Inside This Issue

Neighborhood Meetings ............Page 2
Take a Hike...................................Page 2
Bethlehem Lutheran ......................Page 2
Spring Business Class.................Page 2
April at Mounds Theatre ..........Page 3
Portage Summer Camp ...............Page 3
Restorative Justice .................Page 3
Church Directory ......................Page 3
Looking Back to April 1984 .....Page 4
Job Search Techniques ..............Page 4
April Fool’s Day Articles .........Page 5
Saint Paul Art Crawl...............Page 6
Mounds Park Neighbors ..........Page 7
Our Youth: Our Community ......Page 7
Children’s Art ......................Page 8
Help With Home Repairs ..........Page 8

Dayton’s Bluff Neighborhood Home Tour

The Dayton’s Bluff Vacant Building Committee (DBVBC) has announced the Spring Dayton’s Bluff Vacant Home Tour, which will be held on Sunday, May 17. The goal is to showcase some of the vacant homes in our neighborhood and, hopefully, to find buyers for them. Six to eight homes will be featured on the tour.

Dayton’s Bluff Vacant Home Tour is an alternative to vacant house demolition. Homes of all sizes, some in move-in shape, some in need of a lot of work will be included on the tour. The tour will feature a wide range of these homes and it is an opportunity to see the options available in our neighborhood.

Mark your calendars: The Vacant Home Tour will be on Sunday, May 17. Anyone who would like to help out with the tour or get involved with the Dayton’s Bluff Vacant Home Committee is welcome to join. We need your help. Please contact Karin DuPaul, at Karin@daytonsbluff.org or call Karin at 651-772-2075.

The 2009 Dayton’s Bluff Neighborhood Home Tour will be held on Saturday, April 25th from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, April 26th from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. It is part of the Minneapolis/Saint Paul Home Tour sponsored by the cities of Minneapolis and Saint Paul. The Home Tour is free of charge and open to the public. The complete listing of all the homes on the tour will be found in the Minneapolis/Saint Paul Home Tour Brochure which can be picked up at the library.

The Dayton’s Bluff Neighborhood Home Tour features beautiful homes, including 211 Earl Street, 229 Earl Street, 950 Margaret Street, 771 East 6th Street, 660 East 4th Street, and 245 Maria Avenue. Three of the homes are also featured on the Minneapolis/Saint Paul Home Tour. On the days of the tour you can start the tour at any of the homes.

Volunteers are needed to help with the Home Tour. Volunteers are needed to help out with the tour or get involved with the Dayton’s Bluff Vacant Home Committee is welcome to join. We need your help. Please contact Karin DuPaul, at Karin@daytonsbluff.org or call Karin at 651-772-2075.

Dayton’s Bluff Community Meeting

The next Community Meeting is Thursday, April 2 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the meeting room at the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council, 798 East 7th Street at the corner of 7th and Margaret. The Dayton’s Bluff Community Council holds its Community Meeting on the 1st Thursday of each month. The purpose of the meeting is to work with block clubs and neighborhood residents on problem properties, criminal and nuisance behavior, code enforcement issues, and any other neighborhood issues or concerns, and/or new ideas for improvement in Dayton’s Bluff.

If you can get me the addresses of problems ahead of time I can get them to the police and code enforcement. Then they can bring information about the problems to the meeting. All Dayton’s Bluff residents are welcome to attend. If you need more information email Karin@DaytonsBluff.org or call Karin at 651-772-2075.

Meet with the police

The Eastern District Police host their monthly meetings for community members at 722 Payne on the corner of Payne and Minnehaha Avenues. One is on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. and the other on the third Friday of each month at 9:30 a.m.

In April the meetings are on the 15th and 17th.

The meetings are intended as a time to listen to and address people’s concerns about crime and other issues on the East Side.

Dayton’s Bluff Annual Spring Dinner

The Dayton’s Bluff Annual Spring Dinner will be held on Saturday, May 16th. It’s our neighborhood party that moves from location to location! We are looking for participants including hosts and those who want to be our buffet dinner servers. Typically, the evening is divided into 3 events: appetizers, desserts, plus one home for the all-participant session that is the finale.

Last year we had about 50 people attend. It’s a great way to meet, greet and mingle with your neighbors! Participants should be 21 years old and up and a resident of the Dayton’s Bluff neighborhood. Interested? Contact Marjorie Smith, event coordinator, at 651-778-1075.

Sixth Annual Plant Sale and Exchange

The Sixth Annual Greening Dayton’s Bluff Plant Sale and Exchange will be held on Saturday, May 16, 2009 from 8:00 a.m. to noon at the corner of East 7th Street and Bates in the gardens outside the Swede Hollow Cafe. Plants for sale will include perennials and annuals.

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. For more information call Karin at 651-772-2075.

It’s never too cold to Take A Hike


Dayton’s Bluff Take a Hike occurs on the first Saturday of most months. The next hike is Saturday, April 4. 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.

Bethlehem Lutheran Activities

Easter Faire
Bethlehem Lutheran Church and JOY Preschool & Child Care is excited to announce that it will hold an Easter Faire once again free of charge on Saturday, April 4th from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Children 10 years old may participate in Easter activities in the fellowship hall, which includes face painting, dying eggs, playing games, etc. In addition, there will be an Easter egg hunt and door prizes given away. Food and beverages will be provided for all attendees. Come and join us at 635 Forest St!

