

# Dayton's Bluff DISTRICT FORUM

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December 2006

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## Santa Claus Comes to Dayton's Bluff and is Happy to Find the Children Nestled all Snug in Their Beds



These four-year-olds are all on Santa's "nice" list because they are participating in the "Preparing for Kindergarten" class at Dayton's Bluff Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE). They are acting out a story to help them develop essential pre-reading skills. See the article about this ECFE program on page 3.

## Metropolitan State Hosts Free Holiday Concert

Metropolitan State University presents "Holiday Pops Family Concert" as the second of a five-concert series of the Minnesota Sinfonia conducted by Jay Fishman, on Friday, Dec. 1, at 7 p.m. in the university's Auditorium, 700 East Seventh Street, Saint Paul. The concert is free and open to the public.

The concert includes holiday favorites, and features Young Artist Competition junior winner Dereck Huang performing Camille Saint-Saens' *Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso*.

Concert seating is first come, first served. For special accommodations call Disability and Special Services at 651-793-1540 (voice) or 651-772-7687 (TFY).

This concert is the second in a series of five free performances at Metropolitan State by the Minnesota Sinfonia, thanks to a grant from the Anna M. Heilmaier Charitable Trust. The next concerts are on Fridays, Jan. 12, Feb. 2 and March 2.

Metropolitan State University, a member of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system, provides high-quality, affordable education programs for adults seeking baccalaureate and master's degrees. It is the only state university in the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

**Happy New Year**

## The Historic Mounds Theatre Brings Jean Shepherd's *A Christmas Story* to Life on the Stage



Photo by Fred Kaphingst

Most of the actors from last year's production of Jean Shepherd's *A Christmas Story* are returning for the Mounds Theatre's third annual presentation of the play. Of course, the old man's major award will be there along with all your other favorite scenes from the motion picture.

*A Christmas Story* returns live on stage to the Mounds Theatre this December for nine performances. It's everyone's favorite story of Ralphie and his quest to get a Red Ryder BB gun for Christmas. All the delightful moments you fell in love with in the film version are brought to life.

This holiday classic was first produced by the Portage for Youth at the Mounds Theatre in December 2004 and has been a great success for

the last two years. Most of the members of last year's cast are returning because they enjoyed it so much. Many of the actors live right here in Dayton's Bluff. Come and see if you can spot a neighbor.

Create or continue a holiday tradition at the Mounds Theatre. *A Christmas Story* is appropriate for all ages and there is discount pricing for children. Tickets to the play make a great gift for those "hard to buy for"

individuals on your shopping list. Spend an evening or afternoon with your friends and family watching this warm-hearted play before the hustle and bustle of Christmas sets in.

Christmas will be here sooner than you think. Purchase your tickets now. Don't delay and be disappointed.

### Performances:

December 1, 2, 8, 9, 15 & 16 at 7:30 p.m.

December 3, 10 & 17 at 2:00 p.m..

### Tickets:

Ticket prices are \$15 Adults; \$10 Student/Senior (55 and over); and \$5 Children (12 and under).

Visit [www.moundstheatre.org](http://www.moundstheatre.org) for a ticket order form or call 651-772-2253 and leave your name and number. Someone will call you back to take your order.

All profits from *A Christmas Story* benefit the Portage for Youth.

The Mounds Theatre is located at 1029 Hudson Road, St. Paul, MN 55106.

**A Christmas Present from the Mounds Theatre to the people of Dayton's Bluff**

**Bring this coupon to the concession stand and receive \$1 off any size popcorn.**

Valid Dec. 1-17, 2006. One per customer.

## Dayton's Bluff Community Meeting

The next Community Meeting is Thursday, December 7, 2006 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the meeting room at the Dayton's Bluff Community Council, 798 East 7th Street at the corner of 7th and Margaret.

The Dayton's Bluff Community Council holds its Community Meeting on the first Thursday of each month. The purpose is to work with block clubs and neighborhood residents on problem properties, criminal and nuisance behavior, code enforcement issues and any other neighborhood issues, concerns, or improvements that need attention.

Mark your calendar: the January meeting is on the 4th. The February meeting is on the 1st and you can find the March meeting in the March issue of this paper. Remember, it's always on the first Thursday of the month.

All Dayton's Bluff residents are welcome to attend. If you need more information call Karin at 651-772-2075.

## Children Welcome!

Would you like your child to participate in a Christmas program? We are having one at Mounds Park United Methodist Church at 1047 Euclid St. at Earl. It's a great way to learn about the real meaning of Christmas! We welcome all interested families to participate. We will practice on Saturday, December 9 and share the program during the church service on Sunday, December 10 at 10:30 a.m. We invite you to stay for Jesus' birthday party immediately following the service. Maybe this could be a new tradition for your family! For more information call Patrice Waters at 651-793-5176.

## Be Your Own Boss

The next Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Entrepreneur Class is starting in April 2007. This program helps start-up and young businesses on the East Side. All East Side entrepreneurs are welcome.

Class training lasts approximately 8 weeks and includes topics such as operations management, marketing, financial management, one to one assistance with creating a successful business, and preparing a business plan, plus 8 hours of one on one time with the instructor. Those who successfully complete the course and locate their businesses in target neighborhoods are eligible for ongoing business support services.

Some examples of businesses started by people who have previously taken this course include graphics, photography, food service, restoration of wood furniture and works of art, custom floral design for weddings and events, and exterior and interior painting. The course is sponsored by the Dayton's Bluff Community Council and the Neighborhood Development Center. There is a small registration fee based on a sliding fee scale. The next session will start in April 2007 and class size is limited.

Please email or call Karin at [Karin@Daytonsbuff.org](mailto:Karin@Daytonsbuff.org) or 772-2075 for an application.

## New Margaret Rec Center Tot Lot



Neighborhood kids test out some of the new playground equipment at the renovated Margaret Rec Center Tot Lot at 1109 Margaret St.

On June 25, 2005, the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* published a front-page story ranking the 81 playgrounds in the city of Saint Paul ("How safe are the kids?"). The Margaret Rec Center Tot Lot at 1109 Margaret Street was ranked 81 of 81, essentially denoting it as the worst park in St. Paul.

The Margaret Rec Center Block Club worked in partnership with landscape architect Bryan Murphy from the City of Saint Paul in designing the new Tot Lot currently under construction at the Rec Center. In addition to listening to neighbors' concerns, Murphy consulted with the police department to ensure the new park will benefit the neighborhood while also discouraging gangs or other illegal gatherings in the new space.

