Two more shootings rock the neighborhood

As gunshots once again echoed in two separate incidents in Dayton’s Bluff in mid-October, a 20-year-old mother is dead and a man recovers in the hospital. About 25 neighbors gathered October 16 to distribute white ribbons to tie around trees, to raise awareness in an attempt to stop the bloodshed.

However, at least one neighbor – who wishes to remain anonymous – reports feeling a sense of fatigue about the continued violence in the neighborhood. What’s your reaction? Email editor@daytonsbluff.org.

Musings from a neighbor

This week, there have been two shootings about six blocks from my home. One has been declared a homicide, one sent a man to the hospital but he is expected to survive.

The night after the first shooting, there was a neighborhood vigil which was shortly followed by the second shooting, just blocks away. There aren’t many details yet released about either shooting, so it is unclear right now whether they are connected in any way.

Last night, there was a “stop the bloodshed” rally, and white ribbons were distributed for folks to put on trees at their homes in solidarity.

You might be wondering, am I afraid for myself or my family? The answer is no. Sadly, after living in inner city neighborhoods for 20 years, I’m used to hearing about either event. Do you have any stories about either shooting, so it is unclear right now whether they are connected in any way?

Often, the victims of shootings are not random targets, so that is reassuring to me. Shooters here are generally not trained in gun safety so it could be possible to hit by a stray bullet or caught in crossfire. The thing is, there’s nothing I can do to prevent that except be vigilant and avoid situations that might turn violent. Warning about what “might” happen won’t stop a bullet. Do I have a response to these latest shootings? I’m not surprised. It was reported not long ago that gun crimes in my neighborhood have skyrocketed this year. Mostly, I’m so weary of the problems that I can’t even figure out how to begin solutions.

Gun laws, anti-gang efforts, better education, stronger families, more police, better prosecution, anti-violence training. I’m not sure what the answer is but I’m just too worn out to try to figure it out.

Bluff history in the new Saint Paul Almanac

The 2013 Saint Paul Almanac is now hot off the presses. Many of you may not be familiar with this annual publication, so here’s some background. The Almanac is a datebook with weekly calendar pages, but it is also filled with poetry, reminiscences and other literature – some from well-known writers and others from everyday folks. There are also photos and artwork. All of the contributions are related to our city.

I help research the St. Paul history dates, quotations and birthdays scattered thought the publication and I try to make sure that our neighborhood is represented. Here are a few of our local items that appear in the 2013 edition:

The Ladies from the Home for the Friendless were active in St. Paul in the late 19th century. They gave a steamboat excursion on the Mississippi River as a fundraiser on December 17, 1870, and on June 29, 1882 they held a strawberry festival to raise money. The group later changed their name to the Protestant Home and settled on East 7th Street in Dayton’s Bluff in the location that, until recently, housed Cerenity. It will reopen soon under a new name—that, it is hoped, will not include the name “friendless.”

The 2013 Almanac contains selections from well over half a century ago. On February 8, 1951, a massive gas explosion rocked 3M buildings on the East Side, killing 15 workers. On a happier note: June 20, 1955: Parkway Little League had its initial baseball game. About 200 boys on 12 teams took part that season. Do you have any stories about either event?

There are stories from more recent times. On March 3, 1996, there was an East Side Toy Gun Buy Back program at seven sites, including Dayton’s Bluff. Children received admission coupons to local venues for turning in toy weapons. Did you or someone you know abandon your fake firearm? On: June 20, 2005, the first Mexican consulate in Minnesota opened at 797 East 7th Street. There are more dates in the book, but you’ll have to find them yourselves.

There are also two fairly lengthy articles focused on Dayton’s Bluff. The first is a straight history piece. “Fred H. Bigler Potato Chip Company” was written by Eileen R. Hansen, a retired librarian who lived for many years in St. Paul.

Starting in the 1930s, her family ran a potato chip company at 213 Bates Avenue in our neighborhood. Potatoes were bought from local farmers. Her Aunt Ethel did the peeling and cutting, put the spuds in a vat and her uncle fried them.

The chips were dried in netting hung from the ceiling, then salted and packed into tins. The company eventually sold to the Old Dutch Potato Chip Company. Eileen ended her story thus: “I loved going to the potato chip factory… I always had lots of freshly made potato chips to eat. And, to this day, I still love potato chips. But today’s chips can’t compare to those I had back in my childhood.”

