

Dayton's Bluff DISTRICT FORUM

Volume 24, No. 9

www.daytonsbluff.org

November 2011

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"Like" the *Forum* on **facebook** and find additional pictures and information about events and issues in your community.

Contribute your own content; write a comment, or email us:
editor@daytonsbluff.org.

Is there a story that isn't being told? Article suggestions, fully-written pieces, photos, and letters to the editor are always welcome. We look forward to hearing from you!

Dayton's Bluff Community Council
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"Little Free Library" builds relationships, confidence



Photos courtesy of Sage Holben

Above, left: Dayton's Bluff residents Jose, Cesar and Riley place a Little Free Library in the boulevard garden at 4th and Bates. The Little Free Library was built by Sage Holben (pictured top right, painting part of the library), Pedro Garcia (pictured bottom right, in the center), with guidance from Todd Bol, the program's founder.

Special to the Forum

A library, open 24 hours a day, in Dayton's Bluff? Yes, but it's not likely to give any competition to our St. Paul branch library. Installed in early October, Little Free Library offers reading material – day and night – to anyone in the neighborhood. This particular Little Free Library is planted in Sage Holben's boulevard garden on Bates Avenue at 4th Street East. A month or two ago, Sage happened on an internet blurb about Todd Bol of Hudson, Wisconsin, and his Little Free Library nonprofit program.

Sage is a strong believer that neighborhoods are strengthened through building relationships. Sometimes a boulevard garden, movies on the porch, informal porch chats, and art workshops become catalysts to meeting and getting to know each other. Holben saw a Little Free Library as a perfect tool. She contacted Todd, but found that the cost was just not quite affordable at that point. Fund-raising or a neighborhood collection might be

appropriate next year. A few weeks later, Todd contacted Sage and offered to teach and oversee the building of a library for the Bates and 4th block. Sage could take one other person on this one day assignment. Fourteen-year-old Pedro Garcia eagerly jumped at the opportunity.

Working for almost 12 hours, nearly nonstop, the house took shape. Though Sage's first inclination was something a bit quirky, the dream library, with consultation from Todd's wife, Susan, took on colors and structure that would fit beautifully amid the architecture of this Dayton's Bluff neighborhood.

Todd and Susan installed the post and the Little Free Library the following Monday, with neighborhood children and adults watching the progress, glad to let Todd do the hard work of post-hole digging.

Once installed and admired, preschool-aged Murphy Leotta donated the first books to the library. On the library's roof is a gentle reminder: "Take a book; leave a book." Readers and almost-readers of all ages have been sharing books, joy, and delight in this little treasure.

This particular Little Free Library is part of Todd's "Pay It Forward Fund" which provides a library to a neighborhood that otherwise could not afford it. People who would like to "pay it forward" can send donations to Todd Bol's Little Free Library nonprofit.

You can purchase a Little Free Library for your own neighborhood or support the "Pay It Forward Fund" by contacting Todd Bol in Hudson, Wisconsin, and by visiting them at www.littlefreelibrary.org.



It's fun to see neighbors getting in the spirit with creative displays. Above: Pumpkins and banners on North Street. Right: Creepy carriage on Forest Street.



HAPPY HALLOWEEN

Photos by Steve Trimble



KATHY LANTRY

WARD 7 CITY COUNCIL

**REMEMBER TO
VOTE ON
TUESDAY,
NOVEMBER 8, 2011**

I appreciate your support and look forward to serving you in my next term.

Paid for and prepared by the Lantry Volunteer Committee, 25 East Sandralee Drive, St. Paul, MN 55119.

Upcoming opportunities at... Dayton's Bluff Recreation Center

- **Weekly Senior Cards –** Seniors get together on Fridays from 12:00 - 4:00 pm to play 500. All are welcome.

- **Annual East Area Halloween Party**
Saturday, October 29 at Conway Rec Center, 2090 Conway Street, 11:00 am - 2:00 pm.
This is a free event with jump castle, carnival games and candy guess. Costumes are optional.

- **Parent and Tot Gym Play time:** Wednesday and Friday from 10:00 am - 12:00 noon.

- **Dayton's Bluff Theater is offering family entertainment events** on Friday, November 4 and Friday, December 16. All shows are free to the community.

- **Winter basketball registration** (ages 6-18 years for boys and girls) currently open at Dayton's Bluff Rec Center. Fee is \$20; practice starts in November and games begin in December on Saturday mornings.

- **Open gym for teens** is on Mondays and Thursdays from 6:00-8:00 pm and for 8th grade and younger on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 6:00-8:00 pm.



Photo courtesy of Gina Stokes

Thanks to all of the ROTC from Harding High School and all the other wonderful volunteers that made our Eastside Pride and Youth Days at Dayton's Bluff a success! Our events would not be as successful without our many volunteers!

- **Art: Messy Fingers and Toes** is a parent and child art class for ages 1-4 years old. Activities include squeeze clay, ink pad footprints, squirt bottle paints and many more. This class is offered on Fridays from 10:00 -11:00 am. \$38 fee for 6 classes; session begins November 11.

- **Free Zumba class** on Tuesday evenings, starting October 27 at Dayton's Bluff Rec Center dance room. Call 651-793-3885 for more information.

