Bethlehem Lutheran Church takes a “A Leap of Faith”

The doors of East St. Paul Lutheran School closed on Friday, June 5th, but Lutheran education on the East Side has an exciting new and unique opportunity. One of the three current associations, Bethlehem Lutheran Church voted on Sunday, May 17th to expand JOY Preschool & Child Care to JOY Academy. One church member termed the voters’ decision, “a leap of faith.” Over the last fifty years, Bethlehem has invested millions of dollars in private education. Pastor Raddatz, pastor at Bethlehem, explained, “We are not here to start something new, but to expand JOY Preschool & Child Care, which rightfully has earned a reputation on the East Side as a place for parents and children to excel and reach new heights.

We are proud to build upon the fine work of Carol Fink, the director and a teacher of the preschool, and bring this tradition and excellence to children in grades, K-3.”  

JOY Preschool & Child Care started in 1971 to provide Christian education to Bethlehem children as well as to children in Dayton’s Bluff and the entire East Side. Over the last four months, the preschool has increased its numbers dramatically. JOY Academy will encompass Preschool to 3rd grade the first year and expand to at least one grade each year thereafter. Pastor Raddatz hopes that parents of East St. Paul Lutheran School see JOY Academy as an option to continue their children’s Christian education in a living and safe environment that includes an intense curriculum and innovative technology. Further, members of Bethlehem want the entire community to see JOY Academy as a place where the education level is second to none and children of all backgrounds will be transformed into leaders for the next generation!

One may ask, “What will JOY Academy offer for my child?” 1) Small class sizes! JOY Academy is admitting only 28 students from K-3rd grade. 2) Staff second to none. Each teacher must be able to work with a classical curriculum, motivate students at an individual pace, be proficient in a testing system that is administered to students periodically, have the ability to integrate the most recent technology into the curriculum, be proficient in music (both directing and teaching), and love children as if they were their own. 3) Intense cur-riculum. The curriculum will assist in moving children along individually and children will be evaluated approximately every 6 weeks through major testing. 4) Innovative technology. JOY Academy will be installing Smart Boards, computers that make use of touch screens and flat screen televisions for learning activities in each classroom. 5) Loving and nurturing Christian environment. Teacher to student ratio will be small. The classrooms will be close to one another in proximity. Teachers and aides will provide valuable one-on-one help, as well as expertise in the area of art. 6) Strong partnership between students, teachers, parents, and school board. The parent group will be strong, organized, and active in relationships with the board and teaching staff. Parents will be asked to do little fundraising. The teachers will provide activities to bring parents together throughout the year for fellowship and listening sessions. Fun activities will be offered for the parents and children. JOY Academy began enrollment as of May 31st. The staff will be put in place after an intensive screening and interview process. The facility will be transformed soon into classrooms including the installation of all the technology. 

Many people cannot believe that an expanding school with a limited number of openings can charge so little.

“The Leap of Faith” continued on page 4

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The view from Dayton’s Bluff is timeless

These art students are taking a landscape painting class from Lowertown artist Joseph Paquet. He often brings them to Indian Mounds Park. This particular view of the river has been featured in paintings, photographs and postcards for over a century.
Dayton's Bluff Community Meeting

The next Community Meeting is Thursday, July 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 area neighborhood issues, 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 meetings at Mounds Park, 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 July the meetings are on the 15th and 17th.

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

Take a Hike

Dayton’s Bluff Take a Hike occurs on the first Saturday of most months. The next hike is on Saturday, July 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 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 forums about the past and have a nice time.

An evening in Swede Hollow Park

By Karin DuPaul

The first Wednesday in June was a beautiful evening in Swede Hollow. Instead of monthy Friends of Swede Hollow (FOSH) meeting members spent the evening removing Garlic Mustard plants from Swede Hollow Park. The Garlic Mustard is very invasive and has made its way into many parks like Swede Hollow. By the time the evening was over 10 large trash bags were full of Garlic Mustard.

The evening featured people walking and bicycling and the sounds of birds singing their evening songs throughout the Hollow. At the same time of the Garlic Mustard removal the sound of hundreds of motorcycles whose riders were attending the monthly 1st Wednesday Bike Night at Yarusso Brothers Restaurant could be heard in the Hollow. It was good to hear that some things are back to normal, because in February the restaurant was damaged by fire. But when the repairs are completed in a few months they plan to reopen their business. The Yarusso family is part of Swede Hollow history. Years ago the Yarusso family was one of the families living in the Hollow. In the 1930’s the Yarusso Italian Restaurant opened on Payne Avenue and it remains a rich part of local history.