The second piece is a personal essay titled “Back Again” by Carol Anne Wall, who describes herself as a mom, a writing teacher and multiple-dog owner. She starts out: “they say that when you leave a place, you leave a piece of yourself behind. Sometimes you get to return to those places.” She “drew her first breath” at St John’s Hospital at Mounds Boulevard and East 7th Street, so even though the family lived in the suburbs she considers herself a “native St. Paulite.”

See Almanac, continued on page 7.
Dayton’s Bluff Beat Phone

The Police Beat Phone, 651-341-7637, is available for residents’ calls. It is not answered on officers’ days off, when they are having special training, or on vacations. Call about ongoing neighborhood problems; concerns about people in vacant buildings after 10:00 pm; police-related questions, etc. If you need police right away or see a crime in progress, call 911 or 651-291-1111.

Dayton’s Bluff Senior’s Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Dayton’s Bluff Living at Home/Block Nurse will be held on November 19 at 10:00 am, in the library of 1st Lutheran Church at 464 Maria. A light brunch will be served. Come and learn more about the program and how it helps Dayton’s Bluff seniors stay in their own homes.

Dayton’s Bluff Beat

Open Gym for ages 13 and under

Meeting is Thursday, November 1, from 6:30-8:00 pm at the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council office, 798 East 7th Street. The object is to work on community-building, as well as criminal and nuisance behavior, code enforcement issues and any other concerns or good things in the Bluff.

Please submit addresses of any problem properties to karin@daytons-bluff.org or 651-772-2075 before the meeting. All Dayton’s Bluff residents are welcome to attend.

Our teen room is being remodeled!

Teens will be repainting the walls and adding a mural. Thank you to the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council.

High School open gym

Every Tuesday, 6:00-8:00 pm

Open Gym for age 13 and under

Mondays & Wednesdays, 6:00-7:45 pm

Girls’ Group, ages 12-17, every Thursday, 6:00-7:00 pm

Free Zumba class on Thursday nights from 6:00-7:00 pm in the Dayton’s Bluff Rec Center dance room

Basketball Basic Skills for ages 6-14, every Thursday from 6:00-7:30 pm

Basketball season is starting! Registration is open and continues until all teams fill.

FREE ARTS every Thursday evening from 6:00-7:00 pm.

Rec Check FREE after-school program, Monday through Friday, 3:00-6:00 pm. Limited space available

Judo Class every Monday, 6:00-8:00 pm, $12 per month

Cheer America every Monday, 6:00-7:00 pm, $6 per class

Karate class every Wednesday, 6:00-8:00 pm, $6 per class

Parent & Tot time every Wednesday and Friday in the gym, 10:00 am - 12:00 noon

Messy Fingers Art for kids 5 & under every Friday, 10:00-11:00 am, $38 for 6-week session

We also have a studio and a host of other activities for kids.

Check out our “Dinner with Santa” in December!

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

We are open Monday through Thursday, 3:00-8:00 pm; Friday 3:00-6:00 pm.

Questions? Call us at 651-793-3885 Stop by and check us out!

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

Our teen room is being remodeled!

High School open gym

Open Gym for age 13 and under

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Questions? Call us at 651-793-3885 Stop by and check us out!
“A Christmas Carol” returns

“A Christmas Carol – Radio Broadcast Show” – live on stage – is back for its second year at the Historic Mounds Theatre. Back before television, a holiday season tradition in America was listening to “A Christmas Carol” by Charles Dickens as performed on radio by Lionel Barrymore and narrated by Orson Welles with the Mercury Theatre group. The music was composed and conducted by the legendary Bernard Herrmann.

Few actors ever gave more meaning to the character of miserly Ebenezer Scrooge than Lionel Barrymore, who first took on the role in 1934. Originally aired live on Christmas Eve, December 24, 1939, this radio broadcast will live for a lifetime in the memories of those that heard it. If you remember listening, and 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, don’t miss your chance to see this production. It will become a treasured part of your holiday listening enjoyment for years to come.