## Dayton's Bluff Rec Center December Activities and Events

**Dayton's Bluff Rec Center**  
800 Conway St.  
651-793-3885  
Director: Jody Griffin  
[jody.griffin@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:jody.griffin@ci.stpaul.mn.us)

**Dear Santa** - Let the Dayton's Bluff elves help your little one get this year's wish list to Santa. Upon registration you will receive a Dear Santa Wish List for your child to complete. Return it by Dec. 8. Santa will write your little one a letter and mail it directly from the North Pole. Register during programming hours. Free

**Evening At The North Pole** -  
Th., Dec. 21, 6:30-8 pm, Ages 8 & under, \$4 per person including adults

**MAD SCIENCE CLASS**  
**Heredity** - Th., Dec. 7, 6-7 pm,  
Ages 9-13, \$6, 1 session

**ABRAKADOODLE CLASS**  
**Icky, Slimy, Goopy** - Th., Dec. 28,  
9-5 pm, Ages 7-12, \$48, 1 session

**ONCE UPON A STAR CLASS**  
**Rockin' Like A Rock Star** - Tu.,  
Dec. 12, 5:30-6:30 pm, Ages 5-12,  
\$16, 1 session

**FIELD TRIP**  
Parent Permission slips are required.  
Must register prior to trip.  
**Snow White & The Seven Dwarfs** - Tues., Dec. 19; 9 am-12 pm; \$12.50

**Thank You Dayton's Bluff**  
I'm proud to represent our community in the  
Minnesota House of Representatives and  
appreciate your support.  
**Best wishes for the Holidays**



**Sheldon Johnson, District 67B**  
[www.sheldonjohnson.com](http://www.sheldonjohnson.com) Office phone: 651-296-4201

## Church Directory

**Amazing Grace Assembly of God**  
1237 Earl St.  
651-778-1768  
Sun 9:30 am - Sunday school all ages  
Sun 10:30 am - morning Worship  
Sun 6:00 pm - evening Worship

**Hmong Asbury United Methodist**  
815 Frank St.  
651-771-0077

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church**  
655 Forest St.  
651-776-4737  
Sun 9:00 am - Morning Service  
Sun 10:15-11:15 am - Sunday School & Bible Hour  
Sun 11:15 - Hmong Service

**Faith Temple - Templo De Fe**  
1510 Payne Ave  
651-778-0096  
Sun 10:30 am - Spanish Bilingual Service  
Sun 6:00 pm - Spanish Bilingual Service  
Wednesday family night

**First Lutheran Church ELCA**  
463 Maria  
St. Paul, MN 55106  
651-776-7210  
1 block North of Metropolitan State  
Sun 8:00 am - Free Community Breakfast  
Sun 9:30 am - Worship service  
Sun 10:45 am - Education for all ages  
Handicapped accessible  
ALL ARE WELCOME!

**Mounds Park United Methodist**  
1049 Euclid St.  
651-774-8736  
9:15 am - Sunday School, 4-year-old through Adult  
10:30 am - Worship

**Our Savior's Lutheran 'LCMS'**  
674 Johnson Pkwy  
651-774-2396  
Sunday Worship - 9:15am  
Education Hour - 10:30 am  
Wednesday Worship - 6:30 pm

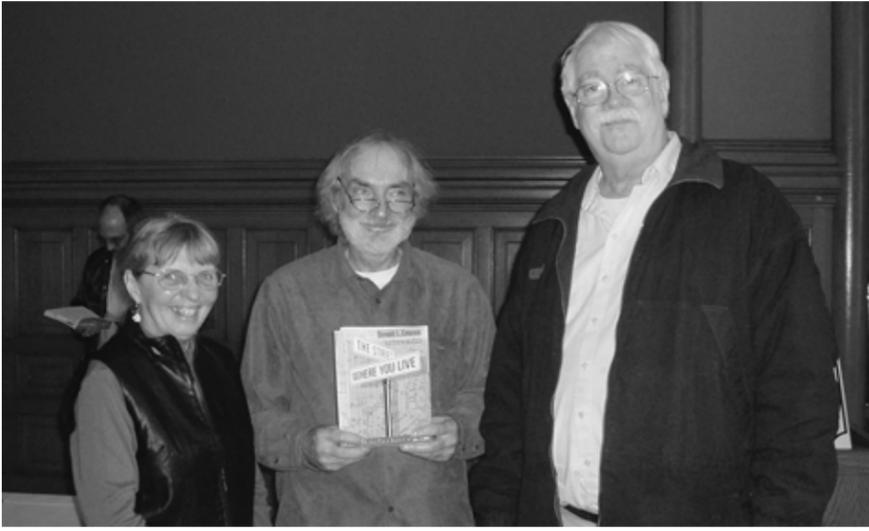
**Sacred Heart Catholic Church**  
840 E. 6th St.  
651-776-2741  
Sat 4:00 pm - Mass  
Sun 9:00 am - Mass  
Mon, Wed, Fri 8:00 am - Weekday Service

**St. John's Catholic Church**  
977 E. 5th St.  
651-771-3690  
Mon-Sat 8:00 am - Daily Mass  
Sat 4:15 pm - Mass  
Sun 9:00 am, 11:00 am - Mass

**St. John's Church of God in Christ**  
1154 E. 7th St.  
651-771-7639  
Sun 9:30 am - Sunday School  
Sun 11:00 am - Worship  
Wed 7:00 pm - Bible Study

**St. John Ev. Lutheran**  
765 Margaret St.  
651-771-6406  
Sun 9:30 am - Worship  
Thurs 6:30 pm - Worship

## The Street Where You Live



L to r: Karin DuPaul, author Donald Empson and Steve Trimble

*Local history provides a context for the space around our lives; it gives us a perspective on who we are and how we relate to those who lived here before us and those who will occupy our house and place in the next generations. Local history is an antidote to our ego that would have us assume-particularly on the daily level-that history begins and ends with us. There are many evidences of the past in our day-to-day lives, but perhaps none is so obvious-yet so remarked-as the place names of the city, especially the names of the streets and the parks.*  
-Donald Empson

That is the reason that the author of the quote seen above wrote The Street Where You Live: A Guide to Places Names of St. Paul. It was originally printed in 1975, and now a new, revised and expanded edition from the University of Minnesota Press has just hit the bookstores.

Two neighborhood residents were acknowledged in the forward, as follows: "Karin DuPaul, long-time Community Organizer for the Dayton's Bluff Community Council, helped sort out some of the more obscure aspects of this delightful neighborhood," and "Steve Trimble, venerable historian of St. Paul and Dayton's Bluff, contributed a number of facts that percolated their way into several entries."

Since Empson is coming to Dayton's Bluff this month, we thought it would be a good idea to start printing the items that directly relate to our community. Below, you can read his general overview of the neighborhood and get a sense of his energetic and often humorous writing style. Starting in the next issues of the *Forum*, readers will be able to find out the origins of the names of our community's streets and parks.

