

Dayton's Bluff DISTRICT FORUM

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Dayton's Bluff is picturesque - Read all about it



Almost a century ago, neighborhood leaders got together and produced a booklet titled *Picturesque Dayton's Bluff*. In it they extolled the splendor of our neighborhood, the virtues of its people, and its general quality of life. The cover from one of the few remaining copies of this unique document is shown above. Steve Trimble's article on page 4 tells us what life was like around here in 1909.

Come for Breakfast

At the next Eastside
Community
Business Networking
Event

Wednesday 7/16/08
7:30 – 9:00 a.m.
Hmong American
Partnership
1075 Arcade St.

July's event Sponsored by the
Montessori Training Center
of Minnesota

Coffee, rolls, fruit, juice,
new contacts, and compelling
information will be waiting for
you at this free event.

*Speaker and topics to be
announced later.*

NNO helps you know your neighbors and stop crime

By erin sobaski

Food, fun and neighbors—sounds like a summer get-together. And on National Night Out (NNO), that means a lot of neighborhood get-togethers! The 25th Annual National Night Out event takes place this year on Tuesday, August 5.

National Night Out is a unique crime/drug prevention event sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch. It brings together involved citizens, law enforcement agencies, civic group, business, neighborhood organizations and local officials. NNO is designed to:

- *Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness;

- *Generate support for, and participation in, local anticrime programs;

- *Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and

- *Send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

The Dayton's Bluff area has been participating in NNO since 1983. On average, we have around 10 to 15 block parties going on in the community. Some are large, with tents and grills fired up. Others are just a few people gathered with chips and soda. But all are important.

Recently on the "Today" show, an anthropologist stated one of the reasons for the increase in crime and apathy of residents, is the loss of community. When neighbors don't know each other and there is no sense of community, they have no concern for others. NNO is a chance to get to know your neighbors and build that sense of community. This will help drive crime and drugs out of the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood. And in addition, it's a fun, family-friendly event!

It's not too late to plan your own block party. For more information, contact Karin DuPaul at 651-772-



A National Night Out event brings people together. Photo by Ed Lambert

2075 or karin@daytonsbluff.org. Look for a listing of Dayton's Bluff block parties in the August issue of the *Dayton's Bluff District Forum*.

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

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Invest Saint Paul wants your opinion

Over the next few months Dayton's Bluff Community Council volunteers and staff will be going door to door in the Lower Bluff, the area between East 6th Street, Mounds Blvd., Hudson Road and Maple Street to ask residents to fill out surveys that will help them determine what improvements the residents would like to see in their neighborhood. When residents complete the survey their names will be entered in a drawing for prizes. If you would rather come to the Community Council office or a community meet-

ing to fill out the survey, contact Karin at karin@DaytonsBluff.org or 651-772-2075 to schedule a time.

Invest Saint Paul is an intensive examination of several small areas in several Saint Paul neighborhoods, including Dayton's Bluff. The idea is to get a close look at what the residents identify as things that should be improved. Then, working with the residents and various agencies, a list of things that need to be dealt with and worked on over the next several years will be developed

Special Dayton's Bluff Community Meeting

The next Dayton's Bluff Community Meeting will be on **Tuesday, July 15, 2008 from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m., at Saint John's Lutheran Church at 771 Margaret just west of East 7th Street on Margaret.** Parking is available behind church. The meeting will be held in the lower level meeting area next to the parking area behind the church.

Mayor Coleman, City Council President Lantry, Commander Martinez, Senator Moua, and State Representative Johnson will be on hand to discuss neighborhood issues. At a past community meeting participants requested that public officials come and help find solutions for difficult issues and concerns in the neighborhood. This is an opportunity to look at new ways to work on on-going problem.

Generally the Dayton's Bluff Community Council holds its community meetings on the first Thursday of each month, but because of the 4th of July weekend the special July Community Meeting will be on July 15th. The purpose of the meetings 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, and new ideas for the improvement of Dayton's Bluff.

Email Karin@DaytonsBluff.org your specific issues or concerns, or your great idea prior to the meeting so that background work can be done before the meeting. All Dayton's Bluff residents are welcome to attend. If you are planning to attend please email Karin@DaytonsBluff.org or contact Karin at 651-772-2075.

Meet with the police

On **Friday, July 18** 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

Dayton's Bluff Take a Hike occurs on the first Saturday of most months. The next hike is **Saturday, July 5th.** 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 Swede Hollow Park to the new East Side Heritage Park. Along the way we will share stories and learn some local 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.

It's party time in Dayton's Bluff



Top: The Dayton's Bluff Progressive Dinner was a great success with over 50 people attending. Three homes hosted around 16 people at each house for appetizers. Then three other homes hosted desserts. The evening was rounded out with everyone going to one home for beverages and good conversation. Above: Amy Hanford (left) visiting with host Marge Bleakmore. Photos by Karin DuPaul



On Wednesday June 6, the Earl/Wilson Block Club had a front yard barbeque. The idea was to have neighbors out in their yards to chat and get to know each other. Everybody that came brought different food to share and the residents at the end of the block shared their grills. One neighbor brought a giant puppet from the Mayday Parade in South Minneapolis so they could have their own Wilson Avenue parade.

National Night Out is Tuesday August 5, 2008

Microentrepreneur Class in Sept.

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 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.

Block club meetings

*Wilson Avenue Block Club meets on the second Wednesday of each month at Mounds Park United Methodist Church, at Earl and Euclid, at 6:30 p.m.

*Beech/Margaret Block Club meets on the last Tuesday of each month at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, at Margaret and Forest, at 7:00 p.m.

*Margaret Rec Center Block Club meets on the second Thursday of each month at the Margaret Rec Center, at Margaret and Frank, at 6:30 p.m.

If you wish to have your block club listed, or need information about starting your own block club, please contact Karin at 651-772-2075 or Karin@DaytonsBluff.org.

Get rid of junk cars

Budget Towing of Minnesota, Minnesota's largest towing company, is owned by Roy Carlson, an active Dayton's Bluff Community Council board member. Budget Towing will remove any junk car or truck—located anywhere in Saint Paul—and dispose of it at no charge to the vehicle owner or the property owner where it is located. The vehicle owner will receive paperwork for a tax donation, and Roy will also make a small donation to the Community Council for each car he tows.

Just call Karin at 651-772-2075 to find out how you can get a junk car out of the way—and help clean up Dayton's Bluff.

Dayton's Bluff Recycling
Every Tuesday. Have your recycling on the curb by 7 a.m.
Call 651-772-2075 for a bin.

