

DISTRICT FORUM

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Keys 4/4 Kids surprises, inspires

Returning home from the National Night Out kickoff picnic at Lake Phalen, Dayton's Bluff resident Sage Holben and friends Francisco and Pedro spied this colorfully-painted piano at East 7th and Frank Streets. The piano is one of 20 Pianos on Parade that Keys 4/4 Kids has placed in St. Paul this summer.

"I knew they were scattered through the city," Holben said, "but never expected one in this area! What an unexpected delight!"

Photo by Sage Holben



Art in the Hollow

Beautiful weather, wide variety of arts make event a success

by Karin duPaul

The day started early, with volunteers putting up signs and helping carry artists' gear down into the Hollow. "Josette's Café," a special bistro run by Art in the Hollow manager Romi Slowak, provided breakfast for the artists.

Around 50 artists participated in the 2011 Art in the Hollow, some creating their work on site; others bringing their work to sell. Many of the artists attended last year and came back this year. Some *plein air* artists created beautiful scenes of Swede Hollow. Others sold paintings, photos, cards, jewelry, and many other forms of art.

The Attic Artists, a painting group that started 13 years ago in an attic on the East Side, came back for the second year. The kids' area included making pine cone bird feeders, sidewalk art, and face painting. Parents and kids worked on projects together.

The live entertainment included Mariachi Estrella, a wonderful group playing Latin, Mexican and Spanish pop music; Erik Ritter, a folk singer and artist; Union Shakedown, playing original rock and roll and gritty blues; Mounds Park American Indian Magnet School's drummers and dancers; New Hope Hmong Dance Groupe; Tou Saiko Lee, a spoken word poet; David Schmid, a local breakdancer; The May North, a progressive bluegrass group; Queen Niyahbingai/Brown Sugar, a hip-hop artist; and the Hagstrom Brothers who played 1950s and '60s music and are descendants of former Swede Hollow residents.

Thank you to all of the artists and everyone who helped make this happen. Funding and other support was provided by the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council through the Arts & Legacy Grant Fund; Friends of Swede Hollow; University Bank; State Supply; Gregg's Auto Body; Metro Liquor Warehouse; Minnesota Music Café; Morelli's; Pepsico; HOPE Community Academy; Dayton's Bluff Community Council; Payne Phalen Planning Council; East Side Arts Council; Water & Oil Gallery; Berthelot Public Relations and individual donors.

To register for the third annual Art in the Hollow, contact SwedeHollow@gmail.com or 651-776-0550. Track the progress on the 2012 event and share ideas and thoughts at www.artinthehollow.org and on Facebook. For more on Friends of Swede Hollow, visit www.swedehollow.org.



Photo by Karin DuPaul

Members of the New Hope Hmong Dance Group await their turn to perform.

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Healthful snacking, right on the corner



Craving fresh fruits and veggies? The Phoenix Market and Swift Mart now carry several varieties, in order to improve access to healthful foods. See full story, page 2.

Photo by Jaya Ginter

Live theatre – just around the corner

Summer events at Mounds Theatre

by Raeann Ruth



Mort visits the East Side

Death comes to Mort with an offer he can't refuse—especially since being, well, dead isn't compulsory. As Death's apprentice he will have free board and lodging, use of the company horse and he won't need time off for family funerals. The position is everything Mort thought he ever wanted, until he discovers that this perfect job can be a killer on his love life.

Mort is A Terry Pratchett Discworld Play, adapted for the stage by Stephen Briggs, directed by Caitlin Hammel, and performed by the Mounds Theatre Community Players. It runs Fridays and Saturdays, July 22 through August 6, at 7:30 pm.

Adults - \$15

Children (under 12)/Seniors - \$10

Purchase your tickets online at www.moundstheatre.org

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



Comedy for Kids Benefit

Scott Hansen would like to invite you to the "Comedy for Kids Benefit," a special fundraiser at the Historic Mounds Theatre in Saint Paul.

Scott Hansen will be doing four performances at the Historic Mounds Theatre. A portion of the ticket proceeds will go to support theatre/arts programming for inner city children.

July 8 and 9 at 8:00 pm

July 15 and 16 at 8:00 pm

Tickets can be purchased online at www.moundstheatre.org or at the door on the night of the performance.

Advance Tickets - \$15

At the door - \$20

VIP – Meet and greet with Scott Hansen - \$30

National Night Out celebrates 27th year

by Karin DuPaul

Celebrate community in Dayton's Bluff on National Night Out (NNO), Tuesday, August 2, 2011. NNO, held on the first Tuesday each August, has been extraordinarily successful in promoting involvement in crime- and drug-prevention activities, strengthening police-community relations, and encouraging neighborhood camaraderie as part of the fight for safer streets.

Since 1984 "National Night Out—America's Night Out Against Crime" has grown to involve over 34 million people from more than 10,000 communities. Neighbors, neighborhood groups and block clubs are planning a variety of events, including a neighborhood barbecue, a potluck, an ice cream social, a live band, a volleyball game, or simply sitting on the front porch chatting with neighbors.

National Night Out is the only time that permits to block off your street are FREE, but you must apply by July 27. You could have a visit from the Police and Fire Departments. Would you like special units like the K-9 unit, horse-mounted police, motorcycle patrol? For more information, help planning your NNO event, and registration forms email Karin@DaytonsBluff.org or call 651-772-2075. You can also get information, application forms

and other materials at www.st-paul.gov/index.aspx?NID=4552. A complete list of Dayton's Bluff National Night Out events will be printed in the August issue of the *Forum*.



Photo by Karin DuPaul
Neighbors get to know their local police horses during the National Night Out Kickoff Picnic at Phalen Park on June 8.