FOSH members and others in the community continue to help improve Swede Hollow by removing invasive plants, planting native plants, and share its history, to name a few things. For more information about FOSH email SwedeHollow@gmail.com or call 651-776-0550. Check out our new web site at www.SwedeHollow.org.

Dayton’s Bluff business class

The next Dayton’s Bluff Neighborhhood Microentrepreneur Class is starting in September 2009. 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 2009 and class size is limited.

Please call Karin at 651-772-2075 or email Karin@DaytonsBluff.org for an application.

Swede Hollow history book underway

Local historians Karin and Angela DuPaul are currently working on a book that tells the story of Swede Hollow. The book is to be part of Arcadia Publishing’s Images of America series. The series provides the history of a neighborhood, town or institution through a collection of copyrighted photographs. Karin has been immersed in Swede Hollow history for the past few decades, starting with the effort to have the neglected ravine (and adjacent site formerly occupied by the Theodore Hamm mansion) designated as a city park. Karin’s impetus was her move to a home across the street from the future park. Karin and Angela (mother and daughter) have literally watched the park grow and develop out their front window. Along the way they have collected bits and pieces of Swede Hollow’s long and colorful history. One thing they noticed is that this history is scattered around various memories and archives. They were happy to be given the opportunity to bring it all together in one place.

To be thorough in this effort, they need those with stories and artifacts of Swede Hollow to come forward and share the knowledge.

One of the great things about Swede Hollow is its long-standing role as a cultural crossroads. The large cave that once opened near the creek illustrates this. It was used for aging beer, a largely German enterprise. Then it was used to pioneer new techniques in mushroom cultivation, an endeavor that came to us from France. Each group of people came to Swede Hollow with the same basic needs: shelter, food, and community. But each immigrant culture, born far away, also made the place uniquely their own.

Can you help us tell the story of this wonderful place and its people? Email SwedeHollow@gmail.com or call 651-776-0550.
Minority Business Development and Retention (MBDR)
The goal of Minority Business Development and Retention (MBDR) is to increase Minority Business Enterprises (MBEs), Women Business Enterprises (WBEs), Small Business Enterprises (SBEs) and people with disabilities participation in business and employment opportunities generated by the City of Saint Paul, Department of Planning and Economic Development (PED) and HRA housing and economic development activities.
With the support of Mayor Christopher B. Coleman, MBDR is included in the Invest Saint Paul (ISP) Expanding Economic Opportunities strategies. MBDR is one of four divisions located in the newly merged Department of Human Rights and Equal Economic Opportunity, 252 City Hall-Courthouse, 15 West Kellogg Blvd., Saint Paul, MN 55102. www.spaul.gov/ibpo, 651-266-9800 or 651-266-8963.

“We can create corridors of opportunity for economic development; we can improve educational opportunities for our children to prepare them to enter the workforce; but if we fail to create an inclusive environment in which all vendors and contractors have equal access to contract opportunities, we will fail short of building strong neighborhoods, safe streets, and sustainable jobs. This implementation plan will put us on the right track to a better city for our families and future entrepreneurs.”
Mayor Christopher B. Coleman

At the Mounds Theatre in July

Psychic Medium Alison James

Nationally recognized full-time professional Psychic Medium Alison James will be providing her wildly popular Psychic Gallery Experience at The Historic Mounds Theatre for just one night. It will be a spirited evening of messages from the otherside with discussion on Psychic Intuition and Mediumship and random readings for Gallery members!
Come prepared with your questions, names of those you wish to contact, and a few areas of interest.
Date and time: July 17, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.
Price: $30 in advance; $35 at the door. NOTE: No one under 16 years old will be admitted.
Alison will also be providing 30-minute private readings at The Shadows Faire & Psychic Arts event that will follow the next two days on July 18th and July 19th from noon to 6:00 p.m. at the Mounds Theatre. Readings will be given at a special price of $50.00, a $25.00 saving just for this event. For more information visit www.MoundsTheatre.org.

Explore and enrich your spiritual side. Increase your health and well-being. Reinvest in a vision of yourself! There will be readings, healing, astrology, crafts and so much more. There will be something for everyone and fun for the whole family.
Pay at the door for All-Day Admission. Tickets are $4 for Adults. Children under 18 get in free! Vendors may charge small fees for services at their own discretion. However, as everyone is coming together in this unique event with the spirit of growth and giving, the healing & psychic services offered at our faire are often at much lower rates than privately or at other venues and events due to the generous agreement of our vendors.
For more information, a vendor’s list and details on the exciting extras we have in store for you at this faire check out www.MoundsTheatre.org.

The Mounds Theatre is located at 1029 HUDSON ROAD, ST. PAUL, MN 55106. Phone: 651-772-2253.

