

Dayton's Bluff DISTRICT FORUM

Volume 23, No. 10

www.daytonsbuff.org

December 2010

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Photo by Lou "the Photo Guy"

Holding award certificates given at the community banquet, L to R: Hanna Mosca, Community Design Center (CDC); Yia Vang, Hmong Village; and Alex Haug, Twin City Tees. Also pictured, CDC students; Ed Lambert, community council; Laura Haug and Mary Edwards, Twin City Tees; Yer Vang, Hmong Village

Dayton's Bluff Community Banquet

by Ed Lambert
Council executive director

Nearly 100 people were on hand for the November 12 Community Recognition Dinner held at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church. Three local businesses were recognized by the Dayton's Bluff Community Council for their contributions to the improvement of the community: The honorees were Community Design Center (CDC), Hmong Village and Twin City Tees.

Attendees partook of an Italian meal catered by Yarusso's, enjoyed the

piano artistry of Maura Klimisch, and welcomed the opportunity to meet and greet neighbors and public officials. Sheldon Johnson, 67B State Representative, and Jim McDonough, Ramsey County Commissioner were on hand; as were representatives of Ramsey County Commissioner Rafael Ortega and City Council President Kathy Lantry.

CDC is a local nonprofit agency involved in food, conservation and youth development. Hmong Village is the newly opened enterprise on the north side of Dayton's Bluff (see story on this page) and Twin City Tees is a local screen printing and sign business on East 6th Street.

Last issue until March!

The *Forum* takes the months of January and February off, so this issue is the last until March. In the meantime, please send any ideas, stories or photos to editor@daytonsbuff.org.

Editor wanted

The *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* is seeking a freelance editor for 2011. The nonprofit community newspaper is published ten times per year and is circulated in the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood. The work involves laying out the paper as well as editing articles and writing and soliciting stories. Knowledge of word processing and photo editing, as well as the ability to work within tight deadlines is required. Please contact karin@daytonsbuff.org or 651-772-2075 if you are interested.

DBBA meeting scheduled for January

The first anniversary meeting of the Dayton's Bluff Area Business Association (DBBA) will be held on Thursday, January 20, from 7:30 am to 9 am at Metropolitan State University 700 East 7th Street, in the New Main Great Hall. The topic of the meeting will be "Vision for the Future." Members of the DBBA as well as interested business and individuals are invited to attend.

Community Calendar

- *Monday, December 6
7:00 pm, combined board meetings
- *Monday, Jan 3, 17; Feb. 7, 21
7:00 pm, board meetings
- *Thursday, Dec. 2, Jan. 6 & Feb. 3
6:30 pm, Community Meetings
- Saturday, Dec. 4, Jan. 1 & Feb. 5
10:30 am, Take-a-Hike (p. 5)
- Police-community meetings (p. 5)
- *Council office, 798 E. 7th Street

Hmong Village now open for business in Dayton's Bluff

Hmong Village (Zos Hmoob), opened to rave reviews on October 30.

Located at 1001 Johnson Parkway, at the juncture of Phalen Boulevard and Maryland, the enterprise has made innovative and fresh use of what once was a St. Paul School District office and warehouse building. 40 professional offices, 35 produce stands, 18 deli-style restaurants, and more than 230 merchandise booths can be found inside. Colorful murals depicting scenes from Southeast Asia adorn the walls of the produce area, and the many friendly vendors make for a warm and interesting experience.

There are also a number of Chinese, Ethiopian, Vietnamese, Laotian, and Mexican merchandise booths. It is a wonderful place to explore options for a takeout lunch, or to get hard to find vegetables for your table at home. Hmong Village is a privately financed indoor mall of primarily Hmong businesses and vendors and is a member of the new Dayton's Bluff Area Business Association. Co-owner Yong Yia Vang is the go to guy for dealing with the business, which was one of three recognized as "Remarkable Community Building Organizations" by the Dayton's Bluff Community Council at its annual community dinner on November 12.

For more information, or to get on the waiting list for a booth or office, contact Yong at yongyiang@yahoo.com

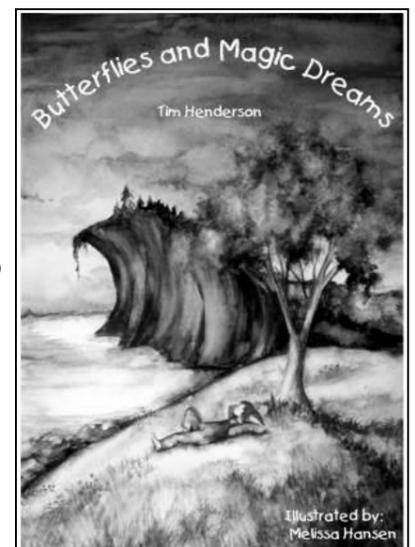
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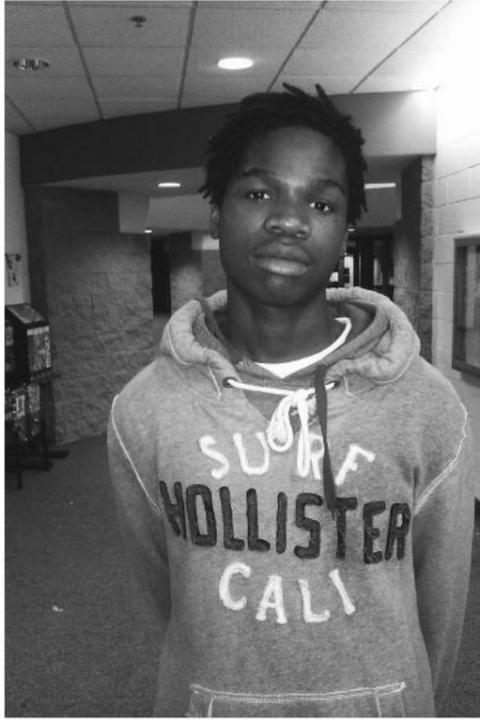
Pajama party book reading

Local author Tim Henderson will read from his children's book, *Butterflies and Magic Dreams*, on Tuesday, December 7. Kids of all ages are invited to wear their pajamas to the casual event to be held at 972 5th Street East. The child-friendly home of Tabitha Benci DeRango has plenty of toys and games, and light refreshments will be available. The event is free and open to the public and is sponsored by the Arts, Culture and Outreach Committee of the Dayton's Bluff Community Council. For more information, call 651-772-2075 or email socialbutterfliesmn@yahoo.com.



