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Community Calendar
Saturday, May 1 & June 5, 10:30 am
Dayton's Bluff Take-a-Hike (see page 7)

Thursday, May 6, 6:30 pm
*Community Meeting

Monday, May 10
*Greenspace Committee 6:00 pm
*Council Meeting 7:00 pm

Monday, May 17
*Arts & Culture Committee 6:15 pm
*Council Meeting 7:00 pm

Wednesday, May 19, 6:30 pm
Friday, May 21, 9:30 am
Eastern District Police Meeting
722 Payne Avenue

*Meetings at Council office
702 East Seventh Street

Special housing deals in
Dayton's Bluff
By Ed Lambert
District Council Executive Director

Homes for sale in Dayton's Bluff are attracting a rising number of inquiries from prospective homeowners this spring. Zong Vang, Housing Program Coordinator at the Dayton’s Bluff Neighborhood Housing Service (DBNHS), recently stated “our new mortgage and mortgage assistance financing products are bringing a sharp increase in inquiries . . . properties are selling much faster than last year.”

DBNHS is a major local source of “special” financing options for purchases of, or rehab work on, Dayton’s Bluff housing (some options are unique to Dayton’s Bluff). They also build some new homes for sale, but specialize in purchasing, rehabbing and reselling existing housing to new homeowners. As of this writing, for example, they have three single-family homes for sale (including one pictured) and will have another three ready later this spring.

The agency works very closely with the city’s Invest St. Paul program, among others, and works especially hard to encourage investment in Dayton’s Bluff.

It has loans available at three to five percent interest for interior or exterior improvements, and also provide free assistance from its rehab counselors for improvement projects. In selected circumstances, the agency also has second mortgage financing, down payment assistance funds and even a contract-for-deed option. For more information on housing finance, rehab help, and available properties, contact Ms. Vang at 651-774-9064 or zvang@dbnhs.org.

What may be the agency’s most ambitious “new housing” effort is known as “The Brownstones on Swede Hollow.” This development on Payne Avenue near East 7th Street consists of three buildings, each with eight units, and each unit with two bedrooms, two baths, and a tuck-under, two-car garage. Just a few weeks ago it had nine units available but, as of April 12, there are only three left.

723 Margaret Street, featured on the Dayton’s Bluff Neighborhood Home Tour

Check out www.brownstonesonswedehollowpark.com to see what they’re about. The site includes information on floor plans, the association, financial, the immediate neighborhood, and Swede Hollow Park. Just 12 to 14 months ago, the agency needed it might be 2012 before they sold out (if they sold out). Contact Steanne Thomas at 651-230-4070 or Brad Griffith at 651-263-2830 for details on these remaining units.

Lately, the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council staff and board members have been hearing from an increasing number of residents and local business owners about a welcome increase in housing renovation activity in the community. Ms. Vang said “at this time last year we were getting two applications a month for rehab help and financing; now we get six to eight every month and it’s growing!”

Residents and local business people are strongly encouraged to contact Karin DuPaul at Karin@dayton bluff.org or 651-772-2075 if they want to help promote Dayton’s Bluff as a place to live, work, and make investments. She can tell you about a task force of local residents you can join that is having a lot of fun and success doing just that. You are needed . . . you can make a difference!

Invest Saint Paul
Dayton’s Bluff

Incubator Kitchen comes to the East Side
By Tabitha Benci DeRango

What a progressive place Dayton’s Bluff is becoming. Would you ever have imagined that we would be the site for an incubator kitchen? What is an incubator kitchen, you ask? It’s an entrepreneur’s dream.

Jenna Matthews is one such entrepreneur. Working out of the Incubator Kitchen, she creates a product called Ka-yan, a food widely eaten in Africa. It is made from peanut butter and cassava root and no salt. It is not only nutritious but delicious. In Africa peanuts are a staple food, similar to how meat products are consumed in the United States. Jenna markets her product to a few stores in the Twin cities area like Makala Market on University Avenue in St. Paul.

The Incubator Kitchen is a family-run business, with A Toast to Bread operating out of this location. Mervyn Hough, manager, is key to the operation. A former Peace Corps volunteer, he sees the value in being able to pursue your dreams.

The location was formerly underutilized with only A Toast to Bread operating out of the facility. The transformation allows many people to use a licensed kitchen to make their food products legally and then sell them. The kitchen charges an hourly fee to the bakers and allows them to keep costs low for start-up. They are also permitted to use existing site equipment for their production. In addition, several individual caterers use the kitchen to prepare their foods. Mervyn is also helpful in assisting with key details in marketing products, like packaging for example. Jenna says, “This is my dream, and Mervyn is a godsend.”

