Vacant Home Tour is May 3rd and 4th

By Nick Duncan

The blue house was built on a hill high above Fourth Street. A long winding staircase leads up from the sidewalk down below. During better times, the former owners must have toiled mightily to landscape the elaborate terracing that allowed for four or five flat levels of flowerbeds to sit tucked into the hillside in front of the house. Now in 2008, at the top of the hill, the front door is posted with the all too familiar blue “Vacant” sign that the city of St Paul uses to mark uninhabited buildings in our city.

“This one looks like a candidate,” Jacob Doer proclaimed, as he peaked through the front window. The other members of the Dayton’s Bluff Vacant Building Committee (DBVBC) present at the inspection nodded in agreement. In they went.

For the last few months the members of the DBVBC, a grassroots neighborhood organization, have spent many an hour inspecting vacant houses all over the Dayton’s Bluff neighborhood. They are preparing to host their first annual Dayton’s Bluff Vacant Home Tour on May 3-4.

The sub prime mortgage crisis and the resulting epidemic of home foreclosures have hit city neighborhoods like Dayton’s Bluff especially hard. Currently there are over 1700 vacant buildings in St Paul and hundreds of them are in Dayton’s Bluff. “It’s hard to drive down any block in our neighborhood and not see an abandoned house,” said Paul Morf of the DBVBC. “We felt like we, as neighbors, needed to do something about the problem.”

This first of its kind tour will showcase a number of these vacant homes. The format of the tour is similar to that of the Mpls/St Paul home tour. Ten to twelve registered vacant homes will be open for tour participants to walk through. However, unlike the Mpls/St Paul tour, where attendees see someone else’s dream home, the DBVBC members hope to play matchmaker between some lucky homeowner and their dream home.

“We believe our neighborhood offers unique opportunities to anyone who ever dreamed of making ‘This Old House’ their new house. We have opportunities for anyone who thought they couldn’t afford to buy a home. It’s cheaper then rent. We have opportunities for people who prefer sweat equity to astronomical mortgage payments. Rehabbing is recycling. We have opportunities for people who care about the environment, who don’t want to add to the suburban sprawl and the problems that go with it.” said Morf.

Like so many of the beautiful old homes that the members of the DBVBC have inspected, the blue house on 4th had some issues. It had been duplexed and remodeled by someone whose tastes must have been modern in the early 1970’s when the work was done. But when one considers the financial trade off - this house is listed at under $80,000 - a little 70’s kitsch becomes much more digestible.

“We try to go beyond surface issues and see the possibilities of these homes,” said Amy Hanford, another local resident and member of the DBVBC. “We hope people who come to the tour will be looking beyond cosmetic issues like painting and minor remodeling. These are unique and historic spaces. Not many people have the opportunity to inhabit such a special home. “And they’re cheap, too,” added Hanford with a laugh.

Dayton’s Bluff is well known for its abundance of unique architecture. The homes span the gambit from large 19th century Victorian’s to cozy 1920’s prairie bungalows. The tour tries to incorporate all these styles. “There is something for everyone,” said Doer, “we want to present a wide variety of styles, sizes, and price ranges.”

Indeed, the DBVBC has gone to pains to include only homes that they believe are rehabable. “It’s always a crapshoot when you purchase a home that was built 125 years ago” said Morf. “But we did the best we could to find homes without major structural issues; ones that we believe can be rehabbed.” Morf added, “And remember, the materials, the old growth hardwoods, and the craftsmanship of the builders, everything was done by hand, far surpasses anything being put up today.”

The DBVBC has also made sure to include only properties listed with a real estate agent, thereby making it much easier for prospective buyers to make an offer. The tour will include information on city financing programs available to prospective buyers and how to go about purchasing a vacant home.

The tour runs from noon to 5 p.m. on Saturday May 3rd and from 1 to 5 p.m.on Sunday the 4th and includes free trolley rides from house to house. City inspection reports for each individual property will be available to tour participants. Anyone interested in attending should meet and get their tour maps at the Dayton’s Bluff District Council Office at 798 E. 7th St. on the corner of 7th and Margaret Sts. the day of the tour. For more information call Karin DuPaul at 651-772-2075 or www.daytontsbluff.org.
**Next Dayton’s Bluff community meeting**

Focus will be on graffiti and gangs

Our next community meeting is **Thursday, May 1 from 6:30 - 8 p.m.** in the meeting room at the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council, 798 E. 7th St. (at the corner of 7th and Margaret).