The Dayton's Bluff Rec Center is located at 800 Conway Street.

Stop by and check us out!

- **Eastside Kidventure** is a free program for youth K-6th grade who live or attend school on the East Side of St. Paul. Register by calling 651-487-7383. This program runs from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm on November 11 and December 27-30 at Dayton's Bluff Recreation center.

- **Dayton's Bluff fitness center** is now open Monday through Thursday from 3:00-8:00 pm and Friday from 10:00 am - 6:00 pm. Fitness memberships are \$30 per year or

\$3 per day; use them at rec centers throughout St. Paul!

- **Free Dinner with Santa** party at Dayton's Bluff Rec Center on Thursday, December 15 from 6:00-8:00 pm. A fun-filled evening of activities is planned, including face painting, tattoos, jump castle, decorate-a-cookie. You must pre-register by calling 651-793-3885

Porch Life – a few steps removed

Reflections after the Sept. 26 shooting at 4th Street and Bates

by Sage Holben

Normally, when a newspaper reports a shooting, I read the article and can only imagine what the victim's family is experiencing. The closest I had been to a violent death was in the mid-'60s, the murder/suicide by an uncle by marriage and his two young children.

My experience on Wednesday, September 26 and on the following days determined that my observations would never again be far removed. Gunshots fired at 6:30 pm initiated the of a very long week at the corner of 4th Street and Bates. From the continuous activity at the De'Koda Mar'ta Galtney memorial, to attending De'Koda's wake and funeral service, I was more emotionally involved than I could ever have imagined. Through those several days I was blessed to briefly talk with, and exchange hugs with De'Koda's mom, sisters, and others who lost, in De'Koda's passing, a brother, nephew, friend, son, father. In this point of reference, the only thing that matters is that a loved one passed from this life; only that hearts are breaking and people are hurting.

Over the week and a half, I observed and heard a gamut of emotions. Some neighbors contributed food and kind words to the mourners. What disturbed me was the extreme other end of the gamut: the anger. Not anger focused on losing someone, or toward the murderer, but the anger that lashed out wildly, and the more pent-up anger that whined as if trying to escape from a tiny hole. Anger that came from a few people keeping vigil at the memorial and from a few people who live in the many blocks in this lower Dayton's Bluff area. Anger: a normal emotion and feeling we sometimes encounter as we work through grief and other difficult situations. How long and how tightly we carry it, though, can destroy us and others. Words spoken in anger can cause damage long after being spoken. Words meant to intimidate or carry threats can create distrust in friends and acquaintances. What is the source of this anger? Where might it take root?

Inner anger and grief nagged me for days before I could finally identify the reasons behind my own emotions. Yes, I grieved for De'Koda's family and friends. My heart cried every night for the young men and women across the street from my porch. I grieved for the god-uncle who came early Sunday to find the memorial in ashes. Alone on the porch, late into the night and into early mornings, I prayed silently and I sang praise songs aloud. At other times, friends came silently onto the porch just to be with me. It helped to talk through what I was seeing and feeling. But it didn't take away the ache or the anger. I felt so useless in what I could do. Even now, tears flow.

Much of this culminated on Sunday evening as De'Koda's precious baby, Charitie, visited on my porch with her mother, Chanelle, and two friends. Seeing Chanelle – and then my friend – hold little Charitie solidified the concept of "community" and its sometimes delicate balance.

I know that some people may find offense with my approach or framing of these past days. Some may revert to social judgments, condemnations and stereotypes of fatherless children, lives of crime, and related spels. This isn't the place. This is the time and place when we ask, "What does a community response to such a tragedy look like?" and "Who is the community?" I hope that this could be the start of a dialogue that builds stronger relationships within a community – within a city.

ZONE in at the Dayton's Bluff Public Library

by Jodi Wittman

Branch Manager

Welcome to November! This month's article highlights some of our ongoing activities at the Dayton's Bluff Public Library.

Job Search Open Lab & Assistance: Monday through Thursday, 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm and Friday through Sunday, 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

Use the Library's resources and computers to assist in your search for a job, updating or creating a resume, applying and preparing for interviews, or practicing computer skills. One-to-one computer help is also available, staff permitting. No registration is required.

Conversation Circle for English Language Learners: Wednesday 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm.

Conversation Circles are open to language learners of all ages and skill levels, and provide opportunities for informal English language practice. In each circle, a small group of English Language Learners works with a native English speaker for an hour of conversation practice.

Participants practice English, meet native English speakers in a friendly environment, and gain confidence and fluency when speaking in social situations. The Circles emphasize day-to-day, informal communication (including slang and idioms). Conversation Circles are free, and no registration is required.

Family Storytime: Thursday 10:30 am to 11:30 am.

Readers of all ages are welcome as we explore the magic of stories, rhymes and songs. Storytime activities help young children prepare for reading and kindergarten. No registration is required. Additional information is online at <http://www.sppl.org/kids/parents/storytimes>.

Be sure to stop by your neighborhood Library to use the resources, to take a quick tour, or to just say hello. We are located at 645 East 7th Street, within the University Library building. Our open hours: Monday and Wednesday: 12:00-8:00 pm, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday: 10:00 am - 5:30 pm, Saturday: 11:00 am - 5:30 pm and Sunday: 1:00-5:00 pm.