Currently the Incubator Kitchen is open to the public on Saturday mornings from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm. They sell breads, pastries and sometimes even homemade soups.

People come from all over the metro area to use the Incubator Kitchen. Mervyn told me that while Wisconsin has a network of incubator kitchens, he is unsure if any besides his exist in the state of Minnesota.

I was very impressed with the diversity of individuals utilizing this facility and the fact that it is a business that makes sense for our community and our current economic environment. It is definitely worth stopping in at 703 East 3rd Street just to smell the baked goods and to meet Mervyn, who is full of enthusiasm about this project. Hurry for the dreams of entrepreneurs!
Every teacher can become more adept or be helped to find a different career. This said, however, one of the few positive aspects of your predecessor’s education plan was its title, “No Child Left Behind” (purloined from the Children’s Defense Fund though it was), which worked all of us working for all children and posted all children achieving. “Race To The Top” to the contrary implies a desperate competition with one or a few winners and many, many more losers—not a way I want to imagine education for any society, much less our own.

So what’s wrong with the uncritical acceptance of competition, with promoting winning? Much more than I can easily describe within the limits of this article, but two basic themes occur to me. The first of these is that competition embraced uncritically damages the development of children in too many ways and with devastating effects. The second is that competition is the wrong focus. On this “big blue marble” we need to educate our kids to have the knowledge and skills to be world class cooperators and collaborators.

The evidence is that competition hinders rather than promotes the kind of education we need to give to all children. It comes at a high price. Winning implies to kids that some of them are better than others. Adults do a poor job of helping kids understand what winning really means: at some point in time you had more skill, luck, information, a better breakfast, a happier home life—or whatever—than the person you surpassed. It has nothing to do with your inherent human value.

The belief that their value lies in winning hurts children. It raises their stress levels which, over time, impacts their brains and their ability to use their neocortexes to learn. If you have witnessed the sadness of a preschooler or elementary age child over losing a game or a “game,” you know that the pain is real. If you have witnessed a grandmother using a marked card to avoid losing a game of Old Maid (eyes, I know it’s a yucky name) to her three-year-old grandchild, you understand that the passage of years doesn’t itself heal early wounds from losing.

The stress young children feel over games may seem insignificant to many adults, but the stress and anxiety of striving to be “the best” academically has many educators worrying about childhood “burnout” not only in junior and senior high school, but as early as fourth grade. Alfie Kohn, author of No Contest: The Case against Competition, who more than any popular author I know has read the educational research on multiple topics, argues that competition does not lead to the solid learning we want for children. He reminds us that intrinsic interest in a subject motivates learners more than any artificial reward in including being “Number One.” He also asserts that “task involvement” predicts higher achievement than “ego involvement” does.

Children who believe their human value rests on being better at something than other children are often reluctant to try something they may “fail at” or they may become trapped in self-defeating perfectionism. Children who compete against others instead of reaching for the most they can achieve are not reaching their own potential. Children who see themselves as unsuccessful competitors give up and drop out. And those who define their worth in being “the best” are in danger of losing themselves when they meet competitors who can “beat” them at their own games.

Not only does competition impede cognitive learning. It damages children morally and socially. The poet T.S. Eliot once wrote “the game enforces cheats.” Children certainly seem to think this is true. In a 2006 study of 36,122 high school students by the Josephson Institute of Ethics in Los Angeles, 59% of them agreed that successful people do what they have to do to win even if others consider it cheating. The effect of pushing kids to be better than their peers and to see others as potential obstacles to their own success can lead to envy and contempt, alienation, aggression and poor relationships. Educational competition may contribute to defining one’s self-worth by surpassing others, but the problem doesn’t stay at school. It contributes to defining oneself by having more or newer or better stuff or being the most friended on Facebook.

For children who see themselves as losers the consequence can be horrific. Personalities can become so damaged that kids can’t stand up for what they know is right, and lose the ability to make friends based on good shared values. Some of them self-medicate with risky behavior, smoking, drinking or drug use or pursue self-destructive ways of trying to fit into their peer groups.

The confusion about the meaning and value of competition isn’t limited to children in our society (one of the reasons we all need to think seriously about this issue). At the season finale of American Idol in May 2008, Simon Cowell: advised contestants, “You have got to hate your opponent.” Re-acting to his statement, Susan New- man, author of The Book of No, says, “Kids shouldn’t be taught to hate their competitors. They need to learn how to cooperate and support one another because team players are the people who succeed in the real world.”

In June, look more here on the need to help children become skilled collaborators.

This article was abridged for space reasons, but can be read in its entirety in the online supplement at www.daytonbluff.org

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.