Teen Volunteer at Dayton's Bluff

Member of Youth in Transition



Add your voice. Come to check out Dayton's Bluff recreation center. We have open gym on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30-5:00pm. Our computer lab is open on Tues/Thurs from 4-6pm. Teen room is open M-Th 5-8pm. Dance Room is open M-Th from 5-8pm.

Casey Davis is a sixteen-year-old sophomore at Johnson High school. He is involved in the Youth in Transition here at Dayton's Bluff. He has been actively volunteering in his community, by partnering with the Dayton's Bluff Community Council and raking for elderly home owners in the neighborhood who need help. Casey is one of the teenagers in the neighborhood who works hard at bridging the gap and building relationships between the neighborhood home owners and the teens in the neighborhood.

Casey also volunteers at Arlington Recreation Center and Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center. He helps with special events, and works hard at Saturday group.

He also attended the 3rd annual Youth Summit. There they joined other teen groups to discuss teen issues in Saint Paul. When asked how he felt about the event; "It is a good way to be able to let city officials aware of what's going on with our youth."

For more information, contact Dayton's Bluff at 651-793-3885

History
FALL 2010
"It Was Like Living in a Small Town"
Three St. Paul Neighborhoods That Worked:
Dayton's Bluff, Payne Avenue, and Arcade Street
in the 1940s and '50s
Steven C. Trimble

Ramsey County History magazine looks at East Side past

A special East Side issue of Ramsey County History has just arrived from the printer. The lead article, researched and written by area resident and urban historian Steve Trimble is "It Was Like Living in a Small Town" "Three St. Paul Neighborhoods That Worked: Dayton's Bluff, Payne Avenue, and Arcade Street in the 1940s and '50s."

The article looks at how the communities grew during and after World War II and how the expansion of major industries brought two decades of prosperity and change. A second article by local historian Paul Nelson—"Once There was a Street Called Decatur"—is the story of a small roadway on the western edge of Swede Hollow that disappeared in the early 1930s when Payne Avenue was expanded. Both articles are filled with interesting photos, many not published before, and are based on original research and interviews. In 2011 there will be author visits to local libraries that will be announced later. You will soon be able to find this Winter 2010 issue at any library in Ramsey County. If you are interested in getting a copy for yourself or for holiday presents, they will be available from the Ramsey County Historical Society for \$8.50 and can be ordered at 651-222-0701 or online at RCHS.com.

day and we spent some real quality time (ugh! see, there I go) with his Bakugans and I was really surprised at the personality that emerged from him. When he plays with his 6-going-on-16-year-old sister, he typically takes a back seat to her domineering Big Sis personality. When I sit and read books to him, he's surprisingly quiet and snuggly. But this time, while he was alert and in charge, I got to meet a new little boy. He DID have his own ideas about how to play. He was active and articulate in ways I'd never seen . . . and I'm his mother! I was astonished and delighted, and horrified, that I'd been missing that side of him.

I vowed to spend less time on Facebook—and today my son and I did a puzzle together. Maybe I can convince my husband to join me in a game of King's Corners. If I take time to be with people, face-to-face, in person, then the community I save may be my own.

Meg Gronau is a member of the Dayton's Bluff ECFE Advisory Council.

Distracted parenting takes its toll on families, community

By Meg Gronau

Continued from the November issue of the Forum:

"... there is no such thing as 'multitasking;' we're simply not doing ANYTHING well."

Many parents I know who work outside—or inside—the home lament this. We can't keep down a job (or volunteer position), raise gracious children, prepare perfect meals, and keep an immaculate house, all at the same time.

So what to let go? That'll be a different choice for every person. But take a long-term, big-picture perspect-

ive and think about what truly matters in your life. It's possible to make small choices that will make a huge difference in the quality of life of your child. Staying connected to friends and work, staving off the isolation that can come with parenting, is certainly a priority. Building and maintaining relationships with your kids needs to be right up there, too.

Beth Davies, parent educator in the ECFE (Early Childhood and Family Education) program at Dayton's Bluff Elementary school, makes it part of her life's work to make sure that parents' relationships with their children is made a top priority.

"We as parents and educators," Davies says, "know the powerful and wonderful possibilities in the reciproc-

al nature of the parent-child relationships . . . oftentimes referred to as a 'relationship of mutuality': I love you and you love me back.

One thing I freely confess is that I'm not really good at playing with my kids. I love spending time with them, but I have a real hard time getting into Candyland, Barbies, and "playing school." But I tell you what—I sat down with my 4-year-old son the other

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Metropolitan State employee holds movie nights for kids in Dayton's Bluff
by Harvey Meyer

During her 2008 assault by three young people, Sage Holben suffered badly bruised eyes, a swollen face and a wrenched arm and knee. Now Holben wonders if the attack outside her Dayton's Bluff home was a kind of blessing in disguise.

Holben, a Metropolitan State University library technician, was still recovering from her injuries in 2009 when she started showing early-evening movies on a makeshift screen on the front porch of her house at the corner of Bates Avenue and East Fourth Street. The movies were initially intended as a weekend activity for other tenants living in the three-story Victorian home. But soon curious neighborhood kids from multi-ethnic backgrounds stopped by.