The St. Paul Public Libraries are in your neighborhood and online at www.sppl.org.

Metropolitan State student internships offer value to East Side

by Harvey Meyer

They might be considered a secret weapon for many small companies, government agencies and nonprofits, including some on the East Side. They are certainly an unheralded one.

Academic interns.

Hundreds of student interns at Metropolitan State University annually assist hundreds of organizations in the Twin Cities area. They perform myriad tasks – for example: animal husbandry, data collection, designing and implementing safety training, and community relations development – in a structured, academic, credit-bearing field experience in which they acquire and apply knowledge and skills.

"Academic internships help Metropolitan State maintain its commitment and vision," said Victor Cole, the university's academic internship coordinator. His office is housed in the Center for Community-Based Learning, which administers the internships. "We are a community-based, civically engaged university that is committed to the Twin Cities area, the urban core and our backyard, which includes Dayton's Bluff."

Jodi MacLennan, CEO of Partnerships for Minnesota Futures, Inc., 1365 Arcade Street, knows all about the value of Metropolitan State interns. The private human services agency, which provides care and services to people with mental retardation, took on a university intern last fall. That intern was recently hired part-time by the 14-year-old agency.

"I am very pleased with his work habits," said MacLennan. As a small agency, the part-timer is required to perform multiple tasks, including executive project management duties primarily involving administration and human resources.

Many interns infuse organizations with fresh views and attitudes. In that sense, said Cole, they help build the capacity of the companies, government agencies and nonprofits.

The students themselves also often gain immeasurably from the unpaid internships, which range from one credit (40 hours) to four credits (160 hours). They get acquainted with the workaday world and acquire on-the-job skills and experience that they can then leverage for their next, paid position. On occasion, organizations will hire the student after the internship.

"Students should look at an academic internship as a long-term job interview," said Cole. "They get the opportunity to combine the academic theory they learn in class with the real-world experience they get from the job. That combination is a big benefit for them."

He added that students are required to write a journal and research paper about their internships, many of which are offered through Metropolitan State's psychology, communications, writing and art, and business departments. They are overseen by an on-site evaluator and a faculty member who meets with the students at their internship site.

"Students also get to hone their interpersonal and intrapersonal skills," said Cole. "The people they work for and meet often end up being part of their job-building network."

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

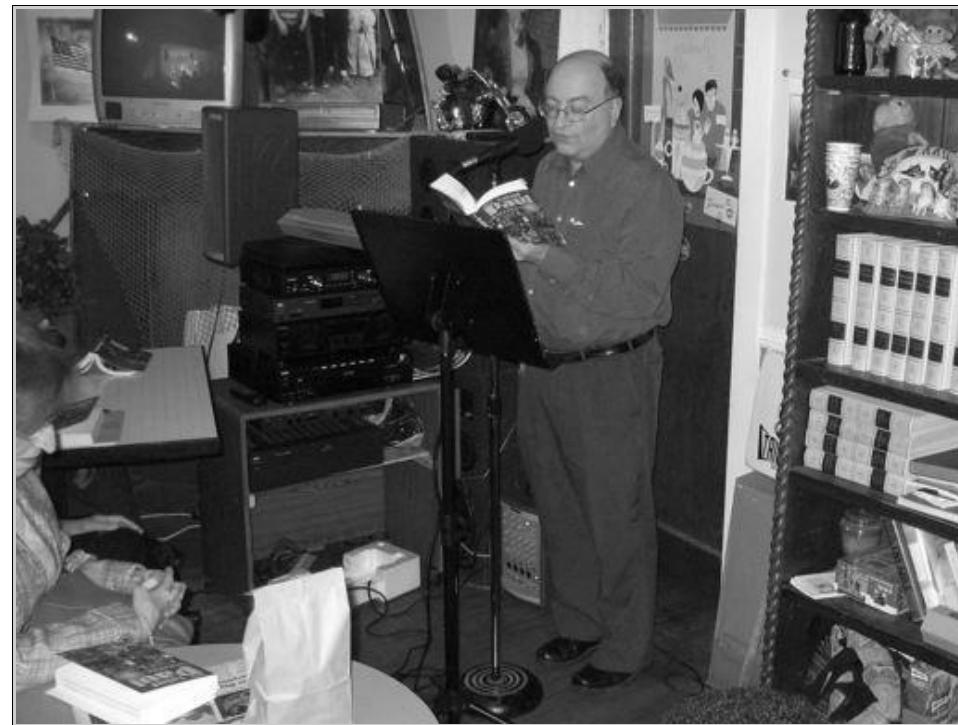


Photo by Rick DuPaul

Greg Cosimini reads his article about living on the Bluff and being a regular patron of the Mounds Theater. The 2012 Saint Paul Almanac book reading was held at Polly's Coffee Cove at 1382 Payne Ave. The Saint Paul Almanac is a yearly collection of writings about the city of St. Paul and its people.

FACES OF DAYTON'S BLUFF community art exhibit

- CHANGE OF VENUE -

Art pieces received for a November exhibit will hang in the District 4 Community Council office building, rather than in Founders Hall at Metropolitan State University. Applications for art entries are still being accepted. Call the Community Council office at 651-772-2075 or stop in at 798 E 7th at Margaret. Please call Sage Holben at 651-528-0662 with any questions. An artists' reception, open to the public, will be held on Tuesday, November 15, 6:30 pm.