In recent months, Dayton’s Bluff has experienced a tremendous increase in graffiti. At this meeting Meredith Vogland, a graffiti tracking expert from the Saint Paul Police Department Gang Unit, will talk with us about graffiti and gang issues.

The Dayton’s Bluff Community Council holds its community meetings on the first Thursday of each month. The purpose is to work with block clubs and neighborhood residents on problem properties, criminal and nuisance behavior, code enforcement issues and any other neighborhood issues, concerns, or new ideas for the improvement of Dayton’s Bluff.

If you have specific concerns, please let us know the address and problem prior to the meeting. Police and code enforcement may then be able to have answers for you at the meeting. All Dayton’s Bluff residents are welcome to attend. For more information contact Karin at 651-772-2075 or Karin@DaytonsBluff.org.

**Meet with the police**

On **Friday, May 16** 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**

The **May hike is canceled due to the Dayton’s Bluff Vacant Home Tour May 3 and 4**.

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 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.

**Spring Parks and Neighborhood Clean Up**

Volunteers at the Spring Parks and Recreation and Neighborhood Clean Up on April 12th. They went out in 30 degree weather and cleaned up the Dayton’s Bluff Recreation Center property and the surrounding neighborhood.

**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.

**An EXTRA connection to Dayton’s Bluff**

In addition to the **District Forum**, we now have a new e-newsletter, the EXTRA. The **goal of the EXTRA is to keep you informed of happenings in Dayton’s Bluff between issues of the monthly newspaper. It’s free and easy to sign up.** Just visit www.daytonsbuff.org and click on the link on our home page. You can unsubscribe at anytime. If you have previously subscribed but haven’t received your issues, be sure to check your “spam” settings and allow our address to come through to your inbox. Sign up today for your EXTRA connection to the Bluffs!

**Neighborhood sale**

The **Swede Hollow Girl Scout troops 500248 and 500078** will be holding their annual Neighborhood Sale on **Monday, May 17** from 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Park, located at E. 7th St. and Greenbrier. Do you have stuff to sell? You can join in and sell your items. Each family participating is asked for a $10 donation to help cover advertising and also goes to a fund-raiser for the Swede Hollow Girl Scouts. For those who are selling items, set up in Hamm Park at E. 7th and Greenbrier by 8:30 a.m. For more information about a spot to sell your goods, call Mary at 651-259-1115 or Karin at 651-206-7508.

Or if you have items you want to get rid of but do not want to spend the day selling, donate them to the Swede Hollow Girl Scouts and they will sell them as part of their fundraiser. Call Dee at 651-793-4371 for more information about donating items. The Neighborhood Sale will feature many great items for the home and family. This is a great way to clear out clutter and find new treasures. Come meet your neighbors! Be sure to stop by the Plant Exchange in the gardens at the nearby Swede Hollow Café.

**Fourth Annual Preservation Evening**

The **Fourth Annual Dayton’s Bluff Preservation Evening** will take place on **Thursday, May 8** from 6:30–8 p.m. at the Eclectic Community Room, third floor of the Metropolitan State University/Dayton’s Bluff Branch Library (just west of the intersection of Seventh and Maria). This is a chance to hear about historically sympathetic home preservation and also to meet local experts.

**Go green and save some green**

Greening Dayton’s Bluff Plant Exchange will be held on **Saturday, May 17**, from 9:00 a.m.–noon in the gardens outside of the Swede Hollow Café, at the corner of E. 7th St. and Bates Ave.

This is the **Sixth Annual Greening Dayton’s Bluff Plant Exchange**. If you have plants in your garden that you have too many of or do not like any longer, dig them up and bring them to the plant exchange and take home something you would rather have in your garden. Be sure to label your plants.

Be sure to stop by the annual Neighbored Sale in Hamm Park East 7th and Greenbrier, one block east of the plant exchange.

For more information about the Plant Exchange contact Karin at 651-772-2075 or Karin@DaytonsBluff.org.

**Dayton’s Bluff Recyling**

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

**Dayton’s Bluff Vacant Home Tour May 3rd and May 4th**

**Dayton’s Bluff District Forum May 2008**
Summer day camp at the Mounds Theatre

The Portage for Youth, housed in the Historic Mounds Theatre will launch a new summer day camp program this year, featuring 2 tracks. Track 1: Theatre and Dance (ages 8-13) or Track 2: Photography and Video (ages 13 – 17). The camp will be held the week of June 23-27 from 10-3 daily.