Dates: December 7, 8, 14, 15, 22 - 7:00 pm and December 9, 16, 23 - 2:00 pm
Tickets: $15 - Adults; $10 - Students & Seniors; and $6 - Children under 12.
Tickets will be on sale soon on our website at www.moundstheatre.org. Purchase your tickets early, as they sell out fast and also consider purchasing tickets for those “hard to please” folks on your Christmas list.

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

MARISOL from Metropolitan State

MARISOL, written by Jose Rivera, runs at the Historic Mounds Theatre at 1029 Hudson Road, St. Paul, MN from November 8-10 and November 15-17 at 7:00 pm and November 18 at 2:00 pm. The show is produced by Theater Underground, Student Activities and the Theater Program of Metropolitan State University.

In MARISOL, the world becomes unrecognizable. The moon is missing; coffee extinct; crows produce salty milk; and going over credit card limits can land you in a secret Government prison.

MARISOL chronicles the story of Marisol Perez, a Puerto Rican woman living in the Bronx. A college graduate and editor for a textbook publisher, she leads an undistinguished life, plodding from home to her office and back each day. Routine existence changes abruptly when Marisol’s guardian angel informs her the angels are planning a rebellion against God. With heaven in an uproar, social stability and natural order rapidly deteriorate on Earth. Like other poor mortals suffering without assistance from on high, Marisol does her best to make sense of a world gone mad.

Theater faculty Reggie Phoenix was drawn to direct MARISOL for a myriad of reasons. “Jose Rivera’s language is beautiful, rich and very specific. As an actor, I’m aware how good it feels to have wonderful words to speak. In MARISOL, there is a bouquet of bitter and sweet poetry. I was also drawn by the strong female characters at the center of the play that encompasses the whole range of humanity. Women say Rivera writes women’s voices so true his Marisol does her best to make sense of a world gone mad. Few actors ever gave more meaning to the character of miserly Ebenezer Scrooge than Lionel Barrymore, who first took on the role in 1934. Originally aired live on Christmas Eve, December 24, 1939, this radio broadcast will live for a lifetime in the memories of those that heard it. If you remember listening, and 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, don’t miss your chance to see this production. It will become a treasured part of your holiday listening enjoyment for years to come.

Dakota remembrance events

by Carla Richle Forum Staff

This year has seen a series of events commemorating the 150th anniversary of the 1862 U.S.-Dakota War. Three more are scheduled for November in the Dayton’s Bluff area. Admission is free to all events.

The Gordon Parks Gallery at Metropolitan State University is presenting an exhibit entitled “Mah-piyah Ka Mak:a Dakota Earth-Sky Relationships at Wakan Tipi” that will run through November 9. The exhibit consists of paintings, quilts, photos and other works by Dakota artists and scholars as well as images of petroglyphs, the gravestones in Indian Mounds Park and the sculpture, “Nine Moons of Sacred Dihl Woman,” that was added to the park a few years ago. The exhibit has special significance to Dayton’s Bluff as it is given the location of the gallery on the bluffs above Wakan Tipi, a sacred cave site.

The caption accompanying a picture of the site now known as “Carver’s Cave” is particularly evocative of a historical view not often heard in the dominant culture: “This sacred site was desecrated by the one named Carver who did actually carve his English coat of arms, followed by the railroad that used dynamite to blow up the cave and its petroglyphs, followed by the alcohol poisoning by Minnesota’s first brewery built here that stored beer in these sacred caves…” The exhibit is moving and instructive; not to be missed.

The Gordon Parks Gallery is located on the third floor of the Library and Learning Center, 645 East 7th Street. It is open from 11:00 am to 7:00 pm on Monday through Thursday, and 11:00 am to 4:00 pm on Friday and Saturday. Thursday, November 1, at 6:00 pm, the documentary Star Dreamers will screen at Metropolitan State University. It’s the first in a projected series by Sheldon P. Wolfchild about the history of the Dakota people in Minnesota. This segment is about the Indian System and deals with the causes of the Dakota-Us War of 1862. The filmmaker and author and historian Mark Diederich will lead a discussion following the film. The location is Founders Hall, 700 East 7th Street.

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Home Tour in Dayton’s Bluff

Forum staff

We are looking for six to eight homes to be on the Dayton’s Bluff Neighborhood Home Tour. This tour partners with the Minneapolis-St. Paul Home Tour that will take place on Saturday and Sunday, April 27 and 28, 2013 This is the seventeenth year that the Dayton’s Bluff Neighborhood Home Tour has been part of the larger tour.