Gobble. Gobble. Gobble.

Juan Cervantes, Agent
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Photos courtesy of Karin DuPaul

Dayton's Bluff hosts its 5th Vacant Home Tour

Eight homes were highlighted on the vacant home tour. Visitors had the opportunity to ride the 1954 Twin City Rapid Transit bus and stop in the homes on the tour. Six of the homes are in move right in condition and the other two will be renovated for the new owners. The bus driver, Mike Buck, glided the bus through the neighborhood with the greatest of ease, as neighbors waved and took pictures as the bus passed by. It could not have been a more beautiful day for the tour. Some of the visitors are in the market for a home and were very interested in some of the homes. Other visitors like to see what is available in Dayton's Bluff.

Thank you to everyone who worked on making it a great Vacant Home Tour. For more information email Karin@DaytonsBluff.org or call Karin at 651-772-2075.



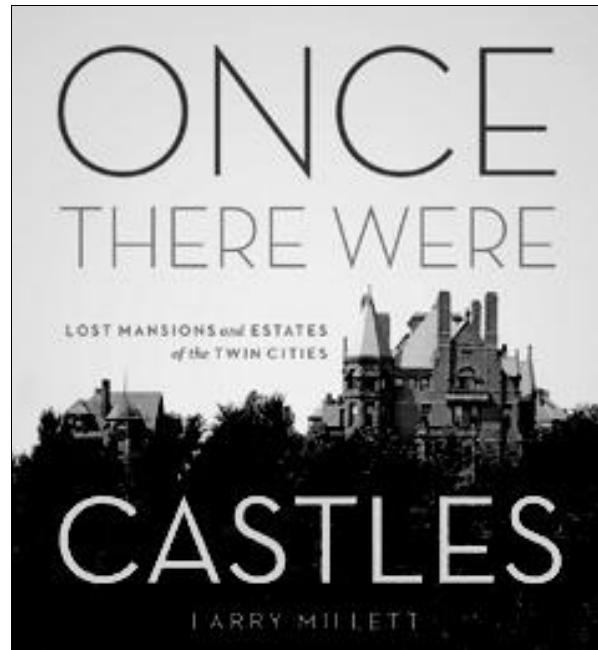
Larry Millett returns

by Karin DuPaul, Forum staff

Well-known St. Paul author Larry Millett is coming back to Dayton's Bluff for a reading of his new book *Once There Were Castles: Lost Mansions and Estates of the Twin Cities* on Monday, November 14 at 6:30 pm at the Dayton's Bluff Community Council meeting room at 798 East 7th Street. *Once There Were Castles* is a wonderful look at many of the lost mansions and estates of the Twin Cities. The first chapter is Lowertown and Dayton's Bluff. Larry will be bringing copies of his book to sell and sign. (It would make a great holiday gift!)

Larry was a very popular columnist for the St. Paul Pioneer Press from 1972 to 2002; since then, he has been teaching, giving tours, writing books and so on. Larry has written numerous fiction books featuring Sherlock Holmes investigating crime here in St. Paul and throughout Minnesota.

Larry's non-fiction books include *The Curve of the Arch: The Story of Louis Sullivan's Owatonna Bank*; *Lost Twin Cities*; *Twin Cities Then and Now*; *Strange Days, Dangerous Nights: Photos from the Speed Graphic Era*; *AIA Guide to the Twin Cities*; and *Murder Has a Public Face: Crime and Punishment in the Speed Graphic Era*. To register to attend the book reading, email Karin@DaytonsBluff.org or call 651-772-2075.



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Al Oertwig



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2. Limit use of local property taxes to meet state and federal mandates
3. Work to revise No Child Left Behind to measure growth in individual student learning

Al has the experience to provide bold leadership:

St. Paul Board: 1984-92 and 1996-2007
As board chair, Al led the successful 2002 levy referendum campaign

Al has been the only St. Paul Board member:

- 1) Elected chair of the Association of Metropolitan School Districts
- 2) Elected by the 100 largest urban districts to the 12 member national Steering Committee for the Council of Urban Boards of Education

**St. Paul needs Al Oertwig
back on the school board**

VOTE NOVEMBER 8

Prepared and Paid for by Al Oertwig, 509 Fred St., St. Paul, MN 55130

Small business classes

The Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Microentrepreneur Program is taking applications for the spring 2012 class, which will start in April.

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 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. For an application, see the contact information at far right.

Community meeting

The next Dayton's Bluff community meeting is **Thursday, November 3, at 6:30 pm** at the Dayton's Bluff Community Council office, 798 E. 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.

The Dayton's Bluff Community Meetings started in December of 2005. Each month, neighbors and block club members come and meet with Code Inspectors and police to help deal with neighborhood issues. When there are no issues, there are good discussions about how Code and the Police Departments work, and discussion about how to make Dayton's Bluff a better place to live. Generally, we have a code inspector on hand from 6:30 to 7:00 pm and police officers arrive about 7:00.

If addresses of problem properties are submitted before the meeting, they will be sent to police and code enforcement officers who will research the properties and bring relevant information to the meeting. All Dayton's Bluff residents are welcome to attend. Contact Karin@DaytonsBluff.org or call 651-772-2075.

