# Dayton's Bluff **DISTRICT** FORUM

#### Volume 23, No. 4

www.daytonsbluff.org

#### June 2010

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#### **Community Calendar**

Thursday, June 3, 6:30 pm \*Community Meeting

Saturday, June 5, 10:30 am Dayton's Bluff Take-a-Hike (see page 5)

Monday, June 14 \*Greenspace Committee 6:00 pm \*Council Meeting 7:00 pm

Monday, June 21 \*Arts & Culture Comm. 6:15 pm \*Council Meeting 7:00 pm

Wednesday, June 16, 6:30 pm Friday, June 18, 9:30 am Eastern District Police Meeting 722 Payne Avenue

# Business association blooming

by Ed Lambert District Council Executive Director

The new Dayton's Bluff Business Association, formed just last January, will have membership materials ready soon, and plans to have its web portal up this summer as well.

Some 20 local business people are working on the formative stages and are planning a Dayton's Bluff business fair for Tuesday, September 14, from 4:00 to 8:00 pm, at the Mounds Theatre near Earl Street and Hudson Road. Colleen Mikesh, the event chairperson, encourages local businesses to contact her to learn more about this exciting event called "Keys to the Community." The overall goal of the fair is to introduce and re-introduce local businesses to the community.

Colleen, a longtime business owner in Dayton's Bluff, has owned Colleen's Flower Cellar (www.col leensflowercellar.com) on Clarence Street for 25 years. You can reach her at 651-793-6966.



# Colleen Mikesh, event chair of the upcoming business fair

The association is organizing a high profile, fun event that local businesses, especially new ones, will not want to miss. Call Colleen to reserve your space and help make the fair a big success.

For more information on the association or to get involved, contact its president, Susan Teitjen at 651-214-8088 or susanteitjen@msn.com.

**Invest Saint Paul** 

**Dayton's Bluff** 



At 619 North Street, owner Katie Kalkman shows her home's imposing fireplace to two participants on the home tour

# **Neighborhood Home Tour**

by Angela duPaul

The 2010 Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Home Tour, held on April 24 and 25, was a great success with over 500 people participating. One house, at 723 Margaret Street, sold within the first four hours of the tour on Saturday.

A home near Mounds Park displayed the creativity of its owner, Robert Marino, an artist skilled in painting and carpentry. Each room has been transformed with a different paint effect. The master bedroom features a mural of the Italian countryside on all four walls. Marino is available to help other homeowners turn their own walls into unique works of art. See some of his work at www.robert-marino.com.

A fourplex near Swede Hollow is owned by a young woman who lives in one of the upper units. Her space demonstrates how a fresh and contemporary interior can be created in a Victorian house. Another home, at 1002 East  $3^{rd}$  Street, was visited by the family that formerly lived there. They were impressed with the changes the new owners had made.

A house on Maple Street survived years of abuse as a rental property to become a lovingly restored family home today. Natural woodwork is present throughout. On Bates Avenue, a home has been resurrected from a recent fire. It is once again a colorful, cozy family home, retaining much of its Victorian charm. And a house on East 3<sup>rd</sup> sports a remodeled kitchen and a hot tub in the back yard.

The Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Home Tour is an event that is enjoyed by residents, visitors, and volunteers. Thank you to everyone who made it a great success.

See page 7 for information on the stories behind 619 North Street and other neighborhood historic homes.

# Dayton's Bluff "Best undiscovered neighborhood—2010"

Dayton's Bluff ranks high on *City Pages*' annual "best of" ratings, taking first place in the "best undiscovered neighborhood" category.

The Strip Club restaurant on Maria Avenue is the winner in two categories—St. Paul restaurant and best bartender. Dan Oskey is the "ever-gracious man behind the bar." Be sure to check out the video on the *City Pages* website where he shows

\*Meetings at Council office 798 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street

Dayton's Bluff District 4 Community Council 798 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street Saint Paul, MN 55106 NONPROFIT ORG. U. S. POSTAGE PAID SAINT PAUL, MN PERMIT NO. 3996

ECRWSS Postal Customer off his handmade tonics and mixers.

The other winners are Swede Hollow Park ("best urban hike") and the Animal Ark thrift store ("best thrift store"), both on East 7<sup>th</sup> Street. And not to be forgotten are Mañana Salvadoran restaurant (reviewed on page 3) and the Dari-ette drive-in, both of which took top honors in 2009. See all the categories at http://www. citypages.com/bestof.

### City Pages says:

"As places like the Strip Club and Swede Hollow Café bring patrons to the other side of downtown St. Paul, people are getting exposed to the history, beauty, diversity, and culture of the neighborhood. Sitting high on land that overlooks the Mississippi River, Dayton's Bluff is full of gorgeous historic properties—Queen Anne Victorians, brownstones, and brick manors—available at a fraction of the price of many other city neighborhoods.

"The area is within walking distance of the St. Paul Farmers' Market and Mears Park, and is home to Swede Hollow Park, Indian Mounds Park, and the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary and Regional Trails. The Bluff also has a wealth of food culture. Italian, Salvadoran, Mexican, Hmong, Vietnamese, and Thai restaurants and markets, along with several incredible taco trucks, make the area a food-geek paradise. The neighborhood is also known for the intense community involvement of residents, evidenced by the multitude of programs promoting neighborhood improvement in the arts, housing, employment, and education."

### Gordon Parks art gallery and exhibition at Metro State University

Metropolitan State University will soon house The Gordon Parks Gallery, an art gallery honoring the life and artistic legacy of past St. Paul resident Gordon Parks. A prolific photojournalist, writer, filmmaker and composer, Parks was best known for his photos illuminating poverty and powerlessness, including "American Gothic," an image of an African-American cleaning woman.