4% and 6.875% Interest Home Improvement Loans

4% Interest					
Maximum Loan Amount: \$35,000					
HOUSEHOLD INCOME LIMITS FOR 4% INTEREST					
1 Person	2 Persons	3 Persons	4 Persons	5 Persons	6 Persons
\$43,050	\$49,200	\$55,350	\$61,500	\$66,400	\$71,350
7 Persons	8 Persons	9 Persons	10 Persons	11 Persons	
\$76,250	\$81,200	\$86,100	\$91,000	\$93,100	

6.875 % Interest		Household Income Limits: \$93,100 Gross			
		Maximum Loan Amount: \$35,000			

Eligible Improvements

- A room addition or a new garage
- Roof replacement, a new paint job, or siding
- Septic system repairs or plumbing
- Accessibility improvements such as bathroom accessibility remodeling or building a ramp
- Furnace/air conditioning installation
- Upgrade or replace electrical wiring
- Energy conservation, including replacing windows and doors or insulating walls or attic space
- Many other repairs and remodeling projects

Terms and Eligibility: You can take up to 20 years to repay the loan

Home Improvement Deferred Payment Loans (Limited Funds Available)

Repayment Terms This loan is secured with a mortgage at zero percent (0%) interest. Loan repayment is deferred until the borrower sells, transfers title, or no longer lives in the property. Depending on funding sources available, the loan may be due in thirty (30) years.

HOUSEHOLD INCOME LIMITS FOR DEFERRED PAYMENT LOANS					
1 Person	2 Persons	3 Persons	4 Persons	5 Persons	6 Persons
\$28,300	\$32,350	\$36,400	\$40,450	\$43,700	\$46,900
7 Persons	8 Persons	9 Persons	10 Persons	11 Persons	12 Persons
\$50,150	\$53,400	\$56,650	\$59,850	\$63,100	\$66,350

Eligible Improvements Basic and necessary improvements that directly affect the safety, habitability, energy efficiency, and accessibility of your home. Correction of lead-based paint hazards is required.

Saint Paul Home Loan Fund
Tchu.Yajh@ci.stpaul.mn.us 651-266-6592



Don't Lose your Home to Foreclosure



Facing foreclosure can be a stressful and complicated time.

Contact us today for **FREE** counseling to help you learn about the steps necessary to keep your home.

Stay in your home and remain part of your Saint Paul community!



CITY OF SAINT PAUL
 Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention
 25 West Fourth Street, 12th Floor
 Saint Paul, MN 55102
 651-266-6626

Para información en español comuníquese con
 Neighborhood Development Alliance (NeDA)
 651-292-0131



“Rocky Horror Picture Show” continues at the Mounds Theatre

“The Rocky Horror Picture Show” continues it run at the Mounds Theatre this summer. 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 **July 5 & 19, 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 welcomes new members

Swede Hollow Park’s Historic Forest is a new initiative that Friends of Swede Hollow (FOSH) is working on. The initiative will remove invasive trees and plant native trees over the next ten years. Swede Hollow will become a beautiful one of a kind park. Even today Swede Hollow is a very nice natural area right in the heart of Saint Paul, but the Historic Forest will make it outstanding.

“Watch the Glow of the Setting Sun on the Red Brick Brewery” is one of the events FOSH hosts each year. After the sun sets the evening picnic and socializing begins. Former Hamm’s employees share stories about the brewery and working at the brewery. And former Swede Hollow residents entertain everyone with Italian music and memories of living in the Hollow.

FOSH also has oral history sessions, history tours, and other events that promote Swede Hollow Park and works on Swede Hollow issues, planning, plantings and orchestrating a number of clean ups and work days, as well as a monthly meeting on the first Wednesday of each month.

FOSH initiated the Lower Phalen Creek Project, a project that extends the Bruce Vento Trail and makes the area from Swede Hollow to the Mississippi River a beautiful nature area like Swede Hollow, which is now the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary. In 1998 FOSH started the Historic Hamm Brewery Initiative, a project to save the Hamm Brewery buildings. The brewery is just north of Swede Hollow and the brewery is a beautiful

backdrop to Swede Hollow as well as a very important Saint Paul landmark.

FOSH is a nonprofit organization formed in 1994 when a number of interested neighbors from both sides of Swede Hollow came together to discuss our common goals, deep affection for, and commitment to the park, as well as a love of the rich history of Swede Hollow. Some of the members have been involved in Swede Hollow since the early 1970s when Swede Hollow Park was in the early stages of development.

FOSH welcomes new members. If you are interested in learning more about it or have any questions call 651-776-0550 or email KarinDuPaul@comcast.net

The Dayton's Bluff District Forum
Wants Your Photos, Sketches, Memories, Opinions, Announcements, Complaints, Praise and Anything Else Pertaining To Our Neighborhood
 Contact
Karin for more info at 651-772-2075

Dayton's Bluff youth in Circus Juventas show

A Dayton's Bluff youth is participating in Circus Juventas' spectacular 2008 summer show, a ghost story set in the Louisiana bayou. Mariana Thompson, age 9, of Cherry Street, will appear in *Ravensmanor* this summer. This is her first year with the Circus and she will enter the 5th grade at Yinghua Academy in the fall.

Tickets for the show, which runs from July 31-August 17, go on sale July 7. They will be available through Uptown Tix - online at www.uptowntix.com, 651-209-6799 in the Twin Cities or by calling Circus Juventas, 651-699-8229. This is the company's 14th summer production and the eighth to be performed in its award-winning, air-conditioned Big Top at 1270 Montreal Ave. in St. Paul.

Among the many Twin Cities notables who will be contributing their talents to *Ravensmanor* are world-renowned Fiddler/Mandolinist Peter Ostroushko and acclaimed professional regional theater and film actor, Ansa Aykea.

New to this year's production is the gravity-defying Wall Trampoline. “In the history of Circus Juventas summer smash productions, this will be the most ambitious yet,” said Dan Butler, Co-founder and Executive Director. “In addition to creating originally-scripted, scored and choreographed production, we are introducing the Wall Trampoline, which gives our students another dimension for expressing themselves in the story. The audience will not believe their eyes.”

Picturesque Dayton's Bluff: A booklet from long ago but not far away

By Steve Trimble

If you were asked to provide an adjective to describe our neighborhood, what would it be? "Historic," "diverse", "changing", "struggling"? Do you think the rest of the city "looks up" to us, as the Community Council often puts it? What sort of image do you think we should present to outsiders?

Almost a century ago, one group of residents rose to the challenge of defining the neighborhood and produced a booklet entitled *Picturesque Dayton's Bluff*. Published in 1909, it obviously hoped to provide a very positive picture of the area, to feature the importance of a variety of business leaders and to lure new residents and companies to the community.

