Thank you to all who worked so hard this year

Clockwise from upper left: Community Design Center workers and sidewalk flower pots; Metro State volunteers working in Skidmore Park; buckthorn removal by FOSH volunteers in Swede Hollow; and Metro State volunteers planting flowers in Swede Hollow Park.

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November Events

Sunday November 1
Daylight Saving Time Ends

Tuesday November 3
Election Day

Thursday November 5
Community Meeting

Saturday November 7
Take A Hike

Wednesday November 11
Veterans Day

November 18 & 20
Eastern District Police Meetings

Thursday November 26
Thanksgiving Day

Seniors looking for help find it here

By Executive Director Maryann Chowen

September marked the second university of the Dayton’s Bluff Seniors Living at Home /Block nurse program (LAH/BNP), housed in the First Lutheran School at 96 St. and Maria Avenue.

Our mission is to keep aging Dayton’s Bluff residents living independently and remaining in their own homes as long as possible. Some of the ways the program helps elders is through preventing falls, and supporting the family and care providers.

Referrals come from family members, clinics, clients, and community service providers such as Senior Linkage and Merrick Services. The next step is the outreach call or home visit to determine the individual and family needs and complete a request of service.

Last year with two part time staff and a working team of twenty volunteers, the program was able to support 42 Dayton’s Bluff elders to remain safe in their homes.

With the partnership of the University of Minnesota and Parkways Gardens management, Dayton’s Bluff Seniors is running a wellness clinic every Wednesday from 1 - 3 p.m. serving a diverse population of approximately twenty-five people. The students, under the supervision of Maryann Chowen PHN, teach chronic disease management, and link formal and informal health care services.

Another program that was developed was the neighborhood watch, a volunteer program where the residents hang a sign on their door each morning and evening. If the sign is not changed, then a volunteer will check on the individual.

Next year we are planning to increase our volunteer driver base so that we can reach out to more senior residents in Dayton’s Bluff. We need volunteer and donor support from the Eastside community. If you are interested in assisting us, or know of a senior who needs help, please call Maryann Chowen at 651-776-7210 ext 303, or visit www.daytonsbuffseniors.org.

Looking for Neighborhood Honor Roll Candidates

The Dayton’s Bluff District 4 Community Council is looking for three people in Dayton’s Bluff to add to the honor roll this year. If you know of someone who has done an outstanding job of volunteer work in Dayton’s Bluff, call Karin at 772-2075 or email Karin@DaytonsBluff.org for more information.

The Saint Paul Neighborhood Honor Roll started in the 1980s and is a listing of Saint Paul citizens who have done outstanding service in their neighborhoods over a long period of time. Each year all 17 District Councils can add three names to the honor roll. Past honor roll inductees volunteered for years at a church or a school, served on their community council board of directors, were block club leaders, led projects like buckthorn removal or spearheaded a community event.

Last year the Dayton’s Bluff District 4 Community Council added Diane May, Matt Mazanec, and Beth Hyser for their years of service in the Dayton’s Bluff neighborhood.

Dayton’s Bluff District 4 Community Council added Diane May, Matt Mazanec, and Beth Hyser for their years of service in the Dayton’s Bluff neighborhood.

The Saint Paul Neighborhood Honor Roll is located in the hallway on the third floor of Saint Paul City Hall. The quality and amount of volunteer time that make our communities better is amazing in Saint Paul.

Daylight Saving Time ends on November 1st. Remember to set your clocks back one hour.

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

ECRWSS
Postal Customer
**Dayton’s Bluff Community Meeting**

The next Community Meeting is **Thursday, November 5th** 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 St. and Margaret. The Dayton’s Bluff Community Council holds its Community Meeting on the 1st Thursday of most months. The purpose of the meeting is to work with block clubs and neighborhood residents on problem properties, criminal and nuisance businesses, neighborhood concerns, and other 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 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 first Friday of each month at 9:30 a.m. In November the meetings are on the 16th and 4th.

The meetings are intended as a time to listen to 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, November 7th. Meet at 8:45 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, if needed.

Join us and explore some of our native flora and fauna and any other 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.

**Get rid of a junk car**

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 a paperwork for a tax deduction, and Roy will also make a small donation to the Community Council for each car he tows.

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

**Chilly Swede Hollow Work Day**

Friends of Swede Hollow volunteers fortify themselves before heading out to remove Buckthorn from Swede Hollow Park on a cold and snowy October morning.

The ground was white with snow as volunteers started dragging Buckthorn out of the woods in Swede Hollow on the October 10th Work Day. Friends of Swede Hollow (FOSH) volunteers helped remove a huge amount of Buckthorn from Swede Hollow.

The day started with coffee and rolls at Water and Oil Gallery, and then everyone worked in the park until about noon.

