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Dayton’s Bluff District 4
Community Council
798 East 7th Street
Saint Paul, MN 55106

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National Night Out with your neighbors on Aug. 5

Celebrate National Night Out on August 5, 2008 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 nationwide in a variety of events and activities. Let’s make this year even bigger!

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
- 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 - pot luck, fun and games
- Fremont Ave. between Johnsons Pkwy and Atlantic – potluck and fun
- Reaney between Forest and Cypress - fun and games
- Swede Hollow Park at Greenbrier and Margaret - potluck, The Exit Band and fun
- 1330 Conway - food, music, fun and games
- 653 North Street – at North and Bates – this is a NNO event and a Thank You to all who helped with the HGTV project to fix up Kris Nelson’s home.

Thank You to all who helped with the HGTV project to fix up Kris Nelson’s home.

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

Help make a difference in Dayton’s Bluff

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

The Dayton’s Bluff Community Council is one of 17 such Councils in Saint Paul, and the place to be if you want to have your voice heard on land-use, zoning, parks, housing, crime prevention, and overall community development and improvement in this community.

The Council will hold its annual elections for Board members October 20, 2008; half the seats (9) are up for election/reelection, and one seat is presently vacant. The Board is organized into 4 sub districts, each with 4 representatives, and 2 at-large seats. We are actively seeking candidates for board positions. Interested residents and business owners (18 years and older) should file for these positions at the District Council office 798 E. 7th St., between August 18 and September 15 at 7:00 pm.

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.daytonsbuff.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.

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 7500 addresses for only 2 cents per address. Your ad is also placed on our website. Other size ads and inserts are available. Include the Dayton’s Bluff District Forum in your advertising plans.

Contact Karin@daytonsbluff.org
Or call 651-772-2075

Dayton’s Bluff District 4
Community Council
798 East 7th Street
Saint Paul, MN 55106
Dayton’s Bluff Community Meeting

The next Dayton’s Bluff Community Meeting will be on Thursday, September 4, 2008.

Generically the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council holds its community meetings on the first Thursday of each month, but since the Special July Community Meeting was moved to July 15th we will skip the August meeting.

The purpose of these meetings are to work with block clubs and neighborhood residents on problem properties, criminal nuisance places, code enforcement issues and any other neighborhood issues, concerns, and new ideas for the improvement of Dayton’s Bluff.

Email Karin@DaytonsBluff.org with your specific issues and concerns, with addresses and problems prior to the meeting, so that background work can be done before the meeting. All Dayton’s Bluff block club members are welcome to attend. If you have questions please email Karin@DaytonsBluff.org or call Karin at 651-772-2075.

Meet with the police

On Friday, August 15 the Eastern District Police will host their monthly meeting for community members. The meeting is intended as a time to listen to and address people’s concerns about crime and other issues on the East Side.

The community meetings are held at the Eastern District police office at 722 Payne on the corner of Payne and Minnehaha Avenues on the third Friday of each month at 9:30 a.m.

Take a Hike

There will be no hikes in August or September. The next hike is Saturday, October 4th. Dayton’s Bluff Take a Hike occurs on the first Saturday of most months. We meet at 10:30 a.m. in Indian Mounds Park at Earl St. and Mounds Blvd. We’ll hike from Mounds Park to the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary and then walk along the Bruce Vento Recreational Trail through a redwood Hollow Park. Along the way we will share stories and learn some history of the area. The hike is about four miles long with some moderately rough terrain. Transportation will be available to return to Mounds Park, or you may hike back.

Join us and explore some of our parks and the regional trail. For more information contact Karin at 651-772-2075 or Karin@DaytonsBluff.org.

Volunteers needed to help the elderly

Little Brothers Friends of the Eldery need volunteers to connect with elders in Saint Paul/Minneapolis. We have a variety of volunteer opportunities.

We need visiting volunteers to make a visit to an elder’s home twice a month. The elders we serve are isolated and alone. If you are interested please visit www.littlebrothersmn.org, email lmineau@littlebrothersmn.org, or call 612-746-0753.

Margaret Rec Center Flower Project

Members of the Margaret Rec Center Block Club standing near the beautiful pansies donated to the block club by the Saint Paul Hotel. This is the second year of the block club’s Pansies Around Margaret Rec Center Project. With the help of dozens of neighborhood volunteers (including some of the Bluff’s youngest gardeners), hundreds of pansies were planted in just a few hours. Left to right top row Tim Herman, Jennifer Newton, and Bethany Herman. First row Jennifer Herman and Chris Newton.