As was explained in its introduction, this thirty-six page piece was produced by the Dayton's Bluff Commercial Club, which had been organized four years earlier. They were not hesitant in taking credit for the book and the recent progress of the neighborhood. "The wonderful strides in material progress made by this section of the city," they said, "are largely due to its Commercial Club."

They continued: "The leading men in this section interested themselves in its affairs, and immediately the organization took high rank in public estimation. Plans for aggressive work were inaugurated immediately, and the projects put forward quickly emphasized the fact that a new element of progress had been planted in the community. Thus the Dayton's Bluff Commercial Club quickly became the recognized mouth-piece for the most substantial interests in the community, voicing to the State Legislature, the Mayor and City Council, and the transportation Company of St. Paul, the united declarations of the section's business interests."

Around the turn of the last century there were several commercial clubs, as they were called in different sections of the city—Downtown, the West Side, the North End. Even the relatively new Hazel Park area had one. They were initially comprised of the leading business people who used the headquarters as a place to meet, play cards and billiards and engage in wide-ranging discussions.

They served as sites for relaxation with a good cigar, dances, parties, weddings, and as fund-raising locations. Members were also interested in civic involvement and attempted to bring positive changes to their areas. The Dayton's Bluff home even had a small bowling alley.

Picturesque Dayton's Bluff was part of the publicity efforts of the local Commercial Club. It was filled with photos, facts and quite a bit of puffery. It started with a general description of the community.

Under the heading "Growth and Development of Dayton's Bluff", the writer said that "all things considered, there could not have been a more propitious spot se-



This postcard was dated February 11, 1910. It was addressed to N.K. Miller at 658 Plum St. with the following message printed on the back: "The next regular meeting of the Dayton's Bluff Commercial Club will be held in Club House, Monday evening, February 14, 1910 at eight o'clock. Try and be present. Yours truly, William T. Harris, Secretary."

lected for the establishment of a magnificent residence section. Such provision by Nature itself could only beckon to and induce the best elements in a man when he thought of carving a habitat fair and sweet as is the spot upon which Dayton's Bluff is built."

Exaggerating quite a trifle, they continued: "Situated as it is on well drained and watered ground, general topography that lends itself to improvement and beautification and with the great pride for civic achievement of its residents, this section is nearing an ideal that it has taken years to attain."

Among other points, the publication emphasized that "the Bluff properties have never been boomed, or property been sold at fictitious high prices." Continuing their slap at other fashionable neighborhoods, they stated that in their community there had been a steady increase in value that would "always be depended upon as a reliable investment and asset." The nearly 7,000 families in the community allowed for "great opportunities for building up a prosperous and profitable business."

"For the home builder the greatest of all opportunities are offered, health, location, convenience to the business center of the city, quiet, and the moderate price of property," it continued. "The general trend of the city's business is such that Dayton's Bluff will always remain distinctly a residence section—not of those who desire to live surrounded by great luxury and display, but those who desire health, comfort, quiet and convenience."

It seemed that even a century ago, the community leaders appreciated the area's diversity. "There is no particular nationality nor class that predominate on Dayton's Bluff," they said. "It is a section of a city strictly metropolitan and cosmopolitan in its residents. All nationalities and classes are represented."

The beauty of the neighborhood then, as now, was seen as an asset. "One of the most attractive features of this district is its beauty spots, and in no other section of the city will be found such great natural advantages for improvement and parking as in this section," the booklet stated. "The Indian Mounds, now the magnificent park overlooking the Mississippi River, today is one of the historic scenic features which visitors to St. Paul are directed to see." It was "connected by a circuitous road winding down the hillside to the State Fish Hatchery—another one of the city's and state's parks."

The writers were happy to announce that Indian Mounds Park would soon "be connected by a boulevard with Phalen Park, another one of St. Paul's magnificent parks... We should also speak of the residence streets, Bates Avenue, Maria Avenue, Plum Street, Cherry Street, Maple Street East Sixth Street, East Fourth Street—in fact nearly every street in the entire section is a parkway in itself."

In addition to residential areas, the booklet featured the hustle and bustle of commerce in the neighborhood. "One of the business streets, East Seventh Street, has a larger number of firms than any other, but Maria Avenue, Third Street, Conway Street, Bates Avenue, Hastings Avenue [now Hudson Road] and Earl Street all have stores that furnish practically everything that is needed by the people of this section. In the stores, various lines carried afford the very best that there is in the market... In all there are about 2000 retail merchants in the section... these are all flourishing, and the field offers every opportunity to newcomers."

And what they called "building progress" was still evident. They proudly ticked off a list of the things that had been built in the year-and-a-half before the booklet was published. Some of these included the new clubhouse of the Commercial Club, and Odd Fellows hall, Gribben Lumber Company's new building as well as those of Olson's Department Store, T. F. Cullen's warehouse and the electrical distributing station for the Twin City Rapid Transit Company and over 350 new homes.

Even so, the community still had needs they hoped could soon be filled. "First and most important at the present time would be the location of a bank in this section. This has been agitated and talked of for some time... There is no question but an institution of this character would succeed." They were to have two banks within a few years—today many people here would be overjoyed to see one somewhere on East Seventh.

There were other needs. "Everyone in this section is interested in is the location of more manufacturing industries..." There were already fourteen such plants "giving permanent employment to about 4,000 people" at good salaries... naturally in line with new industries, it will be necessary to erect new homes for the employees, and this again will make necessary more homes for owners and renting."

On one page, titled "Men in Public Life" featured short biographies of several community members along with their photos. There was William Buschmann, a blacksmith who shoed horses and manufactured wagons and carriages. He had been at the corner of Seventh and Mendota for twenty-five years and would remain there for many more. When he finally retired, Buschmann was one of the very last remaining blacksmiths in St. Paul. At the time *Picturesque Dayton's Bluff* was released, Buschmann lived at 923 Beech and had been an alderman for three terms.

Walter Lemon, who lived at 755 East Fifth, was a member of the state legislature and chairman of Republican City and County Committee. Otto Bremer of 738 East Fourth was the City Treasurer. Attorney Herbert Keller, another Republican heavy, who was born on Eichenwald Street, had been St. Paul's prosecutor and was then elected to the City Council.



HERBERT P. KELLER

Both Keller and Bremer would, in later years, become much more prominent. Herbert Keller became St. Paul Mayor and a County Commissioner. In recognition of his service, especially in the area of parks, Keller Lake and Golf Course were named after this neighborhood product.

Bremer became very prominent in banking circles and amassed quite an estate. Since he and his wife never had children, they left it all to the Bremer Foundation in the early 1940's. The Bremer Banks still exist as non-profit, community-oriented entities. Wouldn't it be great news to find out there might some day be a Bremer Bank in the neighborhood where their founder once lived? We could surely use one.

