Mounds Park UMC's Urban CROSS

by Karin duPaul

Mounds Park United Methodist Church (MPUMC) held their 2nd Annual Urban CROSS (Christians Reaching Out in Service to St. Paul) program during the week of June 20. Around 60 volunteers came to Dayton’s Bluff from places like Duluth, New Ulm, and right here in St. Paul to help with projects in our community. Volunteers slept at a local church, ate breakfast and supper and worshipped at MPUMC, showered at the YMCA, then worked all day at the job sites. Other volunteers baked goodies, served meals, and chauffeured for the workers. Projects included repair and rebuilding decks, removing an old garage, building a fence, painting, landscaping, mowing grass (sometimes several feet tall!) in vacant yards, maintenance at the YMCA and painting at the church. Work recipients were very happy with all the help on their projects.

Where in Dayton's Bluff?

Can you identify this image, found somewhere in Dayton’s Bluff? Email editor@daytonsbluff.org.

All correct responses received by midnight on August 10 will be entered into a drawing for a pack of Dayton's Bluff postcards. Happy hunting!
Welcome, Mr. Flucas
Get to know the new principal of Dayton's Bluff Elementary
by Meg Gronau
Forum editor

Steven Flucas didn't have an easy job ahead of him.

As a first-year principal in one of the most economically depressed areas in the region – replacing a man lauded as the “turnaround czar” – Flucas knew he was entering perilous territory.

“In the first year, my job was to pick up and run,” Flucas said. “You use your skill set to pick up the process – not change for the sake of changing.”

He adds, “[SPPS Superintendent Valeria] Silva talks about courage to face problems. If you want to learn how to lead, you have to learn from a leader.”

Flucas certainly stepped into a leader's footprints. Andrew Collins, the previous principal at Dayton's Bluff, was recognized for his success “turning around” Dayton’s Bluff Elementary, exceeding expectations so spectacularly that he is now working as the Assistant Superintendent in charge of Leadership Development and Turnaround for the St. Paul Public School district.

I met with Flucas on June 12, the final day of the school year – his first year as principal of Dayton’s Bluff Achievement Plus Elementary. His broad smile and warm demeanor made me feel welcome and valued, even on a day surely filled with other, more pressing matters than an interview for the Forum. Flucas is hopeful and energized for the future, while remaining pragmatic about the realities of education in St. Paul. Populations are rising and, Flucas says, “Many are mourning the loss of families.”

Flucas’ previous experience, as a social worker in the Minneapolis public school system, has given him valuable expertise working with people in various difficult situations. He also served as the assistant principal at Monroe/Linwood Elementary for two years.

Flucas’ plan for the future of Dayton’s Bluff Elementary is to continue the most of those things that’ve made the school successful. “The school has been very focused,” Flucas said. “We stress literacy and math.” Secondly, Flucas says, “Rigor, for staff and students. Ongoing orientation; anti-bullying; making sure parents know when things are happening.” The third part, he says, is “Coherence and balance – ebb and flow, using time wisely.”

He speaks of individual teachers with admiration, respect and specific details of their teaching accomplishments.

“I have an incredible appreciation for how difficult and challenging the art of teaching is,” Flucas said. “A cohesive lesson is an art.”

Particularly when you consider the student population at Dayton's Bluff: Flucas says “[in our school we have] 75% ELL (English-Language-Learning) kids who have been in this country for six months, and kids with top-of-the-realm MCA scores, sitting right next to each other.”

And, he adds, Poverty is interesting. You have to understand the population you work with. Kids are kids and families are families wherever you go. Every parent wants the best for their child. Education is the key to unlock a child’s future. We work together so we can all progress.” Then he quotes Carol Johnson, former superintendent of Minneapolis: “Any table has to have three legs: parent, principal-child.

Along with many school staff and administrators, Flucas agrees with the need for educational standards, but is critical of the current No Child Left Behind (NCLB) program. "There has to be a process for setting benchmarks," he said. For example, he says, "Show me growth in this area," rather than judging success by requiring vastly diverse populations of students to meet the same standard.

As a first-year principal, Flucas says, “We are hard-core academic-focused on teaching kids to read and write.” The question that national educational standards needs to ask, he says, is “How cohesive is the academic program in meeting the needs of the kids it serves?”

Considering all the challenges, Flucas speaks with pride about the dedication of his school's staff. “People who are here have to be smarter about how they do what they do.”

Also among Dayton's Bluff's assets, Flucas adds, is the community. “The neighborhood takes care of us. They know there are people in this building doing wonderful things with kids.”

Will your child be attending Dayton’s Bluff Achievement Plus Elementary School in the fall? There are some changes and other information you need to know.

New School Hours: Beginning in the fall of 2011, the new school hours will be 8:35 AM – 4:05 PM. This will allow an extra hour of instruction targeted at student needs.

Improved Busing: In the fall of 2011, students living ½ mile or more within the Dayton’s Bluff attendance area will receive busing.