Register your National Night Out Event and receive prizes!

The City of Saint Paul, Eureka Recycling and the Dayton's Bluff Community Council want you to register your National Night Out block party. Doing this will help the council to know where there are groups of residents getting together so we can provide additional information and support, including translated material if needed. When you register your party, you will be entered into drawings for prizes (like gift certificates to neighborhood businesses)! We would love to bring recycling bins and waste reduction information to your party to share with you and your neighbors.

Call Dayton's Bluff at 651-772-2075 to register your party – mention this ad and you will get a prize!

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Healthier foods are now just around the corner

by Jaya Ginter, Ramsey County Public Health Department

More fruits and vegetables are now conveniently available for residents in Dayton's Bluff, due to Ramsey County's Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP) work. With no supermarket in the neighborhood, residents who don't have a car or who need a few food items quickly now have more access to healthy food. Phoenix Market (at 3rd Street and Maria) and Swift Mart (on 7th Street at Hope) are now offering at least six fruit and six vegetable selections for sale.

Helping smaller stores in neighborhoods where fresh fruits and vegetables are scarce is part of a nationwide movement. Corner stores are getting "face-lifts," store redesigns, and/or increased fruit and vegetable varieties. The two corner stores in Dayton's Bluff are the first in low-access areas of St. Paul to partner with local health department staff on this project.

In celebration of the expanded access to healthier foods, each store held a taste-testing event with help from Simply Good Eating (University of Minnesota Extension Program) and youth from the Community Design Center. Samples of fresh fruits and vegetables were given to customers, along with Veggie Power T-shirts when customers purchased fresh produce.

The work with local corner stores was initiated in response to the results of a community survey on food issues conducted last summer which included Dayton's Bluff. St. Paul-Ramsey County Public Health, The Community Design Center, Afro Eco, The Minnesota Project, and The Minnesota Food Association surveyed residents about food availability in their neighborhoods. Residents were asked about shopping, eating, and buying habits. Nineteen percent of Dayton's Bluff residents who participated in the survey shopped outside of their neighborhood. Over half of the participants said they were interested in eating more healthful foods.

More information about local efforts to expand healthy food access and achieve healthier lifestyles is available at www.feelbettermnnesota.org.



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Cow Boat sails into Mounds Park

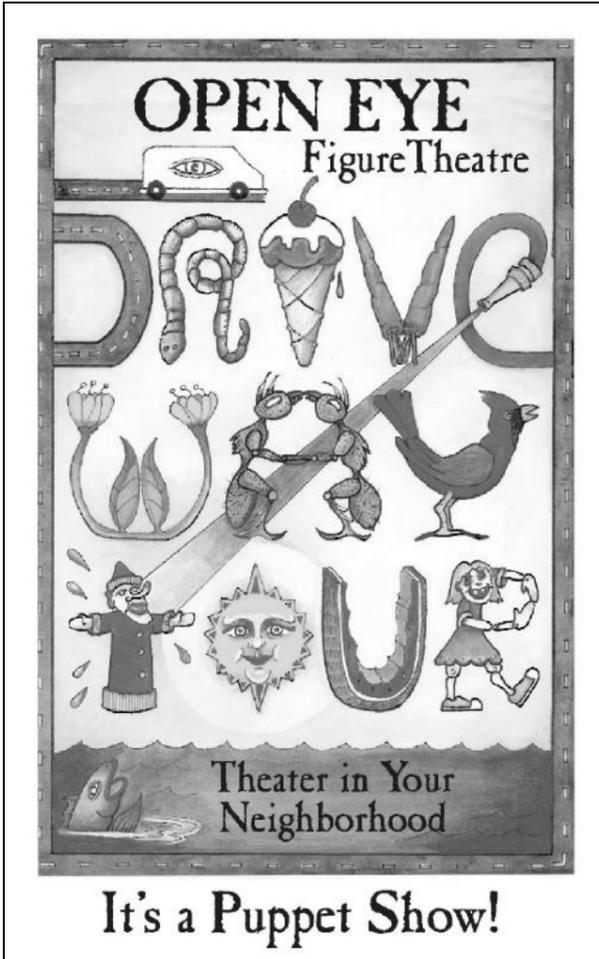
by Stephanie Harr

Taking a bath will never be the same for audiences after the all-new *The Amazing Cow Boat!*

Told through a giant pop-up book with puppets, songs, and surprises, the show is the story of Charlie who, while taking a bath, sails away in his imagination in search of treasure.

Mounds Park is one of the venues hosting 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, developing grassroots community involvement by way of an economically accessible theatrical event. Since 2003, the



Driveway Tour has reached 33,000 people in more than 450 neighborhoods. All Driveway Tour performances are free and open to the public.

The Driveway Tour is funded by grants and donations, and the troupe performs in over 70 backyards, driveways, and parks during the summer. The Driveway Tour's mission is to entertain and delight through the puppet show events and bring together neighbors and friends to create community. For more information, please visit www.openeyetheatre.org.

This original show is appropriate for all ages, even adults, and runs about 30 minutes. Although the event is free, they will be passing a hat to support the tour. Donations are gratefully accepted to help support this small theatre company.

The event in Mounds Parks is sponsored by ECFE and Friends of Mounds Park (friendsofmoundspark.org).