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 November 5

Take-a-Hike occurs on the first Saturday of most months. The next hike will be **Saturday, November 5**. Hikers 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 two hours (four miles) with some moderately rough terrain. Transportation to Indian Mounds Park is available, if required. 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.

The next meetings are on **Wednesday, November 16, at 6:30 pm, and Friday, November 18, at 9:30 am**. The meetings are intended to listen to and address concerns about crime and other issues on the east side.

Friends of Swede Hollow

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, November 9**, starting at **6:30 pm**. For more information, 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 go to the beat phone? You may call about ongoing problems in the neighborhood; concerns about people in vacant buildings after 10:00 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.**

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.

Advertise in the Forum

The Dayton's Bluff District Forum is always in need of paid advertisers in order to keep our publication running.

Please visit www.daytonsbuff.org, scroll down to the bottom of the page, and click on "Advertise," or call 651-772-2075 or email editor@daytonsbuff.org for more information.

Share your good news!

New baby? Birthday? Anniversary? Just want to tell someone you love them? The *Forum* is delighted to publish your family's and/or neighbors' good news. Submit photos and details of the happy event to editor@daytonsbuff.org, or mail to 798 East 7th Street, St. Paul, MN 55106.

Tell us about your church

What is your place of worship up to? Hoping to grow? Excited about an upcoming event? Share with the *Forum* at editor@daytonsbuff.org.

For more information...

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

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 your block club is on a regular schedule and 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.

School boards are

Elected to Lead

St. Paul's Board asks you to trust the administration; Don't ask questions

Examples of needed questions:

School Changes: One year after closing Hazel Park Jr High, on the Eastside, a middle school is deemed needed, and the successful French Immersion school is moved to find space

Budgeting: Budgeting requires questioning & citizen involvement - school site involvement in budgeting may be eliminated; - because Tom Conlon & I were asking too many questions, Anne Carroll lobbied school board members to block my appointment to the Minnesota School Boards Association Board of Directors. Debate at board meetings must re-start.

Superintendent Hiring: Superintendent hiring is an urgent task. Most superintendents move over the summer, but in 2009, the superintendent resigned in Feb., but the board waited to get help with hiring a replacement until summer had arrived.

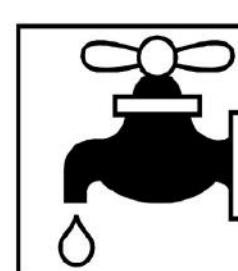
- Rather than hiring a teacher, the superintendent is paid \$40,000 to move from Woodbury to St. Paul

End the Silence — Elect a proven leader:

Al Oertwig

Vote November 8

Prepared & Paid by Al Oertwig, 509 Fred St, St Paul, Mn 55130



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651.774.6995-office
www.dbnhs.org



A Centennial History of St. John's Hospital

by Steve Trimble
Forum staff

It was a century ago this fall that St. John's German Lutheran Hospital was founded. As the years went by, it grew and became an important Dayton's Bluff institution. It provided nearby medical care and was also a source of employment for many local people. It eventually dropped the ethnic and religious affiliation in its name, and became St. John's Hospital.

Dr. Frederick Plondke, who lived for many years at 705 East Fourth Street, is the man who spearheaded the project. Born into a German immigrant family, he was associated with a downtown institution but felt there was a need for a community-based hospital on the East Side.

He approached a group of business people, pastors and members of the Lutheran churches; on March 28, 1911, they incorporated the St. Paul Lutheran Hospital Association. Its first act was to purchase the old Willius mansion at 408 Hoffman – today's Mounds Boulevard. As was somewhat common at the time, they would find a new use for an old but still-solid structure.

Money was needed to convert the former residence into a 25-bed hospital. Funds were raised through donations, sale of hospital bonds and hospital tickets, an early sort of pre-paid health care.

St. John's German Lutheran Hospital, as it was then called, opened in September, 1911. The hospital had surgery, internal medicine, obstetrics, eye-ear-nose-and-throat and treatment of other diseases. The first patient, a victim of Typhoid Fever, was admitted for treatment on October 1, 1911.

Plondke was the chief surgeon and medical director, a job that lasted over 35 years. Six additional specialist physicians made up the initial medical staff.

Madgelana Rau was hired to be the Superintendent – a job that ended up lasting 42 years. She had grown up in a German-American family in South Dakota and graduated from St. Joseph's School of Nursing in Minneapolis in 1908. In addition to her official capacity, Rau was the hospital's general manager, administer of anesthesia, and occasional litter-bearer.