Race to the Top

by Mary Ann Cogelow

Oh, come on, Mr. President! What a singularly inapt metaphor you have chosen for the process of state grant writing to improve education. I have been pleased to learn that you and Education Secretary Arne Duncan believe that the focus of education in the United States needs to be broader and to include such aspects as physical education, music and the arts. I am encouraged to learn that you understand that standardized tests are not the only means of assessing student achievement.

As a teacher who was initially li-

ced by an alternative process, I embrace alternate paths to teaching if they are carefully thought out and consider both subject matter and ped-

agogy, the art and science of teaching. I am sure that all who are concerned with education need to closely scrutinize what good teaching is and how
It’s springtime and the sun is shining brightly. A breeze is gently caressing Metropolitan State students as they cultivate, mulch, fertilize and plant in a community garden.

What better way for the students to earn college credit—while also serving the East Side. The community garden, offered for the third semester on land east of the St. Paul Campus Library and Learning Center, is the brainchild of Assistant Professor Hoffman, associate professor of psychology at Metropolitan State. Hoffman believes the garden offers symbolic and practical benefits.

“Because of our fast-paced world and over-reliance on technology, among other things, people have become more polarized,” said Hoffman, who has contributed a book called Unity Through Community Service Work: Strategies to Bridge Ethnic and Cultural Divides. “So there are fewer opportunities for people to come together and work cooperatively.” Community service work performed by students at the community garden is an illustration of collective action benefiting others.

Beyond that, Hoffman said, gardens offer a forum where students can get to know and understand each other better, perhaps debunking negative stereotypes. And while students enhance their cultivating, mulching and other gardening skills, members of the East Side community benefit from the nutritious foodstuffs.

A large portion of the cabbage, cauliflower, tomatoes, corn, potatoes and other vegetables are donated to the nearby First Lutheran Church, which has supplied water for the 20-foot plot. Sometimes in June, vegetable takers are hand-delivered to the homeless attending the church’s Wednesday evening wellness program. Other community members will also profit from the garden’s harvest and fruit picked from the cherry trees, plum and other trees.

“The students enjoy interacting with community members and making a contribution,” said Hoffman, adding that about 150 students donated time since spring 2009. Most opt to perform community service over writing an academic paper. “It helps give the students a sense of purpose.”

In addition to the community garden, students also helped seed native plants and flowers adjacent to Metropolitan State’s Library Learning Center. There is also discussion about planting cherry blossom trees and developing a rainwater garden on the St. Paul campus. Ultimately, said Hoffman, he hopes students can further develop their green thumbs in a vacant greenhouse next to the community garden.

Hoffman said he expects the garden and other activities to help bond the university and community. “I’ve already seen more of a connection,” he said, “and I anticipate that will only improve.”

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

Metropolitan State students take on hunger and homelessness

by August Hoffman

Community service work: a problem in everyone’s backyard.

Unfortunately the problem of homelessness and persons generally in need have increased significantly here in St. Paul, Minnesota. A recent survey conducted by the St. Paul Regional Research Group estimates that the problem of homelessness has increased over 20% within the last year, and over 9,452 persons now are designated as homeless.

Civic engagement and community service volunteers are needed more than ever, yet attitudes of self-entitlement and increases in “blaming the victim” have hampered our efforts to reach the homeless. The economic recession has also exacerbated the problem of homelessness and decreased the number of items donated to the homeless. One increasingly effective method in addressing these problems is the development of a coalition among community members.

Students at Metropolitan State University enrolled in my graduate course in community psychology (PSY 602) have decided to try to help by contacting various sponsors and donors to organize nonperishable food items and basic grooming essentials (toothpaste, socks, underwear and deodorant) to help combat the problem.

Our psychology students have created a partnership with the First Lutheran Church at 463 Maria Avenue where on April 14, students sponsored a free community barbeque for the homeless and the needy. All of the food items were donated by various agencies and businesses and were prepared by Metropolitan State University students for the community members. Additionally, our students organized a community garden that contained a variety of donated items to be used by the homeless community. The students have felt an enormous sense of pride and responsibility in being a part of the project, which fits the theme of community psychology. The idea is one method of putting theory in psychology into action, and a great way for people to feel and experience a sense of social connectedness and responsibility. In my own view, the more opportunities that we create for people to help one another the more likely we feel a sense of responsibility to each other. This will not only help reduce social problems such as those related to homelessness, but also can help people to understand each other and reduce antisocial behaviors (NIMBYism) and bias against underrepresented groups.

August Hoffman is an associate professor of psychology at Metropolitan State University.

WaterFest 2010 at Phalen Park

On Saturday, May 22, at the Phalen Park Pavilion, families from around the Twin Cities are invited to a day of lakeside fun at WaterFest 2010. Sponsored by the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District, the city of St. Paul, Maplewood and North St. Paul and other partners, WaterFest is a celebration of our clean lakes and an opportunity for hands-on learning about the water quality, wildlife, and special ecological features of our beautiful watershed.