The pizza and salad lunch was going to be in the parking lot, but due to the cold weather lunch was served at Water and Oil Gallery instead. Everyone had a very enjoyable time looking at the art on the walls, chatting, and eating lunch.

A special thank you to Varruo’s Restaurant for the salad and to Pepsi for the pop and water for the volunteers.

Because of the cold weather the number of people that showed up was less than expected. Even with the lesser amount of volunteers much work was completed. The people who worked on this project were Mike Grealish, Linda Armesen, Jim & Sue Davidson, Brad Griffiths, Kristin Bauer, Mary Wise, Jamie McCarthy, and Angela and Karin DuPaul. For more information about FOSH email SwedeHollow@gmail.com or call Karin at 651-772-2075.

**Funding pizza party**

By Tabitha Benci DeRango

Dayton’s Bluff held its first fundraiser through Davanni’s restaurant on September 26th. When I received the e-mail about the fundraiser my mind started to wander how I could help. After some more mumbling, get the neighborhood folks to remember the date and to participate in this worthy cause. AHA! I immediately started making phone calls to anyone I knew who might be interested in a pizza party. Emails came next and then a stroll around the neighborhood to see who was out and about. How about joining in a pizza party at my house on September 26th?

By Tuesday the calls were pouring in for pizza orders. I called Davanni’s with a warning that I would be placing a large order for the Dayton’s Bluff fundraiser and asked them when they would like me to call in the orders. Wednesday evening was the time and they were so very efficient with all the different orders from pizza to hoagies. Wednesday night at 5:40 I showed up at Davanni’s with my big truck, loaded up a whole lot of food and then delivered it to my house where the party was already hopping. 40 people, kids and adults, took part in this wonderful night of fun, picnics, chatting and pizza. What a wonderful way to build community.

Who will you invite to the next Davanni’s night?

**They saw the glow**

All of a sudden the sky cleared and the sun began to shine as the people gathered near Swede Hollow Heritage Park in Swede Hollow Park September 25th. The glow was bright as stories of working at Hamm’s Brewery and living in Swede Hollow were told. Some of the people only see each other each year at the “Watch the Glow” event. Several former Swede Hollow residents took others on memory walks telling stories and point- ing out locations from the old days.

“Watch the Glow of the Setting Sun on the Red Brick Brewery” is an annual event that started in 1995. It is an opportunity for everyone to join friends of Swede Hollow to see the beautiful red/orange glow of the brick as the setting sun shines on the buildings. The celebration picnic followed the sun setting.

The evening was filled with great Hamm’s Brewery and Swede Hollow stories, and music courtesy of Joe Sanchelli.

The event was a great success with lots of great conversations and good food thanks to Morelli’s, Calver’s on Old Hudson Road, Rainbow on Arcade, Cub on Clarence, Pepsi and Mike Grealish. Friends of Swede Hollow is already planning next year’s “Watch the Glow” on Friday, September 24th, 2010.

For more information about FOSH visit www.swedehollow.org.

**Upcoming Bethlehem Lutheran events**

The Rev. James Fandrey will be the guest preacher for the first ever Joint Metro Reformation Service at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 655 Forest St. The Rev. James Fandrey is the executive director at The Lutheran Heritage Foundation in Macomb, Michigan. He is also a native of St. Paul. The service will be held on Sunday November 1st at 4:00 p.m. at the church.

Bethlehem Lutheran will hold its second annual Holiday Boutique on Saturday, November 21st, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. If you would like to participate in the event by having a table, call the church office at 651.776.4737 as soon as possible.
Welcome to the City of St. Paul, “Business and Community Development” an initiative of the Minority Business Development and Retention, Division of Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Programs (HREEO) and the Department of Planning and Economic Development (PED)

Bald Eagle-Eaglets, Sawdles Construction and Target Field among those honored Construction Partnering Program’s (CPP) Award Recipient.

The fifth annual Construction Partnering Program Award Recognition recognizes construction companies and projects for their successful participation in the Construction Partnering Program (CPP), and the effort to include minority and women in the projects. This year’s reception was held at Regions Hospital (2008 large projects) over 80 attended included many major construction contractors and participants in the CPP.

Over the past decade, the CPP has matched general contractors with emerging women- and minority-owned firms with the intent of mentoring and building the capability of both the owners and the businesses. The City of St. Paul’s Minority Business Development and Retention Division, provides partial funding to support the program which is managed and facilitated by MEDA and the Association of Women Contractors.

This year’s CPP award winners include:

CPP PARTNERING OF THE YEAR - Bald Eagle-Eaglets and Sawdles Construction

In the last 4 years, Bald Eagle’s sales doubled from $3.3 million to $6.5 million in 2008 and employs 45.