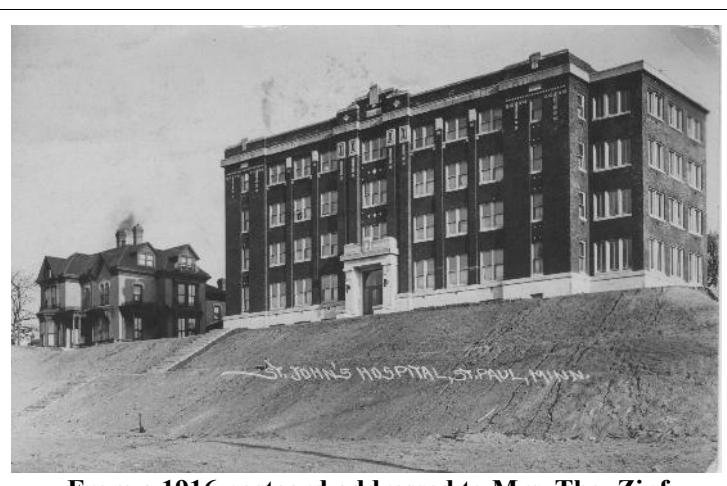
She lived in the hospital for many years and remained on the job over four decades. They say she was a model of efficiency and a stickler for detail. Did any of you work with her? Send in your experiences with this woman.

A small training school for nursing was established and the first class of ten students graduated in 1914. The hospital continued to grow and the directors decided to build a new struc-

ture. In 1915 the new \$75,000 hospital was opened. The old Willius mansion was then used for many years as housing for the nurses.

In 1918, St. John's was turned over to the city during the flu epidemic to care for charity patients. Within 24 hours, the census jumped from 55 to 138 patients and, unfortunately, 13 died during the first 12 hours. Some nurses were stricken, and other hospitals sent some of their nurses to assist.

By 1924, there were 40 students in the St. John's nursing school. According to the rules, they had to be between the ages of 19 and 31 and



From a 1916 postcard addressed to Mrs. Tho. Zipf, Hutchinson, Minn: "Dear friend... What do you think of our hospital and nurses' home?"

have completed at least two years of high school. They also needed to send in a photo and a recommendation from their local pastor.

The Great Depression had a big impact on St. John's. The occupancy rate fell 50% and remained low throughout the 1930s. At one point, the two top floors were closed and salaries of remaining staff were cut ten percent.

In the 1940s, the war created a shortage as many nurses went into the military services. Many married and retired nurses returned to work at the hospital. In 1946, St. John's burned their mortgage and began to consider expansion and a fundraising effort. It was successful and there was an addition in 1951. A women's room memorial fund committee that collected sizeable sums to help furnish patient areas.

A larger numbers of patients – and new approaches to medicine – brought changes in the post-war era. Some of the old leadership at St. John's passed from the scene. Miss Rau left in 1953 after an amazing 42 years as the hospital administrator. Dr. Plondke, who founded the institution, retired soon after, in 1955.

St. John's became one of the largest employers in the community with 850 workers. After weathering difficult times, in the early 1950s, St. John's Hospital underwent an expansion to 165 beds, becoming one of the first hospitals in the nation to have an Intensive Care Unit (ICU).

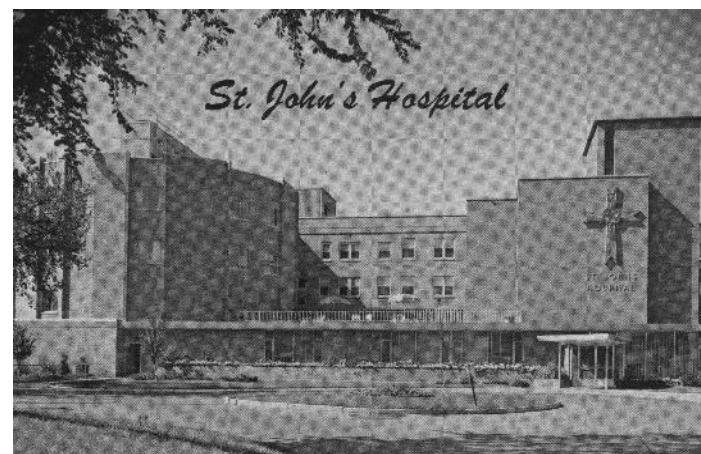
The Stolpestad Wing, a second addition along 7th Street, was completed in 1959. The medical staff was enlarged to deal with the expansion of service departments, x-ray and diagnostic wing. 75 beds were added, as well as a chapel and an improved emergency area.

Things kept moving ahead. In 1961, St. John's had its busiest year ever. There were 14,776 admissions and a

total of 2,280 births. But at the same time that the hospital's rolls were booming, the number of patients from the burgeoning suburbs was greatly increasing. Since it seemed a matter of time before a hospital would be built in the suburbs and cut into St. John's patient load, they decided to make a move.

In 1983 the Metropolitan Health Board approved their plan to build a new hospital in Maplewood. It opened on July 30, 1985. It became part of the newly-created Health East Care System in 1986, along with Bethesda and St. Joseph's

Hospitals. In 1975, after 75 years in Dayton's Bluff, St. John's Hospital closed its hospital on the East Side.



From a 1966 postcard sent to Cambridge, Minn: "Dear Bernice... I'll have to try that soup. My arm is still very sore... I'm so tired of this hospital."

Did you or a relative work at St. John's? Do you have old photos hidden away in dusty albums? Were you born there? Write us with any St. John's stories to share.

Scrooge is coming to the Mounds Theatre

by Raeann Ruth



"A Christmas Carol," performed as a radio broadcast, will be performed live on stage at the historic Mounds Theatre this December 2nd through the 18th.

Back before television, a holiday season tradition in America was listening to "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens as performed on the radio by Lionel Barrymore and narrated by Orson Welles.