The following is found on pages 71 and 72 of The Street Where You Live:

**"Dayton's Bluff.** This early east side neighborhood extends roughly between Payne Avenue and Johnson Parkway, between Minnehaha Avenue and Mounds Park.

"Lyman Dayton (1810-1865) was born in Connecticut and worked as a merchant in Providence, Rhode Island, before coming to Minnesota in 1849, where he became one of the leading real estate speculators in early St. Paul. In a revealing sketch, written some fifty years after his death, Day-

ton is described as six feet tall and weighing 300 pounds, attired in an outfit consisting of a high hat with an immense brim, a long coat, a velvet vest with white embroidery, and a colossal watch chain. Usually in financial difficulty, Dayton often put his land in the name of a third party so his creditors could not confiscate it.

"Notwithstanding these eccentricities, another source recalls him as a man 'possessed of great energy, kind-hearted, and public spirited.' He was an important figure in the development of St. Paul, and had he lived into the real estate boom of the 1870's, he would have been one of its richest men. The present day department store family is not directly related. Dayton Avenue is named for him, as is the town of Dayton in Hennepin County. Maria and Bates are named for his wife.

"A 1930's report on housing conditions in St. Paul described Dayton's Bluff as: 'Comprised of one of the first residential sections in town, originally settled by those of German extraction who built sound homes. In recent years the inhabitants have been of a transient nature who have permitted the homes to deteriorate rapidly, the original soundness of construction alone saving the structures from utter ruin.'

"Dayton's Bluff residents have established a historic district, enthusiastically restoring the old homes within this multifaceted community."

### Meet Author Donald Empson at POP's Cafe on December 4th

Don Empson, author of The Street Where You Live, is coming to Dayton's Bluff to share some insights about his recently published book. On Monday, December 4, 2006 at 6:30 p.m. Don will be at POP's Café at 378 Maria on the corner of 6th and Maria. The book has a wealth of information on the naming of Saint Paul streets, neighborhoods, and parks, including many wonderful nuggets of our city's history. There is a lot of great stuff about Dayton's Bluff. This would make a great holiday gift.

Email Karin@Daytonsbluff.org or call Karin at 651-772-2075 to register for this event.

## "Preparing for Kindergarten" Class off to a Great Start at Dayton's Bluff ECFE

The year of life before traditional kindergarten begins for five year olds presents challenges both for children and for parents. For many years the Dayton's Bluff Early Childhood Family Education (ECFE) Program offered a class specifically designed to help parents and kids meet these challenges. Children were helped to be ready to be joyfully successful in the first year of their K - 12 formal education. Parents were ready to support the academic, social, emotional, and physical development of their children as they began their school years.

Unfortunately, for several years Dayton's Bluff was unable to provide this class due to reductions in Minnesota State Funding. (The State of Minnesota is the primary funding source for all ECFE. ECFE is unique to Minnesota and not currently available in any other state.) Fortunately, the Minnesota legislature slightly increased ECFE funding in the last legislative session. As a result, Dayton's Bluff ECFE is once again offering "Preparing for Kindergarten."

By focusing on a group of children who are all age eligible for kindergarten the following school year, the curriculum can emphasize the developmental tasks that are important for these children to master as they begin school. The four year olds will be developing their knowledge of themselves, their families, and the world they live in. They will extend their vocabularies, conversation, and story telling skills as they work on reading readiness. They will sort and group and build and compare, solidifying the foundation of math understanding they will build on throughout their educations. They will increase their ability

to pay attention and to interact positively and productively with other children and adults. They will learn that school is a wonderful place to learn and grow!

The parents will also have a curriculum that concentrates on the specific issues in the year of life before kindergarten and in the following year. They will think about typical development of four and five year olds, and explore ways of supporting the fullest possible development of each child.

They will also focus on school issues and think about identifying the school that they think is right for their child and their family, whether public or private. They will learn about the school choices within the St. Paul Public Schools and how to apply to the school of their choice. They will learn about preschool screening, parent - teacher conferences, transportation, report cards or other ways of describing school progress, homework, school nutrition, the importance of volunteering and many ways to volunteer. They will understand their role in their kids' school lives.

They will explore "first day jitters" and jitter relief. Parents who are sending a child to kindergarten for the first time will benefit from the experience of other parents in the group who already have one or more children in school. Parents who have previously participated in this kind of class describe it as the best part of their ECFE experience!

There are still a few openings for parents and children in the "Preparing for Kindergarten" class and other ECFE classes at Dayton's Bluff. Call 651 293-5343 for more information or to register.

### New Book Published about the Eastside

Much of the history of the Eastside can be found in The Phalen Corridor: Rebuilding the Pride of the East Side of St. Paul just out this fall. The author is Curt Milburn, Project Director of the Phalen Corridor and Executive Director of the East Side Area Business Association.

In addition to a brief review of Eastside history starting 12,000 years ago, the book discusses how New Urbanism and Smart Growth redevelopment principles guided the transformation of a polluted and underutilized part of St. Paul to a \$600 million project complete with a new 2.5 mile road on the Eastside. The Phalen Corridor project has received 20 regional awards.

The Phalen Corridor is published by the Eastside Neighborhood Development Company and available at the Dayton's Bluff Community Council for \$15.00. It can also be ordered from the East Side Area Business Association at 900 Ocean St. St. Paul, MN 55106. Order ten or more and the price is \$10.00 each. All proceeds go to the Merrick Community Food Shelf.

### 2007 Garden Planning

Greening Dayton's Bluff will hold a planning meeting for the 2007 growing season on Wednesday, January 24, 2007 at 798 East 7th Street at 6:30 pm. Please come and learn more about Greening Dayton's Bluff and help plan activities for the new year. Some of the Greening highlights from 2006 include gardening workshops, spring plant swap, free plants for public spaces, garden tour, buckthorn removal, and discounts for Greening Dayton's Bluff members at local stores and garden centers.

For more information call Karin at 651-772-2075.

**There was more news than eight pages could hold this month so check out the online version of the *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* at [www.daytonsbluff.org](http://www.daytonsbluff.org) for more neighborhood news.**

**The *Forum* isn't published in January and February. Watch for the next issue in March and keep checking the Dayton's Bluff website.**

# Dayton's Bluff History Bought and Sold on the Internet

By Steve Trimble

I'll admit it. I spend some time almost every day checking out what's for sale on ebay. And I'm willing to bet that many of you readers have also participated in or at least looked at the world's largest electronic auctions site. So what does this have to do with history? Well, in this article, I decided to deal with—well, historic deals.

Because I am somewhat of a cheapskate—my children might leave out the “somewhat”—I mostly just look. But for this issue, I'm going to write about a few old postcards I did decide to go after. These display our neighborhood heritage. They illustrate the past and often reveal interesting information about our community.