Local author Millett reads, signs latest novel



Photo by Angela DuPaul

Local author Larry Millett signs copies of *The Magic Bullet* at the Dayton's Bluff Community Council office on June 7.

by Angela DuPaul

On June 7, Larry Millett was on hand at the Dayton's Bluff Community Council office to talk about, read from, and sign copies of his latest novel, *The Magic Bullet*. It is a "locked room mystery" (one in which the crime occurs under seemingly impossible circumstances) set in St. Paul in 1917. Millett, former architecture critic for the St. Paul Pioneer Press and author of several books including the wildly popular *Lost Twin Cities*, got to design a fictional building in which to set the crime scene. At 30 stories it would have been the tallest building in the city at the time. Millett includes a good dose of real history in his fiction, but as he says, "the lies are big ones." He has a nonfiction book about lost mansions coming out this autumn. He's been asked by his publisher, University of Minnesota Press, to write a nonfiction book about mid-century modern architecture. If he decides to take that project on, he says it may be his last nonfiction book. He wants to concentrate on novels. *The Magic Bullet* is now available at book stores everywhere. The book reading was the latest in a series of events sponsored by the Arts and Culture Committee of the Dayton's Bluff Community Council.

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

G.I.R.L. (Girls in Real Life)

Arlington 651-298-5701 Duluth & Case 651-298-5709
Conway 651-501-6343 Hazel Park 651-501-6350
Dayton's Bluff 651-793-3885 Wilder 651-298-5727

Through activities, girls will gain self-awareness, improve problem solving skills, learn to make healthy decisions in life and connect with other girls.

Day: Thu Date: June 30 Time: 6:00 – 8:00 pm
Fee: Free Ages: 13-18 Sessions: 9

Movies in the Park

Bring your lawn chairs and blankets and enjoy an outdoor movie on the big screen. The movie will begin at dusk. Some sites have pre-movie activities. All children 10 & under must be accompanied by an adult.

July 14	Hancock – Canvas	Despicable Me
July 15	Northwest Como	Yogi Bear
July 22	North Dale	Shrek Forever After
July 26	Edgcumbe	Shrek Forever After
July 28	Rice	Remember the Titans
July 29	Hancock	How to Train Your Dragon

Check this space next month for dates in August and September.

ARTMOBILE

Hosted by: East Side Arts Council

FREE art classes, rain or shine, at centers all over the East Side of St. Paul. Spend a few hours with a local artist and leave with your very own work of art! All ages welcome. No registration required. For more information, contact Libby Tschida at 651-774-5422.

www.eastsideartscouncil.org

SESSION I: July 5-22, 1:00 – 3:00 pm

- Mon: Conway Recreation Center
- Tue: Hazel Park Recreation Center
- Wed: Phalen Recreation Center
- Thur: Hayden Heights Recreation Center
- Fri: Hmong YES/Margaret Recreation Center

SESSION II: July 25-August 19, 1:00 – 3:00 pm

- Mon: Merrick Recreation Center
- Tue: Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center
- Wed: Ames Lake Community Center
- Thur: Duluth and Case Recreation Center
- Fri: Wilder Recreation Center

8th Annual Rockin' Eastside 5k Run / Walk at Lake Phalen

Runners and walkers of all abilities will receive a custom T-shirt; trophies will be awarded to the top two men and women in each age group and to the overall men's and women's winners. Door prize drawings will be held after the race. Please call Phalen Recreation Center at 651-793-6600.

Date: Sunday, July 31 Time: 8:30 am
Fee: \$20 by 7/9/11, \$25 day of race Ages: All

Youth 1k Fun Run:

Day: Sunday, July 31 Time: 9:30 am
Fee: \$15 by 7/9/11, \$20 day of race Ages: 3-18

Metropolitan State Upward Bound program prepares students for college

by Harvey Meyer

Chong Her had little background information about college when she joined the Upward Bound program offered at Metropolitan State University. So it was an eye-opener for Her to participate in Upward Bound, a college preparatory program for selected high school students. The students receive access to tutoring and academic skill building, social and cultural activities, college and career awareness, academic and personal counseling and other services.

Her, a Dayton's Bluff resident who recently graduated from Highland Park Senior High School in St. Paul, has been an Upward Bound participant since she was a sophomore. Among other activities, she has visited higher-education institutions, volunteered to pack nutritious food for hungry children, received assistance in writing college admission essays and met an artist.

"The artist talked about how he got involved in his career and how he is really persistent," said Her, whose Hmong parents had no opportunity to attend high school, let alone college. "He didn't sit around and wait for people to come to him; he went to them. That persistence is something you can apply to any job you go after and to everyday life. You have to go after it."

Her is one of 50-some students enrolled in Upward Bound at Metropolitan State, said Kristine Ramos-Walker, who oversees the federally-funded program on the St. Paul Campus. Upward Bound was initially offered by the university in 2008, and the first nine participants graduated from high school last year. Ramos-Walker is proud that all nine enrolled in college.

Students eligible for Upward Bound must have academic potential and come from low-income families whose parents didn't finish college. The Metropolitan State program actively recruits ninth- and tenth-grade students from Washington Technology Magnet School in St. Paul.

Ramos-Walker is passionate about the program in part because she was an Upward Bound student herself. A New York native who was raised in the Twin Cities, she graduated from the University of St. Thomas in 2000. She credits Upward Bound's services and activities, all of which are free for participants, with offering college-ready students the tools to graduate.

"We're offering them opportunities, activities and challenges to stimulate their mind and body," said Ramos-Walker. "They help give you the confidence to accomplish things" you didn't think were possible.

Her – who will attend Hamline University this fall and is already eyeing Metropolitan State for graduate school – said she also appreciates Upward Bound for a personal reason. Two years ago, her mother was diagnosed with cancer and Her was struggling to cope.

"That was a really tough time for me," said Her, whose mother turned 50 in June. "Upward Bound counselors were there for me. I could talk to them about my mom and anything else. I am so thankful for that."