Kick off WaterFest with a parade featuring students, clowns and mascots at 10:00 am. Enjoy activities throughout the day including:

- Fun 5K Walk/Run around Lake Phalen
- Raindrop Mystery Hunt for prizes
- Geocaching for water treasures
- Wilderness Inquiry Voyageur canoe rides
- Kids’ fishing lessons and fish demonstrations
- Rain garden tours and native plant giveaways
- Raptors and other live animals
- Clowns, art and water games
- Student artistic, scientific and service project displays

Professional exhibits on land-scaping, shorelines, water-sheds and ecosystems
- Street sweeper, snowplow and street drain stabilizing demonstrations
- Photos with LEAP Frog
- Food for sale at the Pavilion

Finally, Minnesota Renewable Energy Society will hold its 17th Annual Solar Boat Regatta on the beach from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. See www.mrnrenewables.org for more information.

Everyone can play a role in protecting our water resources. WaterFest 2010 will help families make the connection between activities in our neighborhoods and the health of local lakes, streams and wetlands.

This free event is also an opportunity to celebrate spring and enjoy one of the lakes that makes our area a great place to live!

For more information, call Louise Watson at 651-792-7056 or visit the website at www.rwmd.org.
Since Memorial Day is observed in May, I thought this month’s column should examine what was going on in our neighborhood during the Second World War. Another reason for this offering is the fact that I am currently doing research on the era for an upcoming article in Ramsey County History. So if any of you were in the community at the time or had relatives who lived here, I’d love to hear your stories or see photos. I can be reached at 651-774-2096 or by email at steve.trimble@gmail.com.

The sense that war was imminent began before the attack on Pearl Harbor. People were concerned with the strike in St. Paul. The Japanese invasions they followed in the newspaper and other media. There was plenty of debate over whether the United States should become involved and by October 1940 a military draft had been instituted and some neighborhood residents were already in the armed forces.

In the late summer and early fall of 1940, military matters came up when the workers at Seeger Refrigerator went out on strike. The company, for those who aren’t familiar with it, was located on the Arcade Street site now occupied by Rainbow and a few other businesses. Seeger, one of the largest employers on the East Side, later merged with another concern and became Whirlpool.

Very little has been written about this labor-management conflict, but it turns out to be the largest strike in St. Paul’s history. The old contract had expired in June 1940 and negotiations over wages continued until the 1,500 members of the Refrigator Workers, Local 20459 voted to walk off their jobs in September and set up picket lines.

There had been meetings with a federal labor conciliator and even Gov. Stassen became involved. The military matter that arose was the need to finish an order that Seeger had to finish an order that Seeger had to turn into planes. The company, according to the老板, was “in a bind” and it was decided that the plant would be closed for a short time and the workers would be laid off. But after a few days, the company decided to keep the plant open and the workers returned.

The war effort began in October, 1940 with the declaration of war. The United States entered the war on December 7, 1941, after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

The war effort in St. Paul was significant and the local economy was transformed. Businesses were forced to switch from producing consumer goods to military supplies. Many workers went into the armed forces, and those who remained at home found new ways to contribute to the war effort.

One of the largest companies in St. Paul was the Seeger Refrigerator Company, located on the site of the current Rainbow store. The company had been founded in 1914 and had grown to become one of the largest refrigerator manufacturers in the country.

The war began with the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. The United States entered the war the next day, and the Seeger company was immediately called upon to help with the war effort.

The company had made refrigerators for years, but now it was tasked with producing military supplies. The company quickly shifted its focus to manufacturing parts and supplies for the military. The Seeger company produced everything from food storage containers to machine parts.

The workers at the Seeger company were split in their views on the war. Some were happy to be doing their part for the war effort, while others were disappointed that they were not being allowed to continue making refrigerators.

The war effort had a significant impact on the local economy. Businesses were transformed, and the community was united in its support for the troops.

As the war moved towards an end, there were predictions for the following years. Seeger was looking forward to being able to produce for the civilian market. “Frozen fresh foods at your fingertips all year. A dream? Not at all,” a March 1945 magazine said.

“People were concerned with the strike in St. Paul. . . . In December 1944 two Japanese-Americans came to the school. They spoke about the relocations and life in the internment camps. Mr. Selle brought contemporary issues into her English classes, having students hold debates on military conscription, conscientious objectors, democracy in night churches and post-war employment for soldiers.

As the war moved towards an end, there were predictions for the following years. Seeger was looking forward to being able to produce for the civilian market. ‘Frozen fresh foods at your fingertips all year. A dream? Not at all,’ a March 1945 magazine said.