JOY Preschool Summer Program

Bethlehem’s JOY Preschool Program for preschool children will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. beginning Monday, June 1, 2009. The School Age Program will be held from 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. beginning Monday, June 8, 2009. JOY Preschool offers both full days and half days. The Child Care program is from 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. For information, call Carol Fink at 651.771.6982 or e-mail Carol at jopyreschool@juno.com.

Dayton’s Bluff Preservation Evening

Have you repaired or restored your home? Redecorated a room? Rebuilt a porch? Or done any other home project? We are asking residents to bring their stories, pictures, picture boards, scrapbooks, etc. on big and little home repair projects to share. For the last six years residents have brought photos, picture boards, and stories about kitchen, bathroom, porch, whole house projects or any other project. Call Karin at 772-2075 or email Karin@DaytonsBluff.org if you have projects you would like to share with others or for more information. See the May issue of the Forum for more information about this event.

Dayton’s Bluff Spring business class

The next Dayton’s Bluff Neighborhood Microentrepreneur Class is starting in April 2009. This program helps start young businesses on the East Side. All East Side entrepreneurs are welcome.

Class 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 eight hours of one-on-one time with the instructor. Those who fully 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, art, printing, graphic design 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 April 2009 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.

* Lower Dayton’s Bluff Block Club Kickball meets on the second to the last Tuesday of each month at Dayton’s Bluff Rec Center at 800 Conway at 6:30 p.m. Kids and parents are welcome. Kids play, parents talk.

* 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 a junk car and help the 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. Call Karin at 651-772-2075 for details.
Portage for Youth Summer Camp

The Portage for Youth will be holding classes in Theatre Arts and Dance this summer at the Historic Mounds Theatre, 1029 Hudson Road, Saint Paul, MN 55106. The classes are for children ages 8 to 13. Theatre Arts and Dance tap participants’ instincts to explore who they truly are and can be. Theatre, dance and movement help participants grow by encouraging creativity, cooperation with others in achieving a joint goal, by encouraging creativity, cooperation, and building moral and spiritual values. In addition, movement and dance combines athleticism, creativity and builds students’ artistic abilities.

Trinity Catholic Pre-School Rates 4 Stars

The Parent Aware Program has given Trinity Catholic School’s pre-school a 4 star rating. Trinity received the highest rating possible by the program. The Parent Aware Program is part of the Minnesota Human Services Department and rates early childhood and pre-school programs. Parents can find these ratings on their website. Research shows that children with a strong educational start between birth and 5 years old are more likely to succeed in school. This program gives parents information on programs and services offered by the various pre-school and day care services. Ratings are based on staff to child ratio, educational programming, health and safety codes, materials and parent support.

Trinity Catholic Pre-School is located at 835 E. Fifth St. Camps will be held during the weeks of July 6, July 13, July 20, July 27, August 3 and August 10. Sessions run Monday through Friday, 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Each child must bring his or her own bagged lunch and a drink, and have transportation to and from classes. The Dayton’s Bluff Circulator will be running this summer and makes stops at the Mounds Theatre.

There is no fee for the camps but participants must register by June 22, 2009. Please call Raeann Ruth at the Portage for Youth to register at 651-772-2873.

East Side Restorative Justice Program

By Sage Holben

How often have you found graffiti in your neighborhood? Looked out a window only to see someone spray-painting your fence as a nuisance; or dread nights when your neighbor’s porch becomes an all night party place? Have you ever wanted to talk with the offender and say how you feel when you see continued tagging and graffiti on the garages and utility boxes; how you feel when your child sees public urination or how exhausted you are in going to work the next morning after listening to one more night of slamming car doors and loud music or talking until 3 a.m.?

Many times these situations are taken care of by the police. Sometimes city departments take care of the problems. What is missing is the voice of the victim, whether the victim is one resident or a block of neighbors. The beginning of the East Side Restorative Justice Program began a year ago with a conversation between retired Totem Town staffer Tom Russ and Community Prosecutor/Assistant City Attorney, Tony Tushie.

Restorative Justice is a program that brings an offender and victim together to have a dialogue about the effects of the offender’s actions. Both sides must be willing to sit together in a respectful manner. They meet with two trained facilitators and they may bring support persons. This could be a friend for moral support or neighbors who can also speak to the actions. Few purposes are served in this meeting. One is to give victims an opportunity to speak to the offender. It offers the offender, who already has to have taken responsibility for his or her negative actions, to offer an apology. It also can be the beginning of healing for the neighborhood. Some of that happens when the offender is offered and takes the opportunity to re-integrate into neighborhood life by making amends through volunteering. It may be repairing something that was damaged, such as removing graffiti; it might be helping to rebuild a retaining wall.

Attitudes often change in the restorative justice process. Offenders, who on the street may have acted arrogantly and aggressively, most often demonstrate submissiveness and connect the human side of their action once face to face with those they have offended. Studies have proven that compensation to the community may teach a much greater lesson than a fine or a few days in lock-up. Lower rates of recidivism have also been demonstrated with restorative justice participation.

The newly formed East Side Restorative Justice Program is seeking volunteers who would commit to training as meeting facilitators. Training is being set for June. If you are interested in facilitator training, contact Patty Lammers at patty.lammers@vi.com or Tom Russ at 612-387-5511. The Minneapolis Restorative Justice program, which conducts restorative justice circles, invites observers. If you are interested to see how a session works, call Tom Russ, 612-387-5511 for dates, times, and registration.