The tour has been successful in getting visitors to the Bluff. Many come and like what they see here, and some wind up moving to Dayton’s Bluff. “I would recommend to others that they open their homes,” said one of last year’s participating homeowners. “It’s an amazing ego boost.” Others said they enjoyed the push to get their home improvement projects done in time for the tour.

If you are interested in further exploration, there is an abundance of information about the following websites: www.usdakotaarw.org and at the Seven Fires Summit website (www.sevenfresummit.org). The Minnesota History Center’s exhibit on the war will be on display through next September. Admission to the center is free on Tuesdays from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

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November 2012
Dayton’s Bluff District Forum – News, events & opportunities
Bakery and crafts at St. John’s Catholic Church

by Greg Cosimini
Trustee, St. John’s Catholic Church

St. John’s Catholic Church is having another “Save St. John’s” fundraising event in November. A combined Bake Sale and Holiday Craft Boutique will be held in the church hall in the basement of the church on Saturday and Sunday, November 10 and 11. Times will be posted in front of the church and on our website. St. John’s would like to thank everyone who helped make our Bargains Galore rummage sale, pancake breakfast, and silent auction such huge successes. St. John’s Catholic Church is located at 977 E. 5th St., St. Paul, MN 55106. Phone: 651-771-3600; Email: stjohns@stjstp.org; Website: www.stjstp.org

MINNESOTA VOTER’S BILL OF RIGHTS

For all persons residing in this state who meet federal voting eligibility requirements:

- You have the right to be absent from work for the purpose of voting without reduction to your pay, personal leave, or vacation time on election day for the time necessary to appear at your polling place, cast a ballot, and return to work.
- If you are in line at your polling place any time before 8:00 p.m., you have the right to vote.
- If you can provide the required proof of residence, you have the right to register to vote and to vote on election day.
- If you are unable to sign your name, you have the right to orally confirm your identity with an election judge and to direct another person to sign your name for you.
- You have the right to request special assistance when voting.
- If you need assistance, you may be accompanied into the voting booth by a person of your choice, except by an agent of your employer or union or a candidate.
- You have the right to bring your minor children into the polling place and into the voting booth with you.
- If you have been convicted of a felony but your felony sentence has expired (been completed) or you have been discharged from your sentence, you have the right to vote.
- If you are under a guardianship, you have the right to vote, unless the court order revokes your right to vote.
- You have the right to vote without anyone in the polling place trying to influence your vote.
- If you make a mistake or spoil your ballot before it is submitted, you have the right to receive a replacement ballot and vote.
- You have the right to file a written complaint at your polling place if you are dissatisfied with the way an election is being run.
- You have the right to take a sample ballot into the voting booth with you.
- You have the right to take a copy of this Voter’s Bill of Rights into the voting booth with you.

A Message from State Representative

SHELDON JOHNSON

217 State Office Building, St. Paul, MN 55155
(651) 296-4201 • rep.sheldon.johnson@house.mn
www.house.mn/67B • www.sheldonjohnson.com

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Trust for Public Land celebrates 40 years

by Karin DuPaul, Forum staff

Trust for Public Land celebrated their fortieth year helping communities increase their public land. They are committed to creating parks where people, especially young people, can experience nature. Trust for Public Land (TPL) held their celebration in Indian Mounds Park on September 29 with a picnic and speakers including Mayor Chris Coleman. Visitors were invited to tour the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary, one of the parks that has benefited from the work of TPL. TPL helped with the purchase of land from the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad, land which was developed into the Brue Vento Nature Sanctuary. The celebration continued with art and tours in the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary in the afternoon. Decorative flags with Kinship of Rivers, an arts initiative connecting communities along the Mississippi and Yangzte Rivers, were on display. Children and artists worked on art projects as well.

The Lower Phalen Creek Project steering committee members told visitors about their effects to convert the vacant Standard Oil building into a cultural interpretive center highlighting the river and surrounding area.