The university dedicated the new name of the gallery on May 21 with a major exhibition and retrospective of Parks' work. The exhibition will run through July 2010. "I believe Gordon Parks would be proud to have his works on display at Metropolitan State University," said Erica Rasmussen, associate professor and gallery director. "As the most ethnically diverse fouryear college in Minnesota, Metropolitan State shares Parks' focus on multiculturalism."

The youngest of 15 children, Parks used his skills as a photojournalist to tell powerful stories, especially during the 1960s Black Power movement. He became the first African-American photographer for *Life* magazine, where he worked for 24 years. He authored several books and became the first African American to direct a major Hollywood film. While he directed five films, his most famous was "Shaft." He also wrote novels, poetry, a ballet and several orchestral scores. The Gordon Parks Gallery at Metropolitan State University will be located on the third floor of the university's current library, now simply called the Third Floor Gallery. The university has launched a campaign to raise \$250,000 for ongoing programs in support of the gallery. Some of the money will also support community outreach, including ties with several public schools in the Twin Cities.

"Some people are under the assumption that the state provides funding for university programs such as this," said Robert Heuermann, University Advancement vice president and Foundation executive director. "In reality, the state of Minnesota only provides 38 percent of our funding. We rely on alumni, community leaders and concerned citizens for the vast majority of our financial support." The fundraising campaign will support the school outreach program, gallery promotion and six annual exhibitions by a diverse group of established and emerging artists

Corporations, foundations and individuals wishing to contribute to the Gordon Parks Gallery at Metropolitan State University can do so online at www.metrostate.edu/foundation or by calling Rob Larson at 651-793-1813.

Metropolitan State University (www.metrostate.edu), a member of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system, provides high-quality, affordable academic and professional degree programs at the bachelor's, master's and doctorate levels. It is the only state university in the Twin Cities metropolitan area.





"American Gothic" by Gordon Parks

# Please show support for this newspaper

Times are tough and you probably have already been solicited to give to pledge drives for non-profits, to sponsor people walking for a cause or to buy raffle tickets for school or churches. There are a lot of good causes out there. And the *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* hopes you think of the paper as a good cause and might be able to make a contribution to help keep the presses rolling.

This newspaper needs your help to continue to cover what is going on in our neighborhood. The cost of printing has gone up and the postage for mailing has soared. In addition, we do not have a strong advertising base to count on. There is currently enough money to publish through the early fall, but after that it's hard to tell.

lar value—as long as the supply lasts. For information about gift subscriptions or advertising rates, call Karin DuPaul at 651-772-2075. Thanks.

#### Looking for East Side "Greatest Generation" history information by Steve Trimble

This fall, Ramsey County History magazine will publish an article on the 1940s and 1950s in Dayton's Bluff, Railroad Island and lower Payne Avenue. The editors are looking for memories, photos, letters and the like to help draw an accurate picture of the life in those neighborhoods. Stories of working at Hamm's Brewery, 3M, Seeger's/Whirlpool, St. John's Hospital and other businesses are welcome. Information about social and cultural life—family celebra tions, evens at recreation centers and Christ Child Center, the importance of schools, churches, unions and other institutions is also sought. The article will focus on the home front during World War II, so dig out your diaries, letters, photos and tales of scrap drives and rationing. There will be a look at the post-war era and the changes it brought. Then there are the 1950s with good jobs and industrial expansion along with more automobiles, drive-ins and televisions that need to be discovered. If you have personal memories, family stories, photos or other items about the 1940s and 1950s in the neighborhoods along East 7th Street and Payne Avenue, please contact this writer at 651-774-2096 or at steve.trimble@gmail.com



# Thursday, June 10th 5:00-7:00pm

Come hear about the progress and plans for this next generation business center! (refreshments will be provided)

Carpenter's Union Great Hall 710 Olive Street, Saint Paul (Williams Hill Business Center)

Please contact Tonya Bauer at (651) 204-6228 with questions.

So if you value having a local newspaper and you can afford it, please consider writing a check. All donations are tax-deductible. You might consider buying a gift subscription for someone who used to live here and who might enjoy reading about the old home area. Maybe you can talk an area business into taking out advertising.

Any amount will be appreciated and, unless you want to remain anonymous, your name will be included in a future issue of the paper. Please make any checks out to the *District Forum* and mail them to Dayton's Bluff Community Council at 798 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street, St. Paul 55106.

As a special premium, anyone who makes a donation of at least \$25.00 will receive a set of 12 collectable Dayton's Bluff postcards—a ten dol-

### Remodeled building offers "smart" addition to Metropolitan State University campus

#### by Harvey Meyer

East Siders heading toward downtown St. Paul on East Seventh Street may have their curiosity piqued by a flurry of construction activity at Metropolitan State University this summer. So-called "smart classrooms" are being added on campus.

A remodeled 16,500-square-foot space that once housed the university's bookstore will be outfitted with sophisticated instructional technology, offering students a high-quality learning environment. This advanced equipment–computers, digital cameras, DVD/VCR players, digital projectors and more–will be integrated into instructor stations in four first-floor classrooms. The second floor will feature a large conference room, three seminar spaces and 18 new offices.

"We've got this technology elsewhere in about half of the classrooms on campus," said Dan Hambrock, the university's associate vice president of capital planning and campus services. "Since these classrooms are much sought after by faculty and students, the building will really be appreciated by the users."

The \$5.86 million project cost was approved by the Minnesota Legislature in March. Demolition and reconstruction of the existing two-story building, including linkage with the library skyway, is scheduled to begin in June. Construction is expected to be substantially completed one year later, with classrooms ready for fall semester 2011.

"When the construction is done, the exterior of the building will be aesthetically pleasing," says Hambrock. It will offer a more uniform look for the campus, which was once the site of the old Saint John's Hospital. "It will be a real asset to the university and the Dayton's Bluff community."