4th & Bates garden tour on August 26th

The neighborhood around East 4th and Bates has been busy putting in boulevard gardens and hanging baskets. Neighborhood children have been helping with planting, yard work and looking for more jobs. Sage Holben stated, “Putting flowers on the boulevard has been instrumental in more neighbors getting to know each other.” She went on to say, “The flowers and the act of sharing them have also changed attitudes of people on the block and neighboring streets.”

The garden tour of their area is Tuesday, August 26th starting at Bates and East 4th at 6:30 p.m.

Dayton’s Bluff Curb Appeal on HGTV

The Shannon and James Ritchey home at 699 Frank Street will be featured on the HGTV Curb Appeal show. The first airing will be August 25th at 7:30 p.m. CDT. Last year we had a couple of photos in the Dayton’s Bluff District Forum about HGTV Curb Appeal work with the Ritchey’s on their property. Their home was also in the Dayton’s Bluff Neighbohood Home Tour this past spring.

Greening Dayton’s Bluff volunteers needed

Volunteers are needed to help with weeding and upkeep of a number of gardens in Dayton’s Bluff parks. Some of the parks that could use your help include, Hamm Park, Swede Hollow Park, Bruce Vento, and Mounds Park. If you are able to help, email Karin@DaytonsBluff.org or call 651-772-2075.

It’s the law! The curfew law, that is!

City of St. Paul Curfew for Juveniles Age 15 or younger: Home by 10 p.m.
Age 16 – 17: Home by 12 a.m. Midnight
Saint Paul Police Department
Juvenile Unit

May 31, 2008

Microentrepreneur Class in Sept.

The next Dayton’s Bluff Neighborhood Microentrepreneur Class is starting in September. This program helps start up and young busineses in 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 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 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.

Stolen Flowering Pot

Each year the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council places 25 large flowering pots outside of Dayton’s Bluff businesses to help improve the streetscape and gives the businesses community a pleasant feel.

On the morning of June 22 a man in his 40’s or 50’s driving a goldish colored Saturn SUV stopped in front of Leo’s Chow Mien at Earl and Hudson, dumped out the soil from the 30” flowering pot, put the pot in his vehicle, and drove off. A short time later he came back with grocery bags and a shovel and put the soil in the bags, put them in his vehicle and drove off again.

This was reported to a local merchant, who let the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council know about the theft. The Community Council is asking for your help in finding stolen flower pot and the man who took it. Please email Karin@DaytonsBluff.org or call 651-772-2075 with information on this crime.

Set of 12 Dayton’s Bluff postcards

The Dayton’s Bluff area has always been picturesque. It has so many scenic views—and now they are available in postcards! There are 12 different scenes, including the Scenic Overlook, E. 7th St. Improvement Arches, the Stutzman Block and the Indian Mounds.

A set of 12 is $10—only $5 for Dayton’s Bluff residents. Buy one to keep and one to send. Photography and printing of the postcards was donated by Dayton’s Bluff resident Steve Timmins. All proceeds support our local paper, the Dayton’s Bluff District Forum. Call 651-772-2075 for more information.

Dayton’s Bluff Recycling

Every Tuesday. Have your recycling on the curb by 7 a.m.

Call 651-772-2075 for a bin.

Dayton’s Bluff District Forum August 2008
“Rocky Horror Picture Show” continues at the Mounds Theatre

“The Rocky Horror Picture Show” continues this summer at the Mounds Theatre. This is the original 1975 motion picture accompanied by live performances and audience participation.

The scheduled dates are the first, third and fifth Saturdays of the month from June through September. Upcoming dates are August 2, 16 & 30, and September 6 & 20. All shows begin at 11:00 p.m. Ticket price is $7.00.

RHPS is the original audience participation experience. A live performance of RHPS is a unique multi-media event where you, the audience, are part of the show. A “shadow” cast made up of members from Transvestite Soup will attempt to recreate as accurately as possible what you see on screen, while leaving room for amusing improv. The audience will yell their own dialogue back at the screen and at live actors (some traditional, some spontaneous). Audience members often dress in appropriate fashion at these shows. For more information or to purchase tickets online for “The Rocky Horror Picture Show”, go to www.MoundsTheatre.org. Tickets may also be purchased at the door, or by calling 651-772-2253. The Mounds Theatre is located at 1029 Hudson Road, St. Paul, MN 55106.