The Program is free and open to both boys and girls. Activities will take place at the Historic Mounds Theatre, home of the Portage for Youth, 1029 Hudson Road, Saint Paul, MN 55106. The application deadline is June 1st or until all sessions are filled. For additional information or to request a registration form, email Raeann@theportage.org or call 651-772-8674 or register online at www.theportage.org.

Dayton’s Bluff annual Spring Dinner

The Dayton’s Bluff Spring Dinner Event will be held on Saturday, May 17, 2008. This event started in 1995 and has been a great opportunity for neighbors to meet and greet. This annual dinner originated as a means for neighbors to get together, socialize, and just have a good time! Participants are from the Dayton’s Bluff neighborhood area. The more people that participate in the event, the more the event has to offer. Host homes are particularly needed in order for the event to be successful.

If you are interested in receiving a flyer giving more information about the Spring Dinner Event, please contact the event coordinator, Margie Smith, at 651-772-8674 or register online at www.theportage.org. Limited transportation is available to East Side youth through the Circulator (a free bus service).

Mounds Theatre in Jeopardy!

Or to be more precise, on Tuesday April 8 the Mounds Theatre appeared on “Jeopardy!”, the popular syndicated game show. Or to be extremely precise, it was part of the clue to a question in the category of “A Hosts of Ghosts.” The clue was: “Ghosts of the Mounds Theatre in this “Twin City” of Minneapolis are said to sit in the audience to watch shows.” The question was obviously “What is Saint Paul?” One of the contestants got it correct for $200.

The Hollow is at the Mounds Theatre in May

Starting Gate presents its final play of the season this May at the Mounds Theatre. It is The Hollow, written by Agatha Christie and directed by Ellen Fenster. An unhappy game of romantic follow-the-leader explodes into murder one weekend at The Hollow, home of Sir Henry and Lucy Angkatell. Dr. Cristow is at the center of the trouble: Henrietta, his mistress; Veronica, his ex-mistress; and Gerda, his wife are all at The Hollow.

Also visiting are Edward (who is in love with Henrietta) and Midge (who loves Edward). Veronica ardently desires to marry Cristow and succeeds in reopening their affair but cannot have him, no one shall. Within five minutes Cristow is dead. Nearly everyone has a motive and most had the opportunity. Enter Inspector Colquhoun and Sergeant Penny to solve the crime.

Dates
May 9 – June 1, 2008

Friday - Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.
Sunday Matinees at 2:00 p.m.

Pay What You Can Night - Monday, May 19, 2008 at 7:30 p.m.
Audio Described Performance - Sunday, May 18, 2008 at 2:00 p.m.

Tickets
$18 general, $16 students and seniors.
$10 for high school students.
Call for tickets 651-645-3503 or visit www.startinggate.org

Spend the night in a haunted theater

The Historic Mounds Theatre is billed as one of the most haunted places in the Twin Cities. Maybe it is and maybe it isn’t. Now you can find out for yourself... if you dare. As a fundraiser for the Portage for Youth, which has it’s home in the Mounds Theatre, two overnight stays on Saturday June 7th and Saturday June 21st are being auctioned off.

In addition to spending the night the lucky winners will get to participate in a mini psychic investigation with the Minnesota Ghost Hunters Society. All bids for the auction must be submitted by May 1. For more details visit www.moundstheatre.org or call 651-772-2253.

The Dayton’s Bluff District Forum is now mailed monthly to Dayton’s Bluff businesses and households FREE!!! Your 5” x 4” display ad gets to over 6500 addresses for only 2 cents per address.

Other size ads also available. Include the Dayton’s Bluff District Forum in your advertising plans.

Contact
Karin@dayton bluff.org

Or call 651-772-2075.
By Steve Trumble

This year is our state's sesquicentennial—I believe that's Latin for 150 years old. It officially became the 32nd state on May 11, 1858 after spending nine years as a territory. The Minnesota Historical Society has a new exhibit entitled Minnesota 150 that features people places and events that have shaped the state and the latest issue of their magazine features this landmark. Several new books have been written especially for the sesquicentennial and a number of celebrations are planned.

So the May issue of the Forum seemed like a good place to take a look at what our geographic area was like a century-and-a-half ago. Obviously, there have been huge changes. But there are a few remnants of that distant past still here. Historical documents are not plentiful, but information can be gleaned from early censuses, city directories, letters and other material.