LARGE PROJECT OF THE YEAR - Target Field

The general contractor is Mortensen, and as of mid-September, Mortensen reported aggregate Small/Woman/minority Enterprise (S/W/M/BE) participation of 32% against a goal of 30%. Of the 307 million procured, $99 million have been spent with 121 different S/W/M/BE firms with 90% of these firms locally owned.

CPP partnership was used in conjunction with this year’s #1 construction project at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport. Small Project of the Year - Family Practice

On the United Family Practice project, 17.1% went to women owned businesses, and 15.5% went to minority owned businesses for a total of 32.6% or about $1.9 million of a total available dollars of about $5 million.

CPP PARTNERING OF THE YEAR - Bald Eagle-Eaglets and Sawdles Construction. In the last 4 years, Bald Eagle’s sales doubled from $3.3 million to $6.5 million in 2008 and employs 45.

GENERAL CONTRACTOR OF THE YEAR - Shaw-Lundquist Associates

This is awarded to a General Contractor that has shown a commitment to the CPP program. One of its projects, the Winnipeg Apartment, also used a CPP partner-Grand Building Supply/Twin Cities Hardware to provide all the doors and windows. This project was developed by Tulip Associates, located in Saint Paul, is one of the largest minority-owned construction businesses in the nation.

SHINING STAR OF EXCELLENCE - UNIVERSITY of MINNESOTA

A special award was given this year to a participant that demonstrated an unwavering support of the CPP and the inclusion of minority and women owned businesses in its projects.

Upcoming Events:

• MAICC Dinner & Silent Auction - Nov 5 http://maicc.org
• MEDA Gala - Nov. 14 http://medagala.com
• AWC Holiday Celebration Event - Nov. 19 http://awcmn.org
• AGC Holiday Event - Dec. 1 http://www.agcmmn.org
• NAMC-UM Annual Dinner & Gala - Dec. 4 http://www.namc-um.org

Comming up at the Mounds Theatre

“The Nerd” pays a visit in November

Starting Gate Productions eighth season begins with “The Nerd” written by Larry Shue. William Gilbert has it all - a promising career, devoted friends, even maybe a serious girlfriend. Then Rick Steadman, the ultimate social misfit, comes to visit and puts everything in peril. “The Nerd” is a madcap farce by the author of “You Can’t take it with you.”

“The Foreigner.”

This classic 1948 comedy about the clash of cultures and scenarios, and more. The play is directed by Richard Jackson and features the talents of Jane Froiland, Daniel Ian Joeck, Corby Kelly, Gail Ottmar and Luke Weber.

When: November 6-29, 2009; Friday-Saturday at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday matinees at 2:00 p.m. “Pay what you can” night is Monday, November 16, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. All performances are here, including the family’s temperamental exploding furniture at Farkas, the school bully; the boys’ experience with a wet tongue on a cold flagpole; the Little Orphan Annie decoder pin; Ralphie’s father winning a lamp; the Christmas Ralliose pleads his case before his mother, his teacher and even Santa Claus himself, with the same and always consistent response: “You’ll Shoot Your Eye Out, Kid.”

All the elements from the beloved motion picture are here, including the family’s temperamental exploding furniture at Farkas, the school bully; the boys’ experience with a wet tongue on a cold flagpole; the Little Orphan Annie decoder pin; Ralphie’s father winning a lamp shaped like a woman’s leg in a net stocking as a major award, Ralphie’s fantasy scenarios, and more.

“A Christmas Story” has become a theatrical holiday perennial for hundreds of Mounds Theatre goers.

When: December 4, 5, 11, 12, 18, 19 - 7:00 p.m. Matinee Shows - December 6, 13, 20 - 2:00 p.m.

Tickets: To order tickets in advance please call the Mounds Theatre box office at 612-772-2253 or order your tickets online at www.moundstheatre.org. Gift ticket packages are available for those “hard to please” folks on your Christmas list. Purchase your tickets early, as they sell out very quickly.

“A Christmas Story” returns in December.

Budget decorating ideas can change the look of your room without breaking the bank

Printed with permission from HomeStagingRedesign.com

Knowing how so many people are budgeting and saving now, and many people are just scraping by or under water in the short term, it seems appropriate to include tips in this issue that are really low cost ideas so you can still spruce up your home or give it a fresh look without breaking the bank.

So just a start of the beginning with the basics - like buying a new color of paint and doing some major painting around the house. Dramatic and bold are inexpensive too.

Next let’s anchor your room with one or two fairly large pieces of furniture to act as the “hub” and perhaps even a focal point. In many cases this will be a sofa or perhaps a bed. Too often people buy small items, small furniture because it is often cheaper. Then they are not happy with the results. A room needs to have a good mixture of large, medium and small items to look and feel right. I know that sounds expensive, but you can pick up good quality furniture at garage sales, estate sales and discount stores. Have at least one major piece of furniture in the room.