Friends of Swede Hollow will “Watch the Glow”

By erin sobaski

It’s an election year, and that means you can’t go a block without seeing a political lawn sign. Typically they are for candidates simply trying to get name recognition. But a new project, My Yard Our Message, is putting a creative spin on political lawn signs and Dayton’s Bluff will be part of it.

My Yard Our Message has solicited designs from artists nationwide for signs relating to the theme of “actively participating in a democracy.” (Signs must be non-partisan, i.e., not promoting a specific political party or candidate.) The submissions—close to 300—were shown on MyYardOurMessage.com during July. In true democratic fashion, people cast their vote to determine a selection of 50 winners, which were announced August 1. Now these 50 designs are being turned into full-sized political lawn signs.

As part of the project, winning yard sign creations will be placed in neighborhoods throughout the Twin Cities, including those immediately surrounding the site of the Republican National Convention in St. Paul. Dayton’s Bluff has been selected as one of these gallery neighborhoods. The West Side neighborhood has also been designated.

In addition, anyone can purchase a yard sign at MyYardOurMessage.com for $20, including shipping. Top designs will also be available for free as PDF files.

My Yard Our Message, a project conceived by Scott Sayre, is produced by the Walker Art Center and mnartists.org in collaboration with The UnConvention. Signs will be available for Dayton’s Bluff residents by the end of August. If you are interested in having one of these 50 award-winning signs in your yard, please contact erin sobaski at erin@daytonsbuff.com for more information.
By Steve Trimble

Here’s been a lot of talk recently about the problems people are having with mortgage payments and the drop in the market for homes. Like other communities, we have been hit by foreclosures and there are literally hundreds of empty residences on the market. The Dayton’s Bluff Community Council even had a “Vacant House Tour” to help find folks willing to take on the vacant houses.

So it seemed like a good time to write an article that would look at some of the historic houses in the community. We will take the choices down to the Lower Bluff at least for this issue, so you could easily follow the route and see how many of these houses and kinds of local history different houses demonstrated.

It might also be a splendid opportunity to get out of the house and take a look at some of them in an informal walking or bike tour. You could even take it in your car if you can afford the gasoline. Take your cameras along and if you see an interesting shot along the way, whether it’s a house, a garden or anything of interest, send it in to the Forum and it may get printed.

[Start at Upper Swede Hollow Park, Green- brier and Marshall]

Hamman Family Houses: 668-680 Green- brier

668 N. Greenbrier was the home of William and Maria Hamman, constructed in 1892 for the nephew of William Henry Hamman, who built Hamman’s Mill. It is a large house, built in what is called a “mocaolicastel” style. William was the owner of the business Hamman & Becker from 1903 until 1931. It was designed by promi- nent architect Allen H. Stem.

Another 665 N. Greenbrier was built for two of the daughters of Theodore Hamm, 672 Greenbrier was the home of Otto and Maria Hamman. The building was designed by German-American ar- chitect August Gauger. 660 Greenbrier, built in 1885, also designed by Gauger, was the home of Peter and his wife Emma Hamm Close. This house was an example of “fancy goods” shop in downtown.

[Head east down Margaret Street for a hun- dred feet]

The Defel House: 732 Margaret

A month after his March 1889 wedding, Henry Defel bought two lots in Dayton’s Bluff. He built his Queen Anne style house, designed by architect Herman Kreutz. He was the son of a pioneer iceman, Michael Defel, who had established a home on East Sixth and 2nd Street. Henry went into business with his father in the grocery business. In 1879 he married Neva Sather. When she died, Henry continued his upholstery business and added painting and wallpapering. His third, child, Mary, was born in 1885, but died shortly after the family moved into the house until the late 1960’s. She rented rooms to boarders, often people working at St. John’s Hospital. The house is an example of Queen Anne structure because of the heavy ornamentation on the porch and eaves.

In 1849 four brothers built it as the “Keller House” 674-676 Eichwald St.

In 1889 the Keller family had the eight rooms, now known as Keller’s Row, built on East 3rd. St. John’s Hospital. The eight rooms were designed by architect Edwin P. Keller, a student at the Ecole des Beaux Arts, stained glass and brass and wooden furniture. Building a small number of “spec” or specu- lative houses, they anticipated that the custom was there was a fairly common practice at the time.

One of the more famous residents of Keller’s Row was Gehrd Bohn, owner of the Bohn Manufacturing Company, which later evolved into Whirlpool. These houses were built on land that had been part of a farm by M. Keller’s family mansion which was built at 394 Eichwald in 1894. It has since been renamed the home and his name to the street in front in Eichwald Avenue, a German word meaning Oak Avenue.