Businesses owned by Club members were featured on several pages. W. A. Schutte, a charter member, ran the Dayton's Bluff Livery Co. at 696 East Third "where they have a modern boarding and livery stable where all kinds of up-to-date livery can be had at reasonable prices." They bought and sold horses and the business had a phone so it could "supply livery rigs at all hours of the day or night."

Picturesque Dayton's Bluff provided some interesting facts about the old Mounds Park Sanitarium at Earl and Thorn that they described as "a thoroughly equipped hospital for the treatment of all



Residence and Meat Market of Chas. E. Eschbach
1188 East Seventh Street.

"Picturesque" continued on page 5

Continued from page 4

"Picturesque"

non-contagious disease." It could accommodate seventy-five patients in private or ward beds. There was also "a sun parlor on each floor overlooking Indian Mounds Park, which, together with the reception parlors and spacious grounds, afford pleasant surroundings for convalescent patients."

What they called "The Nervous Department" was the sanitarium's special feature, which was "equipped for the application of the most approved therapeutic measures, including hydrotherapy, electro-therapy vibratory massage and Swedish movements."

The Surgical Department had "an exceptionally bright and well lighted operating room, equipped with all modern sterilizing and surgical appliances." The "Bath Department" was equipped with "Scottish, Russian, Turkish spray and needle baths." I have no idea what these were treatments were all about and I'm not sure I want to find out. Readers?

Two large pages were given to the Mounds Park Business District in what the booklet considered "one of the fastest growing communities in the city." It's amazing how you could take care of so many needs at the local level in those days at the corner of Hudson Road and Earl.

The structures there included O. R. Olson's store with a large array of dry goods, hardware and furnishings. There was a Mounds Park Shoe Store "that carried "a full line of men's, ladies' and children's shoes" and could also do repair work. Mr. A. Spangenberg had a well-stocked meat market "where everything palatable in choice meats are to be had, and his place of business is noted for its spick and span appearance."

The corner boasted the E. A. Otto drug store with a complete line of drugs, stationery, schoolbooks, paints and oils, the Schubert Barber Shop, and the Paddock & Co grocery "the best the market affords. Every brand of the best canned goods and the purest of spices, teas and coffees are found here." A doctor and a dentist had offices on the second story.

According to the booklet, "this section also boasts of various other branches of business and is the natural entrance to the city of a well-to-do class of farmers." In fact, until the 1970's, a drug store there sold linament and other horse care products.

Several pages featured the homes of Commercial Club members. Some of them, like the lost Hamms and Schoch homes were what would probably be called mansions. But they were in the booklet not for their architectural splendor but because prominent men of the Commercial Club lived there. Among those that can still be seen today, though often in quite altered state are: W. H. Dunn of 397 Bates, Carl Gerstenmaier at 1033 Euclid near Earl, Charles Kartak found at 196 Maria, Dr. Plondke at 703 East Fourth, H. D. Defiel, the owner of People's Ice Company, 731 Margaret, Charles Buechner, living at 179 Maria and Dr. G. A. Binder who resided at 352 Bates, a home designed by an architect named Toltz..

Because of the railroad tracks passing along the northern edge of the neighborhood, there were also several manufacturing concerns in the area. That was the reason that, a year after *Picturesque Dayton's Bluff* was published, Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing (today's 3M) came to the community.

The Commercial Club's booklet proudly included several of them in its pages. One of the largest was Northern Malleable Iron Works continuous growth since its founding in 1892. It has grown till it cov-

ers several acres on Forest Street near East Seventh. Once located at East Seventh and Reaney, they employed between 300 and 500 men. "Its reputation and trade have so expanded that in order to properly care for the trade, branch offices are maintained in the principal cities of the country and in several foreign countries" and "their products are being shipped to all parts of the world."

Osgood & Blodgett Manufacturing Company on Duluth Avenue near Seventh Street manufactured a large line of hardwood flooring, lumber and mill work as well as boxes. "They manufacture a flooring that does not squeak, tongues do not break off, will give as good service in chambers and living rooms as a thick flooring, and is much cheaper." While there was no story about Hamm's Brewery, there was a full-page sketch of the company. William Hamm, the head of the company, was a prominent member of the Commercial Club.

Picturesque Dayton's Bluff has been out-of-print for many years and is almost impossible to find. The Minnesota Historical Society has a copy and I have one that was given to me twenty-five years ago. If anyone wants to see it, I can make a copy and leave it at the Dayton's Bluff Council Office. Maybe one of our readers has the needed skills and equipment and would be willing to scan it for the Community Council web page. And while we're thinking about the promotional booklet printed almost a century ago, maybe a group should get together and produce a modern version. We could even have a contest to choose a name and an adjective that would reflect the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood today.

Set of 12 Dayton's Bluff postcards

The Dayton's Bluff area is still picturesque after all these years. It has so many scenic views—and now they are available in postcards! There are 12 different scenes, including the Scenic Overlook, the 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 Trimble. All proceeds support our local paper, the Dayton's Bluff District Forum. Call 651-772-2075 for more information.

The Dayton's Bluff District Forum is now **mailed monthly** to Dayton's Bluff businesses and households **FREE !!** Your 5" x 4" display ad gets to over 6500 addresses for only **2 cents per address.** 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@daytonsbuff.org
Or call 651-772-2075

The dramatic story of Kaposia

By Nick Duncan

"Je m'appelle Wenona. J'ai grandi a Dayton's Bluff il a très longtemps. Kaposia est une pièce de théâtre sur ma vie là-bas. C'est très important de se souvenir des premiers habitants de cet endroit."

As part of the Minnesota Sesqui-centennial celebration at Fort Snelling on the weekend of May10-11 the Drama Club from L'Etoile du Nord French Immersion School performed the play "Kaposia". An original dramatic work of historical fiction, "Kaposia", set in the year 1837 right here in St Paul, was written and directed by first time playwright, Dayton's Bluff resident, and proud L'Etoile du Nord parent Paul Morf and performed by the members of the L'Etoile du Nord drama club.

L'Etoile du Nord French Immersion School is a K thru 6 St Paul public school on Bush Avenue in Dayton's Bluff. As the name implies, L'Etoile du Nord does all its instruction in French. The L'Etoile du Nord Drama Club includes some 30 students from the school. Each year for the last four years this extracurricular student/parent volunteer group has put on an original dramatic play.

"Every year we try to set the play in a different French speaking culture," said Morf. "This year I thought it would be fun to set the play right here at home. People don't realize that until the 1850's, with the exception of the Native Peoples, and the soldiers at Fort Snelling, Minnesota was largely French speaking."