Next we want good lighting. Natural light is great, but too often it is insufficient, so let’s add some artificial green, which will never die. Small plants and place in larger containers. Use a lot of natural greenery, whether it is live or artificial. You can easily fill a room up with greenery. It hides unattractive areas, is great filler, and it just softens the room oh so much. Buy small plants and place in larger containers and wait for them to grow to full size. Make a throw. Cover some pillows. Bingo, instant changes.

Maximize your storage. Look for fabrics that you can use like wallpaper: use remnants and get creative. Hardware store or even buy lumber and make your own shelf. Use a lot of greenery, whether it is live or artificial. You can easily fill a room up with greenery. It hides unattractive areas, is great filler, and it just softens the room oh so much. Buy small plants and place in larger containers and wait for them to grow to full size. Make a throw. Cover some pillows. Bingo, instant changes.

Restaurant: Falkirk Pub and Grille

From the ironstone dishes of the 19th-century farmhouses to the white porcelain of 20th-century diner, restaurantware is an integral part of any table setting. Whether you’re setting for two or a gathering of twenty, you’ll want to have a variety of tableware to suit any occasion. The right dinnerware can transform a simple meal into a feast for the eyes. Good tableware enhances the dining experience and makes even the most ordinary meal memorable.

Falkirk Pub & Grille, located in the Dayton’s Bluff neighborhood just east of downtown Saint Paul at 1029 Hudson Road, St. Paul, MN 55106.

November 2009 Dayton’s Bluff District Forum Page 3
By Steve Trumble  

Online historic newspaper research. When I was in graduate school many many years ago there was no such thing. You were lucky to find an old paper that was even partially indexed. But times have changed, and I don’t just mean the New York daily.

The Library of Congress (LOC) has been creating a digitized newspaper project. I’ve known about it for some time, but hadn’t got around to using it until recently. I decided to see how helpful it would be for finding information about Dayton’s Bluff history. It’s been an interesting experience.

A person can search newspapers from all over the country, but I decided to stay with the only one from this city – the old St. Paul Globe. So I typed in Dayton’s Bluff and there was an overabundance of possibilities—several thousand listings. What’s that? Because the real estate advertisements mentioned the neighborhood name were included.

Still, even these can reveal some interesting information. The July 25, 1886 issue had more than a dozen real estate listing. For this community. Here’s the agent’s pitch for one group: “Dayton’s Bluff. The coming boom—With the building of the Third Street bridge and extension of the horse car lines…there will surely be an advance in prices in that vicinity. It is the cheapest property in the city at present prices, and any investment will pay good profits. We have a large list of bluff property and can give some good bargains.”

It was a boom time and urban real estate made more than one local person wealthy—until the crash that came with the 1893 depression. This particular company then listed lots on Pacific, McLain, Suburban, Maple, Plum, Beech and Minnehaha. In another place he assured that the value would surely increase, adding the fact that “as the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad improvements will raise values in this locality.” Notice that then, as now, transportation played an important role in marketing.

Other frequently occurring on-line hits for Dayton’s Bluff items were the society pages. Here is a sampling from the Globe on April 1, 1894. And unlike the spurious April Fool’s articles that are said to appear in April issues of the Forum, these appear to be genuine. It was revealing to see how many different groups and clubs were active in only one community before the days of automobiles, radio and television.

Mrs. John Seeger of Maple Street, for instance, had entertained the Ladies’ Eclectic Club and prizes were won by Mrs. Bohn and Mrs. Haas. The Bates Avenue M. E. church ladies were giving a concert to celebrate the silver anniversary of the organization. Mr. and Mrs. J.M. Smith of East Fourth were hosting a meeting of the Dayton’s Bluff Reading Circle. A Miss Gaggshell of River Falls spent a week as a guest of Mrs. H. T. Echols of East Fourth. Miss Frances Kennedy of Bates Avenue spent the Easter vacation with friends in Minneapolis. And—to finally a mention: “Master George,” a cherub of Bates Avenue, spent the past week with his relatives in Waverly, Minnesota.

There were some April Fool’s that popped up during the search and I had never seen the information before. One of them, found in the November 5, 1903 Globe, had a large headline that read “The City’s Most Picturesque Section” with a lengthy sub-heading that stated “Second Ward may Safety Claim this Distinction, and Residents are Being Brought to Appreciation of the Natural Attractiveness of their Locality and the Possibilities of Beautification.”

Mention was made of Indian Mounds Park as well as other lookouts in the area with commanding views. Residents who do not appreciate the area’s “picturesque possibilities” were becoming a small minority because of the force of education and public sentiment, according to the reporter.