Then take a right. Go south on Hope, across Eichenwald Row: 393-399 Eichenwald Street

This street from the Keller’s old house site is one of the few row houses in Dayton’s Bluff. They were built around 1892. By the early 20th century the dramatic transformation of the city had taken place, and builders turned their attention to the open lots in the vicinity of the church of the Immanuel Congregational. Architectural historians consider “Eichenwald Row” among the most elaborate of what they call “a series of housing” ventures in the Dayton’s Bluff area.

Created by the local master builder Andrew Hall, L. M. took part of nearly each block of the Queen Anne style of architecture, from the English Tudor of the gable facings, to the richly patterned brick, to the Romanesque Revival of the stairway, to the Richardsons Romanesque of the broad- arched stone and brickwork. 399 Eichwald Avenue is a happy example of the latter off mixed tradition, with a shingled second story, and a stone foundation, a shingled second story, and a stone foundation, a shingled second story, and a stone foundation.

Arthur and Elsa Koening left Austria and moved to St. Paul in 1924. They were prominent in the Lutheran Church. By 1926, they had bought the corner of Greenbrier and 4th Street from a foreman for the Hamms Brewery. For many years, this house had been used as an office, with its own unique design and symphony. Ionic columns and wrap-around porch was designed by Buchner and Orth in 1927. The house was a traditional building in business together since 1901. They designed the Masonic Temple as well as the U.S. Post Office on Broadway and in 1909.

At the time of the construction, the Johnson family was in the house before it was sold to Archibald and the end of the year 1911. The house was occupied by the family until the 1980’s. It has still its original large carriage house, which has been remodeled as living area.

[Keep going down Sixth till you reach Bates and take a left. You will then continue for a few blocks to.....]

The Bahmanen House: 335 Bates Avenue

Burtah built the home example of Prairie style architecture as applied to a small residence. Inspired by the ideas of Frank Lloyd Wright, Prairie School architect, Burtah’s house was a two-bedroom house, built in 1893-1894. It is still in business today.

This structure on the south side of the street was designed by prominent architect Allen H. Stem.

While the John House: 373 Maple

Original owner Peter John started a pio- neer business and saloon owner in the 1880’s in a store located on Payne Avenue, although he lived in Dayton’s Bluff. He moved his busi- ness to the corner of Maple and Main, an East Bluff structure. His house has a unique design and symphony. Ionic columns and wrap-around porch was designed by Buchner and Orth in 1887. The house was a traditional building in business together since 1901. They designed the Masonic Temple as well as the U.S. Post Office on Broadway and in 1909.

At the time of the construction, the Johnson family was in the house before it was sold to Archibald and the end of the year 1911. The house was occupied by the family until the 1980’s. It has still its original large carriage house, which has been remodeled as living area.

The Plunkow House: 705 East 4th Avenue

Dr. Plunkow is considered the person most responsible for the creation of St. John’s Hospital and a long time physician who practiced there. He was earlier associated with a down- town hospital, but moved to the hospital in 1870, the old 1880’s. This is one of two built by Henry Buchholz for himself and his son Andrew. Henry was a founding member of the Bluff and went on to be a successful banker. Both he and his son switched jobs in 1882 and began to work as bankers for Bohn and later for themselves in their own bank- ing business in the area. Henry left the city by 1885 and the house began being offered as living area, with its own unique design and symphony. Ionic columns and wrap-around porch was designed by Buchner and Orth in 1887. The house was a traditional building in business together since 1901. They designed the Masonic Temple as well as the U.S. Post Office on Broadway and in 1909.

At the time of the construction, the Johnson family was in the house before it was sold to Archibald and the end of the year 1911. The house was occupied by the family until the 1980’s. It has still its original large carriage house, which has been remodeled as living area.

[Cross 3rd Street and go to Conway Street]

July 4th “Noble Rite”: 717 Conway Street

On July 4, 1942, Percival Noble, an En- glishman, and Anna Miller, a former Brit- ish a flag. John DeCourey of 717 Conway ran across the Van Buren schoolyard to grab the flag. He ran into a brick wall and handed it to his owner. As soon as DeCourey left, Noble set the Union Jack up again, this time correctly, and it was hanging there written by the late Pioneer Press columnist John Brophy.

DeCourey returned and began climbing the pole. Noble attacked him with a bow and arrow. He took back the flag and ran out of the park. He did this for twenty years and finally moved to John DeCourey.

A police squad came on horseback and handed everyone back to the nearby Margaret Street Station. The pundits wanted Noble arrested for defaming the Fourth of July. Soon after the Noble, his family packed up and moved to Winnipeg.