"Once a kid asked what movie was showing. He wasn't interested in that, but then he asked, 'What snacks do you have?'" laughed Holben. "So food is now part of the routine."

The movie nights are offered from spring until the weather turns nasty. From five to 20 adolescents, often bundled in blankets, show up for the wide-ranging films. It's a low-key, homey atmosphere in which kids, ages nine to 14, freely converse before, during and after the movie.

The Minneapolis *Star Tribune* recently featured a story about Holben's front-porch movies. Several readers encouraged continued showings by sending her small checks and boxes of snacks.

The porch has emerged as a neighborhood drop-in center of sorts. As long as kids treat each other with respect and pick up after themselves, they are invited to play board games, paint, read or just chat with Holben. She's even offered a drumming workshop for the children.

"If I'm out on the porch in the summer, I can guarantee you that within five minutes you'll see a kid out there," said Holben, 65. "It's kind of become a place to be. Plus, you can see the world from the porch. There are lots of people walking by."

"I've made fantastic relationships there," added Holben, who considers herself a perpetual kid at heart. "We have to somehow make more and deeper connections with people." The movie nights, she says, help accomplish that.

The activities play into Holben's community activist impulses. She is a District 4 Community Council board member, a block captain and a Dayton's Bluff block nurse program member. Holben isn't bashful about confronting drug dealers and other neighborhood miscreants. But she probably wouldn't get that involved, sometimes risking her safety, if she didn't treasure Dayton's Bluff.

"Some people are drawn to the neighborhood's historic and architectural aspects, and I am too," said Holben. "But it's the people behind the doors I'm drawn to. I especially like the diversity of Dayton's Bluff."

As Holben reflects back on her June 2008 assault, she acknowledges the irony of good sprouting from bad. side from her two sons and serving as a seven-time foster mom, she says the front-porch movie nights are among her proudest life accomplishments.

"I don't regret that the assault happened for a lot of reasons," she said. "For one thing, I really appreciate getting to know the kids as well as I have."

Harvey Meyer is an Academic Writer/Editor at Metropolitan State.

**Business Profile:
Raeann Ruth – Portage for Youth/Mounds Theatre**

This is the second in a series of profiles of members of the Dayton's Bluff Area Business Association.

Raeann Ruth has lived in the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood for over 30 years. In that time, she has made substantial contributions to youth and the community on a whole.

Projects include the Portage for Youth, an after-school and summer enrichment program for young women in the neighborhood; the Mounds Theatre, which serves as an arts and culture center for the greater metropolitan area, and MYThS, Mounds Youth Theatre School, which operates professionally taught youth theater programs.

For the 2010-2011 season, the Mounds Theatre will feature "A Christmas Story," now entering its seventh year.

In February of 2010, Raeann Ruth approached Greg Eiden, playwright/composer about developing an evening of theater, where people could come to laugh and have a good time. The result was a brand new musical comedy, an interactive dinner theater show written for the Mounds Theatre called "Knotareel Getaway Cruise," which was successfully produced in early 2010. Based on this success, Eiden was invited by the Mounds Theatre to develop a full season of dinner theater for 2011.

Thus ensued a series of four musical comedies called "The Bait Shop Trilogy," following sportsmen/sportswomen, through the major season openers of the year.

Eiden's musicals, have been produced in many theaters in Minnesota, as well as in Wisconsin, Iowa, Oklahoma and Colorado, where one of his shows was nominated by the Denver Drama Critics for "Best New Play."

Mounds Theatre has always been committed to youth programming and that will continue in 2011 with the establishment of the Mounds Youth Theatre School (MYThS).



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Lawyer and photographer are new council tenants

Two businesses have opened "satellite offices" as subtenants of the Dayton's Bluff Community Council.

Marisela Cantu, a 2000 graduate of the University of Minnesota Law School, leads the Cantu Law Firm, P.A. She is bilingual in English and Spanish, and specializes in family and immigration law and government benefits such as worker's compensation.



Marisela once also has two offices in Southern Minnesota. Her background includes a stint as Assistant City Attorney with Dakota County, working on child support issues. A member of the Minnesota State Bar Association and the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, she has also published a number of articles on family law in the *Family Law Journal* of the State Bar Association. In 2006, the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce recognized her as one of "25 on the Rise."

With family in Saint Paul, Marisela is especially delighted to be located close to the Mexican consulate and CLUES. For some years she has put on free seminars on various legal issues in Minneapolis, and will explore doing them in Dayton's Bluff as well. For more information visit www.cantuattorney.com

Lou "the Photo Guy" Michaels, the other tenant, is a long time professional photographer who has won many awards, and is a member of state and national press associations.

Lou is well known for his dynamic action shots and photographs of weddings, banquets, sports, and parties. One of his specials is a disk of 50 wedding photos within one day for \$50.

Lou likes the location because he also does a lot of community work for the Dayton's Bluff District Forum, the *Community Reporter* (distributed along West 7th Street) and events sponsored by small non-profit groups.

This office will be his East Side base. Lou offers a free consultation meeting, by appointment, for new customers. For more information go to www.louthephotoguy.com.

Photos taken from websites.



Three 10-week sessions, focusing on helping students develop in the areas of acting, dancing and singing will be conducted during the school year. Intensive workshops will be conducted in the summer, culminating in a performance in which the students are involved in every aspect.

Commenting on the time since the theater re-opened, Ruth stated, "I learned from the theater companies that staged their shows at the Mounds, watching every aspect of their productions and I could imagine something more permanent that would allow the theater to sustain itself, moving into the future. It took meeting the right person, Greg Eiden.

"We worked well together and it

just seemed right."