“There has always been a little band of public-spirited citizens who have fully grasped the value of the natural advantages which they possess, and who have been keen to improve them,” the article continued.

In 1900 these citizens formed an organization “the chief object of which would be the care of Dayton’s Bluff interests.” They called themselves the Second Ward Improvement Association.

Their first meeting was small, with only ten people attending, but the group grew, bylaws were written and its members became active.

One of the first projects was raising money to buy land in the State Fish Hatchery could expand rather than leave. The convinced the city to add to their collections and they were successful. The group’s only partially successful attempt to raise money to build a new Third Street bridge to replace a somewhat rickety structure built in the 1870s. They were only able to do some improvements. They were also somewhat involved in a court case. Some of those members were trying to stop a local resident from quarrying limestone on Hudson Road.

Many articles revolved around the neighborhood’s participation in the 1886 Winter Carnival, the first time the event was held in St. Paul. On February third of that year, the Globe reported a serenade and reception for the opening of the Dayton’s Bluff toboggan slide.

Although the carnival authorities had announced the suspension of the carnival because of the “frequency of the weather,” the newspapers own toboggan club with 55 men and 10 women ventured out that night to formally open the slide. As it turned out, a colored light which they carried at a reception at the nearby home of prominent resident P. H. Kelly. There were musical numbers from a bandleader, cheers were given and then the host made a welcoming speech. Kelly said that “the good people of Dayton’s Bluff have shown their pluck, energy and enterprise in furnishing the necessary funds to erect the tower and slide which you have seen this evening.” After two hours of music in the mansion, the group returned for some festive tobogganing.

The official closing of the toboggan slide was reported in some detail in the Globe on February 21, 1886. Like the opening, it was a gala affair. According to the article, the slide was lighted and an Indian chief threw several blocks and “were suspended close together on a line above the swiftly-gljiding tobogganers.” A band was stationed at the head of the slide and entertained the crowds. The Ladies Auxiliary “did a brisk business” serving refreshment in colorfully decorated quarters.

In the crowd the reporter noted the uniforms of many different toboggan clubs. The attendance was so great that a person was lucky to get the chance to make two slides an hour.

Some of the most beautiful features of the landscape were the structures themselves. “The ice tower was illuminated and a brilliant display of red fire, rockets, roman candles and bombs touched off in front of the tower that gave structure the appearance of being ablaze, to one looking toward the bluff from a distance.”

It is amazing how many neighborhoods groups and activities were occurring in the 1880s and 1890s. There might still be time for some of the current residents “with pluck and energy” to get together and arrange for a renewal of the toboggan slide tradition for the 2010 Winter Carnival. Or maybe something less elaborate, but at least some sort of event in Dayton’s Bluff in the forthcoming St. Paul celebration.

For those interested in doing some local history research of their own, the Library of Congress website is easy to find, although a little confusing to use. Just type in the full name into Google or any other search engine and up pops their page. It has a button to click on that says digitized collections which then allows people to search newspaper pages. Papers from all over the country are available, but the only St. Paul paper currently included is the Globe. I have had the best luck putting key words into the “exact phrase” space. Good luck and be sure to let the Forum know what you find.

1886 Dayton’s Bluff Winter Carnival toboggan slide and ice tower from a drawing found online in the Wednesday morning February 3, 1886 St. Paul Daily Globe.
During the winter, they also made nifty implements, walls making the signs rather lethal weapons. Many of the edges had been honed on stone. Signs on wooden handles. These were eighth graders.” We all had to wait in our “Lines” until our turn to cross. For the guys, there is no way to paint lines on loose gravel so the lines consisted of heavy cloth ribbons. ‘Bluff P.I.’ in plain language, “toxide” recreation center. It was just “the Bluff.” We played our youth sports for “the Bluff” against other St. Paul recreation centers.

There were Bluff teams for football in full, hockey and basketball in winter, baseball and softball in summer. There were times when we had to stack eight year old “pee-wee” football players in full football equipment like cordwood in a parent’s station wagon. Sometimes the starting team had to go first and the parents had to come back to transport the rest of the team. In addition to sports, there were craft classes at “the Bluff!”

“Bluff” also offered social events. Some at the reunion remembered the junior high dances held at Bluff Playground. For the guys it was a place to stand against the wall and eventually work up the courage to ask a girl to dance one of the “slow ones.” For the girls it was fun to show off those special new blouses, skirts and saddle shoes, dance to the “fast ones” and eventually work up the courage to ask a girl to dance the “slow ones.”