[Take a right on Conway and go west down the hill]

Warrensburg Way: 651 Conway Street

In 1892 square footage, this large building was the boyhood and young adult home of Warren Burger, Supreme Court Justice. Warren Burger was from 1914 to 1933. The German-Swiss family’s financial circum- stances became more comfortable as a result of the family’s farm and his own lumber business.  John’s son, Herbert Burger, was also a prominent lawyer. Burger attended Van Buren School (now Dayton’s Bluff Elementary) and graduated from Johnson High School in 1925, where he edited the school newspaper and was elected class president.

In 1969, President Richard Nixon selected him to be chief justice of the Supreme Court. In 1987, he resigned from the Supreme Court to devote his time and energy to serving as chairman of the Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution. He was a very competent administrator who made considerable progress in bringing about a tireless promoter of judicial reform, includ- ing promoting a national court of appeals and lessening the influence of law- yers trying cases in federal courts.

Incidentally, don’t believe everything you read in history books. There is a resource for local neighborhood history- in- correctly states the Burger house was built in 1884. It was built in 1884. It was the home of Peter and his wife Emma Hamm Close. This house was an example of “fancy goods” shop in downtown.

That Was Then House: 654 E. 4th

This is a house that is not of any unique architectural construction. It is a four-square, two-room schoolhouse, converted in 1904 to a broader style when it was built by Julia Knauft in 1908. But it does have a recent history.

In the mid-1980’s Hollywood came to St. Paul to make a movie called “That Was Then, This Is Now”. That was the story of two juvenile delinquents slowly parting ways as one starts to give up his reck- less lifestyle for the other to hang on and continue the same. When the film was released, it was an instant hit and subsequently was remade as a television series by Warner Bros. Production.

This house was used as the home of Estevan and his buddy. There is many scenes shot in Dayton’s Bluff and other places in St. Paul. It might be fun for you to rent a video or DVD

Tour “continued on page 5
They later built a splendid home on the bluff. Andrew Schoch and his wife lived in one of the many buildings on the East Fifth Street side of the bluff. Of course, today this red brick building is a double house that was built for his two daughters. John A. Seeger was a long time local business man, who lived in one of the most popular choices of the local German community. Gustav Gauger, who as you have seen, was an important part of the early German community of Dayton’s Bluff, drew from the vicinity of the two homes on East Fifth Street. 

When Lyman Dayton died he was buried at the south end of the church between Fifth and Sixth Streets so when this Italian estate was erected on the crest of the bluff, Dayton’s remains would be viewed at a distance. The southern plantation-style pillars were not originally part of the house, but are thought to have been added when the structure was an antique shop and someone thought it made it more interesting.

John Seeger houses: 657 & 661-663 E. 5th Boulevard 

This is one of the most well known structures on the bluff. Perched on the edge of the bluff, it used to overlook Phalen Creek and a landscape that descended down toward the Mississippi River. It is a prime example of what is known as the Queen Anne style. John Seeger, a German immigrant, was the owner of a business in our neighborhood, Schoch Building: 374 Maria Avenue. He opened the shop in 1869. It was part of a large estate on what was then called Dayton Avenue, named for pioneer developer Lyman Dayton. The building was changed to Hoffman Avenue and later to Mounds Boulevard. Gustav was an important part of the early German community of Dayton’s Bluff, drawn from the vicinity of the two homes on East Fifth Street. Of course, today this red brick building is a double house that was built for his two daughters. John A. Seeger was a long time local business man, who lived in one of the most popular choices of the local German community. Gustav Gauger, who as you have seen, was an important part of the early German community of Dayton’s Bluff, drew from the vicinity of the two homes on East Fifth Street. 

When Lyman Dayton died he was buried at the south end of the church between Fifth and Sixth Streets so when this Italian estate was erected on the crest of the bluff, Dayton’s remains would be viewed at a distance. The southern plantation-style pillars were not originally part of the house, but are thought to have been added when the structure was an antique shop and someone thought it made it more interesting. 

Keep going north on the sidewalk until you reach East Fifth Street.
By Colleen Ashton

The year is 1942, when my mother, Phyllis Anderson, five years old, moved into Arts and Crafts style home at 188 Mounds Boulevard. My mother drove with her brother Curtis, 8 years old, sister Terryl, 6 years old and mother and father, Olive and Lloyd Anderson, from Spokane, Washington. They drove in a 1941 Chevy. The purchase price of the house was $4,000. "Daddy’s company paid for the Grand Union Tea and Coffee Co. as a new manager. It was located on Fourth Street across from the old auditorium. Phyllis, my mother, recalls hiding behind and seek with her sister Terryl back in the stockroom: "where the air smelled wonderfully of coffee."