Portage for Youth summer camps

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.
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 3:00 p.m. Dance will be in the morning from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. followed by lunch from 12:30 to 1:00 and Theatre from 1:00 to 3:00. All students must be picked up by 3:30 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 bus will be running this summer and makes stops at the Mounds Theatre.

Tickets can be purchased online or at the performance. All seating is general admission.

Have a Safe and Sane 4th of July Celebration

Not all fireworks are legal in Minnesota. If it flies or explodes, it probably isn’t.

The Portage for Youth to register at 651-772-8674 or visit the Mounds Theatre website at www.moundstheatre.org for more information and to download a registration form.

YAI presents Murder at the Prom

Young Artists Initiative (YAI) is excited to announce its upcoming production of the hilarious interactive murder mystery Murder at the Prom. Audience members get to relive their high school senior prom, but this time with one small problem - there’s a murder and they must solve it. This fully interactive production is set in the mid 1980s and audience members are encouraged to dig out in their best 80s outfits and dust off their dancing shoes to be a part of this unique theatrical experience. COSTUME CONTEST AT EVERY PERFORMANCE! The cast is comprised of high school age actors from all across the Twin Cities.

The play was written by Peter DePietro and is directed by Jefferson Fietek.
Performances are Thursday July 23, Friday July 24, Saturday July 25, Thursday July 30, Friday July 31 and Saturday August 1 at 7:30 p.m. at First Lutheran Church Banquet Hall, 463 Maria Avenue, Saint Paul, MN 55106-4428.
Ticket prices are $10 for adults, $5 for seniors/students & children. Tickets can be purchased online or at the performance. All seating is general admission.
For more information visit www.youngartistsmn.org.
Women of the Bluff History Walk

Those of you who are interested in the history of our neighborhood have a chance to participate in an event to hear about some sites in the area that help explain the contributions that women have made to our community.

It will be a history walking tour and will start at 6:30 p.m. and will feature several Lower Bluff sites. It should take around two hours, so wear comfortable shoes.

It will be held on Tuesday, July 14 and will start and end at the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council offices at 798 E. 7th St.

This is your chance to hear the story of the Schefel sisters, see where Maria Dayton lived, learn about revered Van Buren principal Laura Hand, find out about a prominent WWII WAC and the exploits of many other local women.

The tour has been researched and designed by local historian Steve Trimble who has tried to include a wide diversity of people and places from the area’s earliest days to the recent past, and ranging from professional women and factory workers to teachers and nurses.

He will be doing a one-time-only leading of the event. “I do this one since I dug up the information, but it seems most appropriate to have a women’s history tour led by a woman, and there will be several people coming along who I hope will take over in the near future,” Trimble said.

The Dayton’s Bluff Women’s History Walk is free but the size will be limited, so those wishing to come along should call community organizer Karin DePaul at 772-2075 and make a reservation.

The weather is unpredictable in the event of rain or if the temperature hits ninety degrees.

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Dayton’s Bluff District Forum

July 2009

By Steve Trimble

A cavern showed up at last month’s Arts and Culture Committee event held at the Dayton’s Bluff Council offices. No, not one of the actors or the Geico commercials. The visitor was Greg Brick, a University of Minnesota geologist who came to discuss his new work called Subterranean Twin Cities.

He explained how this was the first book to thoroughly document the “underworld” of St. Paul and Minneapolis. Brick began exploring caves in Minnesota around 1988 and learned the basics of caving from a local speleologist named Eron Carver. He is highly suggests anyone interested in entering the underworld should do.

As might be expected, a good bit of time was spent talking about local landmark Carver’s Cave which Brick has studied and, of course, has been inside. He accessed a lot of information about it from books and articles at the Minnesota Historical Society and St. Paul Park Department files and it is the focus of one of his chapters.

This historic cavern once had a roof with an 18-foot high dome at the entrance, but because of natural erosion and perhaps railroad construction it has collapsed back to a nine-foot ceiling and the site is now shorter than in the past. Most of it is underwater and the water is a very chilly forty seven degrees.

Brick also told the gathering of more than twenty people not to naively rely on the stories of journalists. They sometimes make mistakes, including the reports that “blind crayfish” were found in Carver’s Cave in 1913. This was surely a mistake—they were probably Brick’s error.

Brick spent a full summer looking at maps and going through various city engineers’ records at the St. Paul public works department. There he found the first full map of Fountain Cave that no one knew was there. A few years ago, after consulting records, he took a several mile walk through the culvert that contains the old Trout Brook and emerged at the Mississippi River, something you can’t do anymore.

His presentation also focused on Fountain Cave, named for a stream that runs through it. At one time it was visited far more often than Carver’s. It was for a time the goriggy of Pig’s Eye Pendant. Because of its size it was the scene of many a beer party until recent times. Brick showed slides of some of the graffiti art that adorns its walls and explained how the cavern disappeared when Shepard Road was upgraded and it was collapsed.