Metropolitan State first sought remodeling funds for the 90-year-old building in the early 1990s. The basement, housing the campus' heating, electrical and cooling plant, is in good shape, but the rest of the facility was plagued with a leaking roof, failing windows and required substantial asbestos removal. Since 1996, governors have vetoed remodeling money for the facility three times.

Significantly, the building, representing an extension of Saint John's Hall, will provide much-needed additional classrooms and academic offices. The campus has been squeezed for space for years, and rising enrollment has compounded that situation.

"We've got academic programs bursting at the seams, because they need more space, and we have faculty doubling up on offices," said Hambrock. "Once completed, the building will be heavily utilized and a welcome addition to our campus."

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

#### New job training funds are here now

- be Indian and Native American
- be an older worker (55 or older)

More information is available on the program web site www.renewm n.org, by emailing jobconnectM N@co.ramsey.mn.us; or by calling Karyn Berg (651-779-5652) or John O'Phelan (651-779-5411). Some 12 Training Service Providers (listed on the website) are already taking applications, so if you are interested (and you fit the criteria) get in contact with the program now.

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#### Mañana Pupusería y Restaurante by June Bennett Admin Asst, District Council

How many times have you driven down a street, noticed a name on a building and wondered what kind of enterprise is in that building? Well I have, and I finally got to see what

was in the Mañana (means "tomorrow") Restaurant located at 828 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street. The restaurant has been there for five years and has acquired a great reputation for their good food.

It is a family-run restaurant that started with Rosario Diaz 25 years ago when she began making making pupusas from her home. Morice Páiz, her son, is now the owner of their two restaurants, the other located in Shakopee. Morice is also looking to expand into the downtown Minneapolis area to serve their customers who come from Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park, Burnsville, Minneapolis and of course, Wisconsin and Chicago.

The restaurant built its reputation by word of mouth and from articles in *City Pages*, on the radio, and in Spanish language publications. Morice indicated that when 3M closed it did not affect the restaurant but the recent recession did.

Because of the economy he had to let some staff go and now relies on



family members to help out, but he still wants to create jobs for local residents.

Morice and the family are from El Salvador and he is a graduate of Arizona State University. He initially moved to Arizona because of his daughter's asthma. His daughter Lyla was born here in Minnesota but due to her health, Morice and his wife Candice had to move. They returned when Lyla "outgrew" her asthma problem so they could help with the restaurant.

The food is home made and Hispanic customers often say that it reminds them of home. Morice says, "If I have competition, that makes me want to do better and fulfill the needs of the customer . . . and I want to be a little different too."

The Mañana restaurant is open seven days a week. Breakfast is served from 8:00 to 11:00 am, lunch from 12:00 to 6:00 pm and dinner from 6:00 to 9:00 pm. On Saturdays and Sundays, the restaurant also serves a variety of soups. They have great carry-out too! For more information, call 651-793-8482.

Editor's note: And what, you might ask, is a pupusa? It seems that Salvadorans and Hondurans vie over who makes the best pupusas. Whatever the fine points of difference between them may be, a pupusa generally consists of a thick, made-to-order tortilla filled with a variety of flavorful concoctions that are rolled up inside the raw dough. They are flattened out and grilled on a "comal" or griddle, then served hot with a spicy cabbage salad and hot sauce. If you've only tried tacos and burritos, you'll find that once you've had a pupusa, you'll never want to go back. Muy delicioso!

Ramsey County Workforce Solutions has announced that the Renewable Energy Network Empowering Workers (RENEW) project has been funded by the federal Department of Labor and is open for business in St. Paul.

Funds are available to train hundreds of persons in St. Paul who fit the criteria outlined below and live in Dayton's Bluff, or one of six other St. Paul neighborhoods.

The training project focuses on providing sustainable pathways out of poverty, while ensuring that area businesses have access to a welltrained workforce that is prepared to carry out the work of "greening the local economy." The average training grant is \$3,000-although some will receive more and others less-and the emphasis is on construction, deconstruction, and manufacturing. St. Paul participants must be:at least 18 years of age and registered with the Selective Service, if male, and must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- be unemployed
- be a high school dropout
- have a criminal record
- be disadvantaged (see RE-NEW income guidelines)
- be disabled
- have limited English proficiency
- be a veteran (and some spouses of veterans)

# Let's Make 2010 a Perfect 10! Earn 5.10% APY on Your Checking!

Open a St. Paul Federal Credit Union Checking Account and do the all things that you already do; direct deposit, use your debit card, and sign up for E-statements and we'll give you 5.10% APY on your checking balances up to \$10,000! Stop in any of our offices, call 651.772.8744, or visit www.stpaulfcu.org for more information.\*

\*APY = Annual Percentage Yield. Rate of 5.10% APY will be paid on balances up to \$10,000 as long as cycle requirements are met. Balances above \$10,000 will be paid the default current rate of your respective checking account (The Capital Checking account pays no dividends). If requirements are not met during statement cycle, account will function as your default checking account and earn the stated default APY. Requirements for earning 5.10% APY include: 15 debit card transactions (not including ATM transactions) per statement cycle, enrollment into E-Statements through Internet Banking, and one direct deposit per statement cycle. Rate quoted 05/10. St. Paul Federal reserves the right to change rates and terms without notice.

1330 Conway St., Suite 200, St. Paul, MN 55106 www.stpaulfcu.org | 651.772.8744

# Free Junk Car Removal

Budget Towing of Minnesota will remove any junk car or truck and dispose of it at no charge to the owner. The vehicle owner will receive paperwork for a tax donation, and the Dayton's Bluff Community Council will receive a donation for each car towed. Just contact Karin@DaytonsBluff.org or 651-772-2075 to get the eyesore removed.