Do you have a child starting Kindergarten or Pre-kindergarten in the fall? Call 651-632-3746 to schedule an early-childhood screening appointment.

Your 7th grader needs immunizations before school starts. He or she will also need a sports physical if he/she plans to play sports. Call Kerrie Samayoa, RN, CNP, for an appointment or assistance: 651-293-8915.

Dayton’s Bluff Achievement Plus Elementary is located at 262 Bates Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55106; 651-293-8915. Staff will return beginning August 15.

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Eastside Neighbors for Peace to hold August vigils

by Carla Richle

“Time to leave; five wars too many.” That’s the slogan that the newly formed Eastside Neighbors for Peace has adopted for its planned weekly vigils each Thursday in August. The group came together after Community Council board members Sage Holben and me, along with Brad Grif- fith, floated the idea to the Sacred Heart Church Peace and Justice Committee. They liked the idea and a new peace group was born.

Like many other neighborhoods, Dayton's Bluff and the greater Eastside are feeling the effects of the worldwide economic crisis. With about two billion dollars a week being spent by our government on the war in Afghanistan alone, it’s hard not to conclude that we could use that money more wisely at home.

If you would like to join us in raising our voices and our signs for peace, please join us any Thursday, August 4, 11, 18 or 25, from 5:00 to 6:00 pm at the corner of East 6th Street and Mounds Boulevard. We will have signs available or you can bring your own. All are welcome. Look for us on Facebook at St. Paul Eastside Neighbors for Peace.
National Night Out August 2

Celebrate community in Dayton’s Bluff on National Night Out, Tuesday, August 2, 2011. Neighbors, neighborhood groups and block clubs are planning a variety of events, including a barbecue, Brodin's Magic Show, live bands and kids' games. Please bring a food or dessert item to share. Another way to celebrate is to get your neighbors to turn on outside lights at every home from dusk to dawn.

This is the 28th Annual National Night Out, celebrated nationwide in a variety of events and activities. Most celebrations start around 6 or 6:30 pm. Bring a dish or dessert to share. Here is a list of some of the Dayton’s Bluff celebrations:

- Reaney Avenue between Forest and Cypress
- Bethlehem Lutheran Church during last year's National Night Out. Photo courtesy of Karin DuPaul
- Bates and 4th Street Block Club at Bates and 4th Street
- Mounds Park United Methodist Church, Earl and Euclid
- Lower Dayton’s Bluff Block Club at Maria and Euclid
- Swede Hollow Park at Greenbrier and Margaret
- Parkway Gardens at Hudson Road and Johnson Parkway (for residents at 3:00 pm)
- Mounds Park at Earl and Mounds Blvd
- Wilson Avenue between Mendota and Forest
- Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church at Margaret and Johnson Parkway
- Saint Paul Federal Credit Union at 1330 Conway
- DuPaul
- Casey's at 1347 Johnson and Johnson Parkway
- Kids delight in posing with a fire truck next to Bethlehem Lutheran Church during last year’s National Night Out.

You may check the most current listing of National Night Out celebrations at www.daytonsbuff.org. For more information, contact Karin@DaytonBluff.org or 651-772-2075.

Dayton’s Bluff Rec Center - 800 Conway Street - 651-793-3885

At left: Have you ever seen such exhausted-looking kids? After an afternoon of working in the hot sun, a cookout and trivia game were much deserved.

Summer Blast youths make friends, make a difference

Dayton’s Bluff Summer Blast participants and staff partnered with Dayton’s Bluff District Council and the Dayton’s Bluff neighborhood in the third annual sign project on July 7. Youth worked with neighbors and cleaned up their neighborhood along Conway and 3rd Street.

They also planted a garden at one of the homes on Bates Ave. They worked hard and had fun doing it. Neighbors came out to help and thank the youth for their help with cleaning and weeding their gardens. They shared stories and food with the youth and learned more about one another.

This was a great intergenerational connection between the youth and the neighbors of Dayton’s Bluff. Kids learned how to plant, weed, and take pride in their neighborhood by picking up trash and posting signs that show their commitment to a cleaner, safer environment. Placed as a progressive billboard, there are three series of three signs with the messages: 1) Don’t drop it. Find a trash can. Use it; 2) No Trash, No Tagging, No Trash-Talk; and 3) Be Productive, Be Polite, Be Peaceful. If you would like one or all three signs placed in your yard, please call the DBCC at 651-772-2075.

Register now for fall sports

- Soccer for boys and girls ages 8-14 years old
- Flag Football for ages 8-12 years old
- Drill Team for ages 8-16 years old

For more information, please contact Dayton’s Bluff Rec Center at 651-793-3885.

Free lunch on weekdays

Free lunch in the Rec Center gym from 12:00 – 1:00 pm and snack from 3:00 – 4:00 pm for anyone under the age of 18.