“When the war was won, Seeger Refrigerator Co. will make your dream a reality. Yes, you’ll be serving your family summer-fresh foods . . . in a ‘Seeger Freezer’ storage cabinet.’”

A 3M company publication in May, 1945 commented on the steady growth in employment and production during the war period. “This growth has been due in a large measure to the fact that 3M products are urgently needed by war industries.” They then correctly predicted that “most of these products have peacetime uses as well, and we are making definite plans for expansion following the war.”

Finally, the neighborhood newspaper looked to a future era of prosperity. “Despite the sacrifices of war, America was deprived of most of its needs for normal civilian life,” an article in late December of 1945 said. But now “factories will be running at top speed for many years to catch up with the times” and “home building . . . to meet modern demands will take years to accomplish. A late 1945 issue said that the war era was the 1930’s were of prosperity for most people. Seeger, 3M, Hamm’s and other businesses expanded post-war to take advantage of the good, stable jobs that families lived comfortably with only one person working. But that’s another story. And don’t forget—if you or someone you know can add to our knowledge of our community in the war years, please contact me.”
Juan Cervantes is celebrating the first year anniversary of the reopening of his business, now located at 391 Ruth Street, off I-94. In 2003, Juan became the state’s first Latino State Farm agent. Of all the location options he had at that time, he decided the East Side was where he wanted to own his business.

A long-term resident of Dayton’s Bluff, Juan attended local schools, Mounds Park Elementary, Mounds Park Junior High and Harding High School. After graduating from Harding, he worked for a couple of years at Belle’s on Burns Avenue. He worked for a couple of years at La Belle’s on Burns Avenue. He maintained that address where he was Operations Director. and served two years in Mexico City until the end of his tenure at CHUBB, Juan worked as a Sales Manager. He worked there until he was Operations Director.

In 1988, working out of the downtown Minneapolis office. During his tenure at CHUBB, Juan worked as a systems analyst and project manager and served two years in Mexico City where he was Operations Director. In 1995, Juan was recruited by CHUBB Group of Insurance Companies in 1988, working out of the downtown Minneapolis office. During his tenure at CHUBB, Juan worked as a systems analyst and project manager and served two years in Mexico City where he was Operations Director. In 1995, Juan was recruited by St. Paul Companies as their Multicultural Sales Manager. He worked there until after receiving his master’s degree from the University of St. Thomas in 2001.

Juan left St. Paul Companies in 2002, when he joined State Farm. He obtained various certifications and licenses at the state and federal level to be eligible to open his business. In 2003, he opened the doors to his State Farm Agency at 1694 Suburban Avenue, next to Target off White Bear Avenue. He maintained that address through his five-year lease until he moved his operation to its present location.

Juan has always had bilingual teammates; his office can handle English, Hmong and Spanish. With more than 20 years of insurance experience he is committed to serving the East Side community. He says that “if anyone has insurance questions or concerns, please feel free to call, whether you are State Farm customers or not.” Stop by and visit his office or call 651 793-0777.

**Local businessman celebrates first anniversary at new location**

_by Ed Lambert_ Council District Executive Director

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**Monthly community meeting**

The next Dayton’s Bluff Community Meeting is Thursday, May 6, 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.

The object is to work with block clubs and neighborhood residents on property problems, 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. Contact Karin Johnson at DaytonBluff.org or call 651-772-2075.

**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, May 19, at 6:30 pm, and Friday, May 21, 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 Seventh, 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, Sixth, Fifth and Fourth between Cypress and Arcade.

Frank Street Block Club

meets at 6:30 pm on the third Wednesday of each month at Unami Community of Refuge Healing Temple, at 815 Frank Street. This block club encompasses Seventh, 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 3rd and Maple streets and I-94. Contact Sherry Johnson at sherryjohnson@gmail.com for the time and place of the May meeting.

If you wish to have your block club listed, or need information about starting your own block club, please contact Karin at 651-772-2075 or Karin@DaytonsBluff.org.

**How to choose exterior paint colors**

Do you want to improve the way the outside of your house looks? If you’re a do-it-yourself type person, painting all or parts of your house is one of the least expensive ways to accomplish this.

Start by looking at the houses on both sides of your home. You want to choose colors that won’t clash with your neighbors’ homes and colors. Also, think about the view from across the street. After all, your neighbors will have to look at your home a lot more than you will.

Take photos of all the houses with paint colors that you find appealing. Another great place to get ideas for exterior paint colors is your local paint store. Here you can pick up exterior paint brochures with pre-selected siding, trim and accent colors schemes. These were chosen by the “experts” and generally should look good. If you want historically correct colors, most paint stores have brochures for that too. Just make sure you choose colors you really like. Choose the main color first, then the trim color and lastly your accent color.