Subterranean Twin Cities is filled with a great deal of interesting information. It talks about Chute’s Cave in Minneapolis that was a “show cave.” This meant that people paid to go inside and be given tours and even rides through a water chute of sorts. Brick’s work contains a lot of geological information explaining the geology of Minnesota caves. There is the story of the fifty or so mushrooms caves on the West Side.

Brick found out a lot of things he had never been aware of in his cave research. One of them was that in the early years a lot of local caves were used to make “lager beer.” The lagering process included long aging of the beverage by storing it in cold places. He found out the process died out around 1900 because with improvements in artificial refrigeration it was “no big deal anymore to turn the temperature.”

Brick repeatedly stresses that he did not want this book to be an enticement for amateurs to go into caves, caverns, conduits and the like because it can be dangerous. He also worries about the increase in caving groups, where local experts will teach them safe exploring techniques.

Brick himself has sometimes experienced up close and personalarrison. “I’ve had some scary experiences in caves,” he said, being followed by odd people and starting to feel woozy from bad air in one situation, probably because of carbon dioxide or methane.

If you missed the event and it sounds interesting, you may be able to catch Greg Brick at one of the many discussions and book signings that will likely happen this summer. Of course, you could buy a copy of Subterranean Twin Cities or check one out from the local library. And be sure to keep checking the Dayton’s Bluff District Forum or the Community Council web site for forthcoming events sponsored by the Arts and Culture Committee.

Caveman Greg Brick surfaces at Arts and Culture Committee event

Caveman Greg Brick (left) consults with historian Steve Trimble after Brick’s talk about his new book, Subterranean Twin Cities.

By Greg Cosimini

A caveman showed up at last month’s Arts and Culture Committee event held at the Dayton’s Bluff Council offices. No, not one of the actors or the Geico commercials. The visitor was Greg Brick, a University of Minnesota geologist who came to discuss his new work called Subterranean Twin Cities.

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Dari-ette Drive-In Celebrates 58th Anniversary

By Angela DuPaul

On Friday June 5, a 58th anniversary celebration was held at a unique East Side institution. People have been enjoying the Dari-ette Drive-In restaurant on East Minnehaha Avenue since 1951. Carhops bringing food and drinks to your car was once a common American phenomenon. Though drive-ins remains a fixture of our collective history and imagination, most are now gone. The Dari-Ette is a survivor.

The Dari-ette offers an assortment of dairy treats: flurries, cones, malts, floats, slush, and several ice cream novelties. Also available are a variety of food items including pasta, burgers, salads, appetizers, and chicken. The Dari-ette is nationally famous after being featured on the Food Network. We are fortunate to have this living example of American history on the East Side. In contrast to the new drive-ins popping up trying to recreate history on the East Side. In contrast to the new drive-ins popping up trying to recreate

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A Brush with Kindness Do you or a neighbor need A Brush with Kindness?

A Brush with Kindness is a program that helps preserve homeownership by partnering with homeowners struggling to restore and maintain a safe and decent place to live. When basic expenses exceed income month after month, home maintenance is the usual casualty. Years of deferred maintenance can cause a downward spiral of home deterioration and unsafe living conditions.

* Are you living in challenging circumstances, which have created issues that are beyond what you can handle on your own?
* Are you struggling to keep your home in livable condition?
* Have you had to choose between paying for food, medication, taxes, and basic utilities?
* Are you facing city code violations or homeowner insurance cancellation due to the condition of your home?

Once a homeowner’s eligibility is determined and their application is accepted, Twin Cities Habitat’s A Brush with Kindness program provides caring volunteer groups who come alongside and assist homeowners in completing minor repairs, painting, and other home maintenance.

Apply for A Brush With Kindness Homeowner eligibility:

* Must complete Homeowner Application
* Family income must be under 50% of the Twin Cities’ Area Median Income (AMI)
* Home must be owner-occupied
* Scope of work must match program resources
* All able-bodied homeowners and residents of the home are required to work alongside volunteers
* Homeowners are expected to be cooperative partners with staff and volunteers
* Homeowners are asked for financial pledge to the A Brush with Kindness program on larger projects, payable when they sell or refinance their home.

For more information call 612-788-8169.

By Steve Trimboli

The late journalist Don Roxmeyer once called it “a shrine unto itself.” This is the way he referred to one of the oldest and most successful family-owned restaurants in the city. The story he wrote is now framed on the wall of Obb’s Sports Bar & Grill located at 1347 Burns. Whether you’ve been there before or not, you should consider showing up for their anniversary event.