The directors at Bluff Playgrounds were looking up to and respected. It was generally agreed that the ideal recreation center would be able to come close to that combination. More memories from the Mound Park Grade School class of 1959

By Kathy Whitney and Dave Petrie

On Saturday, August 22, 2009, the 1959 8th grade class of Mound Park Grade School celebrated the 50th annual reunion of their graduation with a picnic in historic Indian Mounds Park. Last month they shared some of their memories from Mound Park School and Dayton’s Bluff. Here are more of them.

Mounds Theatre: One of our destinations, when crossing the [Cypress St. bridge over Hudson Road], was the Mounds Theatre. Our mothers and fathers had gone to “the Mounds” when they were in grade school like us. We spent many a happy Saturday or Sunday afternoon at the “Mounds” watching Hecke & Jekke cartoons, Tarzan, Roy Rogers, “Hoppy” Cassidy, Gabby Hayes, Gene Autry, Abbott & Costello, Dean Martin & Jerry Lewis, Francis the talking mule or the Three Stooges.

Mound Park – Old Tennis Courts: By Kathy Whitney and Dave Petrie

School Police: Since most Mound Park students walked to and from school twice a day, it was important that they be supervised to insure their safety when crossing main streets near the school. This was the job of the school police – normally 7th and 8th grade students. School police had permanently assigned intersections referred to as their “Cor- ners.” We all had to wait in our “Lines” until told to cross the street. Today school police all have crossing flags but at Mound Park we had hand-held yellow and black octagonal stop signs on wooden handles. These were eight inch thick heavy metal. After years of use, many of the edges had been honed on stone walls making the signs rather lethal weapons. During the winter, they also made nifty implements, walls making the signs rather lethal weapons. In the meantime he has found a young woman that we want to say congratulations to them for that and their new daughter. One of the things Al hated was seeing 3M leave and watching other small businesses come and go. Al stated, “That when you lose a business like that it affects all the other business.” He is hoping for something nice to come out of the 3M buildings in the future. Al is not ready to give up living yet. He will continue to do what he can for the community and would like to fix up old houses. He has plans to open another business in Mexico. To thank you Mr. Johnson for being part of the Dayton’s Bluff Community for all these years.

Letter to the Editor

Thank you, Mary Ann

I have been reading with deep interest and appreciation the regular articles on child development that have been appearing in Dayton’s Bluff District Forum. Their author, Mary Ann Cogsworth, has been presenting useful and pointed information about how we can better understand the children in our lives. Her insistence on the emotional and intellec- tual complexity of children is refreshing. And her insights into their behavior and develop- ment and our own as parents and caregivers are deeper than one would expect to find in a neighborhood newspaper.

I know Mary Ann from her days as an edu- cator at the Dayton’s Bluff Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) program. I was a parent in the program and under her persis- tent and patient tutelage I learned how to more carefully observe my own children (and other children too). I learned too how to stop and reflect on what I observed before acting too quickly or impatiently. I still have a long way to go with developing greater patience and understanding with my children. I suspect I am not the only par- ent who needs the kind of intelligent remind- ers that the Forum is providing with Mary Ann’s articles. Thank you for publishing them.

Sincerely, Becca Barniskis

November 2009
Dayton’s Bluff District Forum
Page 5
By Kyle Burns

When did you begin working with Ali for the Phoenix?

It was 1998.

What kind of role do you think the Phoenix plays in the neighborhood?

There are some things you do not sell.

What do you live around here?

I live in the East Side by Sun Ray. I have lived there all the time I am in Minnesota. I like it. I have a family there. I have three children and I love them. They love me, I believe. (laughs) Most of the people here know me. People can’t say my name so correctly as they call me, ‘Tally.’ I like that.

How do you feel Dayton’s Bluff has changed over the years?

In the past we used to have a lot of people who hang around the store, selling drugs outside. If we see such thing, we have to stop it. We can’t stop it always, but have to do our best. I believe the community has improved. I believe Mr. Bethke as a State does a great job there too with education and working with the police department… that helps a lot. I don’t see many crimes like it used to be. The only thing is we are starting to have more cars.

How has your relationship with the police been over the years?

Good. I always call them if I need some help, and they always help us. We’ve never had a big problem here, to tell you the truth.

Why do you think that is? Just luck or something else?

Maybe luck but Ali, when he had that explosion and he was inside, I believe he saved some kids and the community likes him. We came here and we didn’t have any problems with the customers around us.

What is the Phoenix’s relationship with the community garden?

They let us use their water. We let them use the bathroom. Any help I can do for them, I do it for them, no doubt. As I told you before, Ali also tells me to help them, and if he didn’t tell me I would do it by myself, but it’s better if I do it to my store so I have to respect the owner, but he told me to do it so… Sometimes you must tell you… my people, Sudanesse people, they are so kind. If you come to Sudan, they are so kind. Like yesterday, we had a big party with my kids and Ali’s kids and so on. We stuck to each other.