As Mounds Theatre enters its next phase, it is energized to continue in its mission to create opportunities for youth, adults and professionals to actively participate in drama, music, dance, cinema, multimedia and other arts and cultural activities by maintaining existing programs and by providing new forms of quality youth programming and new expressions for uplifting entertainment for its audience.

More information about the Mounds Youth Theatre School (MYThS) and the 2011 Mounds dinner Theater season can be found at www.moundstheatre.org.

For more on the history of the Mounds Theatre, see page 8.

Artist featured in exhibit



Photo by Steve Trimble

Rose Marie Felsheim, an artist living in Dayton's Bluff, was recently chosen as one of three people whose works were featured in the premiere exhibition in the new Lowertown Gallery of the St. Paul Art Crawl. The opening was held in late October at the new location at 308 Prince Street room #258 inside the Northern Warehouse Building. Rose is well-known for her large fabric art pieces, which were featured, along with some additional works in oil.

Visits from the Energy Squad

The energy program in Dayton's Bluff has already served over 80 homes in Dayton's Bluff. The Dayton's Bluff goal is 200 homes by June 2011. Now that winter is here, it is a great time to get involved. Residents will save an average of \$180 per year on energy bills. Dayton's Bluff gets to participate!

The program includes a personal home visit from the professional Home Energy Squad, where they will come to your home and help install energy saving materials in your home, things like a programmable thermostat, water heater blanket, water saving showerheads, weather stripping, and efficient light bulbs. The cost is super subsidized to bring it down for residents to \$35. Call 651-328-6220 today. Help Dayton's Bluff make our goal of 200 visits by June 2011.

We are planning our next Energy Workshop for March 22nd watch for more information in the March Dayton's Bluff District Forum.

Book Review: Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows

by Mikaela S. Twin Cities Academy Middle School,

Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows by J.K. Rowling starts in the summer when Harry is about to start school at Hogwarts.. This year he is not going to Hogwarts because Harry, Ron, and Hermione are going to look for the Horcruxes.

They start looking for the Horcruxes that Harry and Dumbledore had tried to find. Then they went to find more Horcruxes and they had to find all seven to destroy Voldemort. Harry also wants to go to Godrich Hollows to find out what really happened to Dumbledore. Harry wants to see the place where his mother and father died.

To destroy Voldemort, Hogwarts and the Death Eaters (Voldemort's followers) they have to battle. Harry of course wins the battle and kills Voldemort. Later in life, Harry marries Ginny, they have kids and all the children go to school at Hogwarts.

The first strength of this book is that it is very interesting and has lots of action. The second is that the story keeps coming up with new and exciting things. The third strength is that it ends really well when Harry is older.

The first weakness is that some parts in the book get too long and get boring. The second weakness is that it gets to be so interesting that I stay up till midnight and get in trouble with my mother. The third weakness is when random names appear in the book, such as the Death Eaters, I don't know who they are.

For my overall grade on this book I give it a five out of five because I love the action. I also love the drama and it is so exciting that I never want it to end.

Mounds Park eagle update

by Forum staff

Remember the young eagle from Mounds Park that was injured after either a fall or being blown out of the nest? It has now recovered.

Lori Arent, clinic manager of the University of Minnesota Raptor Center, sent out an email saying that it, along with another eagle, would be released at Colville Park in Red Wing, Minnesota on Sunday November 14. We'll have to wait until next year to see if it returns to our neighborhood.

The 3M blast: 60 years of memories

by Joan Russell Stoffel

It was the day after my fourteenth birthday, February 8, 1951. It was a sub-zero morning. We, the Thomas H. Russell family, lived on Pacific Street about a mile from the Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Company where my father worked for 38 years.

That morning, 60 years ago, at 8:20 the mineral building at 900 Fauquier Avenue (now Bush Avenue), was the scene of a huge blast.

Dad left for work about 6:15 that morning. Mom was in St. Joseph Hospital recovering from having the veins in her legs stripped. Dad told my brother and I we were to stay home from school this day because of the subzero weather. We lived right next door to the Mounds Park School but we went to St. John's Catholic School on Fifth and Forest.

Our family just got a black and white television and my brother and I were watching it when over the screen came an announcement that there was an explosion at the Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Company (it was not 3M back then). All I knew was Dad worked at the mining but I didn't know the address or the number of the building he was working in.

My brother was only seven years old and I didn't want to scare him so I didn't say anything to him. Soon after the announcement on TV, the phone started to ring. Calls from friends and relatives in town and long distance. I didn't know anything yet to tell them, then the operator broke in and it was my dad calling us to let us know he was okay and that he was at St. Luke's Hospital (now United). He said the rescue squad made everyone go to Ancker or St Luke's to be checked out and he would be home soon after stopping to see mom at the hospital. I then called my grandmother (Dad's mother) to let her know dad was okay. Shortly after that the phones shut down, you could not get through to anyone.

When dad got home his face, hands, arms and clothes were covered with mineral—thank God he was okay.

This is a day I will never forget. Sixteen people died and more than fifty people were injured.

Dad passed away at 91 in 2000. At his visitation at Mueller Mortuary a gentleman came up to me with his condolences and gave me the following letter.

To: the family of Tom Russell

From: Thomas R. (Dick) McAvoy

My sincere sympathy to Tom's family. You may have heard my story since it was Tom's too. I started with 3M January 29, 1951. About a week later the building I worked in blew up with a great loss of lives considering how few people worked in the building.-My life was spared because of Tom Russell.

Tom was showing me how to check the quality of abrasive by putting a little on a slide and then projecting it on a white wall. After my first lesson we were then to go to #4 maker and pick up a sample of abrasive and recheck the grade. On the way out of the projection room, Tom brushed his hand on the projector and cut himself. He said "I've been catching my hand on that projector for 18 years. I'm going to file off that corner," (I never heard Tom swear) and back to the projector room we went. I slowly strolled after Tom until all of a sudden I was hit with a BLAST—and blown into the room. We were protected in that room and did not get hurt from falling debris; however we must have breathed several pounds of abrasive.