Obb’s will be having a big celebration on Sunday July 19th, starting at noon. There will be an outdoor tent where a barbecue grill will be set up. There will be complimentary food from one o’clock until four with specials on food and drink after that. Prize drawings will be held throughout the day. Last year at a similar event there was an outdoor disc jockey and current owner Jim Johnsen is looking into getting a permit for live music this time.

Here’s some of the story of this local landmark. In 1919 Grandfather Albert “Obb” Johnsen started things out. One day he asked his wife “would you rather run a grocery store or farm on the top of that nearby hill.” She was not at all interested in farming, and said, “So let’s open a little grocery store.” They bought an existing building then on the outskirts of St. Paul.

It turned out to be a good location. There was a lot of traffic going into and out of the city because it was located at several roads met-known for many years as “Five Corners.” It was also where the streetcar through Indian Mounds Park turned around.

Because many farmers went by they started out as a food and feed store. It was the last “watering hole” on the road that went to Hastings. In addition to running the establishment, the family raised eight children in the second floor living quarters.

The building was remodeled and expanded in the early 1930’s and when Prohibition ended in 1933, the Johnsons decided to go into the liquor business. They were one of the first taverns in St. Paul to be licensed that year.

Albert’s sons, Bob and Glenn Johnsen, took over from their father and ran things until they decided to retire in 1982. Third generation Jim Johnsen had wanted to take over at that time but he was a little too young, so the business was sold to outsiders. The bar left the hands of the family and was known as the “Kick Off” for almost twenty years.

When the manager of the Kick Off unexpectedly died, Jim, who had been working for many years in the hospitality industry, now had plenty of experience and was offered the chance to buy the building. He did so eight years ago. “It was all a question of timing,” he said, “and it has turned out to be the deal of a lifetime.”

That’s what the eighth annual July celebration is all about—the business returning to the Johnsen family fold and changing its name back to Obb’s. “Now both my boys work down here with me, Jared and Mikey, and I have a stepdaughter Kasey who also waitresses and bartends for me,” Jim stated. “So I’ve got four generations in the business. I don’t know if there will be a fifth, but you never know.”

No article about Obb’s would be complete without telling a little of the story of Rosie Johnsen, Albert’s daughter-in-law. Although she originally wanted to be a stay-at-home mom after her first child was born, she received a distraught call from her sister–in–law who came alongside and assist in helping with a huge crowd.

“I came down and never got out of here,” she once recollected. “How I ever found time to have five more children, I don’t know.” She was thinking about retiring when she was in her seventies, but “little did I know my son was going to get the business back, so here I am.” Rosie has now has been working there for over fifty years and will soon be celebrating her eighty-eighth birthday.

Rosie became a local media star this winter when she was featured in a “Finding Minnesota” segment on WCCO TV.

There is good reason to celebrate on July 19th. From its start as a grocery and feed store ninety years ago, Obb’s Bar & Sports Grill remains one of the oldest and most popular spots on the East Side.

Things have changed some over the years, with two or more major remodelings, the addition of big television sets and a popular patio, but the Johnsen family has provided the sense of continuity.

So try to drop by the event, enjoy some food and beverages, share a few memories with friends and be sure to say hello to local legend Rosie.

Walking Garden Tour on July 13th

The Beech/Margaret 654 Block Club is having a Garden Tour on Tuesday, July 13, 2009 starting at 9:00am at 5th Street and 6:30 pm. The tour is a walking tour and will visit it a number of gardens, some with statues, creative art and all kinds of plantings. The tour is a great way to see some great gardens and get some new ideas for your garden. For more information email Karin@DaytonsBluff.org or call 651-772-2075.
Dayton's Bluff youth attends Language Village

Jonas Buck is taking part in the concordia Language Villages program by attending El Lago Del Bosque, the Spanish Language Village located in Callaway, Minn. Jonas is the son of Amy and Eric Buck who live in the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood of St. Paul, Minnesota. By attending a Concordia Language Villages program, villagers experience a simulation of life in another country. They are issued passports, exchange currency and adopt new names. During one-week, two-week and four-week sessions, they immerse in the language and culture of another country through large and small learning groups, holiday celebrations, re-enactments of historic events, songs, dances, crafts, games, and everyday conversations. Authentic foods also enhance the villagers’ experience. No previous language experience is necessary since the program is structured for both beginning and advanced speakers.

Dedicated to peace through understanding, Concordia Language Villages began in 1961 with a two-week language immersion program in German attended by 75 young people. Today, Concordia Language Villages, a program of Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn., offers programs year-round to all ages, from infants to seniors. Sites are located throughout Minnesota and near Savannah, Ga.; abroad options for teens and adults are also available. Programs in 15 languages annually attract nearly 11,000 participants from all 50 states and many countries.