Early Landmarks Still Exist

There are even a few items from the distant past still here today. The most obvious remaining landmarks are probably the Indian Mounds and Carver's Cave. They were often mentioned in early travel guides and event programs, including this item from a volume published in 1855:

Dayton's Bluff. This is a high and commanding situation south of St. Paul, and is the surrounding country for upwards of thirty miles, and is one of the pleasantest situations for private residences within the city limits. The celebrated Carver's Cave is at the foot of this bluff.... Visitors to the Territory should not fail to pay a visit to these mounds and the cave.

Transportation was a major concern of St. Paul in its early life. The Mississippi River was about all there was that linked the city with the outside world. But by the mid-1850's, a "road" linked Dayton's Bluff with points east and west and at least a portion of that route still exists today. The thoroughfare started at Point Douglas, where the Mississippi meets the St. Croix and traveled through Cottage Grove and Newport to St. Paul and all the way to Fort Ripley in the western part of the state. Somewhere near today's junction of Highway 61 and Warner Road, the route ran in a northwesterly direction through downtown. If you head west from Ohb's Bar on the diagonal Point Douglas Road, you will be on one of the remnants of the old Territorial Road.

But there are other reminders of the Territorial era. For instance, some of the street names were given back in the 1850's. And the 3rd Street that was starting to be platted for settlement. Some of the oldest are in what today is known as the Mounds Park area, south of the Superior Avenue.

The names can be traced to early resident Nathaniel Mclean, an Iowan who came to Minnesota at the fairly advanced age of sixty. He arrived in the spring of 1849. He came to the St. Paul to publish the Chronicle and Register. Mclean served as county commissioner and was later appointed Sioux agent at Ft. Snelling, a post he held for four years.

But his main income, like many others at the time, came from real estate. According to one newspaper article, "on his arrival at St. Paul he purchased several acres of land on Dayton's Bluff...just outside the city limits and in what came to be named McLean Township."

The "Suburban Hills Addition" was platted out in 1856 and McLean Street, Mound Street, Cherry, Plum and other tree names that are still around today were chosen at that time.

Another very early denizen of today's Mounds Park was Truman Smith. He began his career as a banker and was once among the richest men in the city. In 1850 Smith built a house with a view of the Mississippi River. In a much-altered form it is still there at 908 Mound Street and the assisted living facility is now called the Mounds Park Residence.

Along with many others, Smith was wiped out in the aftermath of the 1857 panic. He was advertising as a banker and estate. According to one newspaper, "on his arrival at St. Paul he purchased several acres of land on Dayton's Bluff...just outside the city limits and in what came to be named McLean Township."

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Get rid of a junk car and help the Dayton's Bluff Community Council

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.
The face of foreclosure

By erin sobaski

We hear it on the news every day: The severity of mortgage foreclosures. We see the statistics. But those are just numbers. Behind the numbers are people—families losing their homes, totally overturning their lives. What is the reality of foreclosure? This is the first in a series of articles that will personalize the foreclosure crisis in our community.

St. Paul’s East Side has been hit especially hard in the foreclosure crisis. Nicki Tennyson knows this firsthand. In October of 2006, Tennyson and her then-husband purchased a home off E. 7th St. and Stillwater Ave., on her credit. The agreement was that Tennyson would make their car payments and he would make the mortgage payments.

Everything seemed fine until Tennyson came home one day in January 2007 and saw a sign stating that her house was on the sheriff’s sale list. Next thing she knew, she came home to find a locksmith changing her locks. Apparently the sheriff’s office had stopped by numerous times during the day—when Tennyson and her husband were working fulltime. The office then considered the home as abandoned property and relegated the ownership to the real estate company.

And that’s when the unthinkable drama began. It turned out that her ex-husband wasn’t making the mortgage payments. All bills, letters and phone calls went to him, and she had no clue that things had gotten so out-of-hand. Now she was told she had six months to get up-to-date on the mortgage or vacate her home. As a mother of four, with her credit now ruined, “stress” doesn’t even begin to cover the many emotions she was feeling.

“This is not something I ever thought I would deal with,” says Tennyson. “I lost everything—my home, my credit, my husband. I didn’t know where to turn.”

At first, the anxiety consumed her. “This affects every aspect of your life. I couldn’t focus on work, I couldn’t focus on work. I would come home and go to bed. I lost 20 pounds. I was worried about my kids and what they were losing.”

But Tennyson was able to work through the emotions and do what was best for her family. With her ex-husband no longer involved, she started looking for a new place to live. But with her bad credit rating, this became a big problem. “I remember talking with a potential landlord and he was okay with me and my salary—until he immediately dismissed my application. I just started crying.”