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. 651-771-0677

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 651-778-0096
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 55105 651-776-2253

First Lutheran Church ELCA 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 Street 651-774-2396
Sun 10:00 am – Spanish Bilingual Sunday Worship - 9:15am Education Hour - 10:30 am Wednesday Worship - 6:30 pm

Sacred Heart Catholic Church Iglesia Sagrado Corazon 480 E. 6th St. 651-776-2741
Sat 4:00 pm English Mass & 5:30 pm Spanish Missa Sun 9:00 am English Mass & 11:00 am Spanish Missa Mon, Wed, Fri 8:00 am Mass

St. John’s Catholic Church 977 E. 5th St. 651-771-3690; www.stjstp.org Mon-Sat 8:00 am – Daily Mass Sun 1:15 pm – Mass Sun 9:00, 11:00 am - Mass

St. John’s Outreach Ministry 1154 E. 7th St. 651-776-7363
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

Page 3
Looking back a quarter of a century to April 1984

By Steve Trimble

By Steve Trimble

This month I decided to go back a quarter of a century and look at what appeared in the April 1984 issue of the Dayton’s Bluff District Forum, which I thought it would be interesting to see what had remained somewhat the same and what had changed after twenty-five years. Here is what I found.

There were several articles on the front page that suggests that these were some of the more important events—for at least the most interesting articles. The most popular annual “East Seventh Boardwalk” was that held to promote the business community. It was sponsored by the East Seventh Area Business Association (ESABA). The evening was started out with a slide show given by local historian Steve Trimble—is he still around?

People were given a “game board” and visited twenty different local businesses that all had some treats such as cookies, cheese or beverages. The Monopoly-looking game boards were checked off and if a person visited all the businesses they would open one late one weekday for what they were calling “Why Not Wednesday.”

Only two of the twenty groups participating were local businesses—Dayton’s Bluff Housing Services that was then at a different location and Pat’s Barber Shop which has been bought and is now Testa’s Barber Shop.

The front page of the April 1984 issue was also adorned with a picture of Frank J. Gangi who lived at 1051 Mclean. He had just been honored as “Minnesota Soldier of the Year” by the Army National Guard. Gangi, a full time recruiter for the Guard, was also in the running for the National Soldier of the Year and although he did not win, he placed very highly in the competition.

Another page one featured person was Lt. Mike Smith who was in charge of the Dayton’s Bluff “Team Patrol Headquarters” that had just opened at 699 E. Seventh. This was a new form of local policing designed to decentralize management of the patrol division. People were invited to an open house and the headquarters. There were also two short pieces on the front below the fold, as they say. One stated that Ed Krahmer, an active local resident, was being added to the directory of volunteers to make a drawing for door prizes that included $25, free dry cleaning, decorative water faucets and art prints. It was hoped that in the future local business would stay open late one weekday for what they were calling “Why Not Wednesday.”

The Dayton’s Bluff Community Council was given plenty of space in 1984. There was a regular column by its president Roger Curtis. There was also a regular section called “Community Member Spotlight” and this time it gave short biographies of Harold Morrison, Sheryl Sinn and Jim Meyer. Anyone know where they all are now?

Like today, the Council dealt with local issues of housing, zoning, crime and other issues. There was an article headlined “Community Council Meeting” that stated “Citizens of Dayton’s Bluff should take the time to participate in the community, contributed a letter to the editor that one and I’m still scribbling away the next time I read it. I’m pretty sure they are all dead by now.

The articles two were a two-page spread titled “Houses Are the Foundation of a Neighborhood’s Heritage”. It was to be the first of a series of articles on Dayton’s Bluff historic houses and buildings. It included eleven different structures. I wrote that one and I’m still scribbling away many years later.

“Bluff Business Briefs” was a regular column that consisted of some of the ideas of entrepreneurs to readers. Something like that might be a good idea now. How about some of you doing short write-ups about places you know about?

The ones written up in April 1984 on or near Seventh Street were: the Wearhouse, a second hand shop, Granny’s Statues, which sold greenware and ceramic supplies and Greco’s Back-Door Bakery which specialized in Italian goodies.

There were a series of articles that announced the opening of the new Child Center, now known as Merrick Elementary. One stated that Ed Krahmer, an active local resident, was being added to the directory of volunteers to make a drawing for door prizes that included $25, free dry cleaning, decorative water faucets and art prints. It was hoped that in the future local business would stay open late one weekday for what they were calling “Why Not Wednesday.”

Planning and Economic Development (PED) was getting ready to announce the competition for the Old Harding Place project and in an ill-conceived plan thought up when the St. Paul school board tried to sell off the building and property of the old Mountview High School.

The East Side Improvement Coalition was concerned with crime and a developing negative image of the community and wanted the media to report positive happenings. CARE (Citizens Affecting Racial Education) said it was making progress dealing with backlash from racial incidents in the neighborhood and working with schools. Seems like history or at least the neighborhood concerns really does repeat itself.

The one was a two-page spread titled “Houses Are the Foundation of a Neighborhood’s Heritage”. It was to be the first of a series of articles on Dayton’s Bluff historic houses and buildings. It included eleven different structures. I wrote that one and I’m still scribbling away many years later.

“Bluff Business Briefs” was a regular column that consisted of some of the ideas of entrepreneurs to readers. Something like that might be a good idea now. How about some of you doing short write-ups about places you know about?

The ones written up in April 1984 on or near Seventh Street were: the Wearhouse, a second hand shop, Granny’s Statues, which sold greenware and ceramic supplies and Greco’s Back-Door Bakery which specialized in Italian goodies.