In fall 1944, my mother’s father died of leukemia. With Lloyd gone my mother’s mother, Olive, would have to get a job. She was hired as an “office girl” with the Grand Union (the company that her husband had worked prior to his death). Her mother rented out one of the rooms upstairs. It was a way the money earned from her job. Usually it was a recent high school graduate from out of town, and female who soon became an extension of the family. My mother had her rooms on the bluff during the war years as a means to buy groceries and pay the back taxes. While my mother’s mother also had to learn how to drive! Back then there was no test required in order to receive your license. All a person had to do was apply. Olive learned to drive from her neighbor around the corner on Plum Street, Mr. Shefer. She had difficulty getting out of the driveway so the assistant pastor at the Servants of the Sacred Heart Lutheran on Minnehaha and Earl, would stop by Sunday morning services to back the car out of the driveway. (Trust me this is no easy task as the driveway is still very narrow.)

The Neighborhood

The neighborhood east of Mounds Boulevard has stayed fairly the same but the west side where the park is now located was much different. There was a horse garage on the corner of Cherry and Mounds Boulevard that had a horse garage and an apple orchard that ran the length of Mounds Boulevard because the road was owned by the Schoch’s. The concrete was originally the parking lot of a horse garage and an apple orchard that ran the length of Mounds Boulevard because the road was owned by the Schoch’s lived there her niece, Jeanine (Grandma); Second Row: Terryl, Phyllis (Mom); Front: Curt and Skippy.

When the neighborhood near Mounds Blvd. between Plum and Cherry Sts. in the 1940’s.

Mrs. Hawkins was the cashier and Frank was the butcher. After Hildeman’s closed Frank took at job as butcher at the White Glove on Maria next to the Deluxe Theater. (I am assuming that Frank must had been one heck of a meat slicer that my grandmother would never let all his whereabouts for employment.)

For eighth grade graduation, Phyllis remembers that she wore a new dress bought at the Three Sisters. Her moments that she wore a new dress bought at the Three Sisters. Her moments that she wore a new dress bought at the Three Sisters. Her moments that she wore a new dress bought at the Three Sisters. Her moments that she wore a new dress bought at the Three Sisters. Her moments that she wore a new dress bought at the Three Sisters. Her moments that she wore a new dress bought at the Three Sisters. Her moments that she wore a new dress bought at the Three Sisters.

Next to Basta’s was Olson’s Department Store. It had a grocery store, meat market, clothing, hardware, and other miscellaneous merchandise. This is where my mother and her children would buy gifts, Mother’s Day gifts, etc. Upstairs from the department store was my mother’s dentist, Dr. Dahlen. The only color of the teeth my mother had about the dentist was that Novocain was only used if requested, as that was an additional expense so she said that she used to grip the chair and scream instead. (I wonder what the arms of that chair looked like?)

The three siblings, Curt, Terryl and Phyllis used to like to play on the cliffs. This was without their mother’s permission of course but it was so full of adventure they could not resist. There was also a piggroung called the Tuxedo playground where the bridge from Kellogg runs over the freeway now. They called it the ‘The Tux’. The Tux was a two-story building with a slide and a playground and a warming house for ice skating below. The warming house used to be packed during winters when the residents were by the use of both Van Buren School and Mounds Park School students. Van Buren School was where Dayton’s Bluff school is now located. Van Buren was sort of a rival school of Mounds Park Elementary. Mom says that Van Buren and Mounds Park students were always rivals.

The weekend

After Saturday chores Curt, Terryl and Phyllis would walk down to the library. Phyllis and Curt would walk down to the library while he had his arm stretched out with his hand on the back of their necks in order to get them to walk faster. He said that when he was a child his family favored the books about dogs as she always had a dog. My mother and her friends, Judy Miller and Carol Lindeke, was at the library every Saturday. The library was small and lacked the facilities, stores, libraries and such were all within walking distance. There was a streetcar that ran to the north along Van Buren and turned then ran north on Maria to Seventh Street and then on to downtown. This was known as the “Grand Boulevard” it continued as such until the time its name was changed to it left Seventh Street and Wabasha in front of Walgreen’s Drug Store. The street remained in operation until about 1956.
“Teen Tips on staying out of trouble”

Teen Tips from The Regime and Dayton’s Bluff Rec Center, along with teen leader Tiffany, know the importance of staying out of trouble. They’ve already seen problem incidents this summer. But staying with the program is a continual challenge. Below are some suggestions—created by teens—for their peers, to have a safe, fun and productive end of the summer.