A Capital Voting System for the Capital City: Ranked Voting Comes to St. Paul

by Sarah Clarke, FairVote

This November, St. Paul joins its twin across the river at the forefront of election reform: The capital city is moving to Ranked Choice Voting for municipal elections – a smarter, fairer, cheaper, cleaner way to vote.

In short, St. Paul is moving to a voting system that’s worthy of its voters. And thanks to the Voter Readiness Campaign underway by FairVote Minnesota, it’s on track to be a smooth, inclusive, broadly-embraced transition. Working cooperatively with Ramsey County, the city of St. Paul, and a host of community organizations, FairVote is aiming to ensure that the rollout is even more successful than the 2009 implementation in Minneapolis.

Ranked Voting upholds the principle of majority rule and better reflects the will of electorate. By allowing voters to rank candidates in order of preference, it eliminates “wasted” votes, the “spoiler” effect and the perceived need to calculate electability. And by folding two elections into one November election, when turnout is greater and more diverse, RV reduces costs – for both candidates and taxpayers as well.

Under Ranked Voting, candidates are rewarded for building coalitions and running positive, issue-based campaigns. What’s more, Ranked Voting opens up the political process to new voices and perspectives: it’s been shown to broaden political participation in historically underrepresented communities and to increase diversity in local government.

The change for voters is simple: Instead of voting for just one candidate, they’ll be able to rank their preferences – first choice, second choice, third choice, etc. This ranking allows an “instant runoff” to occur if no candidate receives a majority (50 percent +1) of first choices. If a candidate receives a majority of votes in the first round, that candidate wins. If not, the least popular candidate is eliminated and that candidate’s votes are reassigned to remaining candidates based on the second choices on each of those voters’ ballots. This process continues until one candidate receives a majority of continuing ballots.

According to Ramsey County Elections officials, machines will be used to tally first choices, as is always the case. Races that are won in the first round will be unofficially declared on election night. Races that are not won in round one will be tallied by hand and reported in the following days.

St. Paul voters adopted RV in 2009. The Voter Readiness Campaign will include engaging St. Paulites at neighborhood and community festivals, public forums, and demo elections, as well as through door-knocking and print and online media. Be a part of this historic change: contact FairVote Education Coordinator Sarah Clarke at sarah.clarke@fairvotemn.org to volunteer or learn more, and visit VoteStPaul.org and co.ramsay.mn.us/elections/ranked_voting.htm.
St. John’s school building is a classic

by Greg Cosimini

St. John’s class of ’65

With so many Dayton’s Bluff’s historic buildings being claimed by the wrecking ball, it might be a good idea to look at some still standing.

One of them is the St. John’s Catholic school building on the corner of Fifth and Forest. Its construction began exactly 80 years ago in July 1931. It was built in six months for a cost of $135,000 and formally opened to the public in January 1932.

The Gothic brick and cut stone building was designed by the architectural firm of Slifer and Abrahamson to match the recently constructed church and parish house. It replaced the original school, built in 1889, which could no longer handle the growing student population of the parish.

The new school was capable of housing 400 to 500 students back in the days when class sizes of 40 to 50 weren’t uncommon.

Here is a description of the school building written shortly after it was built:

“Nothing feature for the comfort and convenience of those whom it is intended to serve seems to have been omitted. In the basement, extending practically two stories high, is a regulation size gymnasium, so constructed that it serves as an auditorium as well. Concrete bleachers are built in such a way as to provide storage space for chairs to be used for the auditorium.

“Space is provided for a regulation size handball court, locker and shower rooms for boys and girls, a lunchroom, and a Boy Scout room. At one end of the gymnasium is a stage, 31 by 44 feet, provided with footlights and other features necessary for the staging of dramatic productions. A dressing room for players is located at one end. The heating plant in the basement heats both church and school.

“The first floor is five classrooms; a kindergarten occupying space equal to two ordinary sized classrooms, with a fireplace and a playroom; an office; a nurse’s room and a book room for the distribution of texts.

“Seven classrooms are located on the second floor, in addition to a library, Sisters’ quarters consisting of a living room and a dining room, a parish dining room and kitchen. Many of the rooms in the building were so designed with respect to light and ventilation that seventeen classrooms would be available if needed.”

The above description could just as well have been written today, as very little has changed. The handball court is being used for storage, but marks from balls are still visible on the walls. The locker and shower rooms have been converted to other uses with the plumbing hidden from view. The heating plant still services both the church and school with updated boilers now burning gas rather than coal. The kindergarten still has its fireplace, place, along with a built-in playhouse, semicircular play area and its own private bathroom.

It would be difficult to tell by looking at photographs of interior portions of the school whether they were taken now or in the 1930s. Externally the building hasn’t seen many changes other than for the installation of modern windows and a cell phone antenna farm on the roof.

The building served as a school for St. John’s until the 1970s when St. John and Sacred Heart schools consolidated and all classes were eventually moved to the Sacred Heart campus.