Indeed, until the 1830's and 1840's most non-Native American Minnesotans were either soldiers or French-Canadian trappers and traders, such as the voyageur and backwoods character Pierre Parant or "Pigseye" who lived in the caves along the east bank of the Mississippi River in what is now present day St Paul.

"Kaposia" tells the story of a young Dakota girl named Wenona (played by 4th grader Espoir Delmain) who must

decide whether to remain with the Kaposia tribe following their relocation in 1837. Prior to that, the Kaposia tribe had maintained a summer encampment along the Mississippi River just below Dayton's Bluff for many generations. In 1837, the Dakota Indians signed a treaty with the US government, surrendering all of their ancestral lands to the east of the Mississippi River. Within 25 years, the Kaposia and other Dakota tribes in Minnesota would be pushed even further west, ending their traditional way of life.

"Kaposia" incorporates a mix of actual historical figures such as missionaries Samuel and Gideon Pond (played Jane Leach and Alexander Nelson) and Chief Wakinyantanka (played by Lian Simmer) and fictionalized characters to tell its story. "We wanted to be sure our story was respectful to Native American culture," said Morf.

The play also includes original music with 5th grader Eileen Kim on the violin, songs by the entire cast and a nifty dance sequence featuring students Nola Beni, Suzanne Van Toor, June Ofstedal, and Lillian Lee. "I really wanted to make sure all the members of the group had speaking parts," said Morf. "I'm really happy that we could do that."

After the Fort Snelling performance the cast presented L'Etoile du Nord principal Dr Fatima Lawson an award trophy as a token of appreciation for all her support. And Morf thanked everyone in the cast and the crew for all their hard work. "It's all about a great experience for the children," he told the crowd. "And thank you to everyone who made that happen."

Translation of the first paragraph. *"My name is Wenona. I grew up on Dayton's Bluff a long time ago. Kaposia is a play about my life here. It is very important to remember the people who were here first."* We would like to thank Emily and Audrey Morf for being our French translators.

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Juvenile Unit

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Historic Saint Paul is a nonprofit organization that works to celebrate our city's heritage, renew our neighborhoods and strengthen our community.

The other flying Charles from Minnesota, "Speed" Holman

By Barbara Sommerville

"Minnesota has a fine climate to live in but it's worthless for flying." Thus spoke Glenn Curtiss, after crashing his plane in two out of seven attempts to fly over the crowds at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds back in June of 1910. His comments, however, proved to be more a case of sour grapes than of actual fact. In the next years, Minnesota's rarified air would produce many an intrepid flyer (not the least of which was Charles A. Lindbergh) who'd cut their aerial "teeth" on any turf available, from farming fields to an abandoned auto speedway.



At the dawn of popular aviation, a Minneapolis boy named Charles W. "Speed" Holman, a contemporary of Lindbergh's, would rack up nine first-place trophies for aerial stunts and speed records throughout the Midwest, and so endear himself to the hearts of his countrymen that a major Twin Cities airfield would be posthumously named for him by the time of his too early death at age 32.

The year was 1917, and the gawky high school dropout was a regular at the aforementioned speedway, now casually known as "Speedway Field". Since its demise as an auto racetrack, its lumpy infield provided a lively testing ground for the emerging daredevils the newspapers dubbed "barnstormers". The 19-year-old Charley, with the bushy black hair and perennial smile, had already earned the nickname "Jack-Speed" for his motorcycle moxie. Now the name carried over to an aerial career that was quickly earning him a reputation.

Flying at fifty-miles per hour, and two hundred feet above the anxious crowds, Charley had incorporated a parachute jump, new at the time, into his Sunday show finale. However, what the young Charles was up to was a mystery to his father Judd, until one day, out of curiosity, Judd went to see for himself the death-defying antics of the famous "Jack-Speed". One can imagine his thoughts upon recognizing the gutsy jumper as his own son. In what must have seemed like the deal of the century, Judd, in exchange for the promise that Charley would quit leaping out of airplanes, bought "Speed" his very first one, a war-surplus Curtiss Jenny.

The Jenny was soon replaced with a racier bi-plane, the Thomas-Morse S4C Scout. By 1922, Holman and his friend and flying partner Al Blackstone had taken over the Larabee Brother's "Flying Circus" and were barnstorming through Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa and the Dakotas. "The first time Holman ever took a ship up, he knew more about flying than some men will ever know if they study all their lives," W. A. Kidder, founder of the Curtiss Northwest flying field, once said. "He loved flying. He loved motors, and he loved airplanes. He was a 'natural'," said Kidder. "Just as you have natural prizefighters, you have natural aviators."

By the fall of 1923, St. Louis was the hub of aviation enterprise, drawing hundreds of aerialists from all over the country to the National Pulitzer Races. Charles Lindbergh was there, assisting a friend who would compete in the parachute landing contest. "Speed" Holman, four years older than Lindbergh, competed too, and brought home the first-place trophy in the "stunt-flying" competition. He followed that up a year later, with the second-place honor in the unprecedented 1,140-mile speed race from Minot, North Dakota to Dayton, Ohio.

Meanwhile, the old "Speedway Field" in Minneapolis was undergoing some changes. Renamed "Wold-Chamberlain Field", after Ernest Wold and Cyrus Chamberlain, two Minneapolis aviators killed in action in Europe during WWI, it, along with its sister field in St. Paul, constituted the terminus for the new Twin Cities to Chicago airmail route. On September 4, 1926, Northwest Airways Inc. was formed to handle the federal post office contract. Its first pilot was, of course, "Speed" Holman. Its first plane - Holman's Thomas-Morse Scout, upgraded now, with a ninety-horsepower Curtiss OX-5 engine.

In August of 1927, Lindbergh made a visit to Wold-Chamberlain while on tour to celebrate his transatlantic crossing. At the same time, Northwest Airways (eventually, Northwest Airlines) opened passenger service, and "Speed" acquired the title of "Operation's Manager" shortly afterwards. According to Noel Allard, the author of the comprehensive Holman biography, Speed, "his derived procedures and management became models of systems for other air-lines to follow. Northwest Airlines is really Holman's legacy," Allard told me.

The New York to Spokane Air Derby was slated to take place the next month. By now, Holman was flying a factory-new Wright J-4 powered Laird, which he bought for 15,000 dollars in preparation for the race. In addition to the swooping eagle painted in white on both sides of the fuselage with the words "National Eagle", the wings of the plane were lavishly painted with sparkling, bronze powder. To honor Lindbergh's visit, Holman performed his signature "steep aerial climbs" and barrel rolls with the new Laird, wrapping-up with a bank turn at full throttle around the field's perimeter, thrilling the crowd and threatening to steal the spotlight before Lindbergh made his appearance.