#### Tidbits from Van Buren School's History by Steve Trimble

St. Paul schools have been in the newspapers a lot recently. Some buildings have been closed, there are financial problems and numerous discussions of what should be taught and the importance of testing as a way to determine the quality of instruction. So I thought it might be interesting to take a look at what was going on a century or so ago in our neighborhood educational institutions.

I am returning to the *St. Paul Daily Globe* that is online at the Library of Congress website. I put the key words "Van Buren" in the search engine. For those who don't already know, Van Buren was one of the local schools that was located at Conway and Maple. The site is now occupied by Dayton's Bluff Elementary which was formed by a merger of Van Buren and Mounds Park Elementary in the 1970s.



I also put in the name "Laura Hand," since she was often mentioned by old-timers as a much-revered principal of Van Buren. I hope what I found will be interesting and will show how many things have changed and the way that the educational issues of yesteryear are still being discussed.

Unlike today, there was no need to shut down programs in the 1880s and 1890s. A major building boom was occurring and student populations were soaring. Even though additions had been made to several schools, more rooms were needed. The *Globe* for October 1887 stated that there were 1,200 more students than in the preceding year.

"The crowded condition of affairs" of the Van Buren, Gorman and Cleveland schools "has made it necessary to hold half day sessions" for over a thousand attendees, the paper said. This was proving to create "a great disadvantage to the schools, since it breaks into the regular work of the schools and prevents equal progress in the different buildings." Still, there were many success stories in the local area. In January 1888, for example, a Globe article listed a large number of students who had passed "the proper examinations." People did not automatically enter high school, but had to take specific course work and do well on examinations Among the 119 who would be admitted to St. Paul High School-there was only one at the time—were some historically-familiar names from Van Buren: Marie Scheffer, Charles Winquist, Lenora Commick, Edwin Middleton, Fanny Dodd, Rudolph Bate and Fred Craig. Maybe one of you readers could Google up the names and see what might be found about their later lives.

student a few years later. At the end of the school year in 1895, the *Globe* printed a large article on students from ten of the best schools Those chosen were all in the eighth grade and all were going to "try for the high" as the paper put it, referring to their plans to go to high school.

Here's who the paper highlighted from Van Buren School. "Among over a thousand pupils and in a class of nine, one of the most promising is Miss Marie Sohns." She was 15 and had started in a private school, but had been in the neighborhood school for five years. According to the paper, she was "practical and void of foolish romance, so common in young girls."

Instead, the writer said "she sighs for nothing but quotients, yearns not save for trial divisors, and she dreams but of heroes who can add three columns simultaneously." Stating the obvious, the paper added: "Briefly, she adores arithmetic. Arithmetical fervor has not paled her rosy cheeks and, it is needless to add, she too is a blue-eyed girl."

But back to Miss Laura Hand. She was the principal of Sibley School when the head of Van Buren school died in December 1893 and she would take over the helm a few weeks later. Not all welcomed the idea of a woman principal and at least one letter was sent, asking the superintendent to appoint another male. Things turned out all right and it was a position Miss Hand held until her own death in 1917. She was always remembered as a highly successful administrator and educator.

Almost all of the data on Miss Hand in the *Globe* concerned her duties at the school. However, there were a few scraps of information about her personal life. In May 1894, she was elected second vice-president of the Teachers' Association at the group's annual meeting at St. Paul High School. Then in June 1894, it was noted that Miss Laura Hand and Miss Darragh of the teachers' training school were living at a White Bear cottage until the end of the term when they were expected to take a trip to California.

It looks like today's concern about school safety is nothing new. The community had its problems around the turn of the century. It was reported in 1896 that St. Paul's Superintendent of schools had added an officer for special duty at the Van Buren School "to look after a gang of young toughs who have been in the habit of hanging around the building and annoying the young women attending the sessions." It was apparently not the first time



that the "masher element" reared its "ogley" head at Van Buren. Superintendent Gilbert assured people that "the custom will be stamped out if it takes special officers at each school every night during the remainder of the term."

But problems still popped up now and then. Under the headline "Boys Make War on Janitor," the September 24, 1903, issue of the *Globe* covered the struggle over general public use of school playgrounds and an altercation that subsequently arose at Van Buren Elementary School. The school board had seemed to favor the suggestion but had not made any decision and many people had the impression that the new approach had already been implemented.

Laura Hand, the principal, said she feared the injury of her employee "from the boys of the neighborhood, who have caused a great deal of trouble . . . and who deny the right of the janitor to order them away from the school property."

It was reported that when they were accosting the janitor, a nearby policeman did nothing to stop the altercation. In addition, there were "a letter carrier and some fire men looking on and enjoying the janitors discomfiture, and that some women stood by actually encouraging the boys."

But let's not end this month's column on the dark side. The *Globe* also covered a September 1902 reception at which, as a sub headline put it, "Van Buren Pupils Show Astonishing Collection." The article informed readers that a large number of visitors were there to see art that now belonged to the school.

"In the lower hall of the school building were exhibited about 200 pictures," it stated, "including a fine collection of English and French prints, photographs, a few original water colors and some samples of pottery and brass." pupils gave a number of events to raise money for "the entertainment fund" which was then used to procure the works of art. The actual purchases were made by Miss Hand during some of her summer European trips.

It's obvious that at the turn of the century the neighborhood school valued art appreciation. It's hard to argue with the newspaper's assertion that the reception showed the "results that can be accomplished by wise teachers and interested pupils."

A few years ago there was a big todo over the curriculum in Minnesota. More than a hundred years ago the same thing was happening. The debate then tells a little about how information about our "founding fathers" were highly valued at one time. The debate was over whether or not enough class time was being given to American history.

Miss Hand was quoted as saying that in the lower grades, from kindergarten up, the nation's heritage was featured. Stories of Washington and Lincoln "are told and afterward reproduced by the children." In the third grade stories of men like Hennepin were given, along with general Minnesota history. All the seventh grade was spent on American history and in the eighth English history was the focus. According to her, there had been a vote among the principals on whether or not to take away from the British history and replace it with more about America. They preferred to have things remain the same.