September clean-up a success;
Two clean-ups to be offered in 2013

Tons of junk and trash were removed from Dayton’s Bluff on September 8 during the Dayton’s Bluff Neighborhood Clean Up. It was a nice day with the sun shining and the weather warm. Two long trains passed by during the cleanup, which was a treat for visitors and the volunteers to watch. After all the work was done, the volunteers had lunch, which was donated by Culver’s, Cub, Rainbow, Byerlys, M & H, and Holiday. Thank you to Ramsey County Sentence to Service and all of our volunteers who made this a successful event.

Starting next year, Dayton’s Bluff and District 1 will be working together on the neighborhood clean-up so that residents from both districts can take advantage of cleanups in both the spring and fall. Watch the Forum for more information about this in future issues.

Silver Sneakers; silver tongues

East Side Y Seniors perform at the Silver Sneakers’ Annual Gathering at Nicollet Island in Minneapolis. A bus load of East Side Y seniors left the East Side to spend an afternoon with other Silver Sneakers from all over the Metro area for a silent auction, health fair, and lunch.

A beautiful day for opera in the park

The Italian opera Idomeneo, re di Crete (King of Crete) presented by Mixed Precipitation in Swede Hollow Park on September 22. The audience sat on the hillside and enjoyed the delightful performance. The weather was perfect.

East Side local food resource hub

by Carla Riehle, Forum staff

What is a local food resource hub? More than 20 people interested in the answer to that question gathered on October 15 at the Community Design Center (CDC). The event was organized by the CDC and the Dayton’s Bluff and Payne-Phalen community councils. The CDC, located next to Swede Hollow Cafe on East 7th Street, is a neighborhood organization established over 40 years ago and promotes healthy food, conservation and youth development. The CDC has been working with partners at the East Side Prosperity Campaign to plan for a local food resource hub.

With all the existing neighborhood organizations, and with a new neighborhood co-op grocery in the planning stages, it can be a little confusing to figure out the differences between all of these groups and decide whether a new one is actually needed. But participants in this meeting gave a resounding confirmation to the local food resource hub concept. Participants discussed how the hub would fill a need that is not being addressed anywhere else: an East Side resource network that would bring together people interested in healthy, locally produced food, farmers markets, community gardens and growing their own food.

One potential model is the Gardening Matters network (gardeningmatters.org) that includes food resource hubs in Minneapolis and St. Paul's Midway. Besides coordinating and gathering information about local activities, Gardening Matters provides information on how to start a community garden, supplies low-cost seeds and plants, and helps with grant applications to get the garden going.

Members of the Payne-Phalen and Dayton's Bluff neighborhoods were particularly enthusiastic about the idea of more community gardens. A number of them already exist in both neighborhoods – some under the auspices of the community councils; others, focused on youth, are run by the CDC. Several years ago, the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council took the plunge with the formation of Skidmore Community Garden on 4th Street near Earl. And recently, the council’s Greenspace Committee, which operates Skidmore, took a tour of city-owned properties that might qualify as new community gardens. The committee subsequently went door-to-door knocking to gauge community interest and found that the block club in the vicinity of the vacant space at 1148 Bush Avenue was eager to jump in and get started.

Besides the Bush Street garden possibility, other plans include a food hub resource survey by the East Side Prosperity Campaign, contacting local churches and other institutions with existing meeting and cooking space about being resource locations, and preparing for the Gardening Matters resource fair to be held in March on the East Side of St. Paul.

The group's next meeting will be at 6:00 pm on Monday, November 26, at the First Covenant Church Fellowship Hall, 1280 Arcade Street, St. Paul. Any one interested is invited to attend. For more information or to be added to the list of people who want to be kept informed about the project, call Tamara Downs Schweiz at 651-228-7073 or email at tdowns.schwei@comdesignc-trmm.org.
Jane Prince — A working woman

Brockton, Massachusetts, is the birthplace of Rocky Marciano, the only undefeated heavyweight champion of the world—a very big deal to the city of Brockton. It is also the birthplace of Jane Prince, a practicing attorney in downtown St. Paul. Jane has three St. Paul offices: one in Kellogg Square where she works for Weinblatt and Gaylord PLC, one at Hamline University Law School, and her “office away from her offices” at Swede Hollow Cafe.

After Jane and her husband Dave moved into Dayton’s Bluff in 1984, got settled, and found Swede Hollow Cafe, they have tried to support it as often as they can. As Jane says, “I like to tell people that there are places to have breakfast in the neighborhood, but there isn’t a coffee shop to go to and just have a latte. So when Dave and I felt like getting a cup of coffee, we would meet friends over on Grand Ave.”