As scheduled, the New York to Spokane air race took place in September. After a frantic take off from a fueling stop in Butte, Montana, and ripping off a tire in the process, Holman finished in sixteen hours and forty-two seconds - taking home another first-place trophy. His re-

ward was a check for ten thousand dollars. In the same week, he won the 300-mile race from Spokane to Portland, earning him another thousand dollars.

On his return flight to Minnesota, while over the Rocky Mountains, the camshaft on the Laird broke, disabling the engine instantly. In order to maintain air speed, Holman pressed the nose of the plane down as he searched for a landing spot. Over peak after mountain peak, he swept along with the updrafts like a glider, gradually losing altitude until he spotted a pasture on the side of a hill. Barely clearing a fence, he managed to land the plane unharmed, then trudged off to the nearest farmhouse.

Three days later, when "Speed" flew into the Twin Cities with a new engine, his hometown fans were ecstatic. They, along with the mayor of Minneapolis, threw him a victory parade, which rivaled the one given just a month earlier for Lindbergh. To show his appreciation, Holman performed a series of his favorite aerobatics, soaring and diving through the clouds like a dolphin at play in the ocean.

In February, 1928 Charles Holman set the world record for 1,093 consecutive aerial loops. When, in turn, a French aerialist broke the record by eighteen, Holman quickly responded. Up in the morning sky over St. Paul, he took his Laird to 3,000 feet and commenced with a shallow dive. The sound from the engine attracted a mid-day crowd as folks left businesses and homes to gather around the airfield to watch. As the fuel tank emptied, the plane got lighter and the looping grew faster.

Meanwhile, a clerk at Northwest stood on the roof of a hangar, keeping score on a large sheet of white board. After five hours, a cheer went up from the crowd as the number on the board reached 1,112, a new world record. But before quitting, Holman frolicked, making more loops and doing barrel rolls until his gas tank was nearly empty. The next day he received a telegram from Charles Lindbergh saying, "Good work." Holman's record of 1,433 consecutive loops stood for twenty-two years.

Four hundred thousand people were on hand to watch the National air races in Chicago that August of 1930. There were fifty-one different events and 100,000 dollars total prize money on the line. In the main event, aviators would compete for the first ever Thompson Trophy sponsored by the Cleveland firm, Thompson Products, Inc. Holman would pilot the "Solution", a hastily constructed new Laird that'd been designed only three weeks earlier.

The one-hundred-mile race consisted of twenty laps over a five-mile course, encircling the grandstand. As the race got

underway, the swarming airplanes accelerated to speeds in excess of two-hundred-miles per hour. Meanwhile cockpits were filling with carbon monoxide. One pilot had already succumbed to the poison gas - blacking out and dying in the crash that followed. Holman, however, managed to hang on through the sickening episode to take first place, and the Thompson Trophy. But he chose not to keep the 5,000 dollar prize money. Instead, he handed it over to Lee Schoenhair, the aviator who gave up his bid to compete in the race to let Holman fly the "Solution" in his place. "I don't care so much for the money," said "Speed", "I just couldn't stay out of that race!"



And on his way home, he just couldn't resist breaking into Red Jackson's Flying Circus performance to buzz the stands at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds. "It's Speed Holman," cried his exuberant fans. "His life was packed with thrills," wrote a reporter in the Minneapolis Journal. "His uncanny skill had become almost a myth among airmen and the public."

When "Speed" wasn't test-flying aircraft or hopping passengers for Northwest, he enjoyed flying into the northern woods of Minnesota to deer hunt. On one occasion, he'd landed in a small clearing and went hunting. After coming back with a large deer, which he packed in the plane, he knew the added weight would make it tough to gain enough speed to fly out of the field again. He solved the problem by tying the plane with a rope to a sturdy tree at one end of the field, and revving the engine until it hit full throttle. Then he sliced the rope, and he, the plane, and the deer, sprung out of the clearing like a stone from a slingshot.

On Saturday May 17th, 1931 the temperature in Omaha, Nebraska was over 90 degrees and getting hotter. The muggy afternoon offered little relief to the pilots who would compete in that weekend's air show. All the top names were there, and all were having some kind of trouble.

Two planes nearly collided in mid-air and others were barely able to control their machines. But the 20,000 spectators were waiting to see "Speed" perform in his shiny black Laird.

"Speed" Holman thought no more of the dangers of stunt flying than you do of taking an automobile ride," said Kidder to a journalist at the St. Paul Dispatch. "'Speed' was so sure of himself, he knew so much about flying and had so much confidence in a ship and motor, that the thought of an accident just never occurred to him."

Holman had taken the Laird up to 2,500 feet. He sprinted back to earth at full throttle, swooped across the grandstand with a deafening roar and repeated the sequence several times. As the crowd gasped, "Speed" launched into a series of death-defying barrel rolls, and executed

"Speed" continued on page 7

41:—Holman Municipal Airport, St. Paul, Minn.



The description on the back of this postcard from the 1930s states, "The Holman airport was named in honor of Charles W. (Speed) Holman who was largely responsible for the position Minnesota aviation now occupies."

The Regime: Our View

"Giving Voice to Our Teens"

Summer is here and there's plenty to do at the Rec Centers! For more information on any activity, please call the appropriate center.

Margaret

Summer Lunch Program

M-F, Jun 9-Aug 27, 12-1p

Free lunch will be offered for youth 18 years and younger.

Teen Club

Thurs., 6-8p

This club empowers youth, ages 10-15, to speak out and make a difference in their communities through service learning projects.

Summer Water Fun

Weds, Jun 25-Jul 16, 2-3p

Join us for outside water fun. Dress to get wet!

East Side Arts Council's Artmobile

Jul 28-Aug 22, 1-3p

Drop-in, spontaneous art classes with professional artists.

Field Trips

Enjoy trips to a Minnesota Lynx game, Como Zoo & Park, Valleyfair or Wild Mountain Water slides. There is a fee. Check the Summer Programs catalog or contact a center.

Add your voice. Attend a meeting.

For more information, contact one of the locations below.

Dayton's Bluff Rec Center • 651-793-3885 | Margaret Rec Center • 651-298-5719 | Arlington Rec Center • 651-298-5701

Dayton's Bluff

Junior League Kick-Off Barbeque!

Tuesday, July 8, 5:30-7:30p

Come support your neighborhood with fun and food!

Summer Lunch Program

M-F, Jun 9-Aug 27, 12-1p

Free lunch will be offered for youth 18 years and younger.

Teen Club

M & W, 5-7p

This club empowers youth, ages 10-15, to speak out and make a difference in their communities through service learning projects.