It is often hard to put a precise date on a postcard. One guideline is found on the back. At first, people were not allowed to place messages on the address side. That's why you sometimes see things written on the front of older cards. After 1907 they had “divided backs” with some sort of line down the middle. The right side was reserved for the address and the stamp.

I remember my parents using the term “penny postcard.” It turns out that up until 1917, you only needed a one cent stamp for a postcard—after that the price doubled. So there's another guideline that can help you date a card. Unless, of course, the person saved old cards and mailed them years later.

One kind of item I find most interesting is one that is called a “real photo postcard,” often identified in the good old ebay listing with the acronym RPPC. These are what they sound like—actual pictures of people or places that are printed on photo paper.

I have recently won three of them, and each seems to have a nice story to go with it. Let's start with the one that is surely the most unique. Not even the Minnesota Historical Society has it in their collections. It is an RPPC (remember what that means?) of Carver's Cave. The description said it was from 1910—a close, but not totally accurate guess from the seller.

I recognized the ebay visual. It was the same photo used in the *St. Paul*



Carver's Cave Postcard, 1913



Above: The original Sacred Heart Church and Parsonage, 1911  
Below: St. John's Hospital, circa 1911



*Pioneer Press* article I had read while researching an article on the 1913 re-opening of Carver's Cave. It was going for a little more than I usually pay, but it was hard to pass on such a unique image. I ended up with the winning bid.

When it arrived, I discovered a few things. The divided back card had never been mailed. There were paper remnants on the back—it had obviously been in an album. On the back, in pencil, was written “Carver's Cave. St. Paul. Near Mound Bluff Park along the Mississippi.”

The re-opening of the historic cave drew huge crowds from St. Paul and the surrounding area. A gate was put up to keep out the curious and the competing groups who wanted to be in charge took turns putting locks on it. So here's my educated guess. Someone decided to take a photo of the gated cave and probably sold them to onlookers. This is the only one so far to surface.

Another recent purchase is one of Sacred Heart Church. Once again, I've never seen this particular photo before. As you can see, this is the old frame church that was replaced in the 1920's. The date on the postmark is unreadable, but above the message is written “St. Paul Minn Aug 14-11.” While it may not show up in the paper, you can even see the telephone and/or electric lines strung from the poles.

On the bottom, typed in white letters is the following: “5281. Sacred Church Heart and Parsonage. St. Paul, Minnesota.” It seems that this was part of some sort of series. A series of church photos? Of scenes of Minnesota? I'm open to ideas if you have any suggestions.

Finally, there is a real photo postcard of St. John's Hospital in St.

Paul—it says so in white hand lettering on the bottom. For those new to the neighborhood, the site is where Metropolitan State University stands today. The photo on the card shows two structures.

The one on the left was originally the home of the Willius family. It was purchased in 1910 and converted into a twenty five-bed hospital. The first two floors were for patients and the third floor provided living quarters for the nurses. When the bigger brick building on the right was constructed in 1911, the old building was kept for a nurses' residence.

One reason I wanted this image, is because it seemed to be made right after the new construction—notice that the grounds have no small trees or even grass. I may have been wrong, since the postmark reads July 12, 1916.

## The Continuing Saga of the Indian Mounds Park Sculpture

By Steve Trimble

“The Wave' Stirs Up Neighbors.” That is was the headline on the front page of the November 12th *Pioneer Press* local news section. The article went on to say that there was a debate over a new sculpture that Public Art St. Paul (PASP) had placed in Mounds Park near McLean Street.

The problem with their rendition of what was happening is the seeming desire to focus on conflict and the need to offer incredibly simplistic explanations. But your local monthly paper can go into more depth. “And now,” as radio commentator Paul Harvey always says, “here's the rest of the story.”

Incidentally, Mexican artist Javier del Cueto apparently calls his work

Then again, the hospital may have made a big run and these were sold for many years in the gift shop.

It is addressed to Mrs. Theo Zipf of Hutchinson, Minnesota and the message reads: “It has been a long time since I have but we have been so busy that a person don't think of writing. What do you think of our hospital and nurses home? Wish I could be in the country during the hot months. Well, how are all you folks? Wished I could see the baby. Write when you can. Love, from your friend Louise F.”

The phrase “our hospital and nurses home” seems to suggest that the sender worked there as a nurse or was in the hands-on school of nursing that most hospitals had at the time. Either Louise was forgetful or short on money, because on the bottom, there is a blue line that says “returned for postage.”

Let me assure you I am no postcard expert. But we do have one in the community. Our newspaper editor, Greg Cosimini, who has searched flea markets, antique shows and postcard shows. He says that Bluff postcards are surprisingly easy to find and fairly inexpensive, costing between 50 cents and \$15.00 with the typical price being about \$3.00.

If you want to see some of Greg's postcard collection, log onto the Community Council's website at [www.daytonsbuff.org](http://www.daytonsbuff.org). Scroll down the page and on the left you'll see “Culture and History.” Click on it. Then scroll down again until you find “Postcards from Dayton's Bluff.”

While many academics scoff at the usefulness of on-line auctions, I am grateful for them. These cards were all located in other states, probably found in sales I never would have attended. By the way, I know that we live in a competitive world; however, could you do me a favor? Please don't bid for any Dayton's Bluff items against anyone named Enoch on ebay. That was my great-grandfather's name, and I use it as part of my on-line buyer identification. Thanks.

“The Usumacinta River Visits the Mississippi.” The reason people have been referring to it as “The Wave” is because someone phoned the PASP office and were told that was the name. And, after all, it does kind of look like a wave.

Ever since the sculpture made its appearance in the park, e-mails expressing various opinions have proliferated. Some were printed in last month's *Forum*. In reality, very few of them were of the “I love it” or “I hate it” variety. Most of the critical e-mails focused not on the quality of the art, but on its placement, while the others generally supported the idea of the art piece in the park, without referring to where it should be.

“Sculpture” continued on page 5

"Sculpture" continued from page 4

There were questions about the process that brought the sculpture to its current location. According to the president of the District Council, they were contacted by PASP and invited to submit some locations in Dayton's Bluff that would make good spots for public art.

The Council submitted a number of sites, but didn't specify exact locations, "nor did they get to pick which locations were selected. Perhaps most importantly, we didn't approve specific pieces for installation," stated one e-mail.

A group of people decided to have a meeting, which was hosted at a Mounds Park area home on October 25th. Around twenty folks showed up to talk with Christine Podas-Larson, president of PASP. She acknowledged her own feeling that it might be better if the sculpture was moved closer to the bluff.