For more information, contact Concordia Language Villages at 1-800-222-4750 or www.concordialanguages.org.

Steve Cairl's Mounds Park Lounge

By June Bennett

March 1, 1995 was a good day for Steve Cairl. That was when he purchased the Mounds Park Lounge where he has been the proprietor for the last fourteen years. Steve’s mornings start at 8:00 a.m. with the usual crowd waiting for the doors to open. Recently I had the opportunity to see what starts his day. I drank coffee and enjoyed the conversation and the "helter-skelter" from the regulars. One of the best is Doug Sabby who has been coming to the lounge for 25 years so he knows the clientele as well as Steve and the previous owner. Doug says that Mounds Park Lounge is one of the best spots on the East Side and Steve is one of the best barkeeps.

Besides his bar, Steve loves his motorcycle and has no problem of state to state on it. Steve, who has been married for 35 years, has one son who is a poker dealer at Treasure Island Casino.

Steve started coming to the Mounds Park Lounge in 1974 for hamburgers when he was employed at the Parkway Manor Nursing Home. He overheard the owner say he wanted to sell it, so Steve made an offer that was accepted. Then in 1995, the owner asked if he was still interested in purchasing the bar. That time his offer was accepted.

In the years he has been there, he has only had one incident - in 1998 the Mounds Park Lounge was robbed. However, thanks to Steve’s foresight in installing security cameras, the culprits were caught and punished.

Mounds Park Lounge has live rock-and-roll bands every Friday and Saturday night and Karaoke on Tuesday nights. Steve has specials every day like the $1.00 shrimp platter and karaoke specials. So stop in for good coffee, conversation and all the other things that the Mounds Park Lounge at 1067 Hudson Road offers.

Paul’s Lounge and Mound Liquors

By June Bennett

Paul’s Lounge started on East Third Street, then moved to its present site at 1045 Hudson Road. Tom Kokaisel, the current owner, purchased Paul’s in February 2000 after deciding to engage in something different than gemology. Tom has three children, two girls and one son, along with four grandchildren.

Bob Noren, who has been a friend of Tom’s since the 5th grade has been a patron of the bar since 1972. He has kept his friendship with Tom to this day. He states that Tom is a decent and straight-forward man and loves the neighborhood.

Recently Tom also opened the Mound Liquors store at 1047 Hudson Road. If you decide to drop in for a casual drink, don’t forget to cut out the advertisement in this paper to get a dollar off of your drink and register for the monthly drawing. Paul’s Lounge also features Karaoke and weekday happy hours. Don’t forget to visit Mound Liquors before the holidays because there will be a drawing for a special prize.

National Night Out is August 4th

Celebrate National Night Out on August 4, 2009 with your neighbors and friends. Some neighborhood groups and block clubs are planning to have a neighborhood barbecue, a potluck, an ice cream social, a band playing music, a volleyball game and many other activities that a group of neighbors can do together.

National Night Out is designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness, generate support for and participation in local anti-crime programs, strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships, and send a message to criminals, letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back. Join 30 million other people in more than 9,000 communities nationwide in a variety of events and activities. Let’s make this year even bigger!

Here is a list of some of the Dayton’s Bluff National Night Out events, which offers more information on these events in the August issue of the Forum:
- Mounds Park near Mounds Blvd and Earl
- Reaney Avenue between Forest and Cypress
- 5th Street East between Mounds Blvd and Maria
- Margaret Street between Johnson Parkway and Atlantic
- Fremont Avenue between Johnson Parkway and Atlantic
- Maria and Euclid
- Bethlehem Lutheran Church at Margaret and Forest
- Mounds Park United Methodist Church at Earl and Euclid
- Margaret Recreation Center 1109 Margaret
- Swede Hollow Park at Greenbrier and Margaret
- Saint Paul Federal Credit Union 1330 Conway
- Parkway Gardens at Hudson Road and Johnson Parkway
- Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church at Margaret and Johnson Parkway
- Bates and 4th Street Block Club
- If you have a Dayton’s Bluff event that you would like listed in the Forum or need more information email Karin@DaytonsBluff.org or call Karin 651-772-2075.

Congratulations to the Dayton’s Bluff Vacant Homes Committee!!

By Chelsea Starr

The Saint Paul Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) and the Saint Paul Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) announced nine honorees for this year’s 19th Annual Heritage Preservation Awards Program. The preservation awards were given out at an awards ceremony on May 19 and recognize projects, individuals and organizations that enhance and celebrate Saint Paul’s history and promote preservation values and compatible design for a more livable city.