But back to the story—after leaving the projection room (before the explosion) our plan was to take elevator down to pick up further samples. Well the explosion came up the elevator.

We both got out of the building. I was right behind Tom but soon lost him in the total darkness. About four floors were missing and getting out was nightmare.

But because of Tom's cut hand we both were given more time. Tom was a fine man.

Welcome New Neighbors

A meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 11, at 6:30 pm, to acquaint new residents with the neighborhood. Everyone is welcome to help greet

new residents and talk about Dayton's Bluff past and present. The meeting will be held at the council office at 798 East 7th Street. Light refreshments will be served. For more information call 651-772-2075.

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What's happening at district council board meetings?

By Jean Comstock, board secretary

Highlights of the October 18 board meeting and annual community council meeting

St. Paul City Council President Kathy Lantry gave an address on the state of Dayton's Bluff.

Dan Dixon and partners spoke about their interest in restoring the old cigar factory/police station at 699 East 7th Street.

A motion was adopted to support relicensing of New Money Express.

The results of the board of directors election were announced: Subdistrict A, Chris Newton and Daniel Stahley; Subdistrict B, Jean Comstock and Cheryl Kenney; Subdistrict C, Richard Bold and Tabitha DeRango; Subdistrict D, Jacob Dorer and Avi Viswanathan; at-large, Giovanna Salerno.

A motion was adopted to accept staff job descriptions.

This summary is not an official record of board actions. These are reflected in the board minutes.

Upcoming regular meetings at the Dayton's Bluff District 4 Community Council office

Community meetings

The next Dayton's Bluff community meetings are Thursday, December 2, January 6 and February 3 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm at the Dayton's Bluff Community Council, 798 East 7th Street. The council holds a community meeting on the first Thursday of most months to work on community issues and let neighbors know about upcoming events.

Police and/or code enforcement officers are usually present at the meetings. Bring addresses where problems are occurring and they will check them out. If the addresses are sent to the council offices ahead of time, they can research the issue before the meeting. All Dayton's Bluff residents are

welcome to attend.

Complaints can also be made by calling 651-266-8989 or online at <http://www.stpaul.gov/index.aspx?nid=1649>. Complainants' names are kept confidential.

Council board of directors meetings

The board of directors of the council usually meets on the first and third Mondays of each month.

In December, the two meetings will be held together, on Monday, December 6, at 7:00. In January and February, meetings will be back to the regular schedule.

Check www.daytonsbuff.org for committee meeting times.

Take-a-Hike December 4

Take-a-Hike occurs on the first Saturday of most months. The next hikes will be Saturday, December 4, January 1 and February 5. Hikers meet at 10:30 am in Indian Mounds Park at Earl Street and Mounds Boulevard.

The route winds through local parks and trails to end up at the new East Side Heritage Park. Along the way hikers will share stories and learn some of the local history. The hike is about four miles long with some moderately rough terrain. Transportation will be available to return to Indian Mounds Park, if needed.

Police community meetings

The Eastern District Police hosts its monthly meetings for community members at 722 Payne Avenue at the corner of Minnehaha Avenue.

The next meetings are on Wednesday, December 15, January 19 and February 16, at 6:30 pm and

Friday, December 17, January 21 and February 18, at 9:30 am. The meetings are intended to listen to and address concerns about crime and other issues on the East Side.

Friends of Swede Hollow Meeting

The next monthly meeting is on Wednesday, December 1, at Water and Oil Gallery 506 Kenny Road. New members are welcome. For more information email SwedeHollow@gmail.com or call 651-776-0550.

Small business classes

The Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Microentrepreneur Program is taking applications for the spring 2011 class.

The program helps start-up and young businesses and all East Side entrepreneurs are welcome. The Dayton's Bluff Community Council and the Neighborhood Development Center have been hosting two such microentrepreneur classes each year since 1993.

Classroom training lasts eight weeks and includes topics such as operations management, marketing, financial management, how to create a successful business and how to prepare a busi-

MOUNDS PARK BARBER STYLISTS

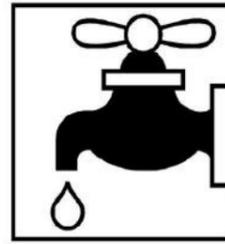


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Block club meetings

Wilson Avenue Block Club meets online. Contact karin@daytonsbuff.org to join the group.

Margaret Rec Center Block Club meets at 6:30 pm on the second Thursday of each month at the Margaret Recreation Center, at Margaret and Frank streets. This block club encompasses Minnehaha to the north, 5th to the south, Cypress to the west and Atlantic to the east; however, all are welcome.

Beech/Margaret 654 Block Club will not meet until March 2011. Check the March issue of the *Forum* for the exact time and date.. This block club covers Minnehaha, Beech, Margaret, 6th, 5th and 4th between Cypress and Arcade.

Lower Dayton's Bluff Block Club usually meets monthly. This block club is bounded by 3rd and Maple streets and I-94. Contact Sherry Johnson at sherryjohnson@gmail.com for the time and place of the next meeting.

ness plan. In addition, each student will have eight hours of one-on-one time with the instructor to work on individual business concepts. Those who successfully complete the course and locate their businesses in target neighborhoods are eligible for ongoing business support services.

The registration fee is based on a sliding scale. The next session will start in April. Class size is limited, so don't wait to apply. For an application, see the contact information below.

Minneapolis-St. Paul 2011 Home Tour wants your home

The 2011 Minneapolis & Saint Paul Home Tour is already looking for homeowners and home improvement professionals who would like to be featured on the late-April tour. Nominations/applications are due Saturday, January 15, and early submissions are encouraged. The tour, in its 24th year, will be held Saturday and Sunday, April 30 and May 1.