Before Swede Hollow Cafe became a vibrant part of the Dayton’s Bluff community, it was just an old run-down building. It opened up serving great coffee and incredible bakery goods. “It was a miracle to have the best coffee shop in the Twin Cities open in our neighborhood,” Jane said. “From there we got to know so many more neighbors just by hanging out at Swede Hollow Cafe.”

Jane balances three careers vigilantly: she is an attorney; she is employed at Hamline University as their Alumni Relations Director; and she is the interim president of the Metro Independent Business Alliance (MetroIBA).

As an attorney, Jane specializes in municipal law. “I really enjoy land use and zoning,” she says. “I represent people in employment cases and other general practice issues. This past year I had the opportunity to expand my work in law and become my law school Alumni Relations Director.”

The Hamline University Alumni Relations Director is a position Jane began in 2012. Jane says, “Alumni are important to every school, but they are of particular importance to a law school. By serving our alumni with continuing legal education courses and networking events, I am also helping to connect our current students to their future colleagues. I love being back at Hamline Law School and working with the staff and faculty who played such an important role in my legal education.”

Jane learned about MetroIBA back when people in the Twin Cities literary community were trying to save Ruminator Books (formerly the Hungry Mind) from closing. Later she served on the organization’s board. She has also served as its interim president since June.

Jane says, “What makes a city unique are its locally-owned independent stores that you can’t find anywhere else in the world—Swede Hollow Cafe is just such a place. I have spent time in Austin, Texas, which has subscribed to the notion that its best economic development investments are in the unique enterprises of its local community. We need to encourage policy makers to invest in local communities and the vitality that they give our neighborhoods.”

“The work that’s being done on East 7th Street is similar to the work being done in Austin. Make It Happen on East 7th Street, held on August 17, was a celebration of our local businesses, our neighbors, and this amazing neighborhood,” Jane says. “Everybody was there! We were every color, age, and ethnic background, and it was totally delightful and fun evening. I feel that Dayton’s Bluff is doing things that communities could only hope they could do. We are really making it happen here in Dayton’s Bluff.”

Mark Gallagher is a professional writer and editor. He can be reached at refineEditorial@gmail.com

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- St. Paul Building & Construction Trades Council
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- Minnesota Police and Peace Officers
- OurFront Minnesota Action
- Clean Water Action
- St. Paul Firefighters, Local 21

Dale Harbor receives 2012 Roger Tetu Award

Dale Harbor was presented with the 2012 Roger Tetu Award at the Dayton’s Bluff Community Council Community Annual Meeting and Dinner on October 22. For many years, Dale has worked tirelessly to make the community a better place to live. Thank you, Dale, for all your work.

The Forum ran a profile on Dale in our October issue. All our issues, from 2000 to the present, are archived on our website, at the bottom of the www.daytonsbluff.org home page.

The District Forum newspaper is mailed free of charge to every address in Dayton’s Bluff. The paper does not carry advertising and is staffed by volunteers, but we still must pay printing, mailing and editorial costs. If you appreciate the value of a real neighborhood newspaper, please consider contributing. You can make a tax-deductible donation to “Stopewell Communications Incorporated” at www.givelinc.org or you can mail your check to Dayton’s Bluff District Forum, 739 East 7th Street, St. Paul, MN 55106.
Finding Grandpa
by Greg Cosimini
Third generation Dayton’s Bluff resident

All four of my grandparents came to the United States from Italy in the early 1900s. I’m sure they had many reasons for doing so, but I like to think that one of them was that they wanted to live in Dayton’s Bluff, which they did.

My paternal grandparents, Leonello and Palmira Cosimini, owned a house at 696 East 8th Street, which is now part of the First Lutheran Church parking lot. Leonello owned Twin City Statury, located in what is now the Savoy Pizza parking lot on East 7th Street near downtown. Once again, make that twice again, they paved paradise and... you know the rest.

Leonello died when I was a baby but I’ve seen old photographs of him so I know what he looked like. Recently something strange began happening. Previously unknown photographs of Grandpa Cosimini started surfacing.