Another cue as to what color paint to use is your roof color. For example, if you know your roof is brown, choose warm colored paints. If your house has brick or stone, take your color cues from these.

Remember to highlight any decorative trim/ornamentation on your home by painting it an accent color. If your home has no ornamentation, you could paint the aluminum window frames the accent color to add interest. Just be sure to lightly sand the aluminum first.

It’s very important to prepare your home for the paint. Scrape off any loose paint. A pressure washer works well to get off the dirt and grunge but let your house dry in the sun for a few hours before you paint. Then it’s time to prime any exposed wood. Primer can be tinted to match new exterior paint color. Choose semi-gloss paint for main color and gloss for window trims, doors, columns and fascias.

**Consumer Reports** reported in its May 4, 2009, issue that that big box stores like Lowe’s and Lowe’s, like Kilz and Valspar, performed as well as or better than several expensive brands.

- Don’t forget to look online for paint color ideas. Some paint companies have websites (http://color-choice.com/home.action) that will let you download a picture of your home and try out different colors. Sounds like fun to me!

If you can’t afford to paint your home, then maybe just paint the front door or shutters a great color. You can get free interior and exterior paint at the household hazardous waste collection site on Empire Drive in St. Paul. This article was written by a 5th Street resident with 24 years of experience in the decorating field. It had to be abridged for space reasons, but can be read in its entirety in the online supplement at www.daytonsbluff.org.
Our Youth, Our Community,
Highlighting the youth of Dayton's Bluff

Congratulations, Johnson!
The St. Paul Johnson (SPJ) boys basketball team culminated their undefeated season at 32-0 by winning the Minnesota State High School League Championship.

Regime Gym Rats set to continue winning tradition
A great future is brewing at Dayton’s Bluff Recreation Center (DBRC). A basketball team that will undoubtedly be an upcoming part of SPJ or other great schools. The Regime Gym Rats. Under the tutelage of coach Carlos Stewart, the team of 6th graders has been excelling in their endeavors at basketball, as well as learning something about themselves. Carlos and his Gym Rats have been together for a year and have won several tournaments, including the MVAS (Minnesota Varsity Athletic Services) state championship and for St. Paul Recreation League championship.

Dayton’s Bluff annual spring dinner
by Margie Smith
On Saturday, May 22, the annual Dayton’s Bluff spring dinner will take place.

Want to get to know folks and get connected to the people in our area? Join the annual neighborhood party that moves from location to location. We are looking for participants, but greatly need hosts and homes to be our buffet dining sites. Typically, the evening is divided into three events: appetizers, desserts, plus one home for the all-participant session that is the finale.

The first dinner was held in the early 1990’s with about a dozen people and since then, this event has become very popular! Now more than 50 people participate. It’s a great way to meet, greet and mingle with your neighbors. The more people we can get together, the more the event has to offer.

Participants should be at least 21 years of age and residents of the Dayton’s Bluff neighborhood. Interested? Contact Marjorie Smith, event coordinator, at 651-778-1075.

Dayton’s Bluff annual spring dinner

Twin Cities Academy High School
By June Bennett
District Council Admin. Ass't.

“Kids don’t listen but they do watch your actions," says Elizabeth Wynne, principal of Twin Cities Academy High School (TCAHS) for 11 years.

She is concerned that some of the children have had little experience with success and she wants TCAHS to change that model.

At TCAHS, a charter school now located in the former Church of the Sacred Heart school, the program emphasizes rigorous academics, active community involvement and active citizenship.

Students are involved with volunteering at nursing homes and food shelves and other projects. One of the current community efforts is the seniors’ class project, Art in the Hollow. Students are working with residents in the Hollow community to create art pieces that reflect their lives. The project is a way for the students to connect with the community and to give back to the neighborhood.

TCAHS is committed to enhancing academic rigor, leadership development and character building, and to empowering young adults to become tomorrow’s leaders, thereby making a difference in the world they live in.

For more information about the school, visit www.tcahs.k12.mn.us

Letter to the editor
East Side sucker punched again
A year or so ago I wrote a letter pointing out that the school closings were proportionately much higher in our community.

The school board invented the term “repurposing” to avoid the “c” word. Then, more recently, several recreation centers were “reparted” and the East Side’s loss was much greater than in the prosperous areas. If I recall, I suggested that we should watch out or the school board might take another run at Sheridan Elementary.

Unfortunately, I was right. The Superintendent has announced a proposal to close eight schools and Sheridan Elementary is again on the chopping block. More startling is the fact that half of the closings were to be on the East Side and this area is only one third of the city. The other three casualties will be Ames Elementary, Prosperity Heights Elementary and Hazel Park Middle School. Seems a little unfair, don’t you think?