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

Be a "Good Neighbor" – help the police with code enforcement

by Paula Uniacke
Intern, City of Saint Paul

For those who want to live in a neighborhood full of properties that are clean and cared for, there is good news – the Good Neighbor Code Enforcement Program is being revamped this summer. In partnership with the City of St. Paul, the Dayton's Bluff Community Council is reviving the program in an effort to reduce neighborhood blight and strain on the city's code enforcement office.

The Good Neighbor Program relies on neighborhood volunteers to monitor targeted areas for code violations. If infractions are found, the volunteer anonymously fills out a basic notice, which details the code requirement and reminds the resident to resolve the issue, and the Community Council will then mail the notice to the property in question.

After a week or two, the volunteer performs a follow-up inspection. If the problem has been taken care of (for example, the grass is cut or the trash is cleaned up), a "thank you" note is sent from the Community Council. If the violation persists, however, the Council notifies St. Paul Code Enforcement officers, who then issue citations and enforce summary abatements, if necessary.

The code violations that volunteers will focus on are easy to spot, but are common nuisances and eyesores. Missing house numbers (which are necessary in the alley, too), tall grass and weeds, accumulated trash, and abandoned cars not only make the neighborhood seem uncared-for or potentially unsafe, they also have the ability

to threaten property values.

By increasing awareness of existing code violations, volunteers can have a very real impact on the appearance of the neighborhood. Correctly maintained properties will help make residents feel prouder and safer in Dayton's Bluff.

Those who lived in Dayton's Bluff in 2000-2001 might remember the initial, successful implementation of the program. In a short time, the program began to achieve its aims: almost 40% of code violations were corrected with the first Good Neighbor notice, and an additional 20% were taken care of before code enforcement officers arrived to inspect the property. This means that 60% of observed violations solved with neighborly reminders *before* any city intervention.

With such a significant success rate in the past, both St. Paul and Dayton's Bluff Community Council are optimistic about the potential for success with the reinstatement of the program. As the Good Neighbor coordinator this summer, I will be working closely with the neighborhood and volunteers to ensure a smooth implementation of the program. Before long, loose trash and long grass will be on the decline in Dayton's Bluff.

In order for the Good Neighbor Code Enforcement Program to flourish, it requires neighborhood volunteers. Volunteers will be trained in city code and, for a few hours a month, will examine a small area of the neighborhood for infractions.

With just a small amount of volunteered time, this early warning system will help clean up Dayton's Bluff and save taxpayers' money by decreasing demand on the city's code enforcement officers.

To be a Good Neighbor, call the Dayton's Bluff Community Council at 651-772-2075 or email Karin DuPaul (karin@daytonsbuff.org) or Paula Uniacke (paula.uniacke@ci.stpaul.mn.us).



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Doing work in Dayton's Bluff Historic District

Forum staff report

Are you living inside the Dayton's Bluff Historic District? If you are, you should read this. The map below (more clearly presented at [http://www.daytonsbuff.org/History/HistoricDistrict/HistoricDistrict-](http://www.daytonsbuff.org/History/HistoricDistrict/HistoricDistrict-Map.html)

Map.html) shows the boundaries. If you're not sure whether or not your home is included, there will be information at the end of this article to help you out.

For the next several months, many people or their landlords may be making some alterations to houses and apartments. If these are inside of the district, all exterior work needs to conform to a set of guidelines that are designed to help the area maintain its historic character.

As the city guidelines put it, "all work should be of a character and quality that maintains the distinguishing features of the building and the environment." Also, "removal or alteration of distinctive architectural features should be avoided."

For instance, original windows should be repaired or, if they are badly deteriorated, window sizes and shapes should be maintained. The original roof-line of structures, and other elements should be maintained.

If you are doing fence work, existing historic fences of metal or wood should be repaired and conserved whenever possible. Cyclone fences should not be installed in front yards or in the front half of side yards. These

are just a few examples of what needs to be considered.

There are people who can help. If you are doing work in any historic district, it is best to contact the staff of St. Paul's Heritage Preservation Commission and ask them for suggestions. They are quite willing to work with

people and suggest the best approach and what materials are appropriate. And their services are free of charge.

It's better to ask ahead of time to avoid having to go make changes after the fact. In the long run, your house will likely be worth more if you work to maintain its historic character and you will be helping in the improvement of the neighborhood.

To find out if you are in the Dayton's Bluff Historic District, you can call community organizer Karin DuPaul at 651-772-2075. To contact the St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission call Amy Spang or Christine Boulware at 651-266-9078. You may also send emails to amy.spong@ci.stpaul.mn.us.



Being there is why I'm here.

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Community meetings

The next Dayton's Bluff community meeting is **Thursday, July 7 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 to work on community issues and let neighbors know about upcoming events.

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

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

Take-a-Hike July 2

Take-a-Hike occurs on the first Saturday of most months. The next hike will be **Saturday, July 2**. Hikers meet at **10:30 am** in Indian Mounds Park at Earl Street and Mounds Boulevard, and walk to East Side Heritage Park.

Along the way, hikers will share stories and learn some of the local history. The hike is about four miles long with some moderately rough terrain. Transportation will be available to return to Indian Mounds Park, if needed. All are welcome.

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.

Meet the police

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, July 20, at 6:30 pm, and Friday, July 15, 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, July 13, starting at 6:30 pm**.

FOSH is planning summer work in the park and working on planning for **Alcina's Island: A Picnic Operetta** and "Watch the Glow of the Setting Sun on the Red Brick Brewery Buildings," which is an art fest that will be held on Saturday, September 17. For more information or location of the meeting email SwedeHollow@gmail.com or call 651-776-0550.