My nephew Michael discovered the first photo in an online newspaper article from Barga, Italy, my grandfather’s hometown, concerning the number of people from Barga who ended up working at Daprato Statuary in Chicago. An accompanying photo of Daprato employees from 1903 included both Grandpa Leonello and his father Antonio Cosimini. No one in our family knew they had worked there.

Two more Leonello sightings came at this year’s Festa Italiana. The first was in a history display about the Giuliani (later St. Paul) Statuary Co. It included a photo of employees from 1912. Once again, there were Leonello and Antonio. We knew Leonello had worked there previous to starting his own company but not when, or that Antonio had too.

Next, my cousin Cherie and I discovered two photos from the dedication of the Christopher Columbus statue that stands in front of the State Capitol building in his honor on October 12, 1931. One photo was taken at the State Capitol, the other at the St. Paul Cathedral after the dedication Mass. Both photos were of the panoramic variety, being approximately 36 inches wide by 8 inches tall.

I joked that we should see if we could recognize anyone. I started with the Cathedral photo because there were merely hundreds of people in that one compared to thousands in the other one. The joke was on me. In less than a minute I spotted Grandpa Leonello on the right side of the photo. And that wasn’t all. He was holding the hand of his 8-year old son Joe, my father.

I asked my dad if he remembered that day. He definitely remembers going to the Capitol with his father and that a band was playing in front of the Columbus statue, but not being at the Cathedral.

Well, it was 81 years ago.

Continued from page 1:

Almanac: Highlights of Dayton’s Bluff submissions

They often shopped downtown, and her mother inevitably pointed out the hospital building on the top of the bluff and said “that’s where you two were born.” At the age of eight, Carol returned to the hospital for a few days with a case of pneumonia. “I would lie awake at night in the children’s and maternity ward on the hospital’s third floor, listening to traffic in the neighborhood,” she remembers. It was the last time she visited the site while it was still a hospital.

In the 1990s, Carol worked downtown and she witnessed the building’s transformation into Metro State. During the construction, she wrote, “I would frequently lift my eyes to the bluff where I was born and marvel at how I had managed to remain so close to it.

A few years later, she decided to get a graduate degree at Metro State and was being interviewed on the third floor of St. John’s Hall. “Gazing around the office, I wondered what part of the third floor this had been,” she wrote. “Was it the nursery?... mostly it just felt familiar, as if I had physically occupied that space before.

She had similar feelings at classes, and some semesters “I would stand by a third floor window, look out at the parking lot, and for a moment feel like that eight-year old, waiting for someone familiar to step out of a parked car.” Carol now teaches some classes at the University.

By the conclusion: “’79 and Maria is my place of origin. There will always be a part of me up on that bluff, waiting for my return.”

The 2013 Saint Paul Almanac would make a great birthday or Christmas gifts at only $14.95. I should probably make a disclaimer here: yes, I do a lot of work for the Saint Paul Almanac, but I don’t get any royalties when they are sold. The Almanac can be found in bookstores and the coffee houses, including Polly’s Coffee Cove at 1382 Payne Avenue. Or you can order a book online at http://saintpaulalmanac.org.
Support Small Business Saturday
An American shopping holiday on the Saturday after Thanksgiving

Make it Happen Businesses on East 7th Street

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Services</th>
<th>Restaurants</th>
<th>Retail</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Assisted Healing</td>
<td>Bazaar Felish Boutique</td>
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<td>Free haircuts</td>
<td>Massage therapy</td>
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<td>Claudia’s Salon</td>
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<td>Bud and Al’s</td>
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<td>Arcade Medical Clinic</td>
<td>Roger’s Printing Services</td>
<td>Joyeria la Perfumeria, Jewelry, Perfume, Products</td>
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Support Dayton’s Bluff businesses!