What’s next? Quit sweeping East Side streets to save money? Sell off some of our neighborhood parks? Isn’t it about time to get together and say “We aren’t going to take it any more?”

G. B. LeRoy

Community Design Center spring garden programs
Since 1996 the Community Design Center has engaged youth from St. Paul’s East Side in sustainable urban agriculture. They operate seven organic vegetable, herb and flower gardens with a variety of partners hosting the gardens.

The Community Design Center, at 731 East 7th Street, has a lot to offer this spring. It will host a volunteer planting on May 22, as well as other dates, and invites neighbors to join in the Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) movement.

For $110, CSA members receive a weekly bag of vegetables, herbs and flowers from June 17 to August 26.

Check out the Design Center’s website at www.comdesignctrmn.org for more information about its programs.

Dayton’s Bluff Recycling
Pick-up in our area is every Tuesday. Please have your recycling at the curb by 7 am.

Twin Cities Academy High School
By June Bennett
District Council Admin. Ass’t.

“Kids don’t listen but they do watch your actions," says Elizabeth Wynne, principal of Twin Cities Academy High School (TCAHS) for 11 years.

She is concerned that some of the children have had little experience with success and she wants TCAHS to change that model.

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Mounds Theatre

Starting Gate's Final Season

Starting Gate Productions' eighth and final season, its fifth at the Mounds Theatre, closes this spring with “Our Country’s Good” written by Timberlake Wertenbaker. It’s a play-within-a-play that takes place in June 1789 in the Australian penal colony that was later to become the city of Sydney. A marine lieutenant decides to put on a play to celebrate the king’s birthday, casting the English convicts who populate the prison camp. It is a story about justice and the redeeming power of theater.

The play runs from April 23 through May 16. Show times are 7:30 pm, Fridays and Saturdays and 2:00 pm, Sundays. Pay What You Can Night is Monday, May 3, at 7:30 pm. An audio description performance is Sunday, May 9, at 2:00 pm.

Tickets are $18 general admission, $16 students and seniors. Call 651-645-3503 for tickets.

Geek Pride Day

The Mounds invites everyone who is a geek and proud to attend Geek Pride Day on Tuesday, May 25, from 6:00 pm to 11:30 pm. The celebration will feature fan films and surprise screenings, as well as a contest for the best costume. Popcorn, candy and soda pop will be available at the concession stand.

The event is free, but a donation to help pay for the use of the theater would be greatly appreciated by the Mounds.

The Monster of Phantom Lake

On Wednesday, May 26, the Mounds Theatre will show The Monster of Phantom Lake, hosted by Dr. Ivan Cryptois. The movie is local director Christopher Mihm’s homage to the Cryptosis. The movie is local director Christopher Mihm’s homage to the Cryptosis. The movie is local director Christopher Mihm’s homage to the Cryptosis. The movie is local director Christopher Mihm’s homage to the Cryptosis. The movie is local director Christopher Mihm’s homage to the Cryptosis. The movie is local director Christopher Mihm’s homage to the Cryptosis. The movie is local director Christopher Mihm’s homage to the Cryptosis.

The event is from 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm, the movie starts at 7:30. Tickets are $5. Reasonably priced concessions will be available. For more information visit www.sainteuphoria.com/monpl.

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, 1:00 pm–3:00 pm
- Theatre: 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. All 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.

Please call 651-772-8674 for an application form or go online at www.moundstheatre.org for a printed form.

Theater information

All performances of the play and the movie are at the Historic Mounds Theatre, 1029 Hudson Road, St. Paul, Minnesota 55106. For more information, contact www.moundstheatre.org or 651-772-2253.

Take-a-Hike on May 1

Take-a-Hike occurs on the first Saturday of most months. The next hikes will be Saturday, May 1 and 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 1.5 miles long with some moderately rough terrain. Transportation will be available to return to Indian Mounds Park, if needed.

For more information contact Karin at 651-772-2075 or Karin@Daytons-bluff.org.

Art in the Hollow: Swede Hollow Plein Air Art Fest

By the TCAHS Senior Class

The senior class of Twin Cities Academy High School (TCAHS) is creating an exciting event in Swede Hollow Park. The event, billed as the “Plein Air Art Fest,” will feature a wide variety of artists showing off their talents, all within the boundaries of beautiful Swede Hollow Park. This is a family event and all are welcome to enjoy the talents of these artists and the company of friends on Saturday, May 22, from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

The day of the event will be full of different sights to see and sounds to hear. The artists will be showing off their crafts, ranging from poetry and instrument playing to painting and photography. All involved will make sure that this event will be enjoyable for those with an eye for art, and those who just want to have a good time.