Dayton's Bluff beat phone

The Dayton's Bluff Police beat phone, 651-341-7637, 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 or teach classes, and all the classes are free. See www.excoTC.org for more information.

Donate your junk car

Budget Towing of Minnesota will remove your junker and dispose of it at no charge to you. The vehicle owner receives a tax deduction, and the Dayton's Bluff Community

Council will receive a donation. Call 651-772-2075 or email june@daytonsbuff.org.

Dayton's Bluff garden tours

- Beech/Margaret 654 Block Club Garden Tour is on **Tuesday, July 5, starting at 9:30 am** at 983 East 5th Street at 6:30 pm.
- Wilson/Maple Area Garden Tour is on **Tuesday, July 12, starting at 7:30 am** at 737 Wilson at 6:30 pm.
- Upper Swede Hollow Garden Tour will be on **Tuesday, July**

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 Arcade.

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.

19, starting at 635 Bates at 6:30 pm.

- Parkway Gardens Neighborhood Garden Tour is on **Tuesday, July 28, starting at 11:45 am** on Hudson Road on the north side of the parking lot at 6:30 pm.

These are walking tours and will visit a number of gardens with all kinds of plantings, some with statues, and creative art.

The tour is a great way to see great neighborhood gardens, get some new ideas for your garden and meet other neighborhood people. For more information email Karin@DaytonsBluff.org or call 651-772-2075.

Harding 2001 reunion

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

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.

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@daytonsbuff.org, or mail to 798 East 7th Street, St. Paul, MN 55106.

Notices 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.

Ramsey County Fair 2011

The 98th Annual Ramsey County Fair is July 13-17. The Fair Board invites you to become a participant as well as a spectator; all ages are welcome. Get involved by registering for the Talent Contest, enter an item the competitive exhibits, or nominate a special senior who has been active in the community since retirement. There is always a variety of activities, food, and music as well as carnival ride specials at the fair.

For details on participation, music line up, or fair activities and advanced ride ticket sales locations visit us at www.ramseycountyfair.com or call the fair office at 651-770-2626.

There is no admission to the fair. The grounds are located at 2020 White Bear Avenue in Maplewood at White Bear Avenue and Frost. Hope to see you at the Fair!

4th of July fireworks safety

If you choose to use fireworks, please do so carefully and take extra caution if children are present. Below is a list of consumer fireworks and their legality in Minnesota.

LEGAL FIREWORKS: sparklers; cone or cylindrical fountains; ground or wheel spinners; flash and strobes; and novelty items (snakes, glow worms, smoke devices, party poppers, string poppers, snappers and drop caps).

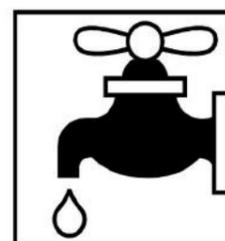
ILLEGAL FIREWORKS: firecrackers; sky bottle or missile-type rockets; Roman candles, mines, shells, parachutes or chasers.

The general rule is: if it explodes or if it flies, it is probably illegal.

Have a safe and happy Independence Day!

For more information...

...about anything on this page, contact Karin: karin@daytonsbuff.org or 651-772-2075.



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CIB notes

Most great community ideas require funds – a walk through the CIB process

by Dan Stahley,
District Council board member

The CIB, or Capital Improvement Budget, is a fund held by the City of St. Paul, designed to make capital improvements throughout the city. Before the CIB process was started, the various city departments, community organizations and residents of the City of St. Paul would make intermittent funding requests to the city for road improvements, facility upgrades and any other capital funding request that you could imagine. The purpose of the CIB is to streamline these funding requests into a unified process on a bi-annual basis.

Every person or organization who seeks CIB funding must submit a CIB funding request to the city prior to the deadline. In 2011, the CIB funding process takes place for the years 2012-2013. All proposals for funding were due on January 10, 2011 to the Office of Financial Services.

Because anyone can submit a project for funding, as long as the project is within the City of St. Paul, there is a lengthy vetting process to find the best projects for funding. In the first step, the city departments rank their projects in order of importance. The vast majority of CIB funding requests come from the Parks Department, the Police Department and the Fire Department.

For the second step, three separate community task forces are assembled to review and rank all of the projects. The Community Facilities task force hears about funding requests for community buildings like police training facilities, fire stations, community pools and recreation centers. The second task force, Streets and Utilities, rates road improvement projects, bridge improvements, street lighting and bicycle path projects. The final task force, the Residential and Economic Development task force, hears and rates business district improvement projects, vacant home projects and housing improvement projects.

The three task forces are made up of volunteers from the 17 District Councils. The St. Paul District Councils are community groups for each neighborhood in the city. Each District Council can appoint one task force member and one alternate mem-

ber. There are also task force members appointed by the senate districts and some ap-

pointed by the city.

I was appointed by the 4th District Council, which includes Dayton's Bluff and Mounds Park, to the Community Facilities task force. There is no special training or knowledge that is required to be nominated by your District Council. Before the process starts, you simply must ask your District Council if they will appoint you to the task force. Many times, you may be the only person to express an interest and by default will be appointed to serve on the task force. Other times, there may be 2 or 3 people interested in serving. This is not a problem because it is important to have alternates. If you miss a task force meeting, you lose your vote on all projects that were discussed that day. So it is very important to have an alternate in case the regular member cannot be present.

"A new firehouse is very expensive, but it is also a very high safety priority."