Buckets of Fun

Thurs, Jul 10-Aug 14, 1:30-2:30p

Bring your super-soakers! Buckets of water, water balloons and a hose will be waiting to cool you off.

East Side Arts Council's Artmobile

Jul 28-Aug 22, 1-3p

Drop-in, spontaneous art classes with professional artists.

Field Trips

Enjoy trips to a Minnesota Lynx game, Como Zoo & Park, Valleyfair or Wild Mountain Water slides. There is a fee.

The Circulator

The Circulator bus will take youth from various East Side recreation centers to places such as the East Side YMCA, Mounds Park Theatre and the Dayton's Bluff Public Library.

For further details and a parent permission slip, see the 2008 East Side Summer Programs catalog.

continued from page 6

"Speed"

a perfect "knife-edge" across the field, with his wing tips perpendicular to the ground. Within minutes he was back at 2,500 feet and diving toward the earth. Every spectator was on tiptoe.

At a hundred-fifty yards from the grandstand, he pressed the nose of the Laird forward and flipped upside down as his thundering plane flashed in the sunlight twenty feet off the ground. He repeated the stunt twice, but the second time, the safety belt in the inverted Laird broke loose, and though he fought mightily for the controls, "Speed" hit the ground at two-hundred-fifty-miles per hour.

"If anything should happen to me," "Speed" once said, "bury me on the highest point in Acacia cemetery." Telegrams of condolence from the fraternity of aviators poured in by the hundreds. Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh's was one of the first, followed by Lieutenant Jimmie

Doolittle, and Eddie Rickenbacker. *The New York World Telegram* editorial read this way a few days later:

"They buried 'Speed' Holman on the highest point between Chicago and Minneapolis, along the route of the Northwest Airways, where he can forever keep invisible charge over the great airline system that he loved and managed so well. He ran his airline safely and sanely... But he was wild and woolly when he sat in his own personal plane.

"Holman died as Rockne died, at the peak of his career. He died as he lived, with a roar and a flash at three hundred miles per hour."

Charles "Speed" Holman's funeral was the largest in Minnesota state history. He was the first aviator to be inducted into the Minnesota Aviation Hall of Fame. His grave is on a direct line between the St. Paul and Minneapolis airports—a route that he flew thousands of times. To this day the St. Paul municipal airport is named Holman Field.

What's happening at East Area Rec Centers?

East Side Youth Circulator Buses are for youth ages 7-17 (no children under 7 without a parent or guardian). The bus is FREE as long as you register and show a Circulator Bus Pass to Ride. (Registration forms available at Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center. The Circulator runs from June 16th-August 22nd, Monday-Friday, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. (no service on July 4th). For more information call 651-793-3885.

East Side Youth Guides and East Area Summer Programs are now available for pick up at Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center. These programs include many Free Activities and Field Trips for youth and families. Please stop by and pick them up!

Up and Coming Field Trips in the East Area: You must register two weeks in advance of field trip date. For more information call Dayton's Bluff at 651-793-3885

* Charolette's Web: Thursday July 11th, 11:30 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. Cost \$13

* Festival Of Fish: Friday July 18th, 10:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

* Water Works Water Park and Picnic: Friday July 25th, 9:15 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. Cost \$10.00

* Como Zoo, Pool and Picnic: Friday, August 1st, 2008 9:00 a.m.- 3:30 p.m. Cost \$7.00

Summer Lunch Program: Free lunch will be offered Monday-Friday, June 9th-August 27th for youth 18 years and under, at many St. Paul Recreation Centers. Some sites will also be serving breakfast. For further information call the Saint Paul School Service at 651-603-4950 for other serving sites and times.

Teen Club: (Ages 10-15) This club empowers teens to speak out and make a difference in their communities through service learning projects. For more information please call Dayton's Bluff at 651-793-3885 or Margaret at 651-298-5719.

Night Moves: This popular nighttime teen program is offered on Tuesdays and

Thursday evenings, 6:00-9:00 p.m., June 10th-July 24th, at Como HS, Johnson HS, and Jimmy Lee Recreation Center. Teens, ages 13-19 can participate in a variety of athletic, art, cultural and drop-in activities. For further information, call 651-266-6400.

Nestlé Very Best in Youth Program

The Nestlé Very Best in Youth Program, sponsored by Nestlé USA, honors young people who have excelled in school and who are making their community and the world a better place. The young people, selected from nominations from volunteers, parents, and teachers, will be featured in a special publication and honored in Los Angeles in July 2009.

To be eligible, applicants must be legal residents of the United States or its territories and be between 13 and 18 years of age. Students will be judged based on the information provided on the entry form (i.e., strong academic record; special contribution to school, church, or community; demonstration of good citizen ship or a personal obstacle the youth has overcome).

Each winner will receive a trip with his/her parent or legal guardian to Los Angeles for the Nestlé Very Best In Youth awards ceremony. The trip will include round-trip air travel, hotel accommodations for three nights, and \$500 in spending money. In addition, Nestlé will donate \$1,000 in the name of each winner to the charity of his or her choice.

Visit the program's Web site for complete program information and application materials. Deadline: November 20, 2008 <http://fconline.foundationcenter.org/pnd/15013499/nestleyouth>

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Science is all around your child



Planting and growing seeds is a real science experiment.

By Mary Cogelow

Because most parents aren't professional scientists, they may feel inadequate when they think about their role in supporting their young children in developing a broad and sound base of scientific knowledge. They forget that we are all surrounded by physical, natural and social science every moment of our lives. Every parent has enough scientific knowledge and vocabulary to take advantage of the sea of science that surrounds us to encourage children to observe, describe, compare, and remember.

Children invite their parents to engage with them in learning about science. They are natural explorers asking endless questions both with words and with their behavior, setting up their own experiments, and testing hypotheses over and over. "Will the spoon fall up if I drop it enough times?" "What will happen if I lick the cat?" (Maybe that one won't happen too many times.) They are frequently more observant than adults and offer their parents a fresh look at the world and a chance for the adult to become even more scientifically aware.

Part of the parent's role in helping the child gain scientific awareness lies in exposing her to activities which engage and inform her. Twin Cities parents are surrounded by opportunities which can enhance their children's understanding and appreciation of science. The Science Museum of Minnesota, the Children's Museum, the Mill City Museum, the Minnesota Zoo, the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, and the Como Park Zoo and Conservatory are a few of the opportunities that come immediately to mind. The Como Zoo adds to its usual repertoire of plants and animals a giant cocoon structure holding smaller but vastly important forms of natural life – many, many butterflies. (Visit your public library to check out a Museum Adventure Pass to take advantage of some of these opportunities free of charge!)