Part of the move to a rental unit in the Dayton’s Bluff neighborhood included having to put down two cats, as the rental property didn’t allow pets. This was especially hard on Tennyson’s oldest daughter Star, 17, who loves animals. Star was also very sad and anxious about the foreclosure. Because it was then summer break, she took a few mini-vacations with grandparents and friends to try and help her forget the reality. Tennyson’s three younger children live with family in Wisconsin. She didn’t go into detail with them about the foreclosure or divorce, trying to shield them from as much worry as possible.

You hear that the current high foreclosure rate is due to the imploding housing market and the stock market increases when adjustable rate mortgages (ARM) are reset. But Tennyson is not alone in having divorce as the main reason for foreclosure.

“Trigger events,” such as divorce and job loss, are increasing thereby making it more likely homeowners will default on their mortgage.

Tennyson’s advice for anyone going through foreclosure or even thinking they might, is simple: “Get help.” She knew vaguely there were resources around, but the surprise and enormity of it all kept her from researching them. “If you are at all behind on your mortgage, check your options,” says Tennyson. “There are programs out there.” (See sidebar for a partial resource list.)

For now, Tennyson has declared bankruptcy and is trying to start fresh. She continues to rent and thankfully still has her job. She hopes to one day to be done with the credit issue. But she knows the emotions and lessons involved in this experience will stay with her.

Where to go?

Here are a few resources if you are facing or want to avoid foreclosure.

City of St. Paul
Mortgage Foreclosure Prevention
651-266-6626
en español 651-292-0131

Minnesota Home Ownership Center
Offers workshops on homeowners’ rights and foreclosures
651-659-9336

Sustainable Home Ownership Program (SHOP)
Provides early intervention and mortgage assessment.
651-793-8901

Contact your lender—they are often willing to help.

Church Directory

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

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

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

Faith Temple - Templo De Fe
1510 Payne Ave
651-778-0906
Sun 10:30 am - Spanish Bilingual Service
Sun 6:00 pm – Spanish Bilingual Service

Wednesday family night

First Lutheran Church ELCA
463 Maria
St. Paul, MN 55106
651-776-7210
1 block North of Metropolitan State
Sun 8:00 am - Free Community Breakfast
Sun 9:30 am – Worship service
Sun 10:45 am – Education for all ages
Handicapped accessible
ALL ARE WELCOME!

Mounds Park United Methodist
1049 Euclid St.
651-774-8736
9:15 am – Sunday School, 4-year-old through Adult
10:30 am - Worship

Our Savior’s Lutheran ‘LCMS’
674 Johnson Pkwy
651-774-2396
Sunday Worship - 9:15 am
Education Hour - 10:30 am
Wednesday Worship - 6:30 pm

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
840 E. 6th St.
651-776-2741
Sat 4:00 pm – Mass
Sun 9:00 am – Mass
Mon, Wed, Fri 8:00 am – Weekday Service

St. John’s Catholic Church
977 E. 5th St.
651-771-3690
Mon-Sat 8:00 am – Daily Mass
Sat 4:15 pm – Mass
Sun 9:00 am, 11:00 am - Mass

St. John’s Church of God in Christ
1154 E. 7th St.
651-771-7639
Sun 9:30 am - Sunday School
Sun 10:45 am - Worship
Wed 7:00 pm - Bible Study

St. John Ev. Lutheran
765 Margaret St.
651-771-6406
Sun 9:30 am - Worship
Thurs 6:30 pm - Worship

National Night Out Kick-Off Picnic at Como Park on May 29th

Plan to attend the third Annual National Night Out Kick-Off Picnic in Saint Paul on Thursday, May 29, at the Midway Picnic Pavilion in Como Park (across from the Como Park Pool) from 5:30-8:00 pm.

You will have an opportunity to find out more about how to plan an event for your neighborhood on National Night Out, which takes place on August 5, 2008.

The Saint Paul Police and Fire Departments will be present to visit with residents. You will have an opportunity to register your neighborhood’s National Night Out event for 2008. Permits to close off a street for your event and “how to” forms for requesting Police and Fire Department special units will be available.

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

There will be FREE hot dogs, chips and beverages while supplies last, or you are welcome to bring a picnic dinner of your own. There will also be music and face painting for the kids.

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

Dayton’s Bluff District Forum May 2008

Nicki Tennyson (left) and her daughter Star are on the road to recovery after losing their house to foreclosure.

Page 6
The Mounds Theatre, home of the Portage for Youth, will have an Open House on Friday, June 6th, from 4:30–8:30 pm. Join us to learn more about our theatre arts and digital arts programs for youth and adults, as well as upcoming events and performances. Meet our teachers, staff, Starting Gate Productions, “A Christmas Story” performers and view digital art and videos developed by our participants. Light refreshments will be served.