It was agreed that the neighbors should set up a group - open to anyone - that would explore other locations in the general area. Christine made it clear that any new locations found should be all right with her group, the city and the artist. Also, to keep in line with the earlier process, it should be submitted to the Dayton's Bluff District Council.

One attendee later recalled: "It turns out that the sculpture has been incorrectly installed.... Christine said that the artist would be appalled to see this in its current state." She sympathized with concerns about the sculpture's site and related the fact that "the artist himself selected a second possible location just a few yards away - right behind the looping sidewalk and more directly in front of McLean."

A day or two later, Podas-Larson sent an e-mail to the organizer of the meeting: "Thanks to the neighbors who were there to work out a solution," she began. "As reflected in your notes and confirmed by my recollection of the meeting, here is the game plan... The sculpture will be correctly installed whatever the site... We will consider alternate locations along Mounds Boulevard, to be explored and proposed by a group of neighbors."

She added that there were certain guidelines that had to be followed, such as being on the bluff side of Mounds Boulevard, along the walking path and with the river visible in the background.

The proposed sites will be sent to various entities for approval—the District Council, and the artist "for his consideration and selection. He may approve or not, any or all of the alternate locations presented. If he approves more than one, the final choice will be the District Council's."

That week a group of neighbors met and on that cold and windy day looked at several sites. Photos of the potential sites were taken and later a resident photo-shopped the sculpture into each so people could get some idea of what it might look like there.

These were sent out via e-mail to as many area folks as possible. They sent in their top three picks. It looked as if there would soon be a win-win solution. One resident wrote of a chance meeting on Monday, October 31 with Christine Podas-Larson.

She was in Mounds Park, looking at two new locations that PASP decided it would consider moving the sculpture to. "Approached [by two homeowners]... Christine was very mindful and considerate of their point of view to relocate the sculpture so that it would not diminish their view. They all seemed to agree upon [a new site near] the current location."

However, things did not continue to go smoothly. The District Council received

an e-mail detailing a resolution that had just been passed by the board of PASP:

*"The stone sculpture was created through Public Art Saint Paul's International Stone Carving Symposium for Mounds Park bluff, near McLean Street. This site had been reviewed and approved by the Dayton's Bluff Council, Saint Paul Public Works and Parks, and the City Council and offered to the artists of Minnesota Rocks! as an option for sculpture installation.*

*Absent a Dayton's Bluff Community Council invitation to leave the sculpture in its current location, Public Art Saint Paul will remove the sculpture on November 30, 2006."*

This "all or nothing" approach that required support of the sculpture's "current location" upset quite a few already ruffled feathers. As you might expect, new e-mails started to fly again. One of them, referring to the October 25th meeting read, in part:

"The attendees were told that the artist, who was very sensitive to the fact that some of the community was upset about the current location, was open to considering other locations.... A considerable amount of effort was expended by those in the community that felt the strongest about the situation. Apparently, this was all for naught."

Another said: "We have attempted to offer a win/win solution... Were our efforts in vain? Where is the sincere effort on PASP's part to work with us? If the community had been involved, we wouldn't be in this controversial situation now which has escalated to an 'uproar' status."

Others were not that upset and repeated their desire to have the art in the park. "We appreciate what the sculpture has done to help us be more thoughtful and perceptive about our neighborhood, our community, and our beautiful river bluff environs," one typed. "Over time, we have become more attached to the sculpture and it is becoming an integrated part of our environment. We also are honored to have a sculpture by a Mexican artist in our community."

It is unclear why PASP seemed to have changed its position. No public explanation for the ultimatum was ever offered to the community. Nor did any representative of the group show up at the meeting of the Dayton's Bluff Council when it met on Monday, the thirteenth of November. That evening, after a discussion of over an hour, the Council ended up passing two motions.

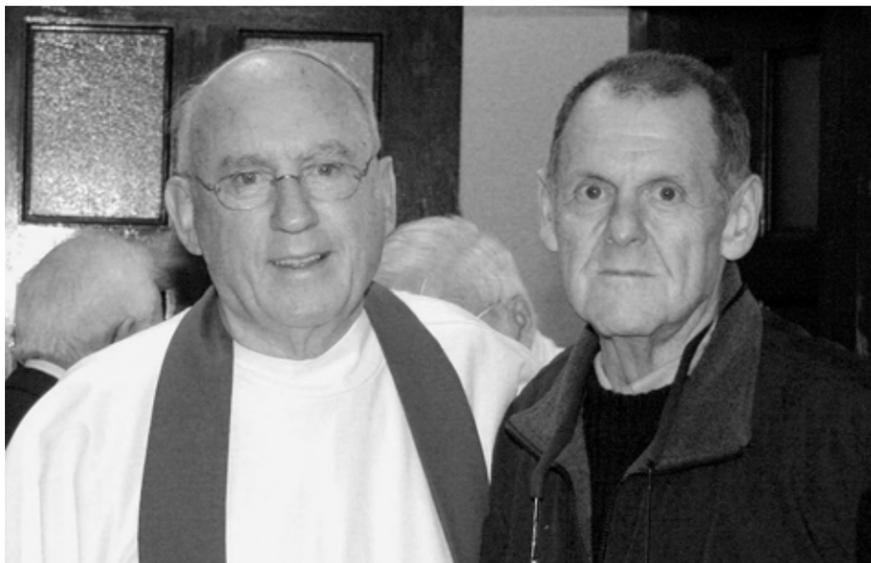
The first one reaffirmed the earlier motion to keep the sculpture. The second motion stated that they would continue to work to see if the piece can be moved within Mounds Park to a spot that works for the neighbors and the artist. Both motions passed with wide margins.

As this paper goes to press, the final outcome is unclear. The Council has pledged to continue negotiations that may or may not be successful. Hopefully, most people will end up agreeing with the final decision.

The hope for the best was expressed by one resident's cyber message:

"We have the potential to grow into a cohesive community! I sincerely hope that when this is finally resolved we continue our dialogue about what we envision! I believe in the end all the dialogue has allowed us to connect - it's the beginning potential to be a vibrant community who is not afraid of vibrant debate."

## Lou "The Photo Guy" Michaels



You will usually find Lou Michaels (right) on the other end of the camera but at the 120th anniversary celebration of St. John's Catholic Church on Oct. 28 he got caught in front of it with Archbishop Harry Flynn (left).

By Ed Lambert

Photography is a marvelous way to "see" the world and its people. Capturing special moments, scenes, or circumstances has been called a science and an art. For Lou Michaels it is definitely an art and a passion. Lou recently moved to the Eastside and has contributed some very useful photos to the Forum over the past few months. We see him often in Dayton's Bluff as his daughter, Holly Feldman, lives here with her family. His work also appears in this issue.