1. Make sure your schedule is full. Dayton’s Bluff has many activities to help you stay focused and consistent. If you are busy for most of the day, you’ll become productive. And then you’ll be too tired to indulge in negative activities.

2. Find positive peers. Don’t hang around a group of kids who are not in line with your beliefs and morals. If you start hanging with a new group of people, things that can get you into trouble, don’t hang with them any more.

3. Have a good reputation. Always try to maintain a good reputation. Make good choices.

4. Respect authority. No matter what the situation is, always respect program directors, police officers and peace officers.

5. Avoid gossiping. Try to keep all information you hear confidential. Never spread rumors or lies about what someone has confessed to you.

Mom liked swimming. Phalen Lake was a good lake and a close option but unfortunately on one occasion a boy tanned on her bathing suit. After that incident she preferred Tanners Lake. It cost 10 cents to swim at this lake but my mother thought that the price was worth her modesty. Back in the 1940’s Tanners Lake was privately owned and segregated.

My grandmother always had a large vegetable garden in the back yard approximately 30’ x 30’. She grew corn, peas, beans, onions, tomatoes, and carrots. She sold the harvested produce that the garden was originally located in the 70’s. She had sold it to a family that lived in an adjacent property on Cherry Street. She said that after everything was done, all the legal paperwork and such, her profit was minimal. From that experience she decided not to sell any more land.

After my mother’s brother joined the Army in 1951, my grandmother rented his room out to a man by the name of Mr. Joe Kelly. Mr. Kelly lived in that room for about 35 years. He would eat out and use the one bathroom on the main floor. (I remember as a child that Mr. Kelly had washed. He was always “Mr. Kelly” and lived there until my grandmother passed away.

My mother and her sister were in high school at Harding High School located on Third Street and Earl, which later became Mounds Park Junior High and now is the Mounds Park Four Seasons School. While in high school my mother made some very close friends whom she is still in contact with today. Those stories I’ll save for another time in another article.

Today, the home of 188 Mounds Boulevard is on its third generation of family. With all the changes that “progress” has brought, the community is still strong working together. I feel fortunate to be part of such a wealth of history in Dayton’s Bluff, but especially fortunate that we have the dedicated writers who spend many hours putting together the Dayton’s Bluff District Forum and have kept it in circulation.

The Saint Paul Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) approved $625,000 in funding for Reserve Accounts that will be used to leverage private dollars for two new mortgage incentive programs, the Make it Possible Program (MPP) and the Sustainable Home Ownership Program (SHOP). Both programs will help to stabilize targeted Invest Saint Paul neighborhoods by providing housing grants to homeowners with the option to refinance out of adjustable rate mortgages and an incentive for people to purchase vacant or foreclosed properties.

The foreclosure crisis has tightened up the mortgage markets and some people who have normally qualified for a mortgage year fixed rate mortgages can no longer qualify. The market for private mortgage insurance also is tight, making it more difficult for buyers who are required to purchase private mortgage insurance when securing a mortgage that exceeds 80 percent of the appraised value.

MPP will loan up to $1.75 million in a second mortgage product provided by the Family Housing Fund (FHF). In order to use these funds for this type of program, a Reserve Account in the amount of $250,000 is required to cover any possible foreclosures that may occur within the payback period. The Saint Paul HRA Board agreed to provide the necessary funding for this reserve account. Under the MPP, a 3-percent down payment will be required of buyers/borrowers, and buyers/borrowers who qualify for a first mortgage representing 80 percent or less of the appraised value of a home through a private mortgage lender under standard underwriting criteria will be able to receive the difference of up to 20 percent of the remaining value in a second mortgage loaned at 3.5 percent payable over a 15-year period.

Mortgage incentive programs make buying a home easier

Continued from page 6

By Natalie Fedie

Occasionally, Curt used to perform puppet shows in the basement. The audience ran anywhere from three to six neighborhood children. Curt also had a dark room in the basement where he developed pictures. Along with the paper route, Curt used to earn money by mowing lawns. One of his customers, Mr. Smith, an elderly widow living on Plum Street wore dark, long dresses with high starched collars and had an African American maid named “Myrtle.” Her maid also wore the same attire and had Thursdays off to visit family across town.