The Historic Mounds Theatre is located at 1029 Hudson Rd., Saint Paul, Minnesota 55106. 651-772-8674 or 651-772-2253 or check out our website at www.moundstheatre.org or www.theportage.org.

The Portage for Youth’s mission is to build solid community leaders through arts and community enrichment.

Metro State University Third Floor Gallery is pleased to announce Necessary Ornamentation: Selections from the Minnesota Mosaic Guild. The exhibit, featuring 26 artists, opened Thursday, April 17 and continues through July 25.

Gallery hours in April are Mondays-Thursdays, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.; Fridays-Saturdays, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Gallery hours in May through July are Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. and Saturdays, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. The gallery is located in the Library and Learning Center, 645 East Seventh Street, Saint Paul.

This exhibition investigates the breadth and depth of the local mosaic-making community by featuring the work of 26 Minnesota Mosaic Guild members. From traditional tiles to sculptural objects, this show features a variety of styles, techniques and materials.

Regarding the quality and diversity of the work in the show, exhibition coordinator Gil Gragert said, “There’s no way to nail down the typical guild member or the work. Often elegant, sometimes primitive or quirky in form and execution, members struggle and experiment among the many styles and substances of the media. With ranges of experience from only months to 15 years or more, you’ll find a range of quality, but never a lack of spirit to the work.”

For more information, contact Erica Rasmussen, gallery director, at 651-793-1631 or e-mail Erica at Metro State at erica.rasmussen@metrostate.edu.

Established in 2004, the Minnesota Mosaic Guild (MMG) was formed to promote the art of mosaic; foster exploration and experimentation in the media; provide educational opportunities in mosaic; and share and celebrate the diversity of experience and knowledge in the media. MMG members emerge from a multitude of artistic backgrounds including sculpture, art instruction, jewelry making, graphic design and oil painting. While some MMG artists practice more traditional mosaic techniques using Italian smalti or commercial tiles, others practice their art in non-traditional modes including picassiette, memory ware, stained glass, and found objects, or through a combination of approaches.

The Mounds Theatre, Open House June 6th

The Mounds Theatre, home of the Portage for Youth, will have an Open House on Friday June 6th, from 4:30-8:30 pm. Join us to learn more about our theatre arts and digital arts programs for youth and adults, as well as upcoming events and performances. Meet our teachers, staff, Starting Gate Productions, “A Christmas Story” performers and view digital art and videos developed by our participants. Light refreshments will be served.

The Mounds Theater is a great venue for weddings, meetings and is fully equipped for film projection or DVD.

The Historic Mounds Theatre is located at 1029 Hudson Rd., Saint Paul, Minnesota 55106. 651-772-8674 or 651-772-2253 or check out our website at www.moundstheatre.org or www.theportage.org.

The Portage for Youth’s mission is to build solid community leaders through arts and community enrichment.

Set of 12 Dayton’s Bluff postcards available

The Dayton’s Bluff area 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.
Interested in FREE tutoring in reading this summer?

The East Side Learning Center, 740 York Ave., will again provide one-on-one tutoring in reading this summer for students from the East Side in grades K–4. Students need to attend every day, Monday–Thursday, from June 16–July 17 for one hour.

Tutoring will take place in the mornings and afternoons at Johnson Elementary, and only in the mornings at Bruce Vento Elementary. There is a $10 non-refundable registration fee; special arrangements may be made. For more information, or to register, call 651-793-7331. Registrations close June 9.

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Our Best Future is in Our Children’s Dreams. Put Your Children’s Dreams Within Their Reach.

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- When: May 3–4 (Saturday, noon–5 p.m. and Sunday 1–5 p.m.)
- The Home Tour is free of charge and open to the public.
- Free Trolley rides to homes.
- The tour starts at 798 East 7th Street.
- Come experience the wonderful housing opportunities in Dayton’s Bluff.

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

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Dayton’s Bluff District Forum
May 2008

Dayton’s Bluff District Forum
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Board of Directors: Greg Cosimini, Karin DuPaul and Steve Trimble
Editor & Layout: Greg Cosimini

Spring is here,
The streets are clear.
So go outside,
But walk don’t ride.
Walk the Bluff,
Pick up stuff.
Because there is litter everywhere
and I’ve run out of words that rhyme
but you don’t want
the neighborhood
look like a landfill, do you?