For many years after that, local non-profit organizations were housed in the building until one of the first charter schools moved in during the 1990s. Unfortunately, that school ran into legal issues and was forced to close. The St. Paul Public Schools then made use of the upper floor for many years while a small Catholic school was located on the main floor util moving out this past May.

The St. John’s school building is now ready for its next tenant. It has stood the test of time and still has many good years ahead of it. It would make a great community center, nonprofit business incubator or, of course, school. Anyone interested in touring or seeking the building should contact St. John’s at 651-771-3690.”

Metropolitan State outlines plans for new science building

by Harvey Meyer

If everything goes according to plan, a new $30-million-plus edifice will grace the Metropolitan State University Campus – and Dayton’s Bluff – in the next several years.

A couple of major hurdles must first be overcome before a science education building is erected at the corner of Mounds Boulevard and Sixth Street. But the university signaled its clear intention when this March it acquired a half-acre site housing the American Postal Workers Union (APWU) facility, adding it to land Metropolitan State previously purchased along Sixth Street. In June, the one-story APWU facility was demolished to make way for the future science building.

“We have a huge student demand for a science building at the university,” said Dan Hambrock, Metropolitan State’s associate vice president of capital planning and campus services. In fact, the need is such that the university ranks the facility its No. 1 construction priority.

Hambrock said the university will seek $3.3 million in design and additional land-acquisition funding for the property. With that funding secured from the Minnesota Legislature, Metropolitan State will then pursue $31 million in construction funds for the proposed three-story facility. The university’s master plan calls for a 2016 completion of a building featuring five classrooms, 12 labs, 15 faculty offices, conference rooms and support and other spaces. A skyway would link the facility to Founders Hall, which houses administrative offices and classrooms.

The Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system recommends that bar-courserate students complete two science courses. However, given its science space limitations, Metropolitan State now requires only one general education science course.

Assuming a new science building is constructed, it will draw and retain more students, many of whom may live on the East Side and patronize area businesses, said Hambrock.

“A new science building will offer additional stability for both the East Side and Metropolitan State,” he said. “It will further demonstrate the university’s continuing commitment to the community.”

The new facility would underscore the Metropolitan State campus as a gateway to the East Side, said Hambrock. The buff-colored brick edifice on Sixth Street would also mesh with existing structures and serve as an aesthetic counterbalance to the Library and Learning Center on Seventh Street.

In an era of steep competition for state dollars, Hambrock said funding for a new science education building is by no means assured. That’s why support from all corners, including East Side residents and businesses, is welcomed, he said.

“I appreciate, and need, everybody’s support,” Harvey Meyer is an Academic Writer/Editor at Metropolitan State.
Small business classes

The Dayton’s Bluff Neighborhood Microentrepreneur Program is taking applications for the fall 2011 class, which will start in September. The program helps start-up and young businesses; all East Side entrepreneurs are welcome. The Dayton’s Bluff Community Council and the Neighborhood Development Center have been hosting two such microentrepreneur classes each year since 1993.

Classroom training lasts eight weeks and includes topics such as operations management, marketing, financial management, how to create a successful business and how to prepare a business plan. In addition, each student will have eight hours of one-on-one time with the instructor to work on individual business concepts. Those who successfully complete the course and locate their businesses in target neighborhoods are eligible for ongoing business support services.

The registration fee is based on a sliding scale. Class size is limited, so don’t wait to apply. For an application, see the contact information below.

Community meeting

The next Dayton’s Bluff community meeting is Thursday, August 4 from 6:30 to 8:00 pm at the Dayton’s Bluff District 4 Community Council office, 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 problem properties, criminal and nuisance behavior, code enforcement issues and any other issues, concerns or good things going on in the Bluff.

Generally we have a code inspector on hand from 6:30 to 7:00 pm and police officers arrive about 7:00 pm. The council addresses where problems are occurring and they will check them out. If the addresses are sent to the council offices ahead of time, they can research the issue before the meeting. All Dayton’s Bluff residents are welcome to attend.

Complaints can also be made by calling 651-206-8989 or online at http://www.stpaul.gov/index.aspx?nid=1649. Complainants’ names are kept confidential.

Take-a-Hike August 6

Take-a-Hike occurs on the first Saturday of most months. The next hike will be Saturday, August 6. Hikes meet at 10:30 am in Indian Mounds Park at Earl Street and Mounds Boulevard, and walk to East Side Heritage Park.

The hike is about four miles long with some moderately rough terrain. Transportation will be available to return to Indian Mounds Park, if needed. All are welcome.

Meet the police

The Eastern District Police hosts its monthly meetings for community members at 722 Payne Avenue at the corner of Minnehaha Avenue and 22nd Street. The next meetings are on Wednesday, August 17, at 6:30 pm, and Friday, August 19, at 9:30 am. The meetings are intended to listen to and address concerns about crime and other issues on the East Side.

Friends of Swede Hollow

Meetings are on the second Wednesday of the month, generally at Water & Oil gallery, 506 Kenny Road, or at members’ homes; call for location. The next monthly meeting is on Wednesday, August 3, starting at 6:30 pm.