Originally aired live on Christmas Eve, December 24, 1939, this radio broadcast has lived in the memories of those that heard it for a lifetime. If you want to recapture those magical days of your childhood Christmas, or have never heard it, but want to experience the magic of live radio theatre and create new memories for you and your family, "A Christmas Carol" radio broadcast will become a treasured part of your holiday enjoyment for years to come.

DATES AND TIMES:

Evening shows Fridays and Saturdays at 7:00 pm

December 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17

Matinee shows Sundays – 2:00 pm (December 4, 11, 18)

TICKETS:

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Judy Lee

Poetry Corner

The rhythm from my porch

by Sage Holben

Tire low of air, flap, flap, flap... does the driver realize he's almost on the rim?

A ball game played in my neighbor's yard...I'm half asleep on the porch, listening to a metal clang...the bat? A metal plate used as a base? The rhythm plays like music in its own way. I recognize Carlo's echoing laughter, and I smile...laughter with a real, a full joy in it. I hear William's voice...a rather humorous lilt in how he makes his pronouncements...

A group of wrens, massed around a 'puddle' of seeds fallen from a tree; they move almost as one, from the driveway apron to the drive, and then to the lilac bushes, flowers shed so long ago. As if prompted by the influx of wrens, a cardinal bursts from the bushes to a neighboring tree...one rhythmic note affecting the other.

"F....him, I said, mother f'er....", I heard, followed by laughter, words I can't understand – is it a dialect, is it lazy speech, is it just that I don't want to hear it...my cold eyes hold no power if the speakers don't make eye contact with me. The raw, unwelcomed cursing is oddly rhythmic...its own music...is it?

Slap, slap, slap; rap, rap, rap; basketballs and rap music, both hitting the sidewalk. Rhythmic, too, are the glances...."Don't look, Sage' my 12 year old neighbor whispers to me. He's Blood; don't look.' This, too, is a warning oft repeated to me. He's Crypt, he's Blood, He's an 18...don't do it, Sage.

You're gay; am not; sure you are; laughter; some tension; the message not spoken now reveals who has been ripping on who today. You are, so I'm not. A day's rhythm is coming to its end on the porch. Kids are gathering, feeling safe to say what they wouldn't on the street. We talk about "gay." You've met my son; he's gay. You like him. You respect him. What's different?

Karen boys bike by; chattering in a language we don't understand. Marco mocks the unknown under his breath. Hey, I tell him, how was it when you came here and didn't speak English? Did people mock your Spanish? How did you feel? The form of our conversation takes up a familiar rhythm, we've had it before about Hmong language and culture. It's a rhythm that becomes, sadly, almost comfortable.

Weed wackers, lawn mowers, people calling to each other. Motors revving, missing mufflers, roaring motorcycles; planes in a no-fly zone, dismiss any shred of conversation. Wait.

A scooter's whirrrrrr; a Rainbow shopping cart, rumbling down the hill, child propelling child; in the background a car horn out of control, but in perfect rhythm.

And then, one Saturday morning, the world regains briefly, the rhythm of only birds, the sipping of early morning coffee, and the quiet turning of a book's pages. I'm alone with my own rhythm.



Prepared & Paid by Al Oertwig,
509 Fred Street, St. Paul, MN 55130

Neighborhood Leaders are needed on the School Board

Elect Al Oertwig Eastside Activist

President, Payne Phalen District 5 Planning Council;
3M (Dayton's Bluff) Community Advisory Committee Member;
Near East Side Task Force Member;
Phalen-Keller Regional Park Master Plan Design Task ;
Capitol Improvement Budget Committee, Community Facilities TF;
I-35E/Cayuga Visual Quality Advisory Committee;
Past Chair, Railroad Island Task Force; East Side Neighborhood Development Corp.; Commercial Development Advisory Committee

Vote November 8

Anti-Racism Conference Slated for Metro State

by Sherry Johnson
Special to the Forum

Metro State University will host the Overcoming Racism Conference on November 18-19, presented by the Facilitating Racial Equity Collaborative. Friday's keynote address will feature Joe Feagin, author of *The White Racial Frame*, while Saturday's keynote by Dr. BraVada Garrett-Akinsanya will focus on anti-racism work in organizations, institutions, and communities.

The first day's workshops at the conference will focus on how racism frames our realities, and on defining and understanding Feagin's concept of the white racial frame. Day two will apply the knowledge from day one as it affects antiracism work.

Dayton's Bluff neighbors are encouraged to attend. Jeanne Burns, one of the conference's organizers, insists that the conference offers opportunities for "neighborhood people to come together to learn and connect to create stronger communities ... When neighbors are connected, they can decrease crime in the neighborhood." She added that "cross-cultural understanding can create strong connections."

Burns stressed Metro State's commitment to anti-racism work, as well as its role as the most diverse four-year school in the state, as strong factors in its selection for this conference.

Conference participants will be encouraged to consider how they will listen to understand; understand to connect; connect to empower; and empower to commit to personal, social, and systemic transformation. The Wall of Commitment room will feature these reflections in participants' own ways.

The closing session of the conference will feature a performance by In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre, which will draw its in-

spiration from the Wall of Commitment.