This year Dayton’s Bluff’s own Vacant Homes Committee and the Saint Paul Area Association of Realtors won The Community Organization Award. The award was given in recognition of “Their ongoing commitment to organizing the Dayton’s Bluff Vacant Home Tour and educating purchasers on the value of historic homes”.

The Dayton’s Bluff Vacant Homes Committee consists of Karin DuPaul, Zong Yang, Aimee LaLone, Amy Handford, Chelsea Starr, Donna Stockman, Gary Caldwell, Bob Parker, Jacob Dorer, Jean Comstock, Jen King, Jim Erchul, Joyce Danner, Kathy Misener, Matt Mazance, Nick Duncan, Paul Morf and Jason Misener.

The commitment of these individuals to the preservation and growth of the Dayton’s Bluff Community goes without saying, although the award was greatly appreciated. It can be seen at the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council Office on East 7th Street (where there are sure to be many others to accompany it in the coming years) in this committed community, where excellence and hard work go hand in hand and dedication to the future is abundant.

Thank you to everyone who offered up their service until our project was at the eye level of the Preservation Commission, where it will surely stay. Email Karin@DaytonsBluff.org or call Karin 651-772-2075 for more information about the Dayton’s Bluff Vacant Building Committee.

Mound Liquors

1045 Hudson Rd 651-774-1099
1047 Hudson Rd 651-774-WEST
1054 Hudson Rd 651-777-7410

Mounds Park Lounge

4th Street 651-772-2100

Support your neighborhood newspaper. Advertise in the Dayton’s Bluff District Forum Call 651-772-2075
By Chelsea Starr

I’m walking home tonight and I see the cover of the newspaper. The headline reads “Booted!” it man accidentally boarded up in the house he’d lived in all his life is emblematic of the foreclosure mess. Yeah, I’d say so. So, I fork over the 50 cents. (I don’t usually buy the Star Trib — for the record, I’m a Pioneer Press girl all the way kids). 50 cents is a little out of my budget right now, but I decide this guy’s story is worth it. I wish it were going right to him because he’s the only reason I’m purchasing this Trib and he clearly needs it more than I do (although I think they’d beg to differ). Ted Poetch was eating lunch when he found out he had an hour to get out of the home he’d lived in for 53 years. He went around, assisted by his cane, gathering a few items and putting his cat into a carrier. When he went to leave his home, he had been boarded up inside. His home is now owned (like so many others) by Fannie Mae, which was taken over by the federal government in a multi billion-dollar bail out, I’m sure you all recall. Long story short, the home was at one point labeled unsafe to live in, because, if you haven’t heard recently, your house can be labeled unsafe for many new alarming reasons. So if you don’t own one of those new, project-like townhomes in the suburbs, you may just be at risk yourself.

I know recently in Dayton’s Bluff, there was a home that was condemned because the electricity hadn’t been paid in a while and was shut off. Granted, this is not ideal. However that a woman and her five children lived there and were put on the street was even less ideal. At this point you could label me an angry citizen. Label whatever you like, I’m also motivated by it, and moved to create change which is why I belong to the Twin Cities Alliance, or I watch my neighbor and her children cry as they are packed up to go somewhere they have yet to find because they can’t pay their light bill.

This story is just one of millions of stories right now in the U.S. I’m confronted everyday about the people around me. I’m concerned for them and their future because in essence, it’s mine as well, and we’re all in this together. Dayton’s Bluff is one of the biggest victims in the metro area of what is going on right now with the housing crisis because it is a low income community (let’s start by coming to grips with that first, eh?). It is a community which supports many families that are currently facing economic hardship and many of them wonder where they’ll get their next meal, before they move on to whether or not they’ll be able to pay their rent or mortgage. What choice would any of us make when faced with feeding our children or paying our bills? Often parents skip dinners and other basic necessities to ensure that their kids have both — and I commend all of them and myself, but because I’m not writing about “other people” here. In retrospect, I try and focus on how this can all be solved because we have to look ahead as a community, as a state and as a country.

If Fannie Mae now owns Mr. Poetch’s home, shouldn’t he get to live in it? He’s a citizen and his government can bail out a company so that it can function and take his home from him. Let’s ponder on that. Let’s ponder on our involvement with what we create this mess, even if it was only by not walking out of our jobs and out of the unemployment line and out of the soup kitchen line, to walk to the White House screaming, “No!” Even if that is our only fault, it is still ours. What is going on here in Dayton’s Bluff and in so many other communities like it is truly wrong and we are as responsible for stopping it as we are for starting it.