Community Facilities task force, for example, met every Monday from 4:30 pm until 6:30 pm for 7 weeks. It was an interesting experience and a good way to learn how city government operates. We heard requests from the Police Department for a new septic system at their firing range, additional parking spaces at the Downtown Station, and for a new bomb squad facility, among other things. The Fire Department asked to have 3 stations replaced or renovated. Of particular concern to me were that two of the three firehouses in the city that need to be replaced are on the Eastside, near my house. Fortunately these projects were rated very highly.

Then there were numerous requests from the Parks Department for improvements to city parks playgrounds, and recreation facilities. I learned that the useful life of a playground is about 25 years. The Parks Department was good at asking that the oldest facilities receive funding first. The playgrounds that were highest on their priority list were around 25-30 years old, so it seems that the process works well.

In addition to requests from the city, some individuals and neighborhood groups, learning that their parks were not slated for priority, asked to submit a separate CIB request. I recall that there were two neighborhood

groups who wanted funding more quickly for their parks than they would receive under the Park Department's priority rating. A playground in the Como Park area did not receive a very warm reception from the task force, because although the park was worn, it was in no greater need of repair than the dozens of other parks in the City and according to the Park Department, it would be a priority in another 6 years. However, a downtown community group convinced us that a small playground in Downtown St. Paul deserved quicker funding because it is the only playground in all of downtown. They showed us that over the past several years the population of children downtown has grown at a high rate and the number of children living downtown will continue to grow. I also think that it helped that relatively speaking they had a small budget request. This was a good example of St. Paul residents taking priority away from their own local projects to support a project that is important to St. Paul as a whole. There was good dialogue between the community members on the task force and I believe that we did an excellent job of prioritizing the funding projects for the benefit of the city as a whole.

In addition to the rankings of the three task forces, each District Council is asked to rank the projects that are located in their districts and to submit their rankings to the Office of Financial Services. This is an important step, so that each neighborhood can have input into which projects in their neighborhood are the most important to them.

Next, there is a CIB committee that is generally made up of community members that have significant CIB task force experience. These committee

"If you have a project that ... deserves city funding, start planning for 2013. The biggest problem ... with individual proposals was a lack of in-depth planning."

members sit in on the task force meetings. They know the process well and know which projects have consistently been rated well over the years, but have not yet received any funding. They can also consider feasibility of the project and will consider costs. For instance, a new firehouse is very expensive, but it is also a very high safety priority. The committee will weigh the cost against the benefits and maybe decide that it is important to have a couple dozen small projects receive funding or maybe find that a couple of very large projects deserve funding this time around. The CIB Committee also takes the findings from each of the three separate task forces and finds the best overall projects.

The City Council receives the rankings from the City Departments, District Councils, the CIB task forces and the CIB Committee. The City Council will review the rankings and the budget and make a final recommendation for the Mayor. The Mayor then reviews the proposals and can make changes to the CIB budget or pass the City Council's recommendation.

As a task force member, I was able to confer with other community

members throughout the city and come to a compromise and consensus on the many funding requests. I believe that we all had St. Paul's best interest at heart and worked to recommend the best projects for the city. This was my first task force experience, but I am told that the City Council and the Mayor take our recommendations very seriously. I suppose if anything it takes pressure away from them to make tough decisions and they can blame us if anyone complains about how the CIB funding is distributed.

The CIB committee will make its recommendations to the City Council and Mayor in June and the CIB budget will not be passed by the City until November or December of this year. The funding will be for projects in 2012-2013. The next CIB process will begin in January 2013 for the years 2014-2015.

Although most of the funding requests came from City Departments, there were some that came from individuals in the community. From Dayton's Bluff, we had two individuals submit funding requests for projects that would be very beneficial to our neighborhood. Both of these projects ranked high and may see funding during this session.

However, it can be difficult for individuals to be successful in receiving CIB funding because it is a long process and requires significant planning. If you have a project that you think deserves city funding, the time is now to start planning for the 2013 session. The biggest problem that I saw with individual proposals was a lack of in-depth planning. Some individual requests were great ideas and would benefit the people of St. Paul, but their ranking was severely cut when the individual did not have a financial agent, construction estimates, or detailed plans on how their project would be run day to day. It was difficult for us to recommend a project unless those important logistical questions could be answered.

If you feel that you have a good project for our neighborhood, you can contact the Dayton's Bluff Community Council and we will work with you to make a well-planned funding request for the next session.

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The Continuing Life of Alice Uhrig

by Steve Trimble
Forum board member

Remember Alice Uhrig? In the last issue I shared some of what could be learned about her teenage years from her 1921 Johnson High School "Girl's Graduation Book" that I bought on eBay. The book conveniently laid out her high school activities and friends in a single source. What happened to Alice after graduation took a little more legwork.

I was going to have to go to the Minnesota Historical Society for micro-filmed papers, visit the Ramsey County Historical Society to check out building permit dates, and head to the St. Paul Central Library to look at a 1921 annual.

But before writing about what was found at the various archives, I want to mention that I did receive a message from a reader named Laura who read June's article. She did not know Alice Uhrig, but said that I was wrong saying that Johnson High's colors are still maroon and white. My mistake for making an incorrect assumption. The colors in 1921 were indeed maroon and gold—unless Alice Uhrig was confused—but are

now claimed by local rival Harding High School. I'm not sure when the change was made. Maybe some reader can find that out?

I could have gone to the Johnson High library, but it was the weekend, so I tried the downtown Central Library's St. Paul collection. The 1921 *Maroon* was there, but unfortunately did not provide much information. She was not shown in any of the groups or activity photos. Her senior photo was there, and the caption read "In one soft look, what language lies."

So here's some more about Alice E. Uhrig and her working-class family. Her father Peter was listed in various city directories. From the 1890s through the turn of that century he was listed as a "horseshoer," but later issues used the term "blacksmith." I'm not sure if there is a distinction between the two terms. A state census said his parents were German.