Remember, however, you don't have to go any place special to support your child's interest in science. Science is always present in your home, in your garden, and in your neighborhood and in books. There are literally thousands of opportunities to engage your child in learning about science every week.

A few suggestions: Help your child notice what happens to food when you cook, refrigerate, or freeze it. Talk about fruits and vegetables as you prepare them. Talk about seeds, peels, roots, vitamins and minerals. If you have a garden, draw your child's attention to plants and weather. Talk about when you need to water and when Mother Nature has done the job for you. Invite your child to help cook and garden. (A side benefit may be

that your child may expand his menu as well as his knowledge.)

Walk around your neighborhood. Talk about what your muscles are doing. Point out the baby squirrels in a nest. Notice how many elm seeds there are this year. When you need to pull some tiny elm trees because they are growing in your tomatoes, show your child the roots and how the leaves on the seedling are miniature versions of adult elm leaves. Notice the caterpillars at the park. Bring one home with some of the foliage you found it on so you can watch its life cycle continue. Get a book from the library so you can find out what kind of moth or butterfly it will become if its life cycle continues.

Through all of this exploration use the language of science which is so familiar to us that we no longer hear it as scientific. Hot, warm, cold, freezing, wet, dry, damp, dewy, rainy, windy, sunny, cloudy, big, little, dog, cat, cardinal, insect, animal, chrysalis, and milkweed are all words (obviously the list could go on and on) for some kind of scientific concept and they help children be better at observing, comparing, and classifying.

Have conversations with children about the natural world. Ask them to predict what they think will happen under different conditions. If it's safe and manageable, help them set up experiments to see if they are right. Take questions seriously. You don't have to know the answer. One of the most important things to help children learn about science is how to get more information by further observation, finding a book, or consulting an expert – maybe someone at the University or on the Internet, maybe grandpa or grandma! And some answers lead to new questions.

Finally, share your own interests. Genuine enthusiasm often excites interest in the child. But remember that the child ultimately gets to do the leading, and the wise parent shares interests without imposing them on the child. Keep short attentions spans in mind and drop the subject, at least for the time being, when the child loses interest. Keep a record of the weather if that is interesting to the child. But let the child be done with it when he is done. When kids are finished with an interest, whether temporarily or for good, let them move on.

Children in the United States are often described as not doing well academically in the fields of science and math when they are compared to students in Europe and Asia. Children in this country are as fully capable of great achievements in science and math as children anywhere. Parents can make huge contributions to their children's success in these areas long before they enter school and can continue that support throughout their school lives.

Another letter to the Council president

By Wally Waranka, President, Dayton's Bluff Community Council:

Here is another response, below, to my request to hear more from the people of Dayton's Bluff. What do you think of what is being said? Let me know your views.

I can't agree more with the letter posted in this last month's Dayton's Bluff Forum. I am an investor who found a love for the architecture and character of homes in Dayton's Bluff. I am also a licensed real estate agent who works primarily with other investors. Given my love for the area, I try to steer as many as I can to Dayton's Bluff. However, I have found that not only does the City not care about Dayton's Bluff; they do everything they can to discourage investment into this historical area. I own multiple homes in Dayton's Bluff and all are meticulously maintained, but you would never know it based on all the "complaints" the City sends me. Monthly, I am threatened with criminal charges because a neighbor kid has tossed trash in my yard and it was on the ground for more than one day.

I find it ironic that now Dayton's Bluff is doing a vacant home tour. The reason many of the homes are vacant in the first place is because of the strict rules set by the Heritage Preservation Council regarding how a homeowner can repair his/her own home. These requirements ("Historically correct") are extremely costly and many of the homeowners in this area are low income and simply cannot afford to do the repairs as required. Therefore, their only option is to walk away. That said, I agree that if the home can be done historically correct it should be. The problem is that the HPC does not enforce its rules across the board. I can give you many examples of homes that have ignored the rules and the owners have not been held accountable. This despite my many complaints to both Amy Spong and Kathy Lantry.

The second problem is that St. Paul unfairly enforces the city codes. Several federal lawsuits are pending regarding

this practice. In any other area of town, peeling paint and a ripped screen is not an issue. In Dayton's Bluff not only is it a major issue, they threaten criminal charges if left unaddressed; not to mention that they "sweep" every neighborhood in Dayton's Bluff on a monthly basis. There has NEVER been a "sweep" in many other areas of the city.

As a person who has invested thousands of dollars and even more hours in this neighborhood, I can tell you that I will NEVER purchase/rehab another home in the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood. This is a feeling that has been expressed by every investor I talk to. As a licensed real estate agent, I have never successfully steered an investor to Dayton's Bluff despite the fact that I "put my money where my mouth is." The city wants to promote owner/occupant and get away from rentals. That I understand. What they don't seem to get is that if an investor purchases a property and spends thousands of dollars rehabbing it they are not going to turn it over to someone that will just tear it up. That is not why they are in business. Most likely they will resell it to an owner/occupant who will pay increased taxes to the city based on the rehab. It is a win/win situation.

Add all of this to Mayor Coleman's annual double-digit property tax increases and ask yourself, "Why would anyone want to invest in Dayton's Bluff?" I write this not because I am disgruntled, quite the opposite. I love the area as well as the architecture and want to see the area revitalized. It frustrates me to no end that the City is doing everything they can to DISCOURAGE investors.

If enough eyes are opened we can make a difference. Thank you.

James Richards

Do you have any thoughts or responses to what has been said here? Let me know, either by a letter to the Dayton's Bluff Community Council, c/o Wally Waranka, 798 E. 7th St., St. Paul, MN 55106 or to my e-mail: Wallysue1@earthlink.net

4th of July fireworks facts

By Pam McCreary, Saint Paul Police

As the July 4th holiday is approaching, the Saint Paul Fire and Police Departments want the community to be aware of the fireworks laws that will be enforced before, during, and after the holiday.

Saint Paul Fire Department Inspectors say, a basic rule to follow when asked or questioning whether certain fireworks are legal in the state of Minnesota is, "if it explodes or rockets into the air, it is illegal"

Fireworks are to be sold by licensed sales locations only such as Target,

Walmart, and K-Mart, or by special permit only. Again, these locations can only sell fireworks that do not explode or rocket into the air.

It is illegal to sell fireworks from a vehicle or on the street. You must be 18 years old to purchase fireworks. It is illegal to purchase fireworks in Wisconsin and transport them into Minnesota.

For more information about the statutory law log onto www.fire.state.mn.us and go to the fireworks information link on the left hand side of the page.

Have a safe and happy 4th of July!

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

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E-mail: karindupaul@comcast.net

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