It appears that Van Buren School was serious about its desire to have the students know the story of "the father of our country." One 1893 issue of the *Globe* in February—the month of our first president's birthday—had a headline "Quaint Entertainment in Honor of George Washington at Van Buren."

It seems that children of the eighth grade were involved in several recitations, essays and songs during the first portion of the program. In addition to portraying George and Martha, a cluster of costumed students "in oldfashioned state" joined in to perform a "stately minuet." There was mention in the article of a cherry tree. So there's another glimpse of Dayton's Bluff history that can be found in the online issues of the St. Paul Globe. How do you think things compare today? Celebrating Washington's birthday appears to be gone, having been absorbed into a "President's Day" holiday. Are there still security issues at our local schools? What are students today learning? What will people a hundred years in the future think of our schools today? Photographs are courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society; sketch is from the St. Paul Daily Globe.

The search did bring up some information about another Van Buren Under the direction of teachers, the



# What's happening at District Council board meetings?

# Highlights of the April 19, 2010, nonprofit board meeting

The board approved the following action: Write a letter to the city stating the board's approval and support of the art project (an inside mural) proposed for the Dayton's Bluff Rec Center by members of the Youth in Action program.

#### Highlights of the May 10, 2010, housing, environment, and economic development meeting

The board approved the following actions:

(1) Write a letter to the city of St. Paul supporting the Mounds Park Magnet School's application for a variance to increase the height and overall square footage of their new sign.

(2) Write a letter supporting the Upper Swede Hollow neighborhood's request that the board recommend the STAR Board deny #10-122 Swede Hollow Flats grant proposal from Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota to build multiunit housing and office buildings on their property.

The first building to be constructed would contain 34 housing units plus office space and the Headstart program currently located across the street. In the second phase, the building currently housing the Headstart program would be demolished and replaced by two additional residential buildings. In total, the three buildings are expected to have 100 units.

Neighbors expressed the following concerns:

- Lack of adequate communication and planning involvement with neighbors near the site.
- Problems created by increasing the population density in that small area.
- Concerns about the visual size, materials, and design of the proposed building in a historic neighborhood.
- Negative impact on efforts to preserve the historic nature of Upper Swede Hollow and Dayton's Bluff.
- Concern for neighborhood children because of clients who use drugs and alcohol in the neighborhood.
- Over-concentration of subsid-

block clubs and neighborhood residents on problem properties, criminal and nuisance behavior, code enforcement issues and any other issues, concerns or new ideas for improving Dayton's Bluff

If addresses of problem properties are submitted before the meeting, they will be sent to police and code enforcement officers who will research the properties and bring relevant information to the meeting. All Dayton's Bluff residents are welcome to attend.

# 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, June 16, at 6:30 pm, and Friday, June 18, at 9:30 am. The meetings are intended to listen to and address concerns about crime and other issues on the East Side.

### **Block club meetings**

**Wilson Avenue Block Club** meets at 6:30 pm on the second Wednesday of each month at Mounds Park United Methodist Church, at Earl and Euclid.

**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 Street. This block club encompasses 7<sup>th</sup>, Ross, Bush. and Reaney streets and Minnehaha Avenue.

**Beech/Margaret 654 Block Club** meets at 6:30 pm on the last Thursday of each month at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church at Margaret and Forest. This block club covers Minnehaha, Beech, Margaret, 6<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> between Cypress and Arcade.

**Frank Street Block Club** meets at 6:30 pm on the third Wednesday of each month at Immanuel City of Refuge Healing Temple, at 815 Frank Street. This block club encompasses 7<sup>th</sup>, Ross, Bush. and Reaney streets and Minnehaha Avenue between Earl and Johnson Parkway.

**Lower Dayton's Bluff Block Club** meets monthly in the summer. This block club is bounded by 3<sup>rd</sup> and Maple streets and I-94. Contact Sherry Johnson at sherrypjohnson@gmail.com for the time and place of the next meeting.

# Gardens: tours and boulevards



# Take-a-Hike on June 5

Take-a-Hike occurs on the first Saturday of most months. The next hike will be Saturday, June 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.

# **Church Directory**

Amazing Grace Assembly of God 1237 Earl Street 651-778-1768

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church** 655 Forest Street 651-776-4737 www.bethlehem-eaststpaul.org

Church of Acts 100 Reaney Avenue 651-771-1261

**Ethiopian Evangelical Church** 770 E. 7<sup>th</sup> Street 651-772-7204 www.eecmn1.org

First Lutheran Church ELCA 463 Maria Avenue 651-776-7210 www.lovegrowshere.net

House of Jacob 284 Bates Avenue 651-776-7023

**Iglesia Pacto de Victoria** 700 Johnson Parkway 651-793-8077

**Immanuel City of Refuge Healing Temple** 815 Frank Street 651-771-0047

Mounds Park United Methodist 1049 Euclid Street 651-774-8736 www.moundsparkumc.org **Our Saviour's Lutheran** 674 Johnson Parkway 651-774-2396 www.oursaviourslutheran.org

**Peace United Church of Christ** 940 Reaney Avenue 651-771-8207

**Sacred Heart Catholic Church Iglesia Sagrado Corazón** 840 E. 6<sup>th</sup> Street 651-776-2741

**St. John of Saint Paul Catholic Church** 977 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Street 651-771-3690 www.stjstp.org

**St. John's Outreach Ministry** 1154 E. 7<sup>th</sup> Street 651-771-7639

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran** 765 Margaret Street 651-771-6406 www.stjohnev.net

**St Paul Eastside Seventh-day Adventist Church** 1052 Minnehaha 651-771-2872 www.stpauleastside22.adventistchurch connect.org

ized housing units in the surrounding community.