For Metro State's Fall Fest, Jeanne Burns created an informational quiz for people to take. "The quiz (<http://bit.ly/r2iFwu>) can be a great introduction to some of what you can learn at the Overcoming Racism Conference."

For more information on the November 18th & 19th conference in St. Paul, go to www.overcomingracism.org. You can also follow the conference on Twitter @RacialEquityMN and find them on Facebook at on.fb.me/nlmsrt. You can also sign up for their quarterly newsletter on their website.

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Source: SEIU UFCW Local 1189 Press release

Caregivers, neighbors rally against nursing home closures

On October 12, caregivers and community members protested in front of Dellwood Cerenity Care. During a week that the Congressional "Super Committee" is expected to discuss proposals to make drastic cuts to Medicare, Medicaid and public services, those at the rally demanded that major banks and "top 1%" pay their fair share of taxes to protect public services like quality care for our disabled and elderly.

"These closures will force our residents, who have lived in the community for decades, to move away from their neighborhood and family members," said Calvin Cooper, a janitor at Dellwood Place. "The big banks crashed our economy and foreclosed on our homes. Now, the continued refusal of the top 1% to pay their fair share of taxes is causing budget cuts and closures of our state's nursing homes. It's time to stop being bullied by the big banks and Wall St. and start standing up for dignity for seniors and workers."

Learn about your neighbors; attend the Bridging Cultural Understanding series at Metro State

This school year, Metropolitan State University is presenting a series of introductions to various cultural communities. Each session will cover a brief history of that month's selected culture, as well as information about traditions, names, identity, communication, family structures, belief systems, and health.

The Hmong and Latino cultures have already been featured. On November 9, learn about the American Indian culture. Upcoming events in the series include:

February 8: Somali Community

March 28: Karen Community

April 11: LGBTQ Community

These events are free and open to the public; light refreshments or dessert will be provided. No RSVP required; Contact 651-793-1542 for questions or details. This event is sponsored by the Asian and Asian American Student Services, Diversity Learning Task Force and, in part, by student activity fees.

Overcoming Racism Conference Nov. 18-19 at MSU

Mark your calendar for the 2011 Overcoming Racism Conference, held November 18 and 19 at Metro State. Friday's topic asks how racism frames our realities, with a keynote speech by scholar and author Joe R. Feagin. Saturday's theme is antiracism work in organizations, institutions and communities, with a keynote speech by BraVada Garrett-Akinsanya, a clinical psychologist, consultant and community leader.

Each day will feature a full slate of workshops, with opportunities to reflect, connect, and commit.

For more information, visit www.overcomingracism.org.

Dayton's Bluff District Forum

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

Editor and Layout: Meg Gronau

Next issue: December 2011. Deadline for material: November 10, 2011.

Block Nurse programs strengthen neighborhoods amid nursing home closures

By Stefan Pomrenke, MD, MPH,
Dayton's Bluff Seniors Board member

In today's current climate of Occupy Wall Street and Occupy Minnesota, our senior citizens are having trouble occupying their own nursing home residences. Over the past week, two urban St. Paul local nursing homes announced their closing scheduled for November 11, 2011; while another nursing home may be built in the suburbs. This past Wednesday, a civic action was undertaken at one of the nursing homes, Dellwood Cerenity Care. It was attended by union members, Dayton's Bluff community members and Twin Cities residents. They protested the closing and the general economic climate of the country, intimately connecting their newly lost jobs with the lost residences of the seniors.

When the state and corporations are no longer able to care for their elders, the community must step in and be the safety net. For years this effort in our neighborhood has been aided by the Dayton's Bluff Nurse Block Club Program. Run on a shoestring budget, Maryann Chowen, Executive Director

of Dayton's Bluff Seniors, organizes volunteers to attend to the nursing needs of seniors living in their homes in the community. These services gather several resources from the community, including the student nurse program at Metropolitan State University. Countless nursing home admissions have been avoided through these services.

The Living at Home/Block Nurse Program runs throughout the state of Minnesota and has several block programs throughout the Twin Cities. Recent studies through AARP show that home care of seniors is the equivalent of about \$450 billion unpaid contributions to society. We may debate the actual numbers for the nation, but as a physician I know that being cared for at home has innumerable benefits, be it avoiding nursing home-acquired infections, or gaining the intimate care of the surrounding community.

While times dictate that we cannot currently depend on the state and corporations to care for our seniors, let us make our local neighborhoods stronger and see what we can individually do for our seniors.

Meet/Support

Al Oertwig

Candidate for School Board

Dates: Oct. 27 and/or Nov. 3

Time: 5 - 6:30 PM

Place: Water & Oil Gallery
506 Kenny Road
(Payne, just north of East 7th St.)

Info: Oertwig2008@hotmail.com

Vote November 8

Prepared & Pd by Al Oertwig, 509 Fred St., 55130

Where in Dayton's Bluff?

In a surprising twist, last month's picture (shown below, slightly larger than last month) managed to fool an entire neighborhood! Although several readers guessed Sacred Heart Church, that answer is incorrect — the actual location is east of there.



Can you solve the mystery? Email editor@daytonsbuff.org. All correct responses received by midnight on November 10 will be entered into a drawing for a pack of Dayton's Bluff postcards. Happy hunting!