Looking back a quarter of a century to April 1984

By Steve Trimble

The Dayton’s Bluff Community Council was given plenty of space in 1984. There was a regular column by its president Roger Curtis. There was also a regular section called “Community Member Spotlight” and this time it gave short biographies of Harold Morrison, Sheryl Sinn and Jim Meyer. Anyone know where they all are now?

Like today, the Council dealt with local issues of housing, zoning, crime and other issues. There was an article headlined “Community Council Meeting” that stated “Citizens of Dayton’s Bluff should take the time to participate in the community, contributed a letter to the editor that one and I’m still scribbling away the next time I read it. I’m pretty sure they are all dead by now.

The articles two were a two-page spread titled “Houses Are the Foundation of a Neighborhood’s Heritage”. It was to be the first of a series of articles on Dayton’s Bluff historic houses and buildings. It included eleven different structures. I wrote that one and I’m still scribbling away many years later.

“Bluff Business Briefs” was a regular column that consisted of some of the ideas of entrepreneurs to readers. Something like that might be a good idea now. How about some of you doing short write-ups about places you know about?

The ones written up in April 1984 on or near Seventh Street were: the Wearhouse, a second hand shop, Granny’s Statues, which sold greenware and ceramic supplies and Greco’s Back-Door Bakery which specialized in Italian goodies.

Looking back a quarter of a century to April 1984

By Mike A. Lang

The job market is tough and getting tougher. These days there are more people looking for work than have been for years. With the increased competition, it’s tougher to get noticed by employers.

Networking involves connecting with people who may want to help you in your job search. It is more than just contacting employers to see if they have job openings. Networking is a way to learn more about different jobs seekers can network with.

One easy way to network is to talk to people you know. Friends, family members, former co-workers and other people you know are a good place to start. These are people who may want to help and you might be surprised by the connections they can provide.

Another way is to communicate with people you may not know very well. These contacts can be provided by people you already know, connections you make at job clubs or networking groups, job seekers or employers you meet at job fairs or other events and so on.

A new way of networking utilizes social networking websites on the Internet. These are tools that allow you to increase your job search network. Be sure you are comfortable posting information about yourself online; the information you post is public and so you should be aware that everyone you work with may be able to see it.
April 1, 2009 - A group of city utility workers who were digging in the area between Conway and Third Streets on Mounds Boulevard were surprised last week when they discovered a wooden coffin.

Following company procedures, they stopped their efforts and called their supervisors. The police soon arrived and finally decided to open the casket. What they found will dictate a rewriting of a few history books and articles. The remains were those of Lyman Dayton, the pioneer real estate dealer who gave this neighborhood its name.

There had always been known that Lyman Dayton had been buried here when he died in 1862. But according to records, his remains were moved to Oakland Cemetery several years later. In recent years a group of area residents even gathered enough money to place a tombstone on his gravesite.

However, there is now evidence to set the record straight. Recently, when there was a sealed bottle with a message in it. It read, “Here lies the body of my loving husband Lyman Dayton. His last wish was to be buried on our property. When the city ordered that he be moved, my gardener Michael Nell and I removed him, hid him for a time and sent an empty coffin loaded with stones. A few days later we reburied him where he wished to spend eternity.” Maria Bates Dayton.

The caretaker at Oakland agreed to dig up Lyman Dayton’s presumed plot and discovered that the casket was empty except for a few rocks that had weighted it down.

The St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission is looking into the possibility of granting a variance that would allow Lyman Dayton to remain at rest where he is.

There will soon be an open neighborhood meeting to discuss the situation. If you are interested in attending, please call Ron Wagner at the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council office.

Trailer park slated for Mounds Park

April 1, 2009 - The Federal Stimulus package is definitely going to have an impact on the area in the Dayton’s Bluff District. With the Planning and Economic Development (PED) performance grant, the City of St. Paul is able to purchase property for the trailer park slated for Mounds Park.

The museum includes ash receptacles even going through dumpsters. Soon I came out of the museum back from motels, restaurants and bars. I was amazed by the variety of shapes, colors, materials and design. The little grooves for cigarettes are so cute,” he stated. Joe’s favorites are the art deco pieces and the gaudy California styles.

“I am also working on a project to build a life-size plastic cougar that will scare away any eagle from our yard,” he said.

There are a few things owners can do to protect their furry friends. Always accompany your pet-preferably with a leash or collar- when they leave the house. If they are outdoors alone, especially in the winter, keep them leashed up so they can’t be swooped away.

In addition, if you already have a dog you can extend the area the dog will be in with a tarp or screen so they can’t see the air. Finally, the DNR does sell a life-size plastic figure of a cougar that will scare away any eagle from our yard. They are only $39.95 and can be found at the state agency’s headquarters.

No more billboards in Dayton’s Bluff

April 1, 2009 - CloudyChannel Communications announced today that it is in the process of removing all billboards in the city. The company said that the advertising is going. Billboard advertising revenue is way down due to the recession and the fact that advertisers are starting to realize no one reads them.

So instead, CloudyChannel is mounting photovoltaic (solar) panels on all their billboards in order to generate electricity. The electrically powered system will be capable of larger batteries that will power the billboards’ lights at night and on cloudy days so the panels can be operated 24/7.

A representative from the DNR explained that “we are a private company and we have to live.” They will continue to make money. Everyone knew that there is a great need for affordable housing in the metro area. The new museum will immediately bulldoze it and replace it with new developments.