We can’t pay our bills because we’re losing our jobs, mostly because they’re going overseas. I’d like to be upset with the companies that have left us empty handed… or was it that long ago. In the last ten years, how often have you insisted on buying things made in the US? How often have you invested in your local community by shopping at local stores and eating at locally owned restaurants? How often have you done volunteer work? It’s us. We can blame a million other factors and take our jobs, mostly because they’re going overseas. I’d like to be upset with the companies that have left us empty handed… or was it that long ago. In the last ten years, how often have you insisted on buying things made in the US? How often have you invested in your local community by shopping at local stores and eating at locally owned restaurants? How often have you done volunteer work? It’s us.

By Chelsea Starr

We need to do something and we need to start at the community level. We need to do something and we need to start at the community level. We can’t pay our bills because we’re losing our jobs, mostly because they’re going overseas. I’d like to be upset with the companies that have left us empty handed… or was it that long ago. In the last ten years, how often have you insisted on buying things made in the US? How often have you invested in your local community by shopping at local stores and eating at locally owned restaurants? How often have you done volunteer work? It’s us.

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making “adequate yearly progress.” On June 9, Charlie Kyte, Executive Director of the MN Association of School Administrators, described NCLB as “punitive.” Punishment (different from discipline) hardly ever sends a message of unconditional value. It doesn’t support children in becoming their best. It similarly fails to support teachers. This fact alone calls the value of NCLB into serious doubt.

Secondly, the effect of NCLB has been to disempower parents and has probably been most harmful to parents who most need to be empowered. 1975 is the year I began as a parent educator at Dayton’s Bluff ECFE. It is, coincidentally, the year when Burton Poetsch who asserted that he could reliably predict a child’s school success in elementary school from the quality of the interaction between mother and child up to age three, published The First Three Years of Life. 1975 is also the year that Alan Sroufe and Byron Egeland of the University of Minnesota began their monumental Mother-Child (now Parent-Child) study documenting that the quality of a child’s attachment to a parent was predictive of many later adaptive outcomes. Mari Erickson described some of these outcomes for 10-11 year olds: children who were securely attached at age 18 months “are more socially competent, higher achievers, better workers, more self-confident, and have a high sense of purpose and goal.”

It is in these important first years of life that much of the stubborn achievement gap demonstrated by students in the elementary and high school years has its roots. Programs which purport to address the gap by having universal kindergarten for four or even three year olds cannot compensate for lasting effects of inadequate parenting in the first years of life. Unless we propose to start taking children away from their parents at birth, we as a society, have to figure out how to support all parents in parenting more skillfully.

The fact is that schools cannot help children achieve their fullest potential without the participation of their parents. I have known that to be the case even in years when parents were supported in parenting well and that every parent can become more skilled. In more than 40 years of working with parents as a high school teacher, daycare provider, and parent educator, I have seen many different degrees of skill in parenting. It is never too late to help parents who didn’t want to help his or her child be successful in school and in life.

But when, in an attempt to raise test scores, we try to “fix” what we think parents have failed to do, we too often send an implied message that says to them, “You can’t do this job. You have failed already. We’ll do it for you.” Parents who are empowered probably don’t hear this message. They see a four or three year old kindergartner as an additional opportunity for their children which can enhance what they, the parents, are already providing for their kids. But parents who have not been very school successful themselves, who do not know that they have an essential role in helping their children develop in every way including being ready for school, “hear” the message loud and clear. And they believe it.

In addition to undermining parents, NCLB is based on the idea that what some of us wish children were like on reality. Young children are egocentric, magical, literal, concrete and unrealistic thinkers who say what they think actully. They have comparatively short attention spans. No matter how much we wish we could simply pour information in the right kind (in the right amounts) and produce little (or big) test takers who would always have the right answers, human development doesn’t work that way.

Part 2 of this article will appear in the August Dayton’s Bluff District Forum.

Contd from page 7

“Do Something” another country. It’s my neighbor’s job, it may be yours sometime soon, and it may be yours as well, if you’re lucky it’s not already. This act that has been utilized so much recently to “protect” the US from terrorists and generally make our lives less private and more difficult - needs to put on its American big boy shoes and get to work protecting our communities’ future today.

I believe that we have the time to turn this around, but not unlimited time. We have the means to turn this around, but not unlimited means. We must act as a team because we are one. In this dire hour we must communicate with our neighbors, whether they rent or own, whether we like their children or not, whether we embrace the same religion, or come from the same place. We must act now and we must act together, or we are all alone in this, just like Mr. Poetsch was. We must insist today that we be provided the means to be employed, to keep our homes and to educate our children.

We must at the same time commit to playing an active role in this process, to making personal sacrifices for the greater good - we’ve all heard so much about. We must insist that our government come home now, perhaps “down to earth” is a better way of stating it, and work with us to create the community we are all suffer- ing with as it becomes more empty and less inviting to business and home buy- ers.


Dayton’s Bluff District Forum

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

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