"People who attend the tour are looking for ideas on how to remodel or expand their homes," said tour coordinator Margo Ashmore. "Homeowners on the tour enjoy fabulous feedback and find it's also a great promotion for their neighborhoods."

Contractors often help staff the homes, and homeowners ask family and friends to contribute a few hours hosting. "A good support network makes it fun. It's a great incentive to finish up the last few little projects," Ashmore said. "Recruit help at fall and winter gatherings, and identify clusters of homes to call special attention."

Contractors and other vendors may nominate homes they have worked on, and are encouraged to call for more

information about sponsorship. Green, energy efficient, and historically-sensitive remodels and expansions get special notice among the 50 homes. It is not necessary to have remodeled the whole house.

The Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program manages the tour as a celebration of city living that encourages homeowners to improve existing homes. For more information, call Tour Coordinator Margo Ashmore at 612-867-4874 or email [link@n rp.org](mailto:link@nrp.org). The application can be downloaded from www.MSPHomeTour.Com.

Home Tour in Dayton's Bluff

The Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Home Tour, which is organized in conjunction with the Minneapolis-St. Paul Home Tour, will take place on Saturday and Sunday, April 30 and May 1.

2011 is the 15th year that the Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Home Tour has been part of the larger tour which will feature some neighborhood homes, giving Dayton's Bluff increased exposure. The brochure for the larger tour will include addresses for all local homes.

You can nominate your own home or talk to your neighbors about getting their homes on the tour. To find out how to participate, see the contact information below.

For more information

For more information about any of the items on this page, contact Karin DuPaul at karin@daytonsbuff.org or 651-772-2075.

Dayton's Bluff Seniors/Block Nurse Program

by Cheryl Kenney

Dayton's Bluff Seniors is among the youngest of the Block Nurse programs. It was founded in July 2008 to fill a need to support seniors living at home in Dayton's Bluff. The program incorporates a community vision of neighbors helping neighbors, enabling safe and independent living within a "circle of care."



This circle includes transportation services, chronic disease management, advocacy, community wellness centers and foot care. Personal assistance such as walking, exercise, alternative healing, and medicine counseling is offered by students at Minnesota State University and Metropolitan State University. Last year the program assisted 117 elders.

Maryann Chowen, the program's executive director, hopes to serve at least 130 seniors this year. She struggles with challenges to this goal, however, in the form of the need for more donations and strategic planning to create viability. Catalyst Foundation has provided hope through a grant for board development and related organizational needs.

Dayton's Bluff Seniors is one of the partners in the Love Grows Here Wellness Center at First Lutheran Church, 463 Maria Avenue. Chowen would like to bring similar programs to other areas. Love Grows Here also partners with Metropolitan State University, other community organizations and east St. Paul's homeless community.

However, Chowen is in no hurry to move on, enjoying her work because of her passion about seniors, exclaiming that they give as much as they receive. When young people help the seniors, these seniors share their stories and community history. Young people must learn the value of respecting and listening to elders, she explains.



**Photo by Maryann Chowen
Block Nurse program at Parkway Gardens apartments**

Mr. J, an elderly Latino refugee, is an example of this. After having his blood pressure taken at Dayton's Bluff Seniors Clinic, Mr. J told of his narrow escape from his village, amid a hailstorm of bullets. He also shared, with limited English and much pantomime, his frustrating failure at obtaining essential medical care. Someone suggested the Love Grows Here Wellness Center.

The following week, Mr. J came to receive foot care from the Metropolitan State University nursing students, an exam by the nurse practitioner, and help in completing his General Assistance form. Currently enrolled in Medical Assistance, he has new glasses, a stable home, and medications that help control his diabetes and hypertension. He continues his weekly visits to the Love Grows Here Wellness Center, and he feels much better. He now volunteers with Latino organizations, helping them establish their non-profit status. He explains, "Now it is time to return the favor and help others who need it."



**Photo by Maryann Chowen
Parkway Gardens**

The nurses at the Love Grows Here Wellness Center share Mr. J's passion for volunteering, declaring that they gain as much as they give. Nevertheless, they appreciate the assistance they receive from Steven's Square and the St. Paul Foundation. There are various ways to support their work, including fundraising and volunteering. For more information on opportunities for engaging in this

community outreach, contact Maryann Chowen at 651-776-7210 or visit www.daytonbluffseniors.org. The Love Grows Here Wellness Center is open on a walk-in basis Thursdays from 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm.

Cheryl Kenney lives and volunteers in Dayton's Bluff.

Position available

Executive Director

Dayton's Bluff District 4 Community Council

The council is seeking an experienced organizer and manager as its next Executive Director beginning in early 2011. The position is part-time with the potential to become full-time.

The council is one of St. Paul's 17 district councils engaged in community-based planning and development in their respective neighborhoods. Strong communications skills are required, with fluency in Hmong or Spanish a plus. Please review the complete job description at www.daytonbluff.org before applying. Applicants must submit a resume and letter of interest to president@daytonbluff.org no later than January 3, 2011. Inquiries about the position may also be submitted via email; no phone calls please.

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Community Action



**Photo by Steve Trimble
Kara and Sandi Younkin at the new Bars Bakery on Selby Avenue near Dale Street. The mother and daughter entrepreneurs are residents of Dayton's Bluff; Sandi was a co-founder of Swede Hollow Café.**

Junior League/Dayton's Bluff Rec

by Ginger Carroll, Director of Community Outreach, Junior League of St. Paul

Every third Thursday of the month, the Junior League of Saint Paul hosts a family night at Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center. These nights focus on building bonds between children and caregivers by reading and playing together. JLSP volunteers serve food and then play games or read with the children and caregivers.