FOSHI is planning summer work in the park and working on planning for Alcina’s Island: A Picnic Opera that will be performed in Swede Hollow on Saturday, September 17, and “Watch the Glow of the Setting Sun on the Red Brick Brewery Buildings.” For more information or location of the meeting, email SwedeHollow@gmail.com or call 651-776-0550.

Dayton’s Bluff beat police

The Dayton’s Bluff Police beat phone, 651-341-6737, is available for residents’ calls.

Four officers in two police cars carry the phone from 4:00 pm - 2:00 am. Another police car will have the Dayton’s Bluff beat phone during daytime hours, from 7:00 am - 5:00 pm many days.

What kind of calls should be made to the beat phone? You may call about ongoing problems in the neighborhood; concerns about people in vacant buildings after 10 pm, police-related questions, and so on. If you need police right away or see a crime in progress, call 911 or 651-291-1111.

Free Zumba class through EXCO

Zumba Fitness combines fun Latin and International music with unique moves and combinations to create a fun and easy-to-follow workout. Zumba is a “feel-happy” workout that is great for both the body and the mind. Drop in for a FREE Zumba class at the Dayton’s Bluff Rec Center on Tuesdays from 5:45-6:45 pm throughout the summer. This class, and others, are offered through EXCO: Twin Cities Experimental Community Education. Through EXCO, anyone can take core teach classes, and all the classes are free. See www.excotc.org for more information.

Block club meetings

Margaret Rec Center Block Club meets on the second Thursday of each month at the Margaret Rec Center, at Margaret and Frank, at 6:30 pm.

Beech/Margaret 654 Block Club will meet on the last Thursday of the month at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church School building at 665 Forest. This block club covers the area Minnehaha, Beech Margaret, 6th, 5th, and 4th Streets between Cypress and Ardace.

Tell us about your church!

What is your place of worship up to these days? Is your church, synagogue, temple, or mosque working on a community event? Hoping to grow? Excited about anything happening in the world? Share with the Forum, so we can share with the community.

Harding 2001 reunion

Harding High School Class of 2001 will have a 10-year reunion on Friday, August 26 at 7:00 pm at Jimmy’s Food & Drink in Vadnais Heights.

New baby? Anniversary? Share your good news

The Forum would be delighted to help you share your family’s and/or neighbors’ exciting news and milestones. Submit photos and details of the happy event to editor@daytons-bluff.org, or mail to 798 East 7th Street, St. Paul, MN 55106.

Notice will be published as space permits, and may be edited for length or clarity. Deadline is the 10th of each month for the following month’s issue.

Cow Boat August 8 in Mounds Park

Mounds Park hosts a puppet show as part of the Open Eye Figure Theatre’s 10th annual Driveway Tour. On Monday, August 8 at 7:00 pm, the Mounds Park Pavilion at Earl St. and Mounds Blvd will be staging the puppet show The Amazing Cow Boat. The event is scheduled rain or shine. The Driveway Tour brings original, family-friendly theater directly into neighborhoods. All Driveway Tour performances are free and open to the public.

Yoga in the garden

Join us for a summer yoga series in the garden!

Anita Bendickson of Midwest Karate will lead three outdoor yoga workshops at Skidmore Park (on East 4th Street between Earl and Hancock). Grab your mat, walk on down and stretch out under the majestic cottonwood trees on August 9 from 7:00 – 8:30 pm.

All levels welcome; $10 workshop fee. Feel free to pass the invite along to gardeners, neighbors and friends. If you don’t have a yoga mat, extras will be available for use or purchase during the workshop. Remember to wear comfortable clothing that doesn’t restrict movement.

In case of rain, workshops will be relocated to Midwest Karate at 762 E 7th Street, St Paul. Studio workshop fee is $7.

For more information...

...about anything on this page, contact Karin: karin@daytonsbuff.org or 651-772-2075.
Dayton’s Bluff and Payne Phalen Living at Home
Block Nurse Program
submitted by Ana Diaz MD, MPH
Health care fraud affects thousands of individuals across the country each year and costs the US between $90 and $180 billion dollars a year in scams and errors. It can cost you higher Medicare premiums, deductibles, and co-payments. Losses due to fraud may also prevent Medicare from offering more services and better coverage. In fact, this year it has become one of, if not the most profitable, crimes in America.

While it’s very difficult to eliminate all fraud from Medicare, it’s imperative that fraud become one of the federal government’s major priorities, particularly in a time when proposed budget cuts threaten to shrink Medicare’s budget significantly. For example, a proposal to cut billions from the federal budget for home-based health care will cause considerable impact on the quality of life and health care of many senior citizens. These programs help seniors remain healthy in their homes, largely by having home health aides visit them on a regular basis, at a cost that is great deal less than the $5,000-per-month of typical nursing home care.

