patrol, West District Patrol, Central District Patrol, Downtown Beat and the K-9 Unit which are the primary units responsible for call response. This number is divided into three districts which is then divided into five patrol shifts and also includes one special unit (K9).

Each shift in each district has a mandatory minimum staffing level. This means that each day there are officers scheduled to work and those that are scheduled for an RDO or Regular Day Off depending on their rotation. In addition, staffing allows for a number of officers to be off for vacation or holiday. Since patrol officers are required to work holidays, they are allowed to take off holiday time on an alternate day depending on staffing. Once this number is reached, officers are denied time off to ensure the mandatory minimum level is met for that shift. The more officers working means quicker police response to calls for service, more officer initiated investigations or proactive patrols, and ultimately increased public safety as well as officer safety.

These two questions are not easy ones to answer. I hope I have provided information to the reader that gives a better understanding to how or why, even if I could not give a specific answer to the complex question.

Bluff Business News

Eddie’s Place is Open

Eddie’s Place at 1047 Hudson Road (next to Paul’s Lounge) opened for business in early April. It is open Monday through Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. for take-out orders.

The menu includes full, ½ and ⅓ slab pork rib, rib tip and half-chicken dinners, pulled pork and pulled chicken sandwiches, Bar-B-Q wings, chili dogs and hot dogs. All dinners are served with a choice of two side items – Jeans beans, potato salad or cole slaw.

Eddie’s Place is having a Grand Opening on Saturday April 28. Come in and register to win door prizes. Eddie’s Place also does catering and outdoor events.

Stop in to meet Eddie and try his award-winning ribs and barbecue sauce. Or call ahead at 651-774-7802 to place your order in advance.

Earl Street Pets

Earl Street Pets is changing its name to East Side Pets and moving from 336 Earl St. to a new location on E. 7th Street and Flandrau. Make sure to visit Fish Man Dan Monson at his new store.

Support Dayton’s Bluff Businesses

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