Michaels moved to the Twin Cities area from Detroit some 25 years ago to ply his trade and his passion in photography, as well as in community video/TV, and sports talk radio. He had a popular sports talk radio show in Detroit for 20 years or so, and still occasionally sits in for Larry Fitzgerald on KMOJ's sports talk show. He recently sold a sports talk and Internet broadcasting show, he created locally, which had a web site where you could also find sports photos. Go to [www.minnesotasportsupdate.com](http://www.minnesotasportsupdate.com)

Photography is his main interest, however, and his professional quality work shows it, as well as the national and international awards he has won for his work. One of his favorite local sports photos was taken in November, 2004 and appeared on the front page of the *South St. Paul Voice*. It shows Jeff Miller, a senior for the South St. Paul Packers High School Football Team running down a field. The photo was modified such that it looked like a Norman Rockwell painting and was nominated for a state award. It was among the top finalists in that competition.

Lou has provided photos locally to a number of newspapers in addition to the

*Forum*; such as, the *Sun Focus* (northwest suburbs), *The Voice* (Westside, W.7th St., and points south), *The Downtowner* (downtown St. Paul), *La Voz* (a Spanish language paper), *Insight News* based in North Minneapolis, and the *Hmong Times*, among others. He has also done work for local TV stations and a number of sports oriented publications. Sports photography is his favorite because he likes action shots, but he also does portraits, news photos, fashion shots, landscapes, weddings, and just about any type of photography you can think of.

Back in Detroit as a young person, Lou got into photography largely through the efforts of his dad and Tony Spina, the Chief Photographer for the *Detroit Free Press* at the time. Spina became Lou's mentor and he's been hooked ever since. Canon equipment is his choice and he has a variety of cameras and the loads of accessory pieces one needs to be a working professional. Spina taught him the special value of photos and how to stay mindful of that fleeting opportunity to capture the essence of something. In short, how to "see" something that may pass unnoticed to the casual observer.

Lou is a bundle of energy and ideas who has won awards for his work in radio and cable TV, as well as for his photography. His motto, "we cover all the angles," reflects that. Focused on photography now, you can check out his web site at [www.louthephotoguy.com](http://www.louthephotoguy.com) or reach him via email at [lou@inet7.net](mailto:lou@inet7.net).

Look for more work from Lou the Photo Guy, in various local publications in the months and years ahead. He's easy to spot as he looks like he could be the late actor Tony Randall's twin brother.

## New Pastor at St. John's Catholic Church



Father George Welzbacher (left) accepts the ceremonial keys of the church from outgoing pastor Fr. Tom Wilson. Photo by Lou "The Photo Guy" Michaels

## Word From the Beat



Photo by Karin DuPaul

### Officer Jamie Sipes and his Dayton's Bluff Beatmobile.

Greetings from SPPD Eastern District.

I am watching the snow fall as I write this month's article. Winter has arrived in all its glory. In Minnesota we are blessed with all of the seasons. And with this blessing comes the snow and the slick streets. In return we must once again remember to drive slower and safer as it becomes more difficult some days to maneuver to our destinations.

Snow and slick streets mean an increase in traffic crashes for law enforcement. Based on the law of averages, some of you will be involved in traffic crashes this season. It doesn't mean you are a bad person or a bad driver for that matter. It simply means you had a crash. If this happens remember to stay calm and collected. Notify the police immediately and let us know your location, if anyone is hurt and if possible the license plates of the vehicles involved. If it is possible, don't move the cars until law enforcement arrives. It is easier for us to investigate crashes when the vehicles are left in their resting spots after a crash. Always have a copy of your current insurance certificate in your car and carry your license. Minnesota motor vehicle law requires you to present these documents at the scene of a crash. But more importantly, if you were to be injured, we need to know who you are and how or where to contact your friends or family. A driver's license is a place to start.

Safe driving starts before you put the keys in the ignition. We live in a great

metro area. The drawback can be traffic. Add snow, ice, time constraints and increased or slow traffic and you have stress. Stress can cause confusion and mistakes which generally lead to some kind of accident. Give yourself extra time on your trips. If you are going to work or simply to the store, leave early to give yourself extra time and take one stress element out of your day. Wherever your daily destinations take you, we want you to get there safe. If you are unlucky enough to have a crash this season, once the emergency medical services call is made, take a deep breath and try to keep yourself calm.

Working the Dayton's Bluff Beat this year has been an excellent opportunity to meet many wonderful people who are committed to their neighborhoods and community. Community involvement creates safe neighborhoods and in return a higher quality of life. Community involvement keeps the lines of communication open and reminds us of our responsibilities we have to each other. It has been a pleasure to serve you and I look forward to working with you in the months to come. If you have a question or concern for your Dayton's Bluff Beat Officer please e-mail me at [jamie.sipes@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:jamie.sipes@ci.stpaul.mn.us) or call the beat phone at 651-341-7637. Finally, don't let the cold weather keep you inside all season. We are Minnesotans. Get out and embrace the season and always remember to treat each other with respect.

Officer J. Sipes  
East District Tour 3  
651-341-7637

## A Mandolin Sings on the Bluff

By Ed Lambert

Photo by Lou Michaels

One of the characters in the "Prairie Home Companion" movie is a long-time homeowner in Dayton's Bluff. Bob Douglas shows up in several scenes, including in the beginning of the movie as band members and others are preparing for the "broadcast" of the show. He's the one handing out music sheets to the musicians, wearing a hat and a bright Hawaiian shirt.

Bob has lived on Eichenwald for 28 years in, what is now, a townhouse association of 4 units. The street is only one block long and lies 3 blocks East of Maria between 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Streets. The building was constructed in 1892 and, when Bob first acquired it with other members of a then cooperative, it had 8 units. A number of long-time Dayton's Bluff people have lived there, including Steve Trimble, the recognized Dayton's Bluff historian who has published many

articles in the *Forum*. Bob and wife Susan, along with Jerry Flannery and Jean Henjum, are the only members of that initial group still living there.

Bob's "day job" is as the Coordinator of Recycling and Central Receiving (Physical Plant Department) of St. Thomas University where he's been employed for some 25 years. However, it's his alter ego as a musician that got him in the movie. Bob Douglas is an accomplished mandolin player, who also plays the guitar and the "spoons," and has been doing that professionally in the Twin Cities for over 30 years.

He was a member of the first Prairie Home Companion "House Band" (The Powder Milk Biscuit Band 1976-82) and has toured overseas and in much of the U.S. as a musician. Back in the 70s he was involved in the formation of a musician's group on the U of M West Bank, known as the June Apple Music Co-op. It included Pops Wagner, Charlie McGuire, Dakota Dave Hull, Shawn Blackburn, Bob Bovey, and Jerry Rau, among others. Their goal was to help each other by sharing information, booking help, and promotional efforts rather than competing with each other. It was a good experience for some of them; for others it did not work as well. But it led to all of them developing long time associations with each other in a variety of contexts and venues over the years.