Medicare and other types of consumer fraud are on the rise in this country. Senior citizens make up 11% of the US population and represent 30% of scam victims. They are continually vulnerable because: they are more likely to be at home during the day; they often live alone and tend to be more isolated; they are assumed to have money. And there is also a general perception that the elderly are reluctant to report fraud because if sometimes there are exceptions. If you feel an agent or plan violates any of the marketing practices, call the Senior LinkAge Line® at 1-800-333-2433 to report the issue.

If you’ve contacted the provider and you suspect that Medicare is being charged for a service or supply you didn’t get, or you don’t know the provider on the claim, call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-2427). TTY users should call 1-877-486-2048.

**Tips to protect yourself:**

- Ask questions! You have a RIGHT to know about your medical care!
- Guard your Medicare and Social Security numbers. Treat them like you would treat your credit cards.
- Be suspicious of anyone who offers you free medical equipment or services and then requests your Medicare ID card or your identity. It’s illegal, and it’s not worth it!
- Never accept medical supplies from door-to-door salespeople.
- Don’t be influenced by media advertisements concerning your health.
- Treat your Medicare and Social Security cards like a credit card number.
- Never give these numbers to a stranger.

Letter to the editor

Not so fast, “Good Neighbor Program”

In the last issue of the forum, I read about the City of Saint Paul partnering with the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council to revive the “Good Neighbor Program,” first implemented back in 2000. It should come as no surprise to me that this program resurfaces in the wake of a continually declining economy where the city is looking for creative ways to reduce its operating costs. In such an economy, I’m all for being creative. The problem is that this program costs way more than what we as residents of Dayton’s Bluff can afford.

However, the cost isn’t money. Instead, the price tag is the development of community. If I understand the program correctly, the city provides trained residents an avenue to “anonymously” fill out a notice of code violation that it will then forward on to the guilty party. But how exactly will this make me a good neighbor? I have a hard time believing that a good neighbor is someone who passive-aggressively chooses to hide behind government so as to avoid awkward conversations.

Fostering community requires neighbors to forge relationships with one another where lives are increasingly intertwined and greater levels of solidarity are achieved. When we see an eyesore or safety concern, we ought to engage our neighbor to resolve the code issue. If we’ve already developed a good relationship, then resolving the issue in a healthy way is much more likely and a positive for the neighborhood. Even if we have yet to foster such a relationship, there is a chance to do so and to hear our neighbors’ stories which may explain the reason for the code infractions and possibly lead to it being addressed.

It’s a false assumption to simply assume that all infractions are the result of residents who simply do not care about their neighborhood. In particular, I’m thinking about the renter/landlord dynamic in our neighborhoods. Rented homes tend to become the primary targets of so-called “neighborhood improvement” programs, because assumptions are made about the commitment of renters (and landlords) to the neighborhood. Certainly there are bad renters, but there are also bad landlords and we cannot sort out which is which in any one situation if we never open up a dialogue. We risk throwing out the baby with the bath water. And in some cases, we miss out on the opportunity to play the role of advocate for renters who have absentee landlords.

By implementing such programs, we choose to alienate each other from one another instead of build community. This program encourages residents to forgo the relationships and the stories of our neighbors in order to comfortably protect libertarian rights. I fear that this program is one more way in which to support the injustices of gentrification, which affect many and ultimately rob community of the treasures that lie within her diversity.

This program tragically sacrifices community on the altar of convenience and economic concern. Don’t get me wrong, I’m all for saving taxpayers’ money and being fiscally responsible. And I would be lying if I said that I didn’t care about wanting our community to be safe and to look nice, but not at the expense of community. If we are truly going to have a “Good Neighbor Program,” perhaps it should actually teach us how to be good neighbors.

Jake Lambert, St. Paul
Gangsters at Mounds Theatre

by Greg Cosmimiti, Mounds Theatre volunteer

Gangsters – the good kind (stylish and dead) – are returning to the Mounds Theatre. Or more accurately, Gangsterland, the movie about 1930s criminals in Minnesota will return for five showings in August following its sold out premiere last May.

This critically acclaimed documentary-style movie was filmed in and around St. Paul and stars local actors. Gangsterland is followed by a blooper reel and a panel discussion including the movie’s director, actors and gangster historians. Bring your own stogie to share!

Gangsterland performances:

- Thursday August 11th - 7:30 pm
- Friday August 12th - 7:30 pm
- Saturday August 13th - 7:00 pm & 9:00 pm
- Sunday August 14th - 2:00 pm

Tickets are $10 at the door, or buy them online at www.moundstheatre.org. A donation will be made to the Saint Paul Police Historical Society from ticket sales.

The Historic Mounds Theatre
www.moundstheatre.org
1029 Hudson Road
St. Paul, MN 55106
651-772-2253

Don’t forget, Mordi is also playing at the Mounds Theatre through August.