You know what I mean? Ali says to do anything to help the community.

Have you always worked here?

Yes, but I used to work here in the morning and drive taxi in the afternoon. Now I have to spend a lot of time with my kids. If the economy stays like this, I bet I will have to have another job, too, if I could find one.

Do you have family back in Sudan still? Do you keep contact?

My mom, she lives in Sudan, in Khartoum. I was in Khartoum; it is the capital. I was in Sudan from birth to seventeen years old.

What was your childhood like?

In Sudan, it was marvelous. For real. Yes it is a poor country but the life was so nice.

Playing soccer all day? (Laughs) Yeah, we love soccer. We watch on the laptop. Me and Ali are at war in soccer. Most of the world, except here in soccer.

When I spoke with Ali he mentioned his first encounter with snow. What was yours like?

I was shocked. I heard of snow, but I had no idea what it looked like. I knew it was white. My dad used to live here in America in California. He did graduate study there; he has two PhD’s. He is so smart; I wish I was like him.

Did you go to college?

Yes, but I am not done yet, maybe one day. I went in India for four years. What do you think is in store for the future of the Phoenix?

I hope the economy goes up, first of all. That’s why Ali wanted to do the deli. Today we haven’t had many customers. Some come in and buy cigarettes; we get no profit from cigarettes. Ali has employees besides me who I know and his family he wants to support. I hope the economy goes up for everybody. That’s what we like. I believe everybody goes to be in a good way; healthy, and happy. I won’t say that money brings happiness; that comes from inside, but money helps. Anything else?

Thank you for this interview. I would like to tell the people in Dayton’s Bluff we have to work together to keep our community away from bad habits. We have to be together and help each other.

A talk with Phoenix Market manager Tarig Mohamed

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500 diverse jobseekers to learn about the nation; how a more multicultural workforce benefits companies by offering diverse opinions and views; and, finally, how increasing diversity helps to reflect the customer base. Mr. Bethke Gomez soon after introduced three speakers from within the Latino community in Minnesota, who highlighted how working with Latino jobseekers and referring them for their thoughtful support and job placement.

In a blaze of suits and ties, a bevy of job seekers monitored in a bustling, Change Your Stripes™ Stand out from the Herd!, which was hosted by Catherine Byers Breet, Mr. de Stefano, Job Coach Specialist of ARBEZ™, taught job seekers three simple tricks they can use to make a great first impression, and get the job they want in a smarter and smarter manner.

Following the Expo, the Latino Roundtable sponsored a Latino networking event in a nearby room at the Saint Paul RiverCentre.

CLUES hosts 2009 Job Fair & Community Resource Expo

In the late morning and early afternoon, job seekers also had the opportunity to participate in a Mock Interview Station, Change Your Stripes™ Stand out from the Herd!, which was hosted by Catherine Byers Breet, Mr. de Stefano, Job Coach Specialist of ARBEZ™, taught job seekers three simple tricks they can use to make a great first impression, and get the job they want in a smarter and smarter manner.

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Dayton's Bluff residents have long admired the stately trees gracing Swede Hollow Park. Now, thanks to research conducted by two Metropolitan State University students, residents can access facts and figures that further enhance their appreciation for the park.

Earlier this year the students conducted a detailed census of the park's oaks and other large trees. They followed up with a PowerPoint presentation to Friends of Swede Hollow, a nonprofit group that helps maintain and beautify the park and fashion future plans for it.

The initiative by the students—Amanda Swanson and Andrew Merryman, both seniors majoring in biology—is an example of community-based research performed by Metropolitan State. The research is intended to benefit the community while offering an alternative educational opportunity for faculty and students.

“The university has a commitment to improve the welfare of individuals, not just in academia but out in the community,” said August Hoffman, associate professor in psychology and facilitator of the university’s Community Circle-Based Research. “We have a responsibility to work more cooperatively with each other to improve the overall living conditions for society in general.”

The students' work will help Friends of Swede Hollow and other community residents better understand what exactly is in the park, how valuable it is and its natural history,” said Card. “Over the years the community has paid a lot of attention to the park, and the students’ research will help people continue to make good decisions in caring for it.”

Karin DuPaul, president of the Friends of Swede Hollow, concurs. “The students’ information will help us decide, for example, how many and what kind of trees to add to the park,” said DuPaul, a community organizer for the Dayton’s Bluff District 4 Community Council.

For their part, students Swanson and Merryman enjoyed the hands-on learning outside the classroom. “I learned a lot more doing that than just listening to a lecture,” said Swanson. “I also enjoyed learning about the history of the park and the surrounding neighborhood.”

Said Merryman, “We had a lot more flexibility in doing this work. It became an exercise in time management.”