New museum to light up the neighborhood

April 1, 2009 - A new museum will be opening in Dayton’s Bluff. After a decade of collecting, local resident Joseph Camel decided to put all of his treasures on display in “The Ash Tray Museum,” which will be located at 805 East Seventh Street.

The museum includes ash receptacles made of glass, onyx, brass plastic and many other metals. There are ash trays from tiny bowling alleys, replicas of the Brooklyn Bridge, dogs, alligators, and human figures, just to name a few. They come from all fifty states and many foreign countries.

Earlier it was asserted that there was only one existing ash tray museum and that was in Thailand. But a recent Google search shows that someone in Kentucky claims to be the first and only ash tray museum. But the only location given is a P.O. Box number. This one will be for real.

Mr. Camel also has some big plans for the future. He is considering lobbying the city council to allow smoking not only in a theater performance but at an institution dedicated solely to the historic presentation of tobacco culture. He already has several St. Paul legislators signed on to the bill.

The grand opening of the Ash Tray Museum is April 1st, so be sure to visit what promises to be an educational opportunity in the neighborhood.

Project Minus 5000

April 1, 2009 - Today the mayor announced the start of Project Minus 5000, a city program aimed at doing something about all the empty houses in St. Paul. He explained this way: A former mayor or ours had the brilliant idea to create 5000 housing units in St. Paul. That mayor has skipped town, the whole world’s economy has collapsed due to bad mortgages, and St. Paul is left with empty houses on every block. It is the goal of Project Minus 5000 to do something about this problem by eliminating 5000 housing units by the year 2011.

The facts are these: Homeowners living near an abandoned house will be given the option to purchase it for the cost of clearing it out but leaving it alone. Low interest loans will be made available for these purchases. No property taxes will be assessed for a period of five years if the lot is left undeveloped but instead transformed into a vegetable or flower garden or planted with trees or a low maintenance grass cover. In addition, if there are no buyers for an empty house, the property will be given to the St. Paul Port Authority which will immediately bulldoze it and allow the lot to fill with water.

Contact the mayor’s office or your city council representative for more information on Project Minus 5000.

Moundsfoot Sightings?

April 1, 2009 - Patrons at O’bbs Sports Bar and Grill on Burns Ave. reported seeing some strange animals across the street in Mounds Park this past winter. The animals were said to be brown and hairy. Some people thought they were deer but others suspect they were actually the elusive Moundsfoot. These brown, hairy creatures have been observed in and around Mounds Park for many years but like their larger cousin Bigfoot, no definitive proof of their existence has been documented... yet.

Intersection moves

April 1, 2009 - Residents in the Mounds Park area discovered something very odd when the snow melted this spring. Somehow the intersection of Mounds Blvd. and Plum Ave. had mysteriously moved several hundred feet to the west and changed from being a uniquely attractive intersection to a normal, average one. Neighbors had no explanation for this but one person commented that the road shifted due to the heavy moisture content of the soil and repeated freeze and thaw cycles during this past winter. If there were any changes, the City would do something like this without consulting the neighborhood first.

Ectoplastic problems at Mounds Theatre

April 1, 2009 - A few ghosts may be fun but too many ghosts can get downright annoying especially when they’re in your neighborhood. These ghost busters had to thin the herd a bit, but don’t worry, there are still plenty of spirits in residence. For more details check out www.ghostbuster911.com.

Lyman Dayton’s remains unearthed

April 1, 2009 - A group of city utility workers who were digging in the area between Conway and Third Streets on Mounds Boulevard were surprised last week when they discovered a wooden coffin.

Following company procedures, they stopped their efforts and called their supervisors. The police soon arrived and finally decided to open the casket. What they found will dictate a rewriting of a few history books and articles. The remains were those of Lyman Dayton, the pioneer real estate dealer who gave this neighborhood its name.

It had always been known that Lyman Dayton had been buried here when he died in 1862. But according to records, his remains were moved to Oakland Cemetery several years later. In recent years a group of area residents even gathered enough money to place a tombstone on his gravesite.

However, there is now evidence to set the record straight. Recently, when there was a sealed bottle with a message in it. It read, “Here lies the body of my loving husband Lyman Dayton. His last wish was to be buried on our property. When the city ordered that he be moved, my gardener Michael Nell and I removed him, hid him for a time and sent an empty coffin loaded with stones. A few days later we reburied him where he wished to spend eternity.” Maria Bates Dayton.

The caretaker at Oakland agreed to dig up Lyman Dayton’s presumed plot and discovered that the casket was empty except for a few rocks that had weighted it down.

The St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission is looking into the possibility of granting a variance that would allow Lyman Dayton to remain at rest where he is.

There will soon be an open neighborhood meeting to discuss the situation. If you are interested in attending, please call Ron Wagner at the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council office.
Residents of the East Side of Saint Paul have a new reason to think of their neighborhood as a location in which artists can afford to live and work, and as a community that works to save historic buildings. Developers have recently turned the old Hamm Brewery Building into a focal point for new artists’ studios, and it will be a major new stop for the popular Saint Paul Art Crawl. Jon Powell, building agent from CB Burnett Powell, says, “Everyone from the Historic Hamm Brewery is excited to open our doors to the professional arts and sciences after years of renovation and remodeling. Hosting artists for the St. Paul Art Crawl is a perfect match and a great partnership for the Historic Brewery. The arts community is eager to see another building supporting the arts, and East St. Paul is eager to see businesses moving back into the area. Plus, the touring of the building from Art Crawl is a welcomed attraction to a once deserted and historic site.”