Other great Dayton’s Bluff businesses:
- Downtown Tree Wash, 520 E. 7th Street
- East Side Service (Mobil), 1390 E. 3rd Street
- Holiday Station Store, 1444 E. Minnehaha Avenue
- O’Reilly Auto Parts, 754 E. 7th Street
- Toast to Bread/Sielt Paul Incubator Kitchen, 703 E. 3rd Street
- Mounds Park Barber Stylist, 1043 Hudson Road
- Mounds Theatre, 1029 Hudson Road
- Dairy Queen, 565 Earl Street
- Pastor Hamilton’s Barbeque Ribs, 1154 E. 7th Street
- Moonshine Saloon, 1179 E. 7th Street
- St. Paul Saloon, 1045 Hudson Road
- Savvy Red’s Pizza, 421 E. 7th Street
- Subway Sandwiches & Salad Shop, 449 E. 7th Street
- M & A Market, 361 Earl Street
- Phoenix Market, 685 E. 3rd Street
- Mounds Park Laundromat, 999 Hudson E. 7th Street
- Best Pawn, 526 E. 7th Street
- It’s A Big Deal Antique and Thrift Store, 367 Earl Street
- O’Reilly Auto Parts, 754 E. 7th Street
- Holiday Station Store, 500 E. 7th Street
- M & H Gas and Store, 721 Arcade Street
- Tom’s Gas and Store, 976 E. 7th Street
- Arilene’s Hair Fashions, 1075 Hudson Road
- Mounds Park Lounge, 1067 Hudson Road
- Beehive Tavern, 937 E. 3rd Street
- Dan-Ette Drive-In, 1440 E. Minnehaha Ave.
- Leo’s Chow Mein, 1059 Hudson Road
- Ob’s Bar & Restaurant, 1347 Burns Avenue
- Peking Restaurant, 475 Etna Street
- Strip Club, 376 Maria Ave.
- Little Blue Store, 879 Fremont Avenue
- Mound Park Lounge, 241 Earl Street
- Twins Meat Market, 1055 E. 4th Street
- Mounds Liquor, 1047 Hudson Rd
- Hmong Village, 1001 Johnson Parkway
- Keys of Paradise, 713 E. Minnehaha Avenue #111

Dayton’s Bluff Memories

Does anybody remember pulling into the gas station and the bell would ring and an attendant would come out, put gas in your car, clean your windows, check tires, check oil, etc., all for about 68 cents a gallon? I used to work at the old Price Skly at 847 Hudson Road when I was in junior high school. What ever happened to service stations like that? I know all the regular customers by name. I think I made about five or six dollars a week. I loved that job. I think it closed in 1977 or ‘78.

What a shame
Apple tree fiasco alienates a neighborhood resource

by Ben Greiling
Student, Metropolitan State University

I have witnessed a great potential resource to our neighborhood leave out of frustration and misunderstandings. His name is August Hoffman and is a professor of community psychology at Metro State. A little over a year ago, he received a grant to plant an urban apple orchard. He worked with members of the community, faculty from Metro, and an Upward Bound youth group to plant over a dozen apple trees in a vacant spot near Mounds Park and I-94. This was a great endeavor; it allowed the area to connect, learn, and work together to create something potentially long-lasting for the neighborhood. It also had the potential to provide a local food source to a neighborhood greatly lacking available produce. Unfortunately, some people were not happy with the project, and they made sure no one would be happy with the project. August received a call last fall warning him that people were removing his recently planted trees. The spot near I-94 is basically vacant again, with only a couple basically useless crab apple trees occupying it. Most likely, this spot will sit empty for years to come, like many spots around Dayton’s Bluff.

As someone who lives in the neighborhood and also attends Metropolitan State University, I am shocked by the lack of interconnections between the two. I was hopeful to see someone as excited about community and gardening as Dr. Hoffman is to work with the neighborhood that clearly needs help. He brought passion, knowledge, grant connections, and plenty of students who were willing to volunteer for class credit. Dr. Hoffman now does his community gardening projects, grant writing, and volunteer labor through Inver Hills Community College, for the benefit of Inver Grove Heights. This is the shame I speak of. He wants to work in our neighborhood, but said that the recent apple tree debacle was too much for him. I do feel, though, that as long as Dr. Hoffman is still working at Metro State, there is still opportunity to lure him back to work within our community to connect it, grow it, and beautify it.

I hope that people planning any sort of community gardening or green space project consider re-approaching Dr. Hoffman for help. He can, and hopefully will be, a great resource for our neighborhood.

Maria Street artist May on display

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Editor and Layout: Meg Gronau
Interns: Mark Gallagher and Danny Evans

Neighborhood artist Diane May shows her painting, of Euclid Flats at 234-8 Bates Avenue, to Tom Cook. A reception for May’s art was held on Wednesday, October 10 in the offices of City Council President Kathy Lantry.