Their initiative produced revealing information: 169 oak trees in the park, with burr oaks dominating. Some of the four species of oaks—burr, white, pin and northern red—have survived for more than 150 years. In fact, photos taken a century ago show the same oaks thriving today. While the oaks command attention, the largest trees are cottonwoods; one was 220 feet tall. Other large trees included elm, basswood, ash and box elders.

“Some things don’t change,” said Merryman. “We found things that are still there today.”

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And what about the fact the students’ research benefited the community? “That,” said Merryman, “was a very nice bonus. I was happy to be part of it.”
Let’s talk about it - Parent discussion groups

By Mary Ann Cogelow

I ended my last article for the Forum with a plea for all of us who are part of the village of raising children to become more informed so we can do a better job. I was absolutely sincere in this plea. I cannot imagine how much poorer my understanding of children would be without the many, many books, articles, lectures, etc. from which I have benefited. Nonetheless, I want to use this space this time to say more about the enormous benefits of participating in an on-going discussion group focused on child raising.

There is a flood of information and opinion about children circulating in today’s world. Parenting experts sometimes bemoan this abundance of information claiming that it makes raising children more difficult, not easier. In fact, available material runs the gamut from brilliant and helpful to absolutely terrible. I know of one best selling parenting book which resulted in a warning from the pediatric division of the American Medical Association because a significant number of infants whose parents followed its advice ended up diagnosed as having failure to thrive, a serious pediatric diagnosis. This is why thoughtful evaluation of information about parenting is crucial. It is also why, on further reflection, I want to encourage parents, those who are most influential in their children’s lives, to attend Early Childhood Family Education with their babies, toddlers, and preschoolers.

One of the goals of Minnesota Early Childhood Family Education is to help every parent develop a sound personal philosophy of parenting. A discussion group is one of the three main components of the Program. Each discussion group offers the expertise of a professional parent educator and leading wisdom and experience of a dozen or more parents. Participation in such a group offers broader support for building a solid individual philosophy of parenting than other avenues of gaining information, immensely valuable as they may be, cannot offer.

Each of us does have a philosophy of parenting based to a large degree upon our own experiences as babies and children. We do not often think in these terms, but part of the challenge of parenting our own children is to evaluate the ways in which we were parented, both by our real parents but also by other members of the village who influenced our lives. We need to decide which parts of this philosophy we want to keep, which parts we want to modify, and which parts we want to discard altogether.

This can be tricky business. A good group provides a safe place for parents to thoughtfully consider assumptions made very early in life when they believed their parents to be all powerful and all knowing. Parent educators can come to understand that they can remain loyal to their own parents while building a philosophy which is different in small or big ways. The multitude of personalities and experience in the group demonstrate that there is no single “recipe” for raising children. People can disagree with each others’ opinions while yet affirming each other as immensely valuable human beings.

A group offers opportunities for members to ask for clarification or further explanation when they have questions. (When I write, I sorely miss this aspect of working in a group.) As questions and answers come up, the ideas are expanded upon, examples are provided, and problems are shared.

A group offers complete communication. We cannot do written work or print or any of the media which send an active message to a comparatively passive audience. Experts say a comparatively small part of communication is carried in words. Other important parts are in body language, tone of voice, facial expression and eye contact, forms of communication which can potently enhance learning.

Parenting well depends upon emotional intelligence. A group offers its members the support of emotional intelligence when it encourages every member to more fully develop their own “EQs.” People frequently meet in a group as strangers, but over time they learn to know each other and often find friends. Coming to know each other helps individuals feel supported and better able to use the information they gain.

During the years when I was both parenting my own dependent daughters and leading discussion groups at Dayton’s Bluff Early Childhood Family Education my knowledge of children continued to expand due to learning from many sources not the least of which was the group which I led. However, I was acutely aware that the actual job I did as a mother on a day to day basis fluctuated more based on how I felt than it did on what I knew. When I felt supported, understood, valued I did a better job than I did when I felt discouraged, overwhelmed, or alone. The most common problems in the thousands of parents’ evaluations of Dayton’s Bluff Early Childhood Family Education I read over 30 plus years ago (“I am not alone.”) Groups do real work. Sometimes it’s painful, but often it’s exciting, and rewarding, satisfying. Frequently it’s a lot of fun.

I am persuaded that the discussion groups in MN BCEF offer parents of children from birth to school entrance an opportunity to grow and learn which is not replicated in any other format. But this Wouldn’t it also claim that the group offers additional components which increase its value. One of these is a developmentally appropriate classroom planned and staffed by early childhood professionals. The other component is parent skill time together to learn and play. These components offer parents important additional ways of learning more about kids and helpful ways of interacting with them. The benefits to kids are enormous. But that is a subject for a different article.