This will be the first time that the Art Crawl has been able to have a major presence on the East Side. Over 30 artists and a wide variety of work will be showcased in the building, including painting, photography, jewelry, Asian art, weavings, clothing, fashion, woodwork and much more. One of those artists will be Rose Marie Felsheim, a long-time volunteer and participant in the Art Crawl, and an East Side resident.

Dayton’s Bluff Community Council committees looking for new members

The Greenspace Committee is working on starting a community garden in Dayton’s Bluff. The committee has permission from the city to open a garden in Skidmore Park, a small park on the 1000 block of 4th Street. New committee members are needed to help move this project forward.

Other activities of the Greenspace Committee include plant exchanges and working on various greenspace issues. The committee meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m.

The Arts and Culture Committee is currently working on the Annual Dayton’s Bluff Preservation Event, where neighbors bring photos and stories about fixing up their homes. It’s a great way to get ideas for your home. Another project is the Dayton’s Bluff Community Art Crawl, which will be open to all Dayton’s Bluff residents. Throughout the year the Arts and Culture Committee hosts book readings, walking tours, homes tours, workshops, and other activities. The committee meets on the 3rd Monday each month at 6:15 p.m.

Both committees are Dayton's Bluff Community Council committees and are looking for new members from all over the community. If you are interested or want more information contact Karin@DaytonsBluff.org or call Karin at 651-772-2075.

Refuge & reflection: Saint Paul & Hawaii

Rose Marie Felsheim is pleased to announce the unveiling of two special collections by her fellow artists who will take place during the Spring 2009 St. Paul Art Crawl. Inspired by her home on the East Side of Saint Paul, and by her sister’s coffee plantation in Hawaii, Rose Marie’s works in painting, drawing and prints are a reflection of the beauty and serenity that she finds in her garden and in the tropical paradise of her “other” home, her sister’s coffee farm. Rose Marie is marketing her work at two locations during the Art Crawl event.

Rose Marie says, “We all need a personal space that feeds our souls and refreshes our mind. It can be an outside garden or an imaginary room in your mind. My landscape paintings are intended to offer the viewer such an experience. You walk through the pages of your garden and recharged by the exercise.”

“I am blessed to have two places that are my refuge. My 120-year-old house in the Dayton’s Bluff neighborhood has been home for half my life. My marriage started here, my dying mother stayed here, my children grew here, my empty nest is here. My favorite place at ‘Maple Manor’ is in my garden. I have many paintings of drawings of it. Because my children spent their entire childhood in the same house, they are attached as well. As a gift to them I spent the summer of 2008 painting my book. The book’s readings are a hit with my children and my patrons, and have formed the basis of the ‘Morning Light GARDEN PAINTINGS’ series.

Selections of the best GARDEN PAINTINGS from that series will be available as giclee prints in the Everest Arts & Science Building located in the Hamm Brewery/Everest Center. It is located at 717 E. Minnehaha Avenue, on the east edge of downtown.

The Everest Building will be open during the entire Art Crawl, from 4:00 PM Friday, April 24, to 10 PM Saturday, April 25; noon-5 PM, Sunday April 26.

Rose Marie’s other place of inspiration is in Hawaii. “My other home is at my sister’s coffee farm, ‘Roooster Feather Farm’ in Maui. I have returned from this year’s, 2008, coffee picking with paintings of the island of Hawaii from North Kohala to Green Sand Beach. I am fortunate to be able to work for my sister every year, to explore the area and come back with vibrant new art work.”

Rose Marie’s original paintings, drawings, and giclee prints from Hawaii are a tropical visual treat. This work will be at the LOWERTOWN COMMONS, (300 E. 4th Street in Lowertown) on the Balcony Level. Opening Reception 4:00 PM Friday, April 24, 2-10 PM, Saturday, April 25; noon-5 PM, Sunday April 26.

Rose Marie has work available in many price ranges. Stop by and find her at one of these places or call and make an appointment to meet, 651-225-1348. www.able-arts.com. For more info, digital files of images or for interviews, call 651-225-1348.

Dayton’s Bluff Community Council committees looking for new members

Comunidades Latinas Unidas En Servicio - CLUES is pleased to announce the following board members to its Board of Directors: Father Kevin McDonough, pastor of the Church of St. Peter Claver in St. Paul, and Mr. Alejandro Suarez, Foreign Legal Consultant for Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.

Father Kevin McDonough is a long time supporter and key volunteer of CLUES. As a member of the CLUES Board of Directors, Father McDonough was greatly helped to raise funds in support of the St. Paul headquarters facilities. Father Kevin McDonough has been the pastor of the Church of St. Peter Claver in St. Paul since 1990. Father McDonough also serves as Chaplain for the Spanish-speaking community at Comunal del Sagrado Corazon in Minneapolis. He served the archdiocese, pastor at St. Richard in Richfield and Our Lady of Guadalupe in St. Paul. He was rector of St. John Vianney College Seminary from 1987-1990 and Parish Priest in the Mexican Consulate. Father McDonough received his licentiate and doctorate in Canon Law in 1986-1987 from the University of the South in Tennessee.