Music has long been a big and fulfilling part of Douglas' life, and still is. In addition to playing in the Twin Cities with various groups, he has also played in Dayton's Bluff venues such as Swede Hollow Café and the Mounds Theatre.

He was part of the first Ceille (Irish dance with Irish music) done at the Mounds Theatre on March 19, 2004 (see the *Forum* for March and April of 2004). The Ceille was a fundraiser for the DB Community Council and was a huge success. St. Paul's traditional Irish Band, "Barra," was the focus of the evening's dancing (a 5-piece Irish Ceilli band, [www.barraband.com](http://www.barraband.com)). Barra means Summit in Gaelic, and is part of the term (Barra en Teampaill) which refers to an area on the South bank of the river Liffey in Central Dublin seen as the Cultural Quarter of Dublin. With a population of about 3000, the area has preserved its medieval street plan and is the location where Handel's Messiah was first performed April 13, 1742. The Messiah is performed annually there, on the same date at the same location.

Douglas has also played with

Laura McKenzie among other national figures; and was a "caller" for many years with a Square Dance collective and at Contra Dance events. He still plays with such groups, but is not often a caller these days, and can be seen and heard at the Tapestry Folkdance Center's ethnic dance events in South Minneapolis.

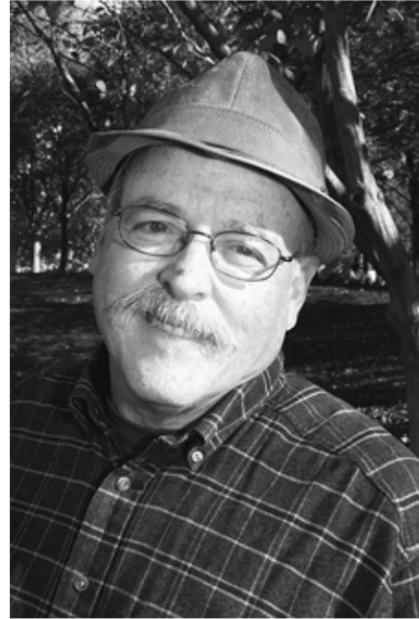
Another place he can be found, for the last four years, is at the annual Bluegrass Festival in Grand Rapids, Minnesota each June. Lloyd LaPlant, a well-respected guitar player in his 70s who lives in Grand Rapids, hosts the Festival. LaPlant is especially well known for his handcrafted instruments. The LaPlant name is inlaid in abalone and mother of pearl on some of the finest sounding guitars and mandolins to be found anywhere. He made Douglas' mandolin as well.

The June Festival draws 4-500 people, many of whom bring their RVs and tents and stay on site for the 3-day event. Douglas says there is a young phenomenon, Sam Miltich (now 21 years old), who plays an astounding Gypsy Jazz Guitar at the Festival and is not to be missed. Look for the "Clearwater Hot Club" if you go to [www.clearwaterhotclub.com](http://www.clearwaterhotclub.com).

On a more local note, Bob is the Music Coordinator of his church, Hope Christian Fellowship in Shoreview. Called "Hope Has Good Folk," this Sunday evening concert series held several times each year is in its sixth year ([www.hopemn.com](http://www.hopemn.com)).

Bob gets together with some faculty and staff each Thursday at noon to play "fiddle tunes" for their own pure pleasure on the campus of St. Thomas. For the last three years, he has also played at the annual fundraiser and "Country Fair" held by Nativity Catholic Church in St. Paul.

Listen carefully, on a quiet night near Metropolitan State University and you might hear a bit of his mandolin singing lightly on the breeze over Dayton's Bluff.



## Thank You Dayton's Bluff

I'm proud to represent our Eastside community in the Minnesota State Senate and very much appreciate your support and encouragement.

Best wishes for the Holidays



Sen. Mee Moua, District 67  
Office phone: 651-296-5285

## Letter to the Editor

### Thanks for the *Forum*

I enjoy receiving and reading the *Forum*. I should be more specific...I enjoy reading it, when I receive it. I know it is a monthly paper but there are some months that I do not find it on my front stoop (or in my bushes)!

The November issue proved to me that the *Forum* is unlike any other newspaper available to me as a resident of East St. Paul or St. Paul as a whole, for that matter. The poignant eulogy written by and about the Lieb family warmed my heart. You bring a small town feel to an inner city community!

I couldn't help wondering what other stories I might have missed by not receiving my paper.

When I called the number provided in the paper, I spoke with Karin who informed me that volunteers deliver the paper and that the paper itself is non-profit.

Learning that all the people involved with the paper were volunteers and that it has existed long before I moved to this neighborhood 20+ years ago, I was surprised to know that I could pay a \$12.00 per year subscription fee and receive the paper in the mail. (I guess it is mentioned in the box on the back page).

I first thought... How could anyone do all this with the cost of postage, time, materials... and then it occurred to me that my donation to your paper would not only get me my long sought after mailed delivery, but a tax write-off! I spend more than \$5.00 a week on lottery tickets (to support the Environment Programs/General Fund, of course), buy cookies, candy and anything else that comes to the door as a fundraiser and never know what happens to the additional dollars I give after I have eaten all my goods!.

In the world today where people give their money to non-profit organizations only to have most of it be paid out for administration, I applaud you for your efforts and thank you for providing the East Side connection to our past and our future, voluntarily. Keep up the good work. Not only does our community need volunteers just like all of you, our world revolves more easily because of you!

Please accept my donation. \$12.00 for delivery. I look forward to receiving my *Forum* in the mail.

J. Cook  
Maria Avenue

## They Watched the Glow on the Brewery



Photo by Karin DuPaul

The faithful gathered on a cold and cloudy evening in October hoping to see the glow of the setting sun on the walls of the old Hamm's Brewery buildings. And lo, just before sunset their faith was rewarded when the clouds parted and the sun burst forth.

The annual "Watch the Glow of the Setting Sun on the Red Brick Brewery" event was held on Friday, October 13th. It was a cool and cloudy evening. About twenty people stood at Swede Hollow Henge waiting and hoping that the sun would break through the clouds and do its magic on the red brick walls of the former Hamm's Brewery. At this time of year the angle of the evening sun makes those bricks seem to glow. Josh McKrown, a Minneapolis Technical College student, spoke about the architecture of the Hamm's Brewery and about the breweries in Milwaukee. Joe Sanchelli and his sister Nellie Mazunkiewicz shared stories from their youth in Swede Hollow.