• Further encroachment of institutionally scaled buildings in a residential neighborhood.

(3) Write a letter supporting the application of Best Pawn, located at 525 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street, to allow the outdoor display of merchandise and other operating changes related to business hours and parking.

# Monthly community meeting

The next Dayton's Bluff Community Meeting is Thursday, June 3, from 6:30 to 8:00 pm at the Dayton's Bluff Community Council, 798 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street. The council holds a community meeting on the first Thursday of most months. The object is to work with The first of the annual Dayton's Bluff garden tours is scheduled for Monday, June 28. It starts at 6:30 pm at 324 Bates Avenue and will meander at a leisurely pace through nearby gardens. More tours will be scheduled throughout the summer. Check the *Forum* or www.daytonsbluff.org for locations.

Interested in a boulevard garden? It's been reported that "up-front" gardens help to build community and even reduce crime.

Contact the council office if you would like to schedule a tour in your neighborhood or would like more information about boulevard gardening.

**For more information** on any of the preceding articles, contact karin @daytonsbluff.org or call 651-772-2075



A rainy day constructing a rain garden at Twin Cities Academy Middle School



# Neighborhood youth take care of their own



Members of YIT, armed with bags and pick-up tools for the clean-up.

"The youth volunteered to clean up *their* park. They do care about our community, and are doing positive work in our area," said Gina Stokes, assistant director at DBRC.

YIT is designed to help young men in the Dayton's Bluff area, ages 14–24, with issues like GED tutoring, parenting advice, job training skills, gang prevention and community service projects. For more information contact Mary Moore at the DBRC.

Don't forget! Look for these colorful trash cans, painted by local youth, ▶ at houses and businesses in the neighborhood. Help keep it clean!

Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center | 800 Conway Street | 651-793-3885

# Where Are We Going with the Human Race?

By Mary Ann Cogelow

As a consequence of writing for the *Dayton's Bluff District Forum*, I find myself reflecting on the statements I've made and the resources I've consulted.

Last month I argued that the use of competition as a motivator serves us poorly in doing the best possible job of educating children. For the past month, Alfie Kohn's assertion that competition teaches children to "regard other people as potential obstacles to their own success," as adversaries to be overcome, has been echoing in my mind. An inadequate understanding of winning and losing too easily leads to the dehumanization of the competitor, the other, the enemy, and ultimately to a potential loss of the victor's humanity, for none of us can be fully human when we fail to affirm the full humanity of all others. The relative merits of competition as compared to cooperation have provided a backdrop for my thinking as history unfolds. On the national and local level, three events have had me musing on the themes of competition and cooperation. A British Petroleum oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico blew up, killing eleven people and resulting in a massive oil leak which threatens to be the greatest natural disaster in U.S. history. Naturalized US citizen Faisal Shahzad left a car bomb intended to kill, maim, and cause significant property damage in New York's Times

Square. Responding to a carjacking, Maplewood Police Sgt. Joe Bergeron was "smoked" (in the words of one of the men charged with his murder) and St. Paul police officer David Longbehn was severely beaten in the face. One of the two carjackers was shot to death.

The web of causality leading up to each of these events is complex beyond my knowledge or understanding. It is inconceivable that, among many other strands, there are not threads both of cooperation and competition in each of these stories. However, I know enough about international corporations to imagine at least a thread of competition playing a role in the oil disaster. The attempted car bombing in New York and the savagery unleashed in St. Paul immediately conjure up the witches' brew of poor self-esteem, envy, alienation, aggression and poor relationships which Kohn attributes to the unwise reliance on competition, rampant in our society and schools. It is difficult if not impossible to imagine that Faisal Shazad, Jason J. Jones, or Joshua M. Martin valued the full humanity either of their victims or of themselves. What seems clear, however, is that the responses to these events depended upon and continue to depend upon skills which have much more to do with the capacity of people to rise to the occasion using their knowledge and skills to work together solving problems which threaten all of us more or less directly than they have to

do with competition.

Now that winter is officially over, we

enjoy the sounds of the birds singing, and see the colors of spring in our flowers and trees. But as the sun

can embrace the warmth of the sun,

melts away the snow, it reveals all the trash that has been left behind

This is where an opportunity comes into play for the community to come

together: Spring Park Clean-Up. On Saturday, April 10, young men

from Youth in Transition (YIT) teamed up with neighborhood volunteers to make the Dayton's

Bluff Recreation Center (DBRC)

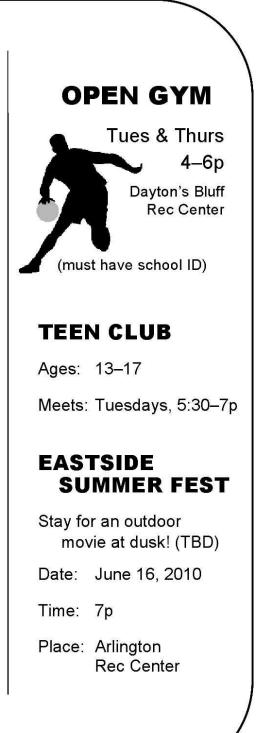
surrounding area a greener place.

from last fall.

All of this may seem like a big leap from the questions of how to best educate kids, but it really isn't. How we educate or fail to educate our children has real consequences. The problems which we confront on our shrinking globe are complex and urgent and defy the possibility of solution through competition in the unexamined ways we have practiced it. It is both morally imperative and in our enlightened self-interest that we do our very best to ensure that every child reaches his full potential as a contributor.

How then to do this? It seems to me that the question we need to answer first is, "Who do we want our children cause I think it is appropriately a question for communities.