Mr. Alejandro Suarez joined Fredrikson & Byron’s International Group in 2006. He holds legal degrees from both Mexico and the United States and also has received legal education in the United Kingdom. Mr. Suarez’s experience includes the structuring of mergers, acquisitions, and joint ventures in a variety of industries that conduct business in Latin American and Latin America. He also represents foreign companies and individuals from diverse nationalities and industries that conduct business in Mexico and Latin America. Mr. Suarez advises investors entering into joint ventures into real estate business ventures in Mexico and Latin America. He also advises investors incorporating in Latin American countries, as well as foreign companies expanding in the U.S. market. Mr. Suarez’s practice has been featured in a variety of Twin Cities newspapers and legal periodicals, and he is currently Co-chair of the 2008-2009 Mexico Committee of the American Bar Association. Prior to joining Fredrikson & Byron, Alejandro was a partner at a business immigration firm in Chicago representing international law firms there. Additionally, Mr. Suarez was named as one of the “25 on the Rise” by the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in 2007.

Father McDonough and Alejandro Suarez join the following board members: Sandra Balaguera, Dr. “Rusty” Barceló, Carmen Cobalés-Vega, Michael Corrales, Father and Ms. Michelle Ray, Father, Father Rt. Rev. Rev. Roderick John, Ms. Ruth Herron, Patrick Kelly, Rafael Marquez, Diego Osuna, Tony Rodriguez, Luz Maria Serrano and Dave Spalding.

THE BEST KEPT 'SECRET'

The Church of Saint John of the Baptist
501 6th Street E.
Saint Paul, MN 55101
(651) 225-1348
www.sjofb.org

The Church of Saint John of the Baptist
501 6th Street E.
Saint Paul, MN 55101
(651) 225-1348
www.sjofb.org

Soup Suppers - Friday 6:00 p.m.
Stations of the Cross - Fridays 7:00 p.m.
Daily Mass: 8:00 a.m.
Saturday Mass: 8:00 a.m. & 4:15 p.m.
Sunday Mass: 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.
Confessions - ½ hour before Mass & Saturdays 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Rosary - ½ hour before Mass
April 2009
Dayton’s Bluff District Forum

Page 7

Our Youth. Our Community.
Highlighting the youth of Dayton’s Bluff

Dayton’s Bluff teens attend Youth Summit

The Second Shift Youth Commission is the formal vehicle for youth leadership and civic engagement in the City of Saint Paul. Youth Commissioners provide input and direction to the City’s Second Shift Initiative and aim to influence other public and organizational policies that impact the lives of young people.

By Stephanie Harr

Observations regarding neglect and the apparent lack of a long-term plan or strategy for Indian Mounds Regional Park have spurred a group of citizens who live in Mounds Park to begin meeting and talking about potential solutions.

An initial meeting focused on the area of the park that gets little notice. A park in the middle of the residential block bounded by Mound Street, Burns Avenue, McLean and Earl receives little attention and even less maintenance and improvement. This park is home to a Parks and Recreation vehicle storage facility that is under consideration for relocation by the Parks Department. Based on this potential for relocation, a group of neighbors brainstormed possible alternate uses for the area.

An additional meeting was held in December and included Don Ganje, landscape architect with the St. Paul Parks and Recreations Department. Ganje shared that, as suspected, there is no master plan for the park and that community support and action is the primary driver for park improvements. He encouraged neighborhood organizing as a means to engage neighbors and the Parks Department in a process for planning and improvement.

According to neighbor Julie Gugin, “As a resident of Mounds Park for nearly 15 years, I’ve had a growing concern about the state of the park, and I’m afraid that it stands to lose its value as a community asset if it continues on its current path.” Gugin went on to say that the citizen participation activities thus far have emphasized the development of “creative but attainable goals about what the park could evolve to, honoring the history of the space, while responding to the current community needs and maximizing its potential.”

Neighborhood Jacob Dorer observed that he’s been happy to see “neighbors sharing their goals for the park in a thoughtful, respectful and reasonable way that reflects and engages the community.”

The neighbors have continued to move forward in formalizing a citizen participation process supporting ongoing park improvements and community input and action. Current efforts include the formation of a “stewards of the park” type of group modeled after other local “friends of” groups.

Neighbors also submitted a CIB (Capitol Improvement Budget) proposal to the city of St. Paul to fund a long-range planning process. The neighbors feel this is an appropriate initial step for park improvements. There is no current plan in place for Mounds Park. The only plan that could be located was a plan for Battle Creek Regional Park from 1981, which included segments of Mounds Park. The current CIB proposal is supported by the District Four Community Council, which has also offered to serve as fiscal agent for the fledgling “Friends of Mounds Park” group.

Stephanie Harr is a District Four Community Council board member and Mounds Park resident. Contact her at stephanieharr1@hotmail.com.
Appreciating children’s art for what it is

By Mary Ann Cagelaw

Many years ago when I was a new teacher, I had an experience with a child who forever persuaded me of the importance of supporting art activities with children. Benjamin, a beautiful, well-loved boy, usually preferred active, sometimes very dramatic, play. From the time school started in September, I had never seen him at the easel.

But a big event was looming in Benjamin’s life. His mother was expecting a baby, an anticipated girl and Benjamin’s first sibling around the time of his fourth birthday in April. During late February and March, Benjamin began to spend many minutes at a time (remember that preschoolers typically have short attention spans) engrossed in painting at the easel. He created a marvelous series of paintings that I still think of thirty-five years later as “The B Paintings.” Each of them prominently featured a large capital “B.” Sometimes the “B” floated high or on the paper, sometimes lay on its back, sometimes leaned to the right or left. Every “B” was encased in a series of increasingly larger outline shapes in various hues and mixes of colors. All children’s art is of value, but not all of it calls out aesthetically to adults. Benjamin’s paintings were glorious. But it was not the beauty of his painting that persuaded me of the value of art in the lives of children. It was the process Benjamin undertook to explore his ideas and feelings about what it would mean in his life to have another child in his family. He, of course, did not tell me this, but I am sure that he was the “B” in all of his paintings. He was asserting that he would continue to have his own identity within the growing dimensions of his family.