I used the Historical Society's death index to discover when her parents died and was able to then go to the newspa-

pers on microfilm and find their obituaries. Alice's father, Peter, had a sizeable notice saying he plied his blacksmithing trade at 815 Atlantic Street for nearly 60

that time Alice was a stenographer for the St. Paul Association of Commerce.

Her father died on August 12, 1943 and that December 30, her mother also passed away at the age of 76. Older sister Marie stayed in the family home for many years and either never married or kept her maiden name. Marie spent her last few years in the North St. Paul Nursing Home and passed away in 1983 when she was ninety years old. Alice may have chosen to have her sister Marie stay there because she was living in that city at the time.

Alice died on December 30, 2000 at the age of ninety-eight. Her obituary gave some shreds of information about her later life. Her first husband was James Brennan and the second, who died before her, was Thomas Horak. Unfortunately,

at this time, it is not known when they were married or if the first union ended in divorce or death. Alice apparently never had children; at least none were mentioned in her obituary.

I made a visit to 1235 Ross and found that it was still there. I met the current owner and she was nice enough to let me come inside. The interior has been remodeled a great deal, but the handsome hardwood staircase looked much like it did when the home was built.

I was still wondering where Alice was buried when I remembered that her sister Marie's obituary stated that she was interred in Union Cemetery in Maplewood. I found out that Union had an online search feature on their web site and by putting in the name Alice Horak, I found that she was in Block 26 lot 45, grave #4. I went to visit and saw that she rests there alongside Marie and their parents.

If you remember, a friend of Alice named Fran had written in the 1921 Girl's Graduation Book: "Wishing and knowing that your future will be one of good health, success and happiness." I think readers would agree that she must have been in good health to live to ninety-eight, and while I can't prove it, I like to think that her days were ones of success and happiness.



Photo courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society
1231 Ross in 1905, where the Uhrigs lived. Alice may be one of the children pictured; she would have been around three years old at the time.

years, retiring in 1930. According to a census entry, Alice's mother (Alice F.) was born in New York into a German-American family around 1868. Her parents ran the Fritz Woost Groceries and Provisions store at 1252 East 7th Street, just around the corner from the Uhrig home.

Alice, the second of two children, was born on March 18, 1902. The family had lived at 1104 Ross Street but a year later they moved to 1231 Ross – a few blocks closer to Peter's place of employment. They stayed there through 1909. They built another house in 1910 and remained there for several decades.

It appears that after graduation, Alice Uhrig made good use of the commercial course of classes she took at Johnson. Still living in her parents' home, she was employed as a timekeeper for the St. Paul Twine Mills from 1922 to 1924, according to the city directories for those years. By 1929 she was an assistant to Arthur M. Lundholm, a physician, and still resided, along with her sister, at the old address.

A decade later she was a secretary for two other doctors. The 1949 directory again listed her at the Ross Street residence, but she was gone a year later, perhaps after marrying or just moving to a residence outside the city of her birth. At

nesota," added captions describing the cards, brought it out to the Fair as directed, and waited. In the old days it was necessary to be at the State Fair on opening day to read the posted list and find out who won. Now it's just a matter of checking the Fair's website. This was my first entry of any kind. I didn't know what to expect. I was just hoping to make the list.

Much to my surprise, I won first place, a blue ribbon, in the Minnesota postcard category. Even more surprising, my entry was awarded the Sweepstakes prize, a purple ribbon, meaning it was chosen as best entry in all postcard categories. That also garnered a plaque from the Twin City Postcard Club and a special place for my postcard frame in a display case separate from the other postcards. Fame was mine. But what about fortune, you ask? I was also awarded \$6 for first place and another \$10 for being the sweepstakes winner. That almost paid for the cost of the picture frame.

I wasn't the only person from Dayton's Bluff with something on display at the State Fair last year. Marni Oberpriller also entered postcards but mounted them in a less-conventional manner on re-purposed basement windows from her home. One entry contained 16 Mounds Park postcards. The other, with postcards of the Como Park Pavilion, won a fourth place ribbon. In addition, her "Fourth of July" tomatoes grown on her front porch took fifth place. Diane May had a mixed-media piece titled "Haiti – Then" displayed in the Fine Arts building. Unlike other competitions, this one is juried, meaning not every piece that is entered gets displayed and considered for a prize. Only about one in five entries make the cut.

There is still plenty of time to enter your stamp collection, jar of pickles, giant pumpkin, miniature doll furniture, monster boar or whatever in this year's State Fair. Entry dates vary by category, but most entries must be brought in during the second week of August. Some categories require advance registration but most allow for walk-in entries.

Also, don't forget the Ramsey County Fair. It has many of the same categories, minus the livestock, as the State Fair. All exhibits must be registered in advance by July 6 and brought in a few days later before the start of the fair on July 13. For more information visit www.ramseycountyfair.com.



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Find fame and fortune at the Fair

by Greg Cosimini, Blue Ribbon winner

If you go to the Minnesota State Fair, as most real Minnesotans do, you've wandered through the Creative Activities, Education, 4H, Fine Arts and Agriculture-Horticulture buildings, and the animal barns. Have you ever wondered (as you wandered) how you could acquire one of those colorful prize ribbons adorning many of the exhibits on display? Of course you have; the most obvious answer is to check eBay.

However, you could also obtain a ribbon the old-fashioned way and win it yourself, as I and others in Dayton's Bluff have done. The procedure is pretty simple: Build, bake, assemble, grow, or raise something. Find what exhibition category it belongs in. Prepare your item by following the rules very carefully. Enter it into competition. And hope for the best.