The Junior League of Saint Paul is dedicated to providing experiences for children to develop skills for success through their Building Bonds Through Reading and Play initiative. Children who are read to regularly learn to read more quickly and easily. Reading to chil-

dren encourages language development, listening skills and a longer attention span.

Anyone who would like to take advantage of this opportunity is invited to join the Third Thursday Family Night from 6pm - 8pm through May. For more information about JLSP, please go to: www.jlsp.org.

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St. John's Catholic Church slated to close

By Greg Cosimini

Most of the Catholic parishes on the East Side of St. Paul will be affected by the reorganization plan announced by the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis in October.

The Church of St. John of St. Paul, one of Dayton's Bluff's two Catholic parishes, is scheduled to merge into St. Pascal Baylon, located at the corner of 3rd Street and White Bear Avenue. The parishes of St. Casimir and St. Patrick will enter into a cluster arrangement, meaning that they will eventually share a pastor and possibly other resources. Farther to the east, St. Thomas the Apostle will merge into Blessed Sacrament which in turn will enter into collaboration and eventual clustering with St. Pascal Baylon. Only Sacred Heart, also located in Dayton's Bluff, will undergo no structural changes.

The details and exact schedule for all these changes are still being worked out. In the case of St. John's, the merger with St. Pascal's is to take place no later than July 1, 2013. At that time St. John's parish will cease to exist as an independent entity and the church and other buildings will be transferred to St. Pascal's. The merged parish will then decide if or when the church building itself will be closed.



St. John's church and school in 1909 from a postcard in the author's collection

According to Catholic Church law, parishes are allowed to appeal decisions such as mergers within ten days of the official decree. St. John's and eleven of the other 14 parishes in the Archdiocese involved in mergers have submitted appeals to Archbishop John Nienstedt. The Archbishop has 30 days to uphold, amend or withdraw the original merger decree. After that a parish could then file another appeal to the Congregation of Clergy in Rome. The closing of church buildings can also be appealed separately in the same manner at the time they occur.

St. John's has a long history in Dayton's Bluff. When its first church was built on 5th Street near Forest in 1886 the new parish had 1400 members. An elementary school soon followed in 1890. The second and current brick church replaced the original wooden building in 1922. A much larger school was opened in 1932. St. John's now has nearly 400 members as it enters its 125th year.

The school remained active into the 1970s when it was merged with Sacred Heart and moved into Sacred Heart's school building. Sacred Heart-St. John School eventually merged with the schools of St. Patrick and St. Casimir in 1992 to form Trinity Catholic School. Trinity was scheduled to move back into the St. John's school building in the fall of 2009 until it suddenly closed in March of that year.

Since the 1970s the St. John's school building has been home to a number of nonprofit organizations, a public charter school, special public school programs, and a small Catholic school. St. John's is once again looking for a major tenant for the school building. Anyone interested in the building should call the church office at 651-771-3690.

Greg Cosimini is a member of St. John's church.

What's happening at the 3M site?

by Forum staff

It appears that a four acre section of the old 3M site, now Beacon Bluff, has been purchased by a local investment and development group, Ironton Asset Fund. The St. Paul Port Authority's Board of Commissioners (SPPA) approved the sale during its October 26 meeting, but it's hard to know exactly what's going on. The *Star Tribune*, covered the sale briefly, but it was not initially noted in the *Pioneer Press*. The SPPA had a short item on its web site; however, at the time it had not contacted any of the members of the community advisory committee.

The area contains four buildings—#3, #14, #20 as well as #21, which was 3M's global headquarters. The SPPA is selling the land for \$1, a subsidy of about \$1 million, with the hope that Ironton will renovate the buildings and lease the space to businesses.

Investors in Ironton have long-time connections with St. Paul and may be the best chance there is for saving and renovating and bringing jobs to at least some of the historic 3M buildings. Ironton spokesmen told the SPPA that it expects to bring 550 jobs to the site.

Under the agreement, Ironton would need to ensure that companies

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Send a check for \$12 made out to Dayton's Bluff District Forum to Forum, 798 East 7th Street, St. Paul, MN 55106.

leasing space would pay their employees at least \$11 per hour and aim to make 70 percent of their workforce city residents.

A 3M historical workgroup will be held on Wednesday, December 8, from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm, and the next meeting of the community advisory committee will be on January 20, from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Both are open to the public. Call Karin DuPaul at the community council office at 651-772-2075 for more information.

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Vacant House becomes a Home

A large four-square house on the 900 block of Beech Street in one of the Invest Saint Paul areas was a favorite of the Dayton's Bluff Vacant Building Committee. Members all agreed it should be on the Vacant Home Tour in May 2008.

Dayton's Bluff residents Eric and Keesha Pfeifer were not looking for another house to replace their bungalow on East 6th Street, but Eric wanted to see what was available on the tour. He and Keesha both liked the house the first time they saw it. Keesha remembers the pink curtains in the living room as one of her first impressions. Besides the woodwork, wood floors and all the space, they were especially drawn to the pocket doors between the living and dining rooms.

Because of all the work that needed to be done to this Category 2 Vacant Building, they at first had difficulty obtaining a loan. But after several of-

fers and counter-offers, the price kept going down and they closed on the sale in September 2008.



The first thing they did was to take down a wall to make the duplex into a single family home once again. The couple redid the kitchen, adding new cabinets and a corner sink and moving the laundry up to the second floor. They moved into the house in June of 2009. Now Eric is restoring the original stairway.

Keesha is a first grade teacher at Hope Community Academy and Eric is doing most of the work on the house while taking care of their two young children.

Where in Dayton's Bluff?

After we reported that the mystery photo in the October issue of the *Forum* was not identified, reader Diane May stepped forward with the answer. The photo is of the sculpture on Dayton's Bluff Elementary School. She also identified the mystery photo in the November issue as the character on Leo's Chow Mein.