Alcina’s Island: A Picnic Opera

Presented by Mixed Precipitation, a colorful re-imagining of George Frederic Handel’s 1735 opera Alcina, the garden becomes a truck stop on the American highway. Scheming sorceresses Alcina and Morgana become truckers, taking the luring brave truckers astray. They combine Handel’s operas and a national fallen officers’ memorial in Washington D.C. after research done by local historians.

What caught my eye was the fact that he had been fatally injured while helping arrest Charles Olson, a man who lived on Reaney Street. As you probably know, Reaney is a street in Dayton’s Bluff. I thought that maybe the police officers were posted at the old Margaret Street Station, which still stands today and is used as an apartment building. Possibly officer Cronin even lived near the local headquarters.

So maybe a little research would turn up a neighborhood connection that could lead to a history article. Another trip to the Minnesota Historical Society seemed necessary. Fortunately I did the needed research before the state shutdown closed its doors.

I found out that Cronin was born in Ireland and had been living in St. Paul since 1880. He was fifty-two years old, had been a policeman for seventeen years and at the time of the incident was the night jailer at the Margaret Street Station. He lived on Sherburne Street in the Frogtown neighborhood. Charles Olson, the man who was arrested, was forty-two years old and lived with his wife and children. One newspaper said he was a plumber at Bergstrom’s located at 632 E. Minnehaha, but another was more specific, stating that he was employed as a laborer for a plumber named M. J. O’Neil.

The event took place on January 3, 1905. The details are somewhat hard to figure out. What is known is that the police were summoned more than once to a house located at 610 Reaney. An inebriated man had thrown his wife and children outside in the cold. When I went looking for the home, all that remained was an empty lot. And it turns out that it was in nearby Railroad Island, not Dayton’s Bluff.

“After a most fierce resistance,” The Pioneer Press said that Olson kicked Cronin in the privates and “immediately the officer weak and sick and in a few minutes was prostrate in the police wagon as it was speeding to the station.”

The article was headed “Olson Denies Guilt.” He had hired Fred McGhee as his defense attorney. McGhee was a prominent lawyer in the city and the first African American to enter the Minnesota bar. McGhee succeeded in getting Olson’s bail lowered from a one hundred to fifty dollars, saying that all that his client had been able to raise. In exchange, Olson agreed “to leave his family alone.”

Several of Olson’s family testified at the trial. His brother Frank, who lived on Germania, said that Charles had been at that house that he was not intoxicated when he left. However his wife and daughter told a different story. Daughter Maud said that he was drunk, threw her down and used “abusive language and threatened her and her mother.” Olson then told his side of things, saying that he was displaced at the number of visitors who were staying at the house. Maud had supposedly been out late and when he asked where she had been she said it was none of his business. He admitted that her sassiness caused him to slap her.

Olson was found guilty and fined fifty dollars, a large amount at that time. McGhee asked for and received a thirty-day stay in order to file an appeal. He asserted that if Olson had been outdoors it might have been recognized as the defendant and a right to resist. McGhee used the phrase “a man’s home is his castle” and that the police had no right to enter the home and carry him from it. I have tried to find out if such an appeal was made, but so far have had no luck.

The last mention that I could find about Charles Olson was short of a headline in the April 8, 1905 Globe under a headline that read “Wife Seeks Divorce From Man With Police Record.” The sheriff was after Olson to hold an inquest.

To reserve tickets for Skidmore or any other performance, consider it necessary to visit the Minnesota Historical Society from ticket sales.

For more information email Kариn@DaytonBlluff.org or call Kariin at 651-772-2075.
Call for Original Art
By Sage Holten

Movement, walk to work, place to live, looking for a home. Red & White, Blue and Grey, where does he belong? Green is money, green is weed, power portrayed in green. Coffee & paparazzi, Sweed Hollow and Madama.

Community talks, neighbors whisper, who is your community?

Senses draw me in – hot summer heat emanating from a city sidewalk. Rosemary bread, pesto spread, aromas draw me to the bakery door. Textures, colors, gardens fill my sight; blossoms, basil, balm and berries. Laughing children, midnight cursing, walking who knows where. Eerie figures in the Hollow, gunshots in the night.

Morning song birds, cheery neighbors, a child’s greeting – images that make me smile. Boarded houses, neon warnings, neighbor to a painted lady. Chicken coops and MSU, hilltop edifice, gateway to the sun.

These are my faces of Dayton’s Bluff; what are yours?

Can you translate your images of Dayton’s Bluff into artwork to be exhibited at Metropolitan State University? The Arts, Culture, & Outreach committee of Dayton’s Bluff Council, in collaboration with Metropolitan State University, is calling for artwork in any form; painting, pencil, poetry, weaving, sculpture, collage, quilting, photography, or crafts. Written work such as poetry or prose will also be accepted.

Applications are due by October 15, 2011 and artwork is to be submitted on November 1. “FACES OF DAYTON’S BLUFF” exhibit will hang in Founders Hall at Metropolitan State University from November 2nd to November 29, and be encased to participate.