Only you can decide what you want to enter into competition but I'll run through the procedure using my experience from last year. I collect postcards, most of them concerning Dayton's Bluff. I already knew Creative Activities had a category for postcards, but that was about all. The place to start was the State Fair website at www.mnstatefair.org. I went there and clicked on the "Competition and Contests" link, found Creative Activities, then Collections and finally Post-

cards, and downloaded all the rules and regulations regarding this category.

I put together a frame containing 20 postcards featuring old neighborhood buildings, titled it "A Century Ago in Dayton's Bluff – St. Paul, Min-

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Photo courtesy of Karin DuPaul

Community Design Center Youth plants flowering plants in front of East 7th Street Businesses. The flowering pots are an effort of the Dayton's Bluff Community Council and Dayton's Bluff Area Business Association to help beautify the streetscape.

Changes for the 2011-12 school year at Dayton's Bluff Achievement Plus Elementary

Lus Tshaj Tawm: Hloov rau xyoo 2011-2012 hauv tsev kawm ntawv

Horario Nuevo: Empezando en el otoño 2011, el horario nuevo será 8:35 AM – 4:05 PM. Así podemos enseñar una hora más a los niños cada día.

Atención: Cambios para el próximo año escolar 2011-2012

Transportación Mejorado: Empezando en el otoño 2011, estudiantas que viven media milla o más del área de asistencia de Dayton's Bluff recibirán bus.

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.

Sib Hawm Tshiab Rau Tsev Kawm Ntawv: Pib lub 9 hli xyoo 2011, tsev kawm ntawv li sib hawm yog 8:35 sawv ntov mus txog 4:05 tsaus ntuj. Qhov 1 teev no yuav koj los qhia menyum rau tej yam ua lawv poob qab.

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School Reminders

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

Have a 6th-grader? Remember, they need immunizations before they start 7th grade. Your 7th grader will 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.

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

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Board of Directors: Greg Cosimini, Karin DuPaul, Linda LaBarre, Carla Riehle and Steve Trimble

Editor and Layout: Meg Gronau

Next issue: August 2011. Deadline for material: July 11, 2011.

Celebration of a life's work

by Greg Cosimini
Forum Board Member

There were two celebrations at St. John's Catholic Church this June, both celebrating milestones in the life of its pastor, Father George Welzbacher.

The first occurred on Sunday, June 5, to recognize the 60th anniversary of Father Welzbacher's ordination as a priest on June 2, 1951. The day started at 11:00 am with a standing-room-only Mass where both the adult and children's choirs accompanied St. John's excellent organist Deacon Ron Smisek in a program of sacred music. Bishop Lee Piché, aux-

iliary bishop of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis and one of Father Welzbacher's former students, was in attendance. The Knights of Columbus in full dress uniform provided an honor guard.

After Mass, the celebration moved downstairs into the church hall where cake and refreshments were served. Father Welzbacher greeted well-wishers in a seemingly never-ending reception line filled with friends, past and current parishioners, and former students who had taken classes from him during his three decades at the University of St. Thomas.

On Saturday, June 11, parishioners of St. John's got together for an old-

fashioned potluck supper to celebrate Father Welzbacher's 83rd birthday on the following Monday. Tables full of food, desserts and beverages assured that no one went home hungry.

The Church of St. John of St. Paul, located on the corner of 5th and Forest Streets, has been a part of Dayton's Bluff for 125 years. Visit us at www.stjstp.org to see photos from these June celebrations and learn more about our church and its history. St. John's school building is now available for rent. Anyone interested should contact the church at 651-771-3690.



Photo by Greg Cosimini

Father George Welzbacher (left), pastor of St. John's, with one of his many former students, Bishop Lee Piché, auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, at the reception celebrating Father Welzbacher's 60th anniversary of his ordination as a priest.

ECFE welcomes Senator Harrington

by Meg Gronau, Forum Editor

On Tuesday, May 31, Minnesota State Senator John Harrington paid a visit to the Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) class at Dayton's Bluff Elementary School.

Senator Harrington is on the Minnesota Senate Education Committee, so ECFE parents and teachers wanted to give him an inside peek at this Minnesota institution that helps parents understand their children's development so they can best support their children throughout their education.

Harrington joined ECFE teachers and staff during a Spanish-speaking class. He toured the children's rooms, then finished up his visit with the parents.

"He had good questions and got feedback from parents," said Alicia Runquist, lead teacher at Dayton's Bluff ECCE. "He talked about the achievement gap... and how do we get families to come to ECCE?"

He talked with parents about why they came to ECCE, and what barriers might exist for their participation. Because reading was a big issue at the Legislature this year, he asked parents how ECCE helps their kids get ready to read. A follow-up visit is being planned for the fall.

St. Paul ECCE Supervisor Donald Sysyn was also present at Senator Harrington's visit, and parent (and Dayton's Bluff resident) Julia Hobday was there to represent the Parent Advisory Council.

ECCE is a program for families with children age birth to 5 years. Classes meet once a week and includes parent-and-child together time, as well as children's- and parents' separate learning time. Fall classes start the week of September 12, 2011. Families can register by mail or online at ecfe.spps.org between July 14 and August 12. The main St. Paul ECCE office number is 651-793-5410.

Call the Dayton's Bluff site after August 29 at 651-293-5343 for more information or to register directly, based on class openings.



Photo courtesy of ECCE

Minnesota State Senator John Harrington visits with a Spanish-speaking ECCE class at Dayton's Bluff Elementary School. Harrington is pictured with ECCE parents, as well as teachers Ana Castellon and Alicia Runquist.