Sunday afternoons were spent at the Mounds Theatre on Maria between Conway and Third for the 12-cent matinees at 1:30. Gramma always had Sunday dinner after church. During the week we rode our bicycles from our house to Whoopee John broadcasting from the Mari-gold Ballroom. Sunday dinner was always eaten between 12 and 1 p.m. The “hobos” would come up from the trains by using the wood stairs located at the foot of Plum Street near one of the old beer storage caves. One of this caves was privately owned and segregated.

The “hobos” knew about her nice Sunday dinners with pie and word spread that she never turned them down although they had to have their dinner eaten between 12 and 1 p.m. The “hobos” would come up from the trains by using the wood stairs located at the foot of Plum Street near one of the old beer storage caves. One of this caves was privately owned and segregated. One of his customers, Mrs. Tanners, Lake. It cost 10 cents to swim at this lake but my mother thought that the price was worth her modesty. Back in the 1940’s Tanners Lake was privately owned and segregated.

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Reading and talking to children

By Mary Ann Cogelow

For many years I have had a poster quoting Ruth Love, one time superintendent of the Chicago Public Schools, which says, “If we could get parents to read to their preschool children fifteen minutes a day, we could revolutionize the schools.” I do think she’s right.

Following the child's interest, Mom and Dad can begin reading to a baby early in the first year of life. (If Dads don’t read to kids, little boys may not think that they should be interested in reading or in learning to read.) Initially reading is more talking about pictures and labeling objects than following a printed text. Parents can make it up as they go: “Oh, look! A big red ball.” “See the puppy. His name is Rex.” That’s a banana. You had a banana for breakfast.” Talk about a given page or picture as long as the baby is interested. Move on to another page or change activities when interest wanes. Probably the initial payoff for reading is being held by a much loved person and hearing a beloved voice. Keeping the experience pleasurable is of paramount importance.

Books with clear appealing pictures of familiar objects like Little Rabbit’s First Farm Book written and illustrated by Alan Baker appeal to the very young reader. For many years I have had a poster quoting Ruth Love, one time superintendent of the Chicago Public Schools, which says, “If we could get parents to read to their preschool children fifteen minutes a day, we could revolutionize the schools.” I do think she’s right.

Babies are also attracted to pictures of other babies. Another kind of book I encourage “reading” to babies and toddlers is the illustrated lullaby. Singing Hush Little Baby illustrated by Aliki was a favorite part of many bedtime reading sessions for my children. Don’t limit your reading to board books. Board books are great for “independent” reading when little fingers have not yet become skilled at turning pages, but babies can enjoy many titles not available in board book format. In fact, some board books have content which is really aimed at the intellectual level of older preschoolers or even elementary age children.

Sometimes as babies grow into toddlers their drive to move takes precedence over their desire to sit on a lap and look at books. This can be frustrating for Mom and Dad, but the parent can read as the toddler moves around the room exploring, crawling, walking, climbing, playing and Dad, but the parent can read as the toddler moves around the room exploring, crawling, walking, climbing, playing and talking. (Cleaning!) Continuing to read to children in elementary and even high school years can continue to enrich their knowledge and add to their vocabularies. Moreover, reading to children at all ages is a rich opportunity to enhance the parent-child relationship by enjoying and discussing personal reactions to the facts, ideas, and stories to be found between the covers of a book.

There are so many fabulous titles for children that I could fill an entire article by simply listing titles. Wonderful new children’s literature continues to be published faster than I can keep up with it, but continue to read the golden oldies as well – many of the important themes in children’s books are timeless as are great children’s writers. For help finding wondrous titles for kids, ask a children’s librarian for suggestions by age and/or topic. (Remember every child needs to own some books. Book ownership sends a message that books are important and that reading matters. But every child from toddler hood on needs to experience libraries as welcoming places, which provide resources for knowledge and enjoyment.) Consult the Read-aloud Handbook by Jim Trelease or check his website for lists of children’s titles for all ages.

Finally, make some books with your kids. They can be as simple or elaborate as you wish. Photographs in an inexpensive album could be a book of “My Family” or “My House.” Cut out magazine pictures glued to sheets of thin cardboard could make a homemade board book of a toddler’s trip to the zoo or to the grocery store. The possibilities are endless. These homemade books can provide enjoyment while they, like any other book, strengthen memory, promote many understandings which support continuing development of literacy skills, expand all kinds of knowledge, and enrich the relationship between Dad and Mom and child.

I hope that aiming for a minimum of fifteen minutes of daily reading and talking about books with your child or children sounds like fun and profit to you. Find or make a book, relax and enjoy!