Applications and rules are available at the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council office: 798 Seventh Street East, at Margaret (651-772-2075). If you have further questions, call Sage at 651-528-0662.

Dayton’s Bluff Neighborhood Cleanup & FREE Stuff Area
Saturday, September 10, 2011
9:00 a.m. to Noon
Ray Anderson & Sons
North of East 7th St. at Atlantic and Phalen Corridor (933 Atlantic)

This cleanup is for Dayton’s Bluff residents only.

COSTS
Entrance: $7 per car, $10 per small truck or mini van, $25 per pickup truck and trailers. No dump trucks.
Extra Fees: $10 per mattress, box spring, couch or love seat.
$3 per car tire; $5 per truck tire
Electronics: $10 to $25 depending on the item.

You may also bring: fluorescent bulbs, scrap metal, bicycles, demolition debris, clean wood, concrete/rocks.

All guidelines will be strictly adhered to and we reserve the right to turn away any person or vehicle. The Dayton’s Bluff Community Council reserves the right to refuse any item or close the site early if costs exceed budget.

WHAT TO BRING
A proof of Dayton’s Bluff residency in the form of a driver’s license or utility bill is required to gain entry. Be prepared to unload your own materials. Assistance is not available at the cleanup site. Materials will be sorted at the site into different dumpsters to maximize recycling.

On the bottom of the load: concrete, bricks, rocks, and construction debris. In the middle of the load: bikes and scrap metals, mattresses/box springs, broken furniture and other trash.

On the top of the load: reusable household items, electronics TVs, VCRs, computers, tires.

Please DO NOT bring appliances to the cleanup.

Call JR’s Appliance at 651-454-9215 before Thursday, September 8, to arrange to have your appliances picked up at your curb on Monday, September 12. Cost $25 for one appliance, $10 for each additional appliance. There is extra fee of $5 for each air conditioner and water softeners.

WHAT NOT TO BRING
Not all materials are accepted at the cleanup.
For more information about how to recycle or dispose of these or other items, call 651-222-SORT (7678).TTY for the hearing impaired: 651-221-9032.
No Rail Road ties or Chemically treated wood.
No Appliances: Call JR’s Appliance at 651-454-9215 before Thursday, September 8, to arrange to have your appliances picked up at your curb on Monday, September 12. Cost $25/1st appliance, $10/each additional appliance (there is an $10 surcharge for each air conditioner and water softeners). JR’s Appliance accepts air conditioners, dehumidifiers, dishwashers, dryers, furnaces, garbage disposals, heat pumps, microwaves, refrigerators, stoves, trash compactors, washing machines, water softeners, and water heaters.
No Car Batteries: Bring car batteries to a store that sells them. All stores and service stations that sell car batteries are required by law to accept up to five batteries per person for free.
No Paint, Pesticides, Motor Oil or other Hazardous Wastes: Free disposal at Ramsey County household hazardous waste drop-off site: Bay West, 5 Empire Drive, Saint Paul, open Wednesday-Friday 11-6 and Saturday 9-4 (April-October) and Saturday 9-4 only (November-March).
No Leaves, Grass or Brush: Free disposal at Ramsey County compost site: Frank Street and Sims Avenue, open Monday, Wednesday and Friday 11-7, Saturday 9-5 and Sunday 11-5.
No Cartridge Recycling Materials: Dayton’s Bluff District 4 curbside recycling is picked up every Tuesday. Have your Recycling at the curb by 7 am.

Good Free Stuff at the Cleanup
Even if you do not have junk or trash to get rid of come and check out the Free Stuff, Swap Stuff. The cleanup will once again feature a Reuse Area so that used items that still have some life left in them can be shared with new owners. Good stuff like dishes, furniture, building materials, cabinets, lawn mowers, bikes, toys and other items in good condition will be set aside in the Reuse Area for anyone to take home. All materials in the Reuse Area are free and there is no charge to enter this area. Items must be hauled away from the Free Stuff area by noon on cleanup day or it all goes in the dumpster. So bring your car, truck or trailer.

Volunteers are Needed - Help neighbors clean up the neighborhood. All skill levels are needed. Work four hours and get free entry for one load of material. A free lunch will be provided. Call 651-772-2075 if you would like to help.

Sponsors and Rules
The Cleanup is sponsored by the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council and the Eureka Recycling, with funding provided by the city of Saint Paul.

The above guidelines will be strictly adhered to. The Dayton’s Bluff Community Council reserves the right to turn away any person or vehicle, to refuse any item or to close the site early if dumpsters are filled or costs exceed budget. There will be limited senior pick-up service. For more information or to register, call the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council at 651-772-2075. Please save this notice.

For a personal, compassionate, no-obligation consultation, call:

Brad Perri
612-940-1260

Attorney Brad C. Perri, LLC, is a debt relief law firm and helps people file for bankruptcy under federal law. He’ll also help you think through other debt-relief options such as credit counseling, debt negotiation, and financial advising.

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