When the new baby arrived, Benjamin announced to me, “I have a new baby sister and her name is Daniel.” He painted one or two more “B” masterpieces at the easel and then, for the rest of the year, ignored painting completely. He had finished his process of exploration and integration for himself. I don’t know what role, if any, the creative arts may have played in his life from that time to this, but I am convinced that art was hugely useful to him in being ready for the arrival of his baby brother.

The role I watched art play in Benjamin’s life was primarily emotional, helping him think about and manage an important change in his life. But all of the ways in which children create art—scribbling, painting, pasting, cutting, modeling with clay or paper, and more—offer them a wealth of opportunities for healthy social, physical, and intellectual as well as emotional development. In the many years since I watched Benjamin, and by now hundreds of other children, I have become more and more convinced that opportunities for creating art are essential in children’s lives. I have also seen many examples of adults who want to support children in creating art, but who fail to do so because they don’t understand or value the child’s creative process. Perhaps the best way to begin to support the art of very young children is to learn more about the process their development as artists takes. In The Psychology of Children’s Art, Rhoda Kellogg asserts that children around the world proceed through the same developmental sequence in creating art. She bases her assertion on having examined more than a million examples of children’s art. All children begin with scribbling similar to this easel scribbling. They proceed through a number of stages before arriving at a pictorial stage sometime between the ages of four and six. Different experts describe these stages in somewhat different language, but they agree that scribbling, beginning as early as one year of age if a child is given the chance to scribble, leads to the emergence of shapes and designs including sun and mandala shapes. These evolve gradually into human faces, like the one Samantha painted, and bodies which become more and more elaborate as time goes by. All children begin with scribbling and move through the following stages in sequence though not always at the same speed. Children around the world follow this developmental process. Moreover, although individual children exhibit their own styles, you cannot distinguish between boys’ and girls’ art until they are fairly advanced in making representational art.

If you find and read The Psychology of Children’s Art, or better yet, if you look at many examples of art which children have created without adult direction, you will see that what they produce is not a crude and immature form of art through which adults can hurried them so they produce products which the adult can recognize and name. Rather, you will find yourself appreciating the art of young children as an important process which is deeply rooted in the child as a growing human being. This is Part I in a series. Next month look here for more specific suggestions for supporting kid art.

Do you or someone you know need help with home maintenance?

A Brush with Kindness is looking for low-income homeowners who live in the Dayton’s Bluff area and whose homes need painting, minor repairs, general clean-up and are unable to do the work themselves. Interior and exterior work performed year round.

Homeowners with a combined household income that is below 50% of the area median income are eligible to participate in the program. Priority will be given to homeowners who are seniors, disabled or are single with children.

Volunteers from businesses, churches, and service organizations assist homeowners to complete the work. Able-bodied homeowners are required to work alongside volunteers and make a financial contribution depending on the amount of work done on their home.

TAKING APPLICATIONS NOW FOR SUMMER/FALL 2009 WORK. For an application or more information call 612-788-8169, or visit our website at: www.abrushwithkindness.org

A Brush with Kindness is a program of Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity

Home repair help

We are looking for low-income homeowners who are elderly or disabled, or have children who are unable to do work on home repair for themselves. Rebuilding Together is taking applications now for work to be done this year. If accepted into the program Rebuilding Together provides services at no cost to the homeowner. Volunteers work for about eight hours on one day to get the work done. If you or someone you know needs some work done, call 651-772-2075 or email Karin@DaytonsBluff.org for an application.

Is your home in need of repairs from the icy cold winter we’ve had?

We are here to help you!

We provide no cost assistance for eligible homeowners, and offer low interest rates (3-5%). Call 651-772-2075 to discuss or visit www.abrushwithkindness.org to download the application. We are looking for homeowners who are elderly or disabled, or have children who are unable to do work on home repair for themselves. We provide services at no cost to the homeowners who live in the Dayton’s Bluff area. Priority will be given to households who are seniors, disabled or are single with children.

We provide services at no cost to the homeowner, but we require a 5% contribution depending on the amount of work done on the home.

Please visit our website at www.abrushwithkindness.org to download the application.

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

798 East 7th Street
Saint Paul, MN 55106
Phone: 651-772-2075
Fax: 651-774-3510
E-mail: karindupaul@comcast.net

Monthly Circulation: 8,000

Also available online at www.daytonsbluff.org This is a publication of Hopewell Communications, Inc. and is intended to provide a forum for the ideas and opinions of its readers and to be an instrument for developing community awareness and pride. No material contained in this paper may be reprinted without consent of the editor. Articles and letters to the editor are welcome and may be emailed to KarinDuPaul@comcast.net or faxed to 651-774-3510. The Dayton’s Bluff District Forum is delivered to every home and business in the Dayton’s Bluff area. Outside this area, subscriptions cost $12 and may be arranged by calling 651-772-2075.

Board of Directors: Greg Cosimini, Karin DuPaul and Steve Trimble

Editor & Layout: Greg Cosimini