The group finally gave up and moved to the picnic held in a nearby yard. There they were joined by other fans of Swede Hollow Park. Joe Sanchelli entertained everyone with music on his keyboard. The food was great in the cool evening air. The Culver's Chili ready hit the spot.

Suddenly, the sun did break through to give a brief but spectacular show upon the 100+ year-old bricks before sinking below the horizon. Friends of Swede Hollow is already starting the planning for next year's "Watch the Glow" event, which will be held in late September when the weather should be more cooperative. Watch the *Forum* for more information in the coming months.

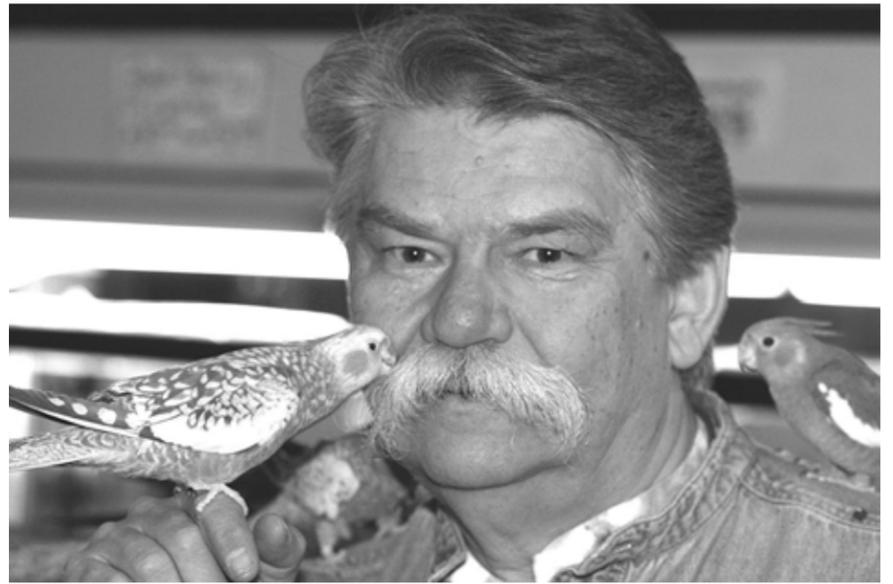


Photo by Lou "The Photo Guy" Michaels

Dan "The Fishman" Monson with two of his fine-feathered friends.

## The Fish are Jumpin'...

By Ed Lambert

...And the cotton is high. Your Daddy's rich, and your Momma's good lookin'...Summertime is over but that old tune played in my head as I met with Dan the Fishman in his store, Earl Street Pets, at 369 Earl Street, near Hudson Road. He specializes in freshwater fish, and now carries over 60 kinds of tropical fish in a given month. He has twice as many fish tanks, since we interviewed him last year, and is actively breeding some very special fish for his customers. Last year he had a bit over a dozen varieties of fish.

Dan Monson, a 1969 Harding High School graduate, has the only store in Minnesota that stocks the popular Siamese fighting-fish known as the "Super Beta." Available at \$25.00 each, the colorful males are very aggressive and will attack each other if placed in the same bowl. In the wild, they live in puddles and jump from puddle to puddle seeking females; fighting any males they meet along the way.

He also has a variety of the graceful and colorful Longtail Betas for \$3.99 each, among many other remarkable and affordable fish. These Longtails are non-aggressive and tend to swim casually and slowly, looking a lot like small colorful scarves waving and weaving about in the water.

### Raising Hand-Fed Cockatiels

Monson now carries lots of birds, which was not the case last year, and specializes in raising hand-fed Cockatiels; using his own mixture of birdseed from a recipe he got from a prominent long-time breeder. These have proved popular as the hand feeding conditions them to the close presence of people so they can easily be held on the finger, or placed on your shoulder, staying there to interact with

you. It is easy to imagine the fun a child, or anyone, can have with such birds. Cockatiels are about the size of a robin with a lovely "Crown" spray on the head, and a relatively long tail.

Competing with large super stores can be challenging for a neighborhood pet store; even this rather large one in Dayton's Bluff. Dan the Fishman is also the Bird Man to his bird loving customers. For both groups, and those who get other pets from Dan, he provides hard-to-find and much appreciated personal service. Some think of him as their Pet Counselor and "Doc" because he helps them keep their pets thriving and healthy - no small feat to anyone who has seen a deeply disappointed child discover a pet fish, bird, or small reptile has just died.

His customers, neighbors, and friends also recognize his store as a kind of information center for pets lost in the area, and a big help to those looking for someone to take their pet when they can no longer take care of it. He won't keep the "lost" animals, but will help you find them, or find them a home.

You'll find a surprising variety of supplies, equipment, and other items for pet owners in his store; and find Dan in his store 7 days a week most weeks. However, at this time he does not have regular hours that are the same each week. He does plan to post regular weekly hours sometime after the New Year. Calling the store at 651-778-2323 will either get you Dan, or his voicemail with the specific store hours for that week.

If you call or drop in, ask him about his free "Fish Starter Kit," an information item every first time fish owner will want. Oh...and ask to see (and hear) the famous "Hissing Cockroaches" he keeps in a special tank in the closet for the local Cub Scout troop.

## Volunteers Needed!

The *Dayton's Bluff District Forum* is a volunteer operation and can always use more help. We need editors, writers, ad salespersons, cartoonists, photographers, poets and pirates.

Okay, maybe not that last one. You don't have to be a professional, just someone with a little spare time and a willingness to give something back to your neighborhood.

Call Karin at 651 772-2075

*Don't be a Scrooge! We also take cash donations!*

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**POSITION OPENING**

**Coordinator for New Dayton's Bluff Neighborhood Walk Program**

PT regular for 1 year, flexible hours, \$15-20 per hr. Need active walker with understanding of healthy lifestyle. Outgoing, self-starter, works well with all people, bi-lingual in Spanish or Hmong a plus. Some evenings and weekends. College degree and/or related experience preferred. Send resume to Dayton's Bluff Community Council, 798 E. 7<sup>th</sup> St., St. Paul, MN 55106 or email to [Karin@daytonsbuff.org](mailto:Karin@daytonsbuff.org) by December 15.

**New Hours for POP's Cafe**

POP's Cafe has been changing its hours around and may have confused a few folks with the various options displayed on their door. Cafe owners say the actual new hours are as follows: Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Thursday, Friday, and Saturday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and Sunday 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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- Rev. Robert H. Krueger  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church



**Pick up your free step counter at Dayton's Bluff Branch Library and get walking!**




**Dayton's Bluff District Forum**

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Next issue: March 2007. Deadline for material: February 10, 2007.

**The Dayton's Bluff District Forum**  
**Wishes You A**

Choose One:  *Happy*  *Merry*  *Feliz*

Choose One or More:

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