If you know the location of this month's mystery object, email karin@daytonsbuff.org or call 651-772-2075. The first person with the correct answer will be reported in the March *Forum* and will receive a pack of color postcards of Dayton's Bluff.

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Mounds Theatre history

by Raeann Ruth

Folks from the Mounds Theatre have been spending a good number of hours at the Historical Society lately, trying to piece together the history of the Historic Mounds Theatre.

We would like to be able to put together a timeline and have discovered a few pertinent facts about the theater, but there are pieces missing. Therefore, we would like to find folks who were involved in the theater "in the day" or know of people who were involved—ushers, candy counter employees, projectionists, managers, etc. We would also like to find pictures of the outside and inside of the theater, from 1922 to 1967, when the theater was closed.

If you have any information, pictures or memorabilia relating to the Mounds Theatre, please email me at raeann@theportage.com or call 651-772-8674. If we have enough people, we would like to set up a time for everyone to meet at the theater and tell their stories.

St. Paul's Finest Suburban Theater—the Mounds Theatre in St. Paul

reprinted from *Movieland* magazine, April 1925

Redecorated and refurbished throughout, ablaze with a myriad of electric lights and signs that turned the corner of Hastings and Earl streets into a rival of New York's Great White Way, Finkelstein and Ruben's Mounds Theatre formally opened to the public Saturday, April 11.

With its new decorative features, electrical effects and new furnishing, the Mounds Theatre stands out as one of the most beautiful suburban theaters in the North west.

The new playhouse, both inside and out is of beautiful design and the decoration scheme has been carried out in panel design, in old rose and delft blue. The borders and designs are richly painted in black, gold and orange. The ceiling divided into eight panels, is elaborately painted in grey, which has a stipple effect and black, gold and orange designing. The beauty of these decorations has been enhanced by the skillful lighting arrangement.

The lobby with its marble floor is attractively decorated in delft blue with a gold stipple effect. The woodwork has been done in old ivory and old rose trimming. The lobby is brilliantly lighted and opens into a foyer from which two staircases lead to the balcony where patrons get a splendid view of the beautiful auditorium.

Rich colored draperies which blend harmoniously with the decorations of the auditorium hang around the foyer and aisle entrances and are not a small feature in the beauty of the ensemble.

The front of the theater has been repainted in gold and black, an unusual combination of colors for a theater front, but nevertheless striking. The gold particularly, predominates and its rich tone makes the front attractive and pretty.

The seats on the main floor and balcony are on a gradual incline from the screen to the rear of the theater, so that seats command an unobstructed view. There is an elaborate cooling system with two units of fans in the roof.

The Mounds will change its programs every Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. The management also announces that there will be special matinee performances every Saturday.

Indian Mounds Regional Park Master Plan

by Jacob Dorer

Did you know that there is a group of neighbors and city planners working on a new master plan for Indian Mounds Regional Park? On January 20, 2011, at the Cerenity Care Center at 200 Earl Street, you can share your ideas and opinions on some preliminary concept drawings for the plan.

There will be an opportunity to view focus plans for four areas: Carver's Cave overlook area, the area around Mounds Boulevard and Earl, the area at Johnson Parkway and Burns Avenue,

and the Mounds Park Maintenance Facility. Department representatives and members of the Indian Mounds Regional Park Task Force will be in attendance to answer any questions.

The meeting will be in the Multi-Purpose Room entrance near Frank Street and Burns Avenue. Cookies and coffee will be provided.

Don't miss out on this exciting chance to help chart the planning for one of St. Paul's oldest and largest parks!

Jacob Dorer is on the board of directors of the Dayton's Bluff District 4 Community Council.

Cause . . .



City wrecking crews unexpectedly showed up the day after neighborhood boys posed with sledgehammer and ax before the house at 689 4th Street. Coincidence?

The burned-out house was scheduled for demolition in June of this year, after much soul searching by the St. Paul Historic Preservation Commission.

After being gutted by a fire, the house quickly began to de-

teriorate. It was purchased by the city, along with several other houses on 4th and neighboring streets, and at one time, there were plans for rehabilitation and new life.

Once the house was condemned, though, vandals did their part, and weather took its turn. In April, unknown workmen removed the siding from the empty house. Since then, foil underwrapping became part of the litter blowing through neighbors' yards, sewers, and into the Mississippi.

Though many neighbors treasure the area's early architecture and craftsmanship, for those who have had to face this house every day, it has been a reminder that the definition of "quality of life" holds many different meanings.

The house was demolished on Monday, November 8. Plans are for a green space, most likely a split drive and a garage for the two abutting properties to share.

In the meantime, the boys in the photo, and the five or eight other children nearby, were hoping that at least for a short time, they would have a place to play, other than in the street.

It's not easy being a kid on 4th Street. There have been complaints about bike riding and basketball in the street. Is it any wonder that gangs and vandalism become activities of interest?

Story and photos by Sage Holben who lives in the 4th Street and Bates neighborhood.

. . . and effect?



Scholastic Book Fair

St John Lutheran Church is participating in "One for Books," a Scholastic program that collects spare change and dollars. The money collected will be used to purchase books for the Children's Hospital Children's Foundation. The community is welcome to shop the book fair and help raise money for these books.

The goal is to give 50 children a new book just in time for Christmas (about \$250.00). The book fair is open from 3:30 to 5:30 pm, Monday, December 6, through Friday, December 10. St. John is located at 765 Margaret Street. Please use the lower level entrance from the parking lot behind the building. For more information, please go to www.stjohne.net.

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

798 East 7th Street
St. Paul, MN 55106
Phone: 651-772-2075
Fax: 651-774-3510
E-mail: editor@daytonsbluff.org
Monthly Circulation: 7,500

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Editor and Layout: Carla Riehle

Next issue: March 2011. Deadline for material: February 10, 2011.