I do want to be a part of the discussion and as part of it I would argue that its answer has to include a deep understanding of child development, profound appreciation for individual differences, and an insistence that human beings of all ages come "whole" and that education therefore has to consider their intellectual, social, emotional, physical, and spiritual dimensions and the constant interactions among them. I would also argue that education takes place at home, at school, and in the community and that all of us need to see ourselves as teachers and work continually to improve our skills.



to be?" and the questions which follow from it include others such as "How do they become these people?" What do they need to learn to be these people?"

Interestingly, as I think back over much of discussion I've read or heard in the last decade or so, these big pic-

ture questions are given little time as the focus shifts almost immediately to the details of smaller pictures: "What do they need to know to pass the test?" Despite my willingness to bite off more that I can easily chew, I'm not going to answer this question be(to be continued in the July issue of the District Forum)

Mary Ann Cogelow was a parent educator in the St. Paul Public Schools Early Childhood Family Education Program at Dayton's Bluff from 1975 to 2008. She continues to write on parenting issues.



# Mounds Theatre/Portage for Youth Summer Camp

The Portage for Youth summer camp will run for six weeks, from June 21 to July 30. Registration is now open for kids ages 8 to 12 and is free for all.

Scheduled classes include:

Dance: 10:30 am-12:30 pm Lunch: 12:30 pm-1:00 pm Theater: 1:00 pm-3:00 pm

Dance students gain a basic understanding of creative movement and will learn to create performance pieces that reflect their personal expressions and incorporate physical movements, increasing flexibility.

Theater students will study acting, singing, movement and set design and will read from scripts to build literacy skills and gain self-confidence in performing and speaking in front of groups and individuals.

Transportation and lunches are the participant's responsibility and summer camp students are asked to bring a bag lunch/drink and snack. Students must be picked up from the theater by 3:00 pm.

The camp is at the Historic Mounds Theatre, 1029 Hudson Road. Please call 651-772-8674 for an application form or go online at www.mound theatre.org for a printed form.

# Youth Guide for East Side available

The East Side Youth Guide, put out by the St. Paul Parks and Recreation department, lists a wealth of activities for the long hot summer ahead.

Aimed at Payne-Phalen and Dayton's Bluff youth, the guide has athletics, day camps, arts and crafts and family activities.

At least one of the activities should spark the interest of even the most jaded teen-ager. Check out, for example, a "Sister Circle" at the East YMCA, "Introduction to Stage Combat" hosted by the Young Artists Initiative, "The Great Wild East Side: a Nature walk on St. Paul's East Side," "Hmong Youth Pride" and canoeing and kayaking at Lake Phalen.

Many of the activities are free or at reduced cost..

The guide also has a map and registration materials for the free Circulator Bus. Available for kids from 7 to 18, the route stops at most of the activity sites in Payne-Phalen and Dayton's Bluff. It will run from June 21 to August 20, Monday through Friday, 10:00 am to 6:00 pm.

Pick up a guide at the District Council office at 798 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street or call the St. Paul Parks and Recreation department at 651-266-6422.

### Lynx visits Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center

Rashanda McCants, professional women's basketball player for the Minnesota Lynx, visited the Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center on May 13. The 6' 1" guard/forward talked to the assembled youth about the importance of working hard in school and having dreams to keep them motivated. The University of North Carolina graduate was taken as the fifteenth overall choice in the 2009 draft.

McCants spent time answering questions from the kids, ranging from when she started playing basketball to how much she made and her thoughts about the upcoming season for her team.

She said she has hopes of winning it all next season and that it was great to "get paid for doing something I really like." Number 8 for the Lynx, who played in all 34 games last year, then demonstrated some three-point shooting, re-emphasized the need to practice and to stay in school and sat down in front of a long line to sign autographs.



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Metropolitan State University

# Dayton's Bluff architectural hikes

by Carla Riehle, Forum editor

619 North Street is one of the stops on the neighborhood home tour described on page 1. However, even its owner may not be aware that it's also known as the "Emil W. Ulrici house."

Built in the late 1800s, the residence changed hands numerous times, and was first owned by Ulrici, an architect. This information, from the 1884 St. Paul city directory, indicates that Ulrici was associated with the firm Millard, Ulrici & Eltzne.

The 1887 city directory says that Mr. and Mrs. James Akers resided there as well and later entries name other occupants. One of them was a World War I Swedish sergeant in the U.S. army, who fought at Meuse, the Argonne and the Marne, and was later employed as a motorman by the St. Paul City Railway Company. that's been compiled by Lawrence A. Martin at the website www.angelfire. com/mn/thursdaynighthikes.

For many years, Martin has led Thursday night hikes focused on different areas of the Twin Cities. While the Dayton's Bluff hike was held several years ago, the website retains his meticulous notes on at least 100 sites. The notes include the history of ownership and residence, as well as information on the structure's architectural style. The detailed map on the website is enough for anyone to take a self-guided hike through the area, with a copy of Martin's notes in hand.

The Thursday hikes continue almost every week of the year and are listed on the website a month or so in advance. Apparently a labor of love, the

Similar detail is available for the house at 629 North Street and many many more. These entries comprise part of the vast amount of information hikes are free for anyone to join.

In May, the hikes were mainly scheduled for places like Fridley and Eagan where we city folk don't often venture, but on May 4, the hike took place at Harriet Island and Lilydale Regional Park. I'm sorry I missed it, but I'm planning to check the website in June, in the hopes that another local hike will be scheduled soon.