“This is something that we’re all happy to be a part of,” says one senior. “A mission of our school is to become more involved in the community and we feel that this is a very good way to start to accomplish that mission.” I’m super excited about this art fair,” says senior Andrea Nicholson. “We have been working really hard and I think that it will be a great success and it will be cool to see the end product.”

Along with being able to appreciate the artists, sidewalk chalk will be provided so children can have fun making art as well. Other activities for children will be planned, including face painting and crafts. If one wants to learn more about the area, former Swede Hollow residents and Hamm’s Brewery employees love to come back to Swede Hollow and share stories about this picturesque valley.

TCAHS is a senior high charter school located at 835 East 5th Street that works to empower young adults to become tomorrow’s leaders, thereby making a difference in the world they live in.

The event in the Hollow: Swede Hollow Plein Air Art Fest is hosted by the senior class at TCAHS and the Friends of Swede Hollow. Other partners include Water & Oil Gallery, and the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council. For more information, email ArtintheHollow@gmail.com or call 651 776-0550.

One day—one bike trail—two events

The Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary will hold an open house from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, the same day as the Plein Air Art Fest (see above article) on Saturday, May 22. People are encouraged to ride their bikes to both events—some will be riding all the way in from Pine Point Park near Stillwater. Costa Rican coffee will be a highlight of both events. Both will sponsor a fun passbook for visitors to check in at activities at both parks in order to complete the passbook. For more information call 651-776-0550.
Dayton’s Bluff District Forum
May 2010

Seven annual plant sale and exchange
The Annual Greening Dayton’s Bluff Plant Sale and Exchange will be held on Saturday, May 8, from 9:00 am to 11:00 am at the corner of East 7th Street and Bates in the gardens outside the Swede Hollow Café. If you have plants in your garden that have outgrown themselves or that you’ve just tired of, bring them to the plant exchange and take home something new and interesting. For more information contact Karin at Karin@DaytonsBluff.org or call 651-772-2075.

Welcome new neighbors meeting
If you have a new neighbor or if you are a new Dayton’s Bluff resident, you are invited to come to the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council meeting room at 798 East 7th Street on Monday, May 31, at 6:30 pm. You and most other residents and learn more about Dayton’s Bluff and the opportunities here. This is one of the ways we welcome new neighbors to Dayton’s Blende. Long- and short-term residents are also welcome to come and help welcome our new neighbors.

Magnet school powwow
The American Indian Magnet School is having a powwow on Friday, May 28, to celebrate the end of the school year and to thank families for their continued involvement. The powwow is at the school at 1075 East 3rd Street. There are two grand entries, one at 1:30 pm. and another at 6:15 pm, and a feast at 5:00 pm. The event is free and open to the public. For more information call 651-778-2075 or email Karin@DaytonsBluff.org or call Karin at 651-772-2075.

Lemonade Day is May 2
by June Bennett
District Council Admin. Asst.
What is Lemonade Day? It’s a free citywide event designed to teach Twin Cities youth how to start, own and operate their own lemonade business.

Support your friendly neighborhood newspaper
Advertise in the Dayton’s Bluff District Forum
Call 651-772-2075

Garden tours anyone?
Greening Dayton’s Bluff is in the process of planning garden tours. Last year the organization sponsored tours in the 4th and Bates area, Margaret Rec Center Block Club area, Beech-Morgan 654 Block Club area and the Upper Swede Hollow neighborhood. If you would like to have a garden tour in your neighborhood email Karin@DaytonsBluff.org or call Karin at 651-772-2075.

Time to start planning National Night Out
On the first Tuesday of each August, National Night Out is celebrated nationwide. This year, the event will be held on Tuesday, August 3, and will be the 27th annual celebration. It’s a chance to get together with neighbors and build community. Neighbors who know each other and work together have safer and stronger communities in which to live and raise families.

Events can be held anytime during the day, afternoon or evening. Whichever works for you and your neighborhood, the event can be as simple or elaborate as you choose. It could include root beer floats or lemonade, sharing a potluck dinner, planning games or activities or something as simple as using sidewalk chalk to draw pictures about what community looks like on your block. Another way to celebrate National Night Out in your area is to promote turning on the outside lights at every home from dusk to dawn. In St. Paul, the city will provide barricades for your street if you submit the application form signed by 60% of your neighbors by July 27.

If you are thinking about organizing a block party on your block be sure to attend the National Night Out kick-off picnic at Phalen Park on Wednesday, June 2, from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm. For more information on this and other National Night Out activities, visit the St. Paul website, http://www.stpaul.gov/index.aspx?NID=3062 or visit the national website at www.nawo.org. You can also contact Karin at 651-772-2075 or email Karin@DaytonsBluff.org

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