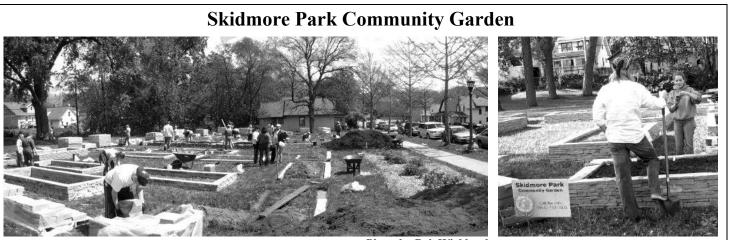


Photo by Bob Wicklund

May 1, community gardeners gather to prepare beds for planting; May 14, planting has begun Skidmore Park is located at 1085 East 4<sup>th</sup> Street between Earl and Hancock streets

### Brief encounters at the library

#### by Susan Johnson

As a person who can be deeply moved by everyday experiences, something happened to me that had a profound impact on my perceptions of the citizens of the Dayton's Bluff neighborhood.

I have been going to school at Metropolitan State University for two years and have rarely allowed myself to walk outside the safety of the campus bubble and take in the surrounding neighborhood. The homes and apartments spider out from the shining windows and protected walkways of our beautiful University. Some of the homes are lovely and well maintained, with bikes and toys cluttering porches and yards. Others sit vacant or abandoned, ragged from disuse or misuse.

I don't often walk through the neighborhood as there has never been a reason. This is where I go to school, not where I live, and these are not my people. But then I started meeting some of the people who live here and I realized that this community has a wealth of knowledge and experience that should be taken in and respected as part of my education.

You can find me in the library at least one day a week and many weeks more. Come spring and summer I will be up the hill in the community garden tending vegetables. There is good energy and I work well in the library. I like the feel of the tables and the view from the windows. I also like the diversity of the people, and the lovely melody of the different languages I hear in hushed conversations. People from all over the world are here with me in this tiny pocket of St. Paul to get an education. I want to know their stories too, but that would be rude, so I smile. I look up and greet people as we pass one another. I do so because I just never know when someone might say "hello."

Many of the people I study with at the library aren't students either, they are community members. Some are poor, some are homeless, and some struggle with mental illness. Many live with the threat of all these factors. For many, this library is their sanctuary.

One afternoon after I had settled myself at a first floor table to study, I left my books to find another resource and when I came back I found I was sharing the space with two gentlemen. They sat facing one another with books open but their focus was not on the books; they were there for each other. I wanted to afford them privacy but did not want them to think that their presence offended or annoyed me, so I sat back down and continued with my reading.

They spoke to each other quietly but they did not whisper. It quickly became evident that the man beside me was in crisis and the man across from him was acting as his mentor and confidant. In the words exchanged were remorse, confusion, grief, anger, and hopelessness. After a few minutes of confession and counsel the young man beside me began to weep. Without looking up I saw his tears splat onto the pages of the book before him; he wiped his face on his sleeve to catch the flow. His counselor did not rush to comfort or hush the young man's release; he sat silently, patiently as if he knew this was part of the process of healing or the catharsis for growth. I don't know what he thought

but his silence was not uncomfortable; it was accepting.

I couldn't help wondering how it happened that out of all these tables, these men decided to sit down here. I wasn't prepared for a story and I didn't even know for sure if they realized I was there. Either they perceived themselves invisible or I was invisible to them. I had no idea what to do, so I pulled out a clean tissue and pressed it into his clenched fist.

Until that moment I had no idea what he looked like other than that he was a young black man but when he looked at me I was surprised. He was much younger than his story conveyed. He was good looking, clean shaven. He wore a heavy sweatshirt but no heavy coat. I was expecting the eyes of a man who had seen years of trouble but what I saw was a frightened boy. I told him I was sorry he was having such a rough time. He just shook his head and said he was all right and thank you.

The man across from me did not fit my expectation either. He was a disheveled white man in his late fifties, heavy with no front teeth. He wore an ill-fitting jacket over a stained T-shirt. As soon as I smiled at him the triangle was complete and for the first time since I sat down, we were all visible to one another. The older man started talking to me as soon as he realized I was open to listen. He told me of his own sadness and misery. His words tumbled over one another as they told bits and pieces of stories I could not fit together. I just listened. The young man beside me sat quietly, tired from his own disclosure.

I listened as long as I could, but I said I had to leave to take a test. The

older gentleman responded by wishing me luck and that he hoped I passed the test. I told him that I was hoping for an "A." He shrugged and repeated his wish for a passing grade. I think his reservations of hopefulness spoke of his own acceptance that sometimes the most we can hope for is surviving the experience.

So, why did this have such a profound effect on me and change the way I look at my role and that of my University within this neighborhood?

This experience gave me a glimpse of the interconnected relationships and the interdependence of the people living here. I don't know their whole stories but I want for them the chance to hope, dream and aspire to live as full a life as I am.

It stopped me in my tracks when I realized this young man was already preparing himself to just get by. His only counsel was from a man who needed a helping hand himself. It made me want to be part of a solution or at least part of the hope and the hand that helps. Isn't there some way we here at Metropolitan State University can be that hand?

I bring an extra lunch every day, because sometimes a smile isn't enough.

Susan Johnson is a graduating senior at Metro State.

### Council president to run for Senate seat

Dayton's Bluff District Council president Avinash Viswanathan resigned from the council's board of directors at its May 17 meeting.

Viswanathan announced his intention to run for the Minnesota Senate seat opened up by Senator Mee Moua's resignation at the end of the 2010 legislative session. Viswanathan is on the staff of U.S. Senator Al Franken.

The district council bylaws prohibit a member of the board of directors from concurrently running for public office.

His resignation leaves a vacancy on the board of directors in Dayton's Bluff subdistrict D which includes the Mounds Park area and the portion of the district east of Johnson Parkway (see map at www.daytonsbluff.org). A resident of subdistrict D who is interested in filling the vacancy should contact the council at 651-772-2075.

# Dayton's Bluff District Forum

798 East 7th Street



Nate Johnson and Eric Wickstrom with a Conservation Corps team at Swede Hollow May 8 St. Paul, MN 55106 Phone: 651-772-2075 Fax: 651-774-3510 E-mail: